HIDDEN FALLS / CROSBY FARM

Tatanka Oyate Makoce – “Land of the Buffalo People

Regional Park Master Plan

OPEN HOUSE

Rescheduled to February 6, 2019

St. Paul Parks & Recreation, Design & Construction Division

Yahipi Kin Waste
It’s good you are here

Interpretive Panel at Two Rivers Overlook
Agenda

• Welcome & Acknowledgements
• Project review
  • Meeting 1 & 2 Review
  • Community Engagement Overview
  • Updated Map
  • Priorities
• Next steps
• Questions?

Don’t forget to vote on a construction project and fill out a comment card!

PROJECT TEAM

City of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Staff
Design & Construction (Landscape Architects):
Annie Gardner
Liz Hixson
Ellen Stewart

Natural Resources:
Adam Robbins
Maggie Barnick
Emily Dunlap

Operations:
Karin Misiewicz
Joe Buzicky
Tom Hagel

National Park Service:
Holly Larson, RTCA
Barett Steenrod, RTCA

Great River Greening:
Todd Rexine
Project Summary

Purpose of the Plan
- ensure that Hidden Falls and Crosby Farm park is meeting the local and regional needs
- adoption of the master plan with the Metropolitan Council
- provides a framework for future improvements and funding requests
- sustain public use and enjoyment of the park

Guiding Principles
Respect the sacredness of his region. Acknowledge and celebrate the indigenous history of this location on the Mississippi River near the site of the Bdote (confluence) the birth of the Dakota nation

Preserve and sustain the ecological functions of these parks by managing and enhancing the critical habitat area

Upgrade park facilities for public use (bathrooms, signage, trails, lighting), improve safety features, and add new recreational opportunities to encourage healthy active lifestyle for all ages in balance with the “natural” character of the park.

Recommend and enhance pedestrian and multi-modal connections to draw regional and local users to the park space

Support partnerships with organizations who assist in bringing new user groups to the park and river and assist in building the ecological resilience of park adapting to a changing climate
Community Advisory Committee- THANK YOU!

- Shawn Sheely - Trails Advocate
- Emily Jarrett Hughes - Nibi Water Walks
- Ed Heimel - Resident and NPS volunteer
- Whitney Clark - Friends of The Mississippi River
- Sandra MacGuire – hiking walking
- Barb Lehn – lives on the river – resident
- Edric Lysne - Ice Climber and outdoor recreation enthusiast
- Thabiso Rowan - Disability Hub MN
- Shirley Erstad - Friends of Ramsey County Parks and Trails
- Kristine Gill – Highland District Council
- Mike Lindsay - Highland District Council Board Vice President
- Jeff Burton – resident, lives close to the park
- Emily Northey - Fort Road Federation
- Becky Rice – Highland resident
- Devin Olson - Minneapolis resident, Mountain bike rider
- Paige DeWees – resident, lives above Crosby Farm Park
- Tyler Teggatz – Highland District Council
- Steve Pope - neighbor, frequent parks visitor and hiker
- Joe Landsberger – resident & historian
- Adam Brunner – resident and avid fishermen
- JP Lindrud - Watergate Marina, Allied Management Co
- Hank Carlson, YMCA
- Gary Bruggeman, resident
- Becky Amidon, resident
- Renee Campion, Sleepy Hollow Montessori
Meeting #1 Review – October 16, 2018

• Introduction of the Master plan and project process
• Review of previous planning efforts – Great River Passage
• Regional park user groups and regional data (382,600 visitors per year)
• Discussion of the Big Idea:

  Enhance access and safety to and through the urban floodplain “wilderness” while respecting the cultural heritage and natural resources of this place

• Priorities identified in the meeting:
  • improve signage and safety
  • keep the sense of wild, nature preserve
  • improve trails end to end
  • upgrade facilities for ADA access
  • habitat restoration/preserve natural areas
  • signs to signify cultural heritage
  • offer more programs (add winter)
  • support River (Environmental) Learning Center
  • resilience of nature to floods
  • maintain quiet spaces
  • larger / better pavilion for groups
  • potable/drinking water fountain

