Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail Master Plan

Feedback on Draft Concepts - Community Engagement Summary

This document is a compilation of the feedback received between the release of the Draft Concepts on 1/31/19, and 4/15/2019. Feedback was collected at various stakeholder events and community meetings, via emails, and through an online survey. For each concept, commentary is organized based on the venue through which it was received. Note that this document offers a summary of what was heard and not a list of every individual comment.

Segment 1: Summary of Comments received on draft MPRT Concepts

Segment 1, Focus Area 1-1 Concept A:

2/5 and 2/7 MPRB In-houses

- Need room for equipment near BMP (cascade)
- Sledding hill not suitable for sledding per asset management sledding inventory
- Today, sledding hill extends all of the way to the edge of the creek
- Need crossing signals at Penn/new bridge crossing

Web Survey Responses

- Tennis courts need a full re-build, not just a re-surface, support for keeping tennis
- Desire for an off-street bike path
- Appreciate the lack of paved trails
- Pollinator area will be trampled by neighborhood soccer players
- Would like to see more pollinator habitat
- Support for staircases at Penn
- Opposition to staircases at Penn (maintenance, access in winter)
- Dislike pedestrian bridge at Morgan and tube launch
- Support for pedestrian bridge at Morgan
- Concern about increased traffic/parking with a new launch
- Concern about decreased vehicle parking with any new bike lanes
- Support for trails west of Humboldt
- Support for access to both sides of the creek, access over Penn Avenue
- Concern for lower (natural surface) trails being muddy/flooded
- Concern for nearby chemical use in lawns, spread of invasive species with further development
- Confusion/concern over proposed BMPS
- Support for the spillway BMP as it is in an area that does not have many mature trees- could be a great educational opportunity
- Concern for broken glass in creek bed in this area
- Concern about removed oak trees for BMP
- Idea to manage wooded area (buckthorn and garlic mustard removal, planting for forest succession) as urban arboretum
- Concern that kids will play in cascading pools and mess up the flow of water
- Concern for process—nearby resident doesn’t feel that they have been engaged. Wants to see up-to-date graphics and stats on all community engagement in real-time

1/31 and 2/7 Community Workshops
- Support for continued/upgraded tennis courts
- Ideas for more recreational activities: basketball court, mountain biking on natural surface trails, zip line, nature-based playground, monkey bars/slide (play features for kids)
- Support for open lawn space for informal baseball, soccer, frisbee

2/21 CAC 4
- Support for pedestrian bridge at Morgan
- Support for removing spillways
- Concern about BMP impacting trees southeast of Penn
- Desire for a sidewalk on the west side of Morgan

Email Comments
- Protect the oak grove- incorporate flood mitigation around where the creek bends, not in this area
- Update path layout around the tennis courts to follow existing cow paths + add a kiosk
- Maintain Newton Hill sledding (do not expand stormwater feature in the flat at the bottom of the hill- this space is necessary for sledders and is also used for many neighborhood gatherings)
- Skeptical of need for a new bike/ped bridge at Morgan Ave- seems like a waste of money (use existing crossing at Logan and widen existing E-W sidewalk along 51st from Morgan to Logan)
- Preference for a natural surface trail on the south/east of the creek rather than on the north side between the sledding hill and the creek
- Support for pollinator habitat, pollution reduction, and green space improvements.
- Concern about adding “features” too frequently along Parkway (preserve the semi-wilderness feel)
- Concern about maintenance of all proposed features

Segment 1, Connections Diagram: (Not available to public until 2/13)

2/21 CAC 4
- Support for pedestrian bridge at Morgan
- Support for bridges at Zenith and Forest Dale
- Support for natural surface trails accessible to public

Web Survey Responses
- Support for Bike Lane extension along 54th to Xerxes
- Improve Washburn washout on north side of the creek. Natural trail between here and Upton is eroding

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• Would like to see more trails and public creek access west of Morgan to Edina- the most expensive neighborhoods are not being asked to share the park the same way other residents are.
• Strong opposition to bike lanes on 50th Street (adjacent vehicle traffic is too busy). 49th Street suggested as alternative
• Opposition to bridge over the creek at Forest Dale (waste of money, dangerous for kids, no direct outlet, difficult to access)
• Suggestion to close Gray’s Bay Dam and let the creek flow naturally
• Extend the trail system as far west as possible into the areas where there are not currently trails
• Missing pedestrian link along Morgan between 54th and the creek- add sidewalks

1/31 and 2/7 Community Workshops

• Need walkable access to play area from south of 50th/west of Xerxes
• Concern re: erosion/flooding/tree health between Zenith and Penn
• Idea: tubing loop to connect to Edina Parks
• Better on-street/bike connections to Edina
• Address stormwater flumes/spillways (today are damaged)

