

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
Cedar lake and Lake of the Isles Master Plan
Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting #5

9/9/2021 6:00-8:30pm
Zoom Online Video Call

MPRB Staff and Consultants Present: Emma Pachuta (Project Manager), Adam Arvidson, Madeline Hudek, Alyssa Gilmore, Lily Heiting, Mary Yang; Maura Rockcastle (TENxTEN), Erica Christenson (TENxTEN), Sydney Shea (TenxTen), Katie (TenxTen)

CAC Members Present: Win Rockwell (CAC Chair), Adam Braun, Alice Lehman Anna Eleria, Ben Surma, Drew McGovern, Jim Romlin, Josh Christensen, Linda Mack, Nan Dreher, Michaela West joined at 8:00pm, *Will Stensrud (Alternate), James Reid (Alternate), Constance Pepin (Alternate)*

Public: Throughout the evening approximately 40+ members of the public joined the meeting

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Emma started the meeting by thanking everyone for joining the fifth Cedar-Isles Master Plan Community Advisory Committee Meeting (CAC #5) and thanked everyone for being part of the process. Acknowledged there has been a bit of a delay between Meeting #4 in January and Meeting #5 in September due to community engagement extension. Emma explained that the topic of the meeting was drafting a vision and set of design guidelines, and the majority of the meeting would be spent on completing activities led by Ten xTen around the guiding principles and vision language. Madeline posted the meeting resources in the chat, which CAC members are encouraged to look at before the meeting: [CAC Meeting #5 Resources](#), [Cedar-Isles Project Page](#). MPRB staff and consultants did a quick round of introductions.

Win Rockwell (CAC Chair) also welcomed everyone to the meeting, and thanked Project Staff and other CAC and Community Members for their contributions.

Emma showed the Land Acknowledgement statement on the screen and noted that MPRB saw the land acknowledgment, not as the end, but the beginning of implementing policy and actions to honor Indigenous community. MPRB aims to hold this truth in every meeting.

Emma stated that they had a lot to cover in the meeting, which is the main reason that MPRB extended the meeting to 2.5 hours instead of the normal 2-hour meeting time. There will be a formal break during the activity portion, but everyone should take breaks as needed to ensure they can stay present and participate throughout the meeting. There will be three working activities, two where MPRB will break folks into breakout rooms with both CAC members and

members of the public where everyone will be able to participate. The last activity will be a full group discussion and for CAC members only.

Emma went over the Group Agreement and Online Forum Guidelines for the meeting, noting that there would be time for the CAC to participate, members of the public to comment at the end, plus time at the meeting where CAC members and members of the public would participate in activities together.

Emma showed a graphic of the master plan process and explained that we are now at the end of the Vision and Discovery phase and the beginning of the Design phase. The Vision and Discovery phase was extended due to the various challenges in completing engagement in 2020; staff decided to extend engagement through summer 2021 to be able to engage a broader audience of residents.

CAC Members were then invited to introduce themselves, beginning with Josh Christensen, who was recently appointed by Commissioner Meyer and it was his first CAC meeting.

Emma showed a more detailed graphic of the Vision and Discovery phase, outlining when the master plan began, how COVID-19 impacted 2020 timelines, and the CAC meetings that happened in 2020 and early 2021. Virtual engagement had begun being implemented since the launch of the master plan. Emma then gave an overview of the community engagement completed for the master plan, along with major themes identified within the feedback based off of the information from the [Phase 1 Community Engagement Summary Report](#).

Emma then invited Maura from Ten x Ten to give an overview of the upcoming activities and draft guiding principles and vision language. Maura introduced the definition of Themes and Guiding Principles.

Maura shared the sub-themes under the categories of each CAC meeting: Access, History, Community Initiatives, and Resiliency and also the Engagement Themes from the Phase 1 Community Engagement Summary Report. She also went over the six draft Guiding Principles.

Maura then gave an overview of the vision for each of the six guiding principles and shared photos that encompassed how each principle could translate to design and on-the-ground experiences.

Maura completed her presentation sharing a draft vision statement, noting that this statement would evolve based on feedback and over the course of the master plan process.

ACTIVITY 1: Full Group Discussion

Ten x Ten had shared the Engagement Themes that they had identified and opened the themes up for CAC members and members of the public to identify gaps within their outline. View the full [Mural Board](#) used during the meeting.

