

NOTES – COMMUNITY CHARACTER INQUIRY

Hillcrest Master Plan
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[Additions are denoted in brackets.]

What's most valuable about your community now?

The diversity of housing. There's first-time homeowners and some who built their own houses. We know our neighbors. We have alleys.

Houses look different – their character varies.

Single family housing framework.

It brings in families.

Multiculturalism.

The age range of the people living in the community.

The neighborhood is compact. As we are aging, we need a village that serves all aspects of life cycles.

It's insulated... a little nook.

Quiet, isolated area.

Ability to walk around the neighborhood.

The streets don't go through; they provide a buffer.

Small village feel.

Most have lived here 25+ years – decades. Share gardens and look out for each other.

It's quiet and the neighbors respect each other.

People take good care of homes.

Quiet. Safe. Everybody looks out for everybody.

Design to match the history of the Hillcrest neighborhood.

Library on White Bear Avenue and Hayden Hills Rec Center well-used by families and neighbors.

Open spaces, we don't want to lose this.

Furness Parkway, green space, mature tree canopy.

Environmental accessibility.

You feel like there is space between things.

Nature to observe.

This elementary school [Hayden Heights School] has been here since 1935; all my children walked to this school.

Legacy of residents of the east side.

History of the area.

I know my neighbors. Area-wide access – everything is [only] a 10-15 minute drive. Walking and biking.

Getting around in a car is easy.

Love where we're at; everything is within a mile or two.

Lack of traffic on the St. Paul side.

Close to a bus line.

[Maplewood resident:] Neighborhood next door is a bedroom community without high density and away from industrial.

What's missing or lacking that would make this a full and complete community?

Hayden Heights playground needs more space especially for young families with children.

Furness Parkway is too narrow. Need more space especially for ball games and picnics.

More outdoor gathering places where kids can play and we can talk to our neighbors and also active park space – sledding hill?

Parks, play areas, group gathering spaces to go to. Different than the local parks.

Outdoor community gather sites, pavilion, gathering.

Outdoor pool/splash park.

Separate bike and pedestrian ways.

More bike paths.

Dog Park.

I want to stay on the east side as I age. Affordable senior housing like twin-homes needed with an intergenerational mix, especially children.

Senior programming.

Senior living.

Age in Place.

Affordable housing x3.

Many starter homes now, but need mid-price affordable houses.

The Library and Rec Center need improvements. More modern things for kids to do.

Current Hayden Heights playground not well used. I use nearby Beaver Lake for parkland.

Are transit options sufficient to the neighborhood? Now and when developed?
Need to improve mobility especially for elderly and disabled.

Small shops/restaurants that could be destinations (brewery, ice cream shops, etc).

Public transportation – no access.

Street Grid.

Pedestrian infrastructure.

McKnight/Larpenteur are hard to cross.

Furness Boulevard has too much traffic moving too fast. Prefer dead-end streets and cul-de-sacs.

Disconnected driving.

Need for additional fire station? Question re: services and response time.

Lack of services.

Concern over crime.

Analysis of future school needs?

What do you think about the Hillcrest site now?

Used to seeing parkland across the street. Maintain the trees and have parkland flow into the neighborhood.

Beautiful landscape – 100-year-old trees; oaks and elms.

It is a beautiful open space.

Love of wetlands, hills, and trees.

Great opportunity of nature viewing (birds, mature trees).

Part of a large stormwater system – connected Beaver lake.

What do you hope for the future of the Hillcrest site?

This is the most important thing that's happened to the neighborhood since the streetcars were removed in the 1950s.

Keeping the site unique – add to community character.

Lots of walkability and destinations.

More natural areas – prairie, natural plant communities.

Increased sense of community connection.

Avoid commercial development at Larpenteur and McKnight; there's already too many empty storefronts there now. We don't need any more small stores.

Commercial spaces especially for doctors and dentists.

Hope it's not developed for the rich and famous and not for the rest of us who want to age in place.

Senior cottages.

Include clinic for senior citizens. But what happens when no baby boomers?
Need affordable housing for individual owners.

Maintain mature trees, well-established trees; we hear owls and see deer.
It's like living in the country while in the city.

Make a link to Beaver Lake.

Make safe [pedestrian and bike] connections to Beaver Lake across the railroad tracks.

Improve the water quality in the area – not harm the Beaver Lake project.

Park reserve similar to Oakdale.

Use the high point for something spectacular; don't shave it off.

Open space, nature, recreation and cross-country skiing. Fewer trees cause depression.

I like to walk around Furness Parkway – but my dream would be a park.

Site buildings between trees; make an extension from Furness Parkway into the site, connect pedestrian pathways.

Need for [improvements to] Hayden Heights playground, but not like Arlington.

No through streets. [Strong feelings on this from many].

I live off White Bear Avenue. It's noisy. So no entrances from the [current] dead ends through site.

Maintain green space/green neighborhood. Not have east side streets go through.

Make examples of green buildings.

Progress has to happen. But we don't need industrial – move that to White Bear Avenue.

Put jobs and places to work at the perimeter.

This isn't an industrial area. [Strong feelings on this from many].

That the site will have enough services. Will more police be added with the additional people?