



## PARK TOUR SUMMARY NOTES

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

MEETING DATE: Monday, October 29, 2018

LOCATION: HOPE Academy, 720 Payne Ave, Saint Paul MN

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### DISCUSSION TOPICS:

City of Saint Paul, Parks and Recreation Department is partnering with Lower Phalen Creek Project on the Swede Hollow Park Master Plan project.

- **Partnership:**
  - Lower Phalen Creek Project (LPCP)
    - Secured funding from the Bush Foundation to lead the community engagement to gather feedback and data to guide the design of the future vision of Swede Hollow Park
  - City of Saint Paul, Parks & Recreation Dept.
    - Secured funding from the McNeely Foundation to develop a master plan for the future vision of Swede Hollow Park addressing equitable park access, increasing visibility and sense of security, natural resource management, providing options to restore Phalen Creek, and historical and cultural interpretation and management for Swede Hollow Park.

***Swede Hollow Park Tour Summary. Refer to the Tour Map for points of interests.***

1. Melanie Kleiss and Chee Yang welcomed the park tour attendees in the cafeteria of HOPE academy for introductions.
2. Historical overview of Swede Hollow Park – Presented by *Karin DuPaul, Friends of Swede Hollow (FOSH)*
  - The Swedish were the first immigrants to settle in the hollow after the indigenous people.
  - The Polish, Italian, and then the Mexican Americans moved in after
  - The 3M & the Hamm Brewery building resided on the edge of Swede Hollow Park.
  - In 1956, the city Health Department declared Swede Hollow a health hazard and burned down the homes after evicting the families.
  - The idea was to transform the ravine into an industrial site having highway 212 run through. Community opposition prevented the construction of hwy 212.
  - In the 1970s the Saint Paul Garden Club began to work with Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Department to clean up the park which had become a dumping ground.

- FOSH formed in 1994 deriving from members of the Saint Paul Garden Club. It is an active and proactive local organization dedicated to the ongoing support of the Swede Hollow Park making it a welcoming place for all to experience.
3. 'Swedehedge' – Public art in the park designed by public artist Christine Baeumler.
  4. Bruce Vento Regional Trail
    - North-South connection to East Side Heritage Park (North) and Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary (South)
    - The regional trail is owned by Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority and maintained by the City
    - The regional trail is plowed during the winter. The other park trail is not plowed.
  5. Keep in mind there are residential homes located above the ravine.
  6. An overlook/plaza to Swede Hollow Park was recently completed at the intersection of Payne Ave and Bedford Street. – *Presented by Bianca Paz, Parks & Recreation Project Manager*
    - The overlook allows a visual relationship with Swede Hollow Park. Low quality tree species were removed to create visual relationship. Discussed the opportunity to thin low quality mid-story tree species such as buckthorn and boxelder to increase sightlines.
    - The public artist for this project is Willis Bowman, who attended the walking tour.
    - An artwork developed is the concept of a viewfinder which will be installed on the overlook. It will be an interactive piece where people can look into the park and learn about the history of the site.
  7. Recent renovation to the timber stairs. – *Presented by Maggie Arzdorf, McNeely Foundation*
    - Tree Trust was funded by the McNeely Foundation to renovate the existing timber staircase
    - Encourages East Side youth to take ownership in their neighborhood by funding projects on the East Side.
    - The stairs lead to the creek at the bottom.
  8. The Arch/Tunnel – *presented by Chee Y.*
    - A National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark designated in 2000.
    - The tunnel was built and completed in 1884.
    - 7<sup>th</sup> St runs above the tunnels.
    - South end of the tunnel is the recent developed parking lot at the intersection of 7<sup>th</sup> St. & Payne Ave.
    - Heading south on Bruce Vento Regional Trail will take you to Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary and downtown Saint Paul.

9. Water – Wetlands/Phalen Creek – *Presented by Nate Zwonitzer, Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD)*
- The creek is mainly fed by stormwater and groundwater.
  - Managing ways to allow the lower pond to capture and hold more water.
  - Reconstructing and raising the outlet elevation next to the trail and pond.
  - Parts of the lower park trail floods. There are current construction happening to address the water.
    - Installing drain tiles/culverts to direct the water.
    - Creating a swale on the side of the trail keeping water moving.
    - With recent wet weather, the contractor is waiting for conditions to dry to resume work.
10. Public Work Infrastructures
- Recent new infrastructures installed.
  - Can hear the sound of the stream.
  - Not ideal but it creates access to the creek.
11. Middle Pond
- Registered wetland
12. Daylighting Phalen Creek – Presented by Melanie K., LPCP & Nate Z., CRWD
- Preliminary daylighting study of lower Phalen Creek has been completed by LPCP funded by CRWD and Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District.
  - There are potential sections along Phalen Creek for daylighting opportunities
  - Stream Daylighting Definition:
    - To bring buried waterways in underground pipes back up onto the surface
  - Create a consistent stream flow through Swede Hollow Park.
  - Goal is to restore the natural flow of Phalen Creek from Lake Phalen down to the Mississippi River.
13. Stair Access from Greenbrier St and Bates Ave. PED/HRA Future Development Plans - *Presented by Rick Howden, PED/HRA*
- Selling the buildings on the north end of Swede Hollow Park to developers
    - HRA will continue to own the property
  - Flat Earth Brewery and 11 Wells distillery
    - PED/HRA looking to start a dialogue with the community for access from the businesses into the park with the community
    - Feedbacks are welcome
  - Promoting other vacant buildings to developers
    - The standalone building has a potential developer - coffee bean company

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**Thank you for attending the park tour event!**  
**Please visit project website for online survey and project**

**updates at [www.stpaul.gov/SwedeHollowMasterPlan](http://www.stpaul.gov/SwedeHollowMasterPlan).**

Please contact Chee Yang at [Cheeneng.Yang@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Cheeneng.Yang@ci.stpaul.mn.us) or (651) 266-6414 if any items are missing from the summary notes or items were listed incorrectly.