(CAC Member): Would like to go back to the protect natural resources and more clarification of preserve what works and embracing the unique features.

(CAC Member): Throughout the conversation, a theme that you talked about is increase usage of park which is maintaining a safe environment for everybody. Culture of safety is something that may be missing.

(Public): Safety... I have not gone through the mural document. In term of safety, I saw very little input on safety. Mostly protecting and expending existing natural area which is now is at the very end of the list. Water quality is there very frequently.

(TxT Maura): There was a lot of safety conversation in the material that Park Board has shared about particularly circulation conflict, accessibility concern around the lake and that is where I noticed safety in the document.

(Public): Can you clarify what you mean by safety? There are a lot of users talking about traffic, pedestrian, and bike access. Do you mean road, water, or crime safety? I am not quite sure what user conflict of safety means because there is a lot of ways to interpret that.

(TxT Maura): Again, these are coming directly from community (trying not to interpret anything, and honor community comments in the document). From the reading, reduce users' conflict and increase safety was about pedestrian and bike at an intersection in certain location. It is not about crime.

(CAC Member): The issues of safety have been raised in some of the breakout conversations. The inclusion of callboxes or something similar are options that inherently make the area safer.

(CAC Member): Comments about preserving and valuing what we have is embedded in that is the notion that there is some significant physical infrastructure that we value. Example: the bridges and the lagoon between Lake of the Isles and Bde Maka Ska involve a lot of infrastructure. People talking about preserving what we have, they are thinking about that. In a number of cases, they are badly deteriorated. My question is should we be adding something more specific to preserving valuable physical infrastructure? There is some physical infrastructure that may conclude has served its time and doesn't need to be preserved, but there is other physical infrastructure that really does. However, it is so expensive to fix, if we

don't focus on it, it is not going to get attention or the budget it needs to be kept in a good condition. Question: How does that get reflective here?

(TxT): Maybe condition of existing infrastructure. Sound like a theme?

(CAC Member): With regards to the impact of the Southwest Light Rail (SWLRT), I want to elaborate on the greater access opportunities in that there will be with more people there. We should have greater research and numbers to better understand who will be coming to the area, who will benefit from the new transit line and who will be coming here the most. We really must understand the new connection and accessibility that the park will have. Who will benefit and who the new people will be who has the access to open in this area?

(TxT): We are holding a theme relating to that in a kind of access and want to make sure what we are adding to this one is coming from engagement comments. Your point is great.

(Public Chat Box): Reference to wildlife is missing— Also need to understand impact of these new visitors on current residents = wildlife. Wildlife is central/integral to ecological function, not just “user” conflicts but also human conflicts with wildlife.

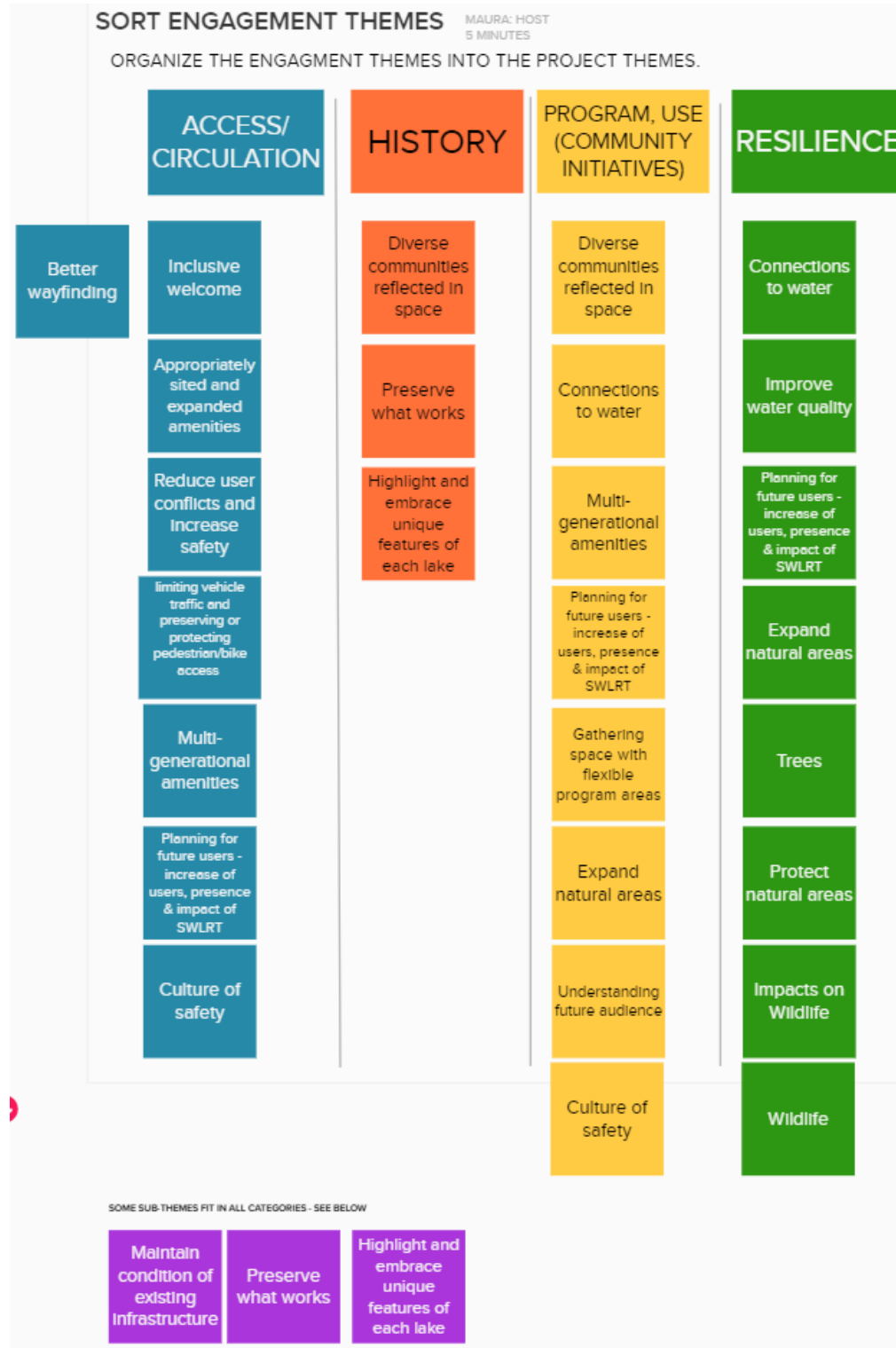
Completed Engagement Themes Activity

ENGAGEMENT THEMES MAURA: HOST
10 MINUTES

PLEASE THINK ABOUT THE FEEDBACK FROM THE DIFFERENT ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.
ARE THERE ANY ENGAGEMENT SUB-THEMES MISSING FROM BELOW?

Highlight and embrace unique features of each lake	Appropriately sited and expanded amenities	Connections to water	Better wayfinding	Trees		
Preserve what works	Reduce user conflicts and increase safety	Multi-generational amenities	Gathering space with flexible program areas	Culture of safety	Maintain condition of existing infrastructure	
Inclusive welcome	Diverse communities reflected in space	Improve water quality	Expand natural areas	Protect natural areas	Impacts on Wildlife	Wildlife
	limiting vehicle traffic and preserving or protecting pedestrian/bike access	Planning for future users - Increase of users, presence & Impact of SWLRT	Understanding future audience			

After brainstorming additional themes, the group weighed in and moved each theme into the four categories (the group also moved the Themes within Engagement into the four topic categories): Access, History, Program/Use (Community Initiatives), Resiliency.



CAC Chair noted that this activity could be problematic as many themes could work within more than one category. Maura agreed and explained they wanted to start with categories, and acknowledged there may be overlap.

ACTIVITY 2: Breakout Rooms

CAC Members and members of the public were broken out into 4 groups with project staff to dive into the four categories in greater depth, identify further gaps, and move the sub-themes into larger Themes. Each group worked within one category.

Most groups made it through Steps 1 & 2, and some groups did not have time to complete Step 3. View the full [Mural Board](#) used during the meeting.