Email Comments

• Support for better bicycle access to Minnehaha Parkway through these neighborhoods
• Need better and wider crossings of 50th
• Concerns about Upton being too busy and too narrow to have a dedicated bike lane (existing portion with bike facilities is too dangerous). Would prefer Vincent (then Thomas)
• Would love restored access along the north bank of the creek between Upton and Penn

Segment 1, Focus Area 1-2 Concept A:

2/5 and 2/7 MPRB In-houses

• Dispute about whether the plan shows too much or too little athletic fields. All of the fields are used extensively, although are mainly programmed through MPS. Potentially too much picnic space dedicated at the expense of athletic fields.
• Need field lighting at soccer fields south of Burroughs Elementary
• Ice rink is shown too small and needs water access
• Like the natural play area- but concern about it exacerbating clogged stormwater grate in that location
• Concern about the pedestrian walkway going through the playground

1/31 and 2/7 Community Workshops

• Need more multi-use field space
• Question if we actually need baseball fields in every park
Web Survey Responses

- Idea for protected bike lane on 50th Street
- Concern about bike/ped/vehicle conflicts in this area in general
- Concern for loss of trees
- Concern about loss of softball and baseball fields (exacerbated by loss of fields at Armatage). Will leave no safe place for kids to play ball (baseball/softball fields are full every night of the summer for rec leagues)
- Would like more soccer fields
- Pedestrian overpass or underpass is needed to cross 50th. Make this investment rather than or before the other ped/bike bridges proposed within the park.
- Would like a designated soccer field.
- Consider artificial turf for multi-use fields
- Support for drainage improvements, but would like to see multi-use field, tennis, basketball and pool kept as is
- Like nature play and want to make sure it will have some separation from water hazards
- Would like to see a single picnic shelter
- Would like to see a second gym at Lynnhurst
- Would prefer a wading pool over a splash pad
- Get rid of community gathering and picnic area / public art gateway in favor of field space-people can picnic at Lake Harriet
- Do not add an outdoor classroom near Burroughs and take away space for PE/recess
- Would prefer basketball on the north side of 50th and not near the school, as it mainly attracts teens/adults
- Do not remove parking at the Rec Center- it will add congestion to the Burroughs parking lot
- Do not take the traditional play area out of Lynnhurst park and move it south of 50th. Play for ages 1-6 needs to be in the neighborhood park and adjacent to field spaces so that families with participants in sports can have their younger child nearby.
- Concept A seems more compatible with Burroughs
- Add pickleball to the tennis courts
- The rec center should be open during the day. Add more classes, weights, equipment and indoor walking opportunities/open gym time
- Dislike basketball courts near Burroughs
- Concern about having enough parking
- Dislike the public park vs school yard / community center divide across 50th
- Tennis courts will be ruined by ice rink- do not do
- Like winter ice rink idea
- Support for warming house/restroom updates
- Do not add more paved areas, picnic areas, and overlooks- keep the Parkway from Humboldt to Lyndale as natural as possible and preserve trees
2/21 CAC 4

- Like that the community center is connected to the creek not blocked by parking
- Like preservation of open space
- Like the amenities in this concept

Email Comments
- Like mini meander north of 50th, updated restroom, aquatic, and playgrounds (see sketch)
- Create a landing between the creek and the community center for gatherings and access to the water’s edge (replace parking lot) (see sketch)

Segment 1, Focus Area 1-2 Concept B:

2/5 and 2/7 MPRB In-houses

- Recess area is super-compacted ground (area southeast of Burroughs ES where the pollinator play lawn/stormwater BMP is located)
- Like nature play area, trails shown, bike park, creek re-meander
- Can’t rotate or rest any soccer fields in this alignment; with only one soccer field shown, will get worn out quickly