For meeting presentations and notes, visit the project website:
https://www.stpaul.gov/hidden-falls-crosby-farm-master
Meeting #2 Review- November 27, 2018

• Summary of Survey Results
• Summary of Natural Resources Inventory by Natural Resources Staff
• Review of Project priorities lists developed from Great River Passage and revised by focus group discussions
• Small group discussion on priorities (reflected in current Priorities Boards 1 & 2)
• Big Idea revised to a Vision Statement:
  • “At the place where the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers join together, Hidden Falls/Crosby Farm Regional Park brings people and nature together. The master plan honors the cultural significance of this area to the Dakota people, increases access to the parks in a way that strengthens wellness of people, plants, animals, and water and will maintain this place of healing and restoration for people and ecology, including those of the City of Saint Paul and the broader Metropolitan region.”

For meeting presentations and notes, visit the project website: https://www.stpaul.gov/hidden-falls-crosby-farm-master
Community Engagement Overview

- Online survey - 940 responders
- National Public Lands Day Pop-up Meeting 133 responders, 200 popsicles
- 6 community meetings and parks ambassador gatherings attended
- 4 focus groups (water, trails, gov. / non-profit, camps)
- 4 internal city meetings (rec centers, operations & maintenance, and Great River Passage division)
- Participation in water ceremonies with Nibi Walk and discussion
- WCCO and Fraser School Pulling Together event brings thousands of people to Hidden Falls
- This process is building on the momentum of Great River Passage, which was in 2012 and had 28 public meetings and 5 focus groups
- The City’s Great River Passage Initiative continues to hold events and advocate for projects identified in the plan
Related Projects

- Ford Redevelopment

- River Learning Center

- Lexington Parkway Realignment

- Pedestrian Plan
  - [https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/public-works/transportation/walking-saint-paul](https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/public-works/transportation/walking-saint-paul)

- Tribal Engagement and Cultural Resources Strategy at Indian Mounds Regional Park
Endangered species (Threatened: Paddlefish, Mucket, and Purple Wartyback)

Importance of the Mississippi Flyway to bird species

Stormwater, bluff erosion, and flooding concerns – the dynamic floodplain and river bluff ecology

Strategies for maintenance – shelterwood planting, cottonwood regeneration, targeting Emerald Ash Borer

248 people volunteered in both parks in 2018 (recorded by St. Paul Parks & Recreation Natural Resources)
Updated Map – Existing Conditions
Updated Map – Recommendations
Project Priorities

**Priority Key**
- High - near term, very important
- Med-High - within 5 years (+/-), significant
- Medium - within 10 years (+/-), desired but not top
- Low-Med - within 10 to 15 years (+/-), preferred
- Low - must be sequenced with other improvements

### Management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Proposed Priorities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>Increase budget for invasive species management and coordination. [both]</td>
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<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>Continue to program cultural events such as &quot;Barebones Halloween Puppet Show.&quot; [both]</td>
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<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>Address the off-leash dog problem by signs and education. [both]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Med-High</td>
<td>Add more bluff-top land to the park, from Ford Site by curve at Mississippi River Blvd. [HF]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Med-High</td>
<td>Install video surveillance to reduce theft from parked vehicles and increase safety. [both]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Med-High</td>
<td>Continue exploring development of a River Learning Center at Watergate location, with partners including the National Park Service, Indigenous communities, and nearby neighborhoods. [CF]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Med-High</td>
<td>Acquire adjacent riverfront land and inholdings as they become available [both]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Med</td>
<td>Add programming on paddling and water safety. [both]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Med</td>
<td>Additional surveillance via police and parks security patrol [both]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-Med</td>
<td>Improve transit access by working with adjacent neighborhoods and Metro Transit. [both]</td>
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### Construction: Roads and Trails