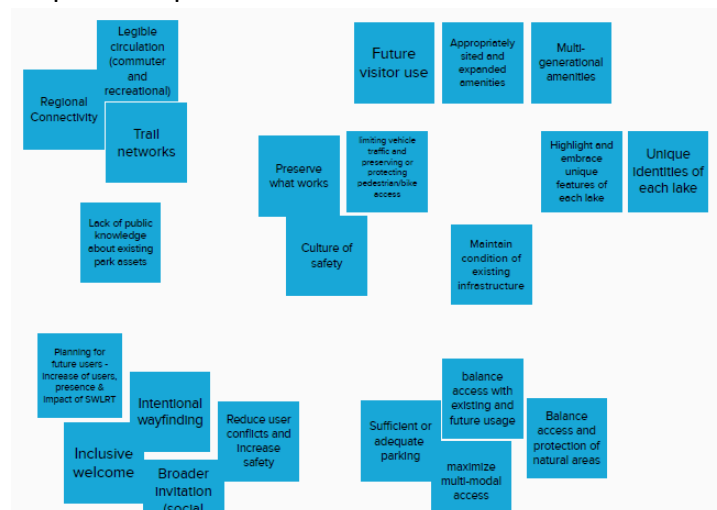
Group 1: Access

Step 1: Identify and add additional sub-themes

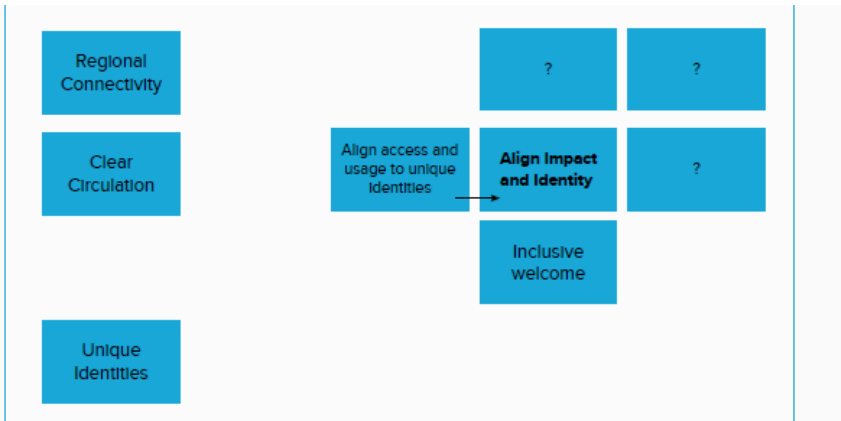
ACCESS/CIRCULATION SUB-THEMES



Step 2: Group into similar content



Step 3: Summarize themes into 4-5 main themes

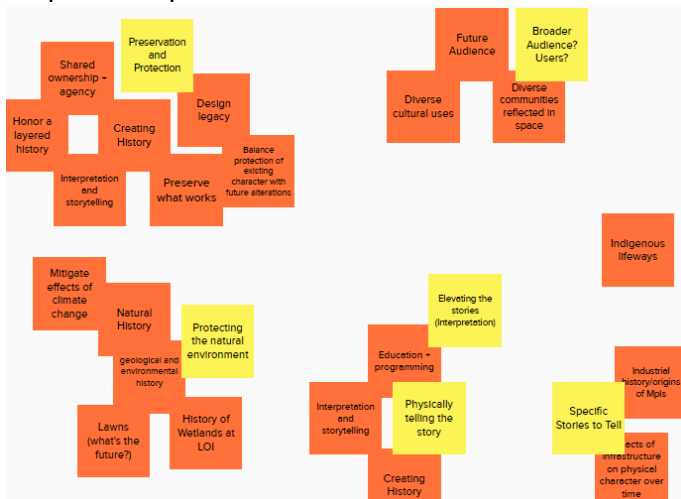


Group 2: History

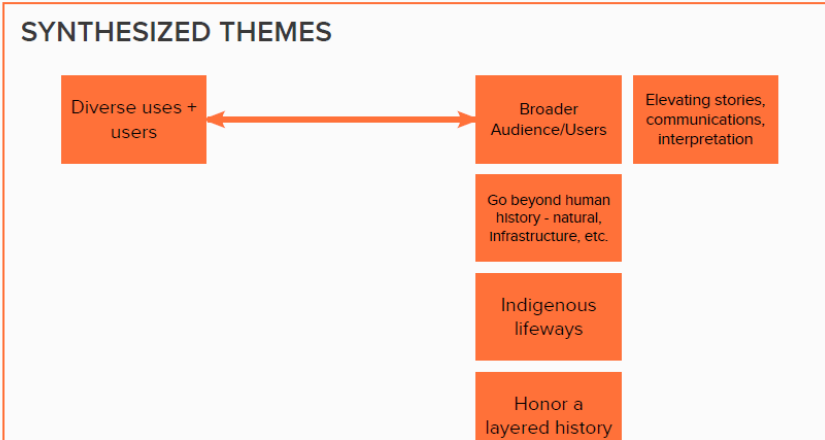
Step 1: Identify and add additional sub-themes



Step 2: Group into similar content



Step 3: Summarize themes into 4-5 main themes



Group 3: Program and Use (Community Initiatives)

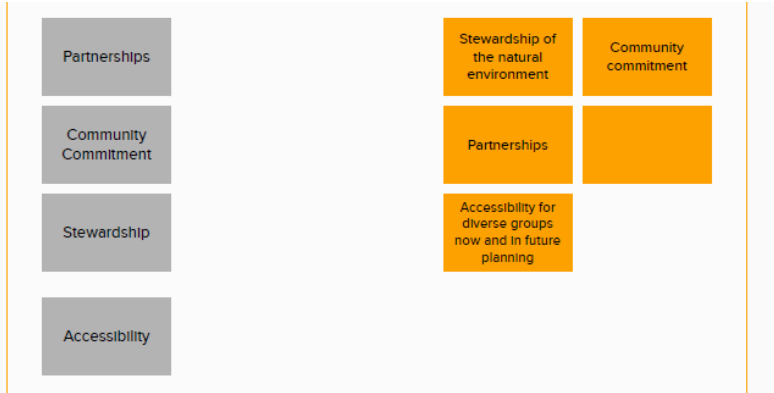
Step 1: Identify and add additional sub-themes

Partnerships	Improvements for accessibility and path use (South Cedar Beach)	Community-led natural areas restoration and maintenance	Connections to water	Gathering space with flexible program areas	Multi-generational amenities	Expand natural areas
Ongoing initiatives and stewardship	Neighborhood investment	Increase programming and activation of space	Culture of safety	Diverse communities reflected in space	Planning for future users - increase of users, presence & impact of SWLRT	Understanding future audience
Water inundation history and concerns	Cues from adjacent planning efforts					

Step 2: Group into similar content



Step 3: Summarize themes into 4-5 main Themes

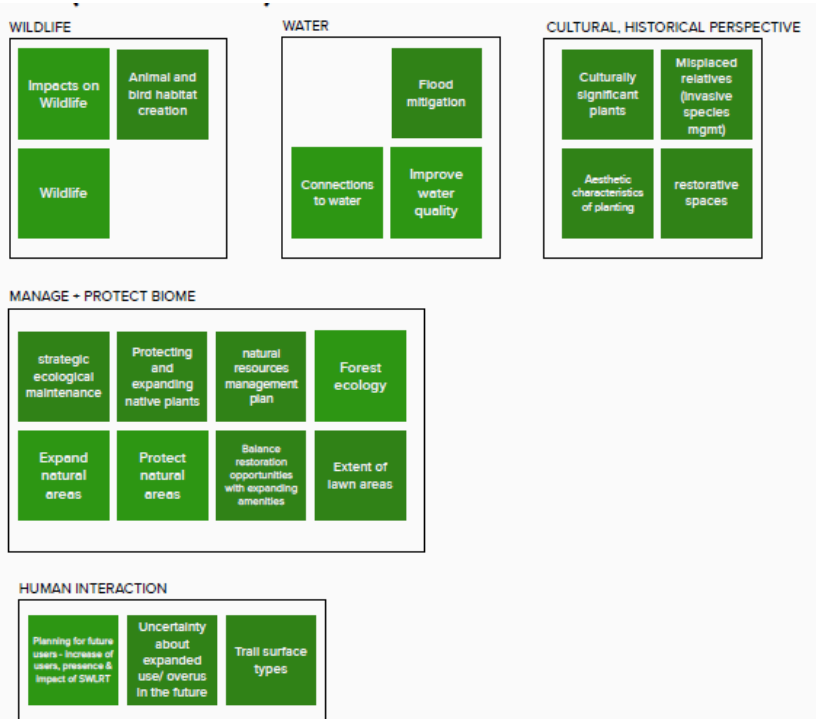


Group 4: Resiliency

Step 1: Identify and add additional sub-themes

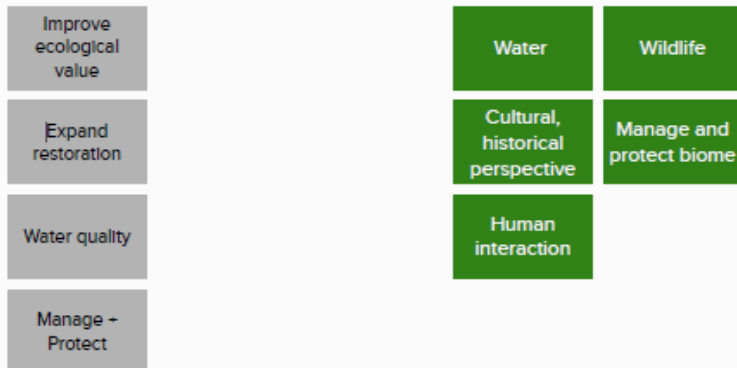


Step 2: Group into similar content



Step 3: Summarize themes into 4-5 main themes

SYNTHESIZED THEMES



A CAC member who participated in each group shared out the findings for each category.

PUBLIC COMMENT TIME

Emma explained that the public comment time was meant for community members to be able to make comments related to the master plan and is not a question and answer period, but that Project Staff would try to answer questions in future meetings as much as possible. Emma asked folks to write 'yes' or their name in the chat box if they wanted to share feedback verbally. Folks could also write feedback in the chat box during this time.

(Public): Thank Emma for her leadership in the Master Plan and the CAC for letting me join in and Ten X Ten for their facilitation. I appreciate that water quality has been noted as a sub-theme and that there is broad base consensus that water quality is important. This master planning process is still in the beginning phases as your initial diagram has shown. I think that the CAC deserves a complete set of information that evaluates water quality. As of right now, we are in September 2021 and the 2020 water quality report by the Park Board has yet to be release. The 2019 report was released on a delayed basis to the CAC in January and I hope that Emma; you and your colleagues can ask the Park board to expedite the data be made available to the CAC. As they think about what should be prioritized going into the design process because in the 2019 report, the park board noted that Cedar Lake is the only lake in the entire park board system with declining water matric. We should be talking about treatment that it is beyond reinforcement and that we need to salvage what is an ecological crisis in Cedar Lake. I appreciate that it is getting enough attention, I think it should be pressed upon everyone including our stakeholder, TEN x TEN.

(Chat box) (Public): The problem with the lake levels was part of a wet-dry cycle that lasts decades, the river water probably made water quality worse.

(Public): I want to echo the concern that the previous speaker made about the urgency of our ecological collapse is not being reflected. I do appreciate all the work and the discussion, but

beyond water quality, we are in the middle of an ecological crisis. I want to remind everyone that we need wildlife to be able to function. Wildlife will be added as part of the mission statement of the Park Board when the new Parks for All comprehensive plan comes out; it is not an add on, nor an either or. It is both and situation where we have to incorporate connectivity, habitat for wildlife into our planning. I would urge member of the CAC and consultant to take more seriously that Parks are for all living beings and not just for human beings.

(Public): One thing I didn't hear was a shout out to the DNR school forest designation. It has come to me a couple of times throughout the discussion that it can be relevant to some of these topics; in term of access to education, and preservation of natural elements. I am not sure what type of involvement that can have within this whole CAC process, but I want to give a shoutout to the consultant and the community to have this in mind; it is an opportunity that we should involve in this process. Through this process, we could leverage existing educational opportunities for all these critical issues involving natural areas and water quality.

Emma asked for final comments from the CAC, and hearing none moved on to close out the meeting.

THANKS, EVALUATION, AND NEXT STEPS

Emma thanked everyone for joining the conversation and for allowing project staff to continue to try out new meeting strategies to make them as productive as possible. Emma invited participants to connect with her directly about meeting feedback and put her phone and email in the chat.