Web Survey Responses
- Important to allow trail to stay near the water
- Support for a focus on hydrology with both concepts, like daylighting of stream for habitat
- Need bike trail (on or off-street) access from the west (51st and James)
- Question why Lynnhurst Rec Center needs to be rebuilt (concern for cost)
- Support for rec center relocation and full size gym
- Idea: add a dog park in this area
- Concern that remeander takes space from Burroughs Elementary playground and fields, plus concern about safety of children near water. They need space for recess, PE, and soccer
- Dislike that bike park cuts into Burroughs School’s play/PE area (could this be at Lynnhurst Park or Nokomis golf course?)
- As kites, drone flying, Frisbee, catch, soccer, ultimate, and lacrosse gain popularity, open lawn space is important to keep
- Creek remeander seems excessive, expensive
- Creek remeander is more attractive than option A, but seems less attainable
- Prefer how concept B rehabilitates the creek
- Soccer and baseball are more important than picnic areas and nature play
- Concern about elimination of crucial fields for youth and rec sports (baseball/softball fields are full every night of the summer for rec leagues)
- Would like more soccer fields
- Support for new bridge/trails under bridge
- Concern for cost/feasibility of bridge over new remeander
- Concern for traffic back-up at Burrough’s entryway at arrival/dismissal
- Idea for dome at Lynnhurst for year-round sports
- Love the idea of a bike park, support for mountain biking areas
• Support for the bike skills park in concept B
• Dislike idea of bike park near creek
• Support for nature play - will be highly used
• Like nature play and want to make sure it will have some separation from water hazards
• Would like nature play to be closer to the building/restrooms
• Would prefer nature play get moved south along the creek if it meant preserving some space for fields at Lynnhurst
• Concern for over-building, too much interpretation, signage
• Support for improved crosswalks and crossing of 50th and separation of bikes and peds
• Support for protecting water quality
• Support for shade and separation of Parkway users from busy park activities and maintaining the natural feel of the creek
• Support for the wading pool rather than a splash pad
• Wish for the splash pad rather than the wading pool in Concept B
• Support for accessible boat launch
• Dislike launch/pier here - will be too crowded
• Support for reduced emphasis on parking (neighborhood is very walkable - support active transportation!)
• Like this concept’s orientation of basketball and tennis near each other, not separated from the park by 50th
• Dislike this concept’s location of basketball and tennis nearer to residential homes
• Add pickleball to the tennis courts
• The rec center should be open during the day. Add more classes, weights, equipment and indoor walking opportunities/open gym time
• Do not add more paved areas - keep the Parkway from Humboldt to Lyndale as natural as possible and preserve trees
• Site trails in order to avoid the need for guard rails or other things that disrupt views of nature
• Use existing sidewalks where possible (don’t duplicate paths just to keep them within the parkway boundary if there’s sidewalk in the ROW)
• Consider a bridge to cross the new meander south of 50th
• Perception that Plan B takes away too much green space
• Support for the connection of Burroughs to the park and making the parkland contiguous by constructing a path with a daylighted creek connection under 50th - makes everything safer for kids and families
• Like removal of grate and creation of daylighted creek under 50th - it will address issue of water backing up due to obstruction of the grate
• Like that the remeander will allow water access for animals and users from Lake Harriet all the way to the creek

1/31 and 2/7 Community Workshops
• Burroughs Elementary needs traditional field/court space for students
• Support to turn tennis courts into pickleball courts for seniors
• Need to have wide bike lane and sidewalks along 50th Street bridge (new)
• Don’t need to have so many ball diamonds, at the expense of multi-use fields
• Show trail connecting to the west
• Connect the bike playgrounds with a single track trail
• Love the playgrounds and single track bike trails (NOTE: single track bike trails are not actually shown in the concept; natural surface trails are intended as pedestrian trails. This should be addressed in subsequent design iterations)
• Raised crossing of parkway for bikes will force cars to slow down
• Support for increasing safety for pedestrians/kids around Burroughs ES
• Recreational space being lost for creek remeander doesn’t seem worth it. Although re-locating the community center makes sense
• High school (Washburn) uses tennis courts for their home courts. Would like to see more courts added

2/21 CAC 4
• Concern that there are not enough ballfields
• Support for open play lawn south of Burroughs
• Support for remeandering and daylighting of the tributary
• Support for accessible water access (if enough parking and natural surroundings maintained)
• Support for grade-separated trail crossings of 50th (under bridge)
• Concern about central location of bike park and loss of habitat/flooding impacts

Email Comments
• Like exploration of potential to daylight creek south of 50th (see sketch)

Segment 2: Summary of Comments received on draft MPRT Concepts

Segment 2, Focus Area 2-1 Concept A

2/5 and 2/7 MPRB In-houses
• Sledding hill not suitable for sledding per asset management sledding inventory
• Idea to add crossing signals at Penn Avenue at new overlooks
• Support for keeping one tennis court and adding a bike park
• Don’t need a paved trail on south side, prefer a natural surface trail on south side

Web Survey Responses
• Would rather not see public art in this area (should preserve naturalistic spaces)
• Preserve sledding hill on 51st near Fremont/Girard
• Concern for picnic areas being ‘commercialized’
• Would like to see the creek remain ‘natural’
• Like the sense of isolation, peacefulness of this area. Would like it to remain this way. Quiet, pristine, solitude, natural habitats, sound of animals, oasis, refreshing
• Need to show more mode separation in Concept A, Concern for shared use under Lyndale Ave.
• Opposition to moving the bike trail to parkway level
• Use existing sidewalks where possible (don’t duplicate paths just to keep them within the parkway boundary if there’s sidewalk in the ROW)
• Oppose tubing loop, concern it will be a ‘water park’ or like Apple River (alcohol + noise, unsafe)
• Nice Riders will not carry a tube on a bike, tubing loop will bring more car traffic
Swing bridge is a fun idea
Swing bridge seems expensive and unnecessary

1/31 and 2/7 Community Workshops
- Concern with trail next to roadway (west of Lyndale); bike path adjacent to a 1-way road against traffic (headlight glare)
- Bike path away from creek is not preferable (many value this biking experience along creek)
- Support for art along the creek in this area
- Idea for single track trail along the creek
- Support for tubing launches (as shown)

2/21 CAC 4
- Use old bikeways where possible
- Support for pollinator picnic area
- Would prefer the bike trail through the woods (Concept B)
- Concern about safety of formalizing/promoting tubing in the creek (glass, etc.)
- Prioritize restoration here before recreation

Email Comments
- Move paths to preserve little kid sledding hill at 51st

Segment 2, Focus Area 2-1 Concept B
Web Survey Responses
- Preserve sledding hill on 51st near Fremont/Girard (move bike path south)
- Concern with over-building, too many improvements (hammocks, picnic areas, tubing, parking)
- Concern about safety of promoting tubing
- Use existing sidewalks where possible (don’t duplicate paths just to keep them within the parkway boundary if there’s sidewalk in the ROW)

1/31 and 2/7 Community Workshops
- Idea to include signage from creek trail directing to nearby businesses, destinations
  - Neighborhood business connection needed at Lyndale and MPRT
- Support for hammock groves, improving the urban forest
- Support for the swing bridge
- Need restroom access along the route or directions to restrooms

2/21 CAC 4
- Prefer this remeander
- Don’t want shared use trails but don’t want ped path up high
- Concern about trail along parkway and snowplowing being an issue
- Concern about increased park visitors
- Concern about public art distracting from natural environment
- Idea for some ped trails through gorge to be natural surface (where stairs are the only access, this makes sense)
• Want swing bridge to blend into surroundings, not detract from it
• Support for bike path along the creek/through the gorge here
• Support for restoration and pollinator lawns

Email Comments
• Prefer Concept B, but would like to see ped and bike trail separated and not combined. Peds already have a trail on the other side of the creek.
• Would like to see 12’ wide bike trails min
• Move paths to preserve little kid sledding hill at 51st

Segment 2, Focus Area 2-2 Concept A
2/5 and 2/7 MPRB In-houses
• Support for closing the secondary roadway
• Concern that the playgrounds may be far from the picnic area for families

Web Survey Responses
• Opposition to closing the secondary roadway (from a nearby resident) and concern about a controlled intersection at Nicollet with increased traffic
• Opposition to visible picnicking (and concern about lack of parking for this use) (wants people to use existing areas at Nokomis or Minnehaha for this- over 1 mile away)
• Support for stabilization of creek banks
• Concern about safety of promoting tubing/pedestrian crossings for portage
• “Keep it natural” “raw, untouched by man”
• Concern for added parking demand, traffic, pedestrians if added programming
• Like the idea of having more features along the parkway to stop and look at- especially in unused spaces
• Make sure Nicollet Bridge gets repaired and painted (severely needed)- support for lighting
• Support for public art and lighting under the Nicollet Bridge
• Support for pollinator plantings
• Preserve trees or replant if necessary to remove
• Support for separation of bike and ped paths

1/31 and 2/7 Community Workshops
• Mountain bike team uses this area (southwest of creek along hillside between Grand and Pleasant)
• New bridges should avoid creosote in construction

2/21 CAC 4
• Put the restroom/pavilion under the Nicollet Bridge in that picnic area- not in the pollinator picnic grounds at Pratt. Concern about trash and noise.
• Concern about having enough room for properly realigned Parkway/Nicollet intersection (but agree that it would be an improvement). Needs a signal.
• Support for closing the second Parkway road (was closed for construction earlier and it worked)
• Support for art/lighting/activation under Nicollet (but also needs safety upgrades- falling concrete)
• Support for separation of bike and ped paths
• Safety concern about tubing and glass
• Consider maintaining 2-way traffic on the south Parkway east of Nicollet

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Email Comments

- Prefer this concept having bike trail use old parkway roadway and removing cars from it
- Dislike closed parkway road and controlled intersection at the parkway and Nicollet
- Parkway is heavily trafficked through here and people speed. Parkway could use traffic slowing devices and measures that make the parkway less attractive to commuters
- Concern about traffic increase to Nicollet/Parkway intersection as a result of lower parkway road closure. Hill on the east side of nicollet is a blind hill, making fast-moving traffic extra dangerous. Feels like an on/off ramp. Hill can be icy and difficult to navigate in the winter.
- Concern about picnickers close to traffic
- Support for improvements to amenities along creek and making the parkway more attractive to more users
- Make sure Nicollet Bridