

Water Works Frequently Asked Questions and Comments

November 29, 2017

This FAQ includes comments and questions around the schematic design shown in the fall of 2017. For an FAQ provided in June, 2017 around the revised concept approval, see the [FAQ Link](#) on the [Water Works Project Website](#) (www.minneapolisparcs.org/waterworks)

Overall Park Design

1. Where will lights be located?

Light locations and fixtures are not fully determined at the schematic design stage but the team is looking at a combination of overhead and bollard lights with some accent lights.

2. When will MPRB have details on the dog relief area?

The key dog relief area is on First Street to intercept dogs coming from nearby downtown residents before they damage vegetation in the park. MPRB doesn't have details about materials and exact design yet but is researching the options. MPRB has had issues with dog bag dispensers in the past and isn't currently providing them in parks. The setup at this park will be determined over the next couple of months.

Park Circulation

1. First Street lacks good sidewalks and crosswalks. What kinds of pedestrian improvements can be made?

First Street is a city street and not under the jurisdiction of the MPRB. As part of the Water Works project, MPRB staff has explored possible street modifications with the Minneapolis Public Works department. First Street is a complicated puzzle of space constraints and broader traffic circulation demands. The street width is constrained and so it is impossible to expand the sidewalks. However, the plan is to remove most of the power poles, which will remove some of the current obstructions. If allowed, MPRB may move parallel parking to the river side of the street. In addition to improving the pedestrian environment, this parking switch would also provide better sightlines from the driveway on the downtown side of the street. The MPRB will continue to work with Public Works on crossings, signage and other pedestrian strategies that make First Street safer.

2. West River Parkway traffic is busy and currently unsafe for crossings. How will MPRB address traffic calming and safety for the crossing shown? Is it possible to eliminate the parkway through this site, or to bridge over the parkway?

The crossing areas shown in the concept will have traffic calming and crosswalk design strategies applied to them in the next stage of design. The Water Works design team includes bicycle and pedestrian transportation planners and traffic engineers to develop strategies. More dramatic measures such as relocating or closing the parkway were explored in earlier stages of design but determined infeasible or undesirable.

3. What are the accessible routes from the upper First Street level to the lower park and parkway level? Where will accessible parking be?

There are three accessible routes from the upper First Street level down to the lower park level. Accessible walkways are provided either end of the project and an elevator allows access through the building.

There are three accessible parking stalls in the woonerf with universal access to the park. On-street accessible stalls are also being explored for First Street and West River Parkway.

4. How will bicyclists get from the downtown to the river? Will bicyclists still have a connection from the Fifth Avenue and First Street intersection?

Second Street is a dedicated bikeway through downtown. The woonerf will be a new dedicated bikeway linking Second Street with the riverfront trail through Water Works. This new link through the woonerf will replace the ramp currently used by bicyclists along the Crown Roller building, which will be removed for safety purposes. In addition to the new dedicated through-route, bike parking stations will be established at locations near the park perimeter to establish a park interior that is safe for pedestrians. Design cues, signage, education, and where necessary, enforcement will also be used to encourage appropriate use of bikes in the park.

5. It is important to provide a connection to rail terrace from 3rd Avenue Bridge

A future pedestrian connection to the woonerf/park level is shown on the concept plan. Some of the need for this may be mitigated if a fully accessible walkway can be provided along the entire length of the east (park) side of First Street. There is not currently budget to provide a pedestrian connection down at that intersection. MnDOT does have upcoming bridge construction work that will likely impact the rail terrace, intersection, and bridge; MPRB bike and ped connections in that area will need to wait until the bridge work is done.

6. 1st and 5th intersection – can we make it safer, 45 degree crossing, stop sign?

The team has two consultants that specialize in traffic design with experience in urban environments that prioritize pedestrian and bicycle safety. The final design of that intersection may still be modified and will ultimately need approval by the City.

Pavilion (park building)

7. Will there be free restroom access and water at Water Works?

The lobby area and lounge area (including the stairs, elevator, and restrooms) will be available to the public whenever the building is staffed by MPRB or when the restaurant is open. The

hours have not been determined yet but MPRB will generally seek to maximize hours. There is a drinking fountain in the lounge and MPRB is planning to include a bottle filler.

8. What is the height of the upper lobby roof?

The upper lobby is approximately 10' above the height of the roof. The roof ranges from around 2' to 7' above First Street as the street slopes down as it moves toward Fifth Avenue. The roof does have an accessible ramp connection at the north end of the building from the First Street sidewalk.

9. What are the four elements extending up from the green roof?

Three elements are light monitors to bring light into the building. The light monitors are approximately five feet above the roof surface. There is also a chimney from the building kitchen; height is still being determined.

General Comments

Many people liked the plan and building development.

Many people expressed excitement about The Sioux Chef as the food vendor.