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Proposed Priorities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>Add looped rustic nature trails, including the mid-bluff trail, that provide a varied experience and connect to create 5 mile loops. [both]</td>
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<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>Add rustic trails with access to shoreline (short spur trails). [both]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>Assess the trail network, improve accessibility throughout, and provide clear access and signage to trail heads. [both]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>Add new park trails from Watergate to Lower Crosby Farm (east side), connect to new parking areas and to Victoria Park. [CF]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>Improve and extend park trails at Hidden Falls, improve trail from pavilion to falls area. [HF]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>Redesign bike and pedestrian trails along entry roads. [both]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>Improve Shepard Rd crossings, [CF]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>Improve all pedestrian access points, giving consideration to neighborhood access, and connections from Victoria Park and redeveloped Ford Site / WPA era (Works Progress Administration) staircase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Improve safety and sight lines at Mississippi River Boulevard entrances. [both]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Improve boardwalk and fishing pier. [CF]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Improve parking areas at Hidden Falls (especially near pavilion, which is not emergency vehicle accessible). [HF]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Reduce pavement, by removing some of the looped roadway at Hidden Falls at both entrances. [HF]</td>
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### Construction: Recreation Improvements/Use Areas

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>Acid gathering area with fire pit designed to accommodate and recognize Native American heritage and culture. [HF] (Similar to Pict Knob)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>Develop linear mountain bike trails using International Mountain Bicycling Association best practices. [both]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Med-High</td>
<td>Add cross-country (XC) skiing trails to accommodate classic style skiing (use grooming equipment from park system or partner). [both] If feasible, design to be multi-use natural surfaces trails.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Med-High</td>
<td>Improve boat ramp and trailer parking. Separate casual shoreline users and cars without trailers from boat ramp area. [HF]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Med-High</td>
<td>Improve meadow near Hidden Falls Pavilion to allow passive recreation and picnic areas for large and small group events. [HF]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Med</td>
<td>Construct a new nature-based or woods play area (non-traditional). [HF]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Med</td>
<td>Add (2) canoe/kayak landing areas (separated from boat ramp, at Hidden Falls South Gate and Crosby. [both]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-Med</td>
<td>Develop rustic group tent camping areas for permitted events, with a potable water source. [CF]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-Med</td>
<td>Develop rustic groups tent camping areas for permit events, with a potable water source. [CF]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-Med</td>
<td>Conduct feasibility study for allowing and improving access for ice climbing</td>
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### Construction: Landscape Improvements

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>Reduce lawn area, encourage development of a continuous tree canopy, and remove some parking along road at Hidden Falls South Entry. Use this as an area for Cottonwood regeneration. [HF]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Med-high</td>
<td>Remove fallen trees from trails as soon as possible, and emphasize tree canopy management via programs with partners. [both]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Med-high</td>
<td>Address bluff erosion at bluff top, following Natural Resources Inventory guidelines (stabilize materials for trails that will diffuse water flow, resist compaction and disintegration, and control water away from trails). Re-vegetate slopes where feasible. [both]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Med</td>
<td>Restore native riparian and wetland areas, and address erosion near stormwater outfalls, to improve water quality. [both]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Med</td>
<td>Suggestively manage understory of invasive vegetation species in passive activity areas [both]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Restore Hidden Falls Creek to incorporate water quality treatment and habitat enhancement. Plan for this restoration to be timed with Ford Redevelopment. [HF]</td>
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What should the City do with the first $500,000?

- Add cultural signage and develop wayfinding signage plan
- Trail system: improve rustic trails at bluff and shoreline
- Trail system: redesign bike and pedestrian connections at entry roads
- Add gathering space for indigenous culture events and recognition
- Reduce lawn area and redesign parking area at Hidden Falls north lot
Wrap Up / Next Steps

- Open House January 2019 to review the draft report
- Plans Available February 7 online
- Draft report available Feb 23 - March 22 for public comment
- Submit report to Parks Commission in early March
- Submit report to City Council in mid-March
- Submit report to Metro Council in early April 2019
- Complete report approved June 2019

Please discuss this project with your representative groups and email us with responses or comments

THANK YOU!

- For up to date information, visit the project website: https://www.stpaul.gov/hidden-falls-crosby-farm-master
Parting Thoughts

“A water walk is just the beginning. Caring for the water is a way of life. There are many ways you can do something for the water every day.

What will you do for the water?”

http://www.nibiwalk.org/about/