

Minnehaha Creek Neighborhood Community Meeting Notes

Saturday March 22, 2014

9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Lynnhurst Community Center

First Breakout - Overview Discussion

General

- Start with preservation of the environment and then consider small things
- Keep it natural (unique environment) but with safe paths

Access

- Better access at Penn—improved access up and down the hills (e.g. timbers)
- Safety issue for sharing walking and biking
 - No biking certain areas
 - Bikes could utilize roads next to creek
 - Bike path opposite side from natural path
 - Bike path connection at 54th
- Safe crossings at Xerxes and Penn
 - Crosswalks
 - Stairs
 - Tunnels under roads
- Paths
 - Need safe walking surface
 - Strongly in favor of sustainable, natural trails
- Steps at Washburn spillway
- Access to Edina park

Amenities

- Trash Cans and benches desired
 - Call 311 for removal of waste
 - Bench at top of Newton hill
- Restroom by tennis courts
- Drinking fountains
- Dog Bag Stations
- Signage
 - Environmental
 - History of the creek

Environmental Improvements

- Remove spillways and replace with safer alternative
 - Walkway over top
 - Stairs
- Erosion concerns
 - Forest management – more trees
 - Native plantings
- Runoff/Flood Control
 - From alleys
 - From spillways
- Walkways/Paths – permeable only
- General maintenance improved
- Steps/terraced rain gardens
- Keep it as natural as possible
- Garbage removal

Second Breakout – Site Specific Discussion

Zenith to Upton

- This section is the most neglected section of the creek
- It has two major spillways that should be converted into better runoff filtering
 - Consider terraced rain gardens
- Lots of erosion that needs to be shored up
- ¾ in the group liked the idea of a pedestrian bridge from 54th St to the Hill below Zenith Ave
 - Gives bike access from the Edina bike route to the 54th St. bike route east of Xerxes
 - Wanted a “natural” bridge like the wood bridges close to Lynnhurst
 - This would reduce pedestrian traffic from the north side of the creek and make for easier walking.
- Safety is an issue for those walking across Xerxes
 - Traffic is heavy on Xerxes and there are lots of turning cars to and from 54th St.
 - All would like to see a flashing cross-walk activated by buttons on each side of the creek

Upton to Penn

- Keep it natural
 - Timbers
 - Rain Gardens
- Buckthorn removal/maintenance
- Penn Ave access
- Xerxes Ave access
- Flooding on Forest Dale

Penn to Logan

- Leave as wild and natural as possible
- Consider extending a buffer of native plantings
 - up from the creek towards Penn field
 - Rain gardens along edge of creek (water quality)
 - will require proper establishment and maintenance to prevent weeds
- Balance use/play areas with native plant establishment
 - Kids and families use this area extensively
- Benches at top of Newton hill
- Bathroom near tennis courts
- Maintain wooded area by Newton sledding hill
- Protect oak trees near Penn field
- Better trail maintenance and safety
- Safer Penn Ave. crossing
 - Pavement markings
 - Signage
 - Curb adjustment to shorten crossing
- Respect nearby property owners
- Improve pedestrian ramp/curbing at 52nd and Morgan
- All improvements must be maintainable with operating funds for long-term maintenance
 - MPRB tried native plantings once before but it failed
 - MPRB also stopped mowing turf grass once and this was viewed negatively

Logan to Community Center

- Walk and bike path at less natural area
- Porta-potty at Logan tennis courts
- Rainwater catchments at alleys south of creek
 - Minimize run-off to creek
 - Rain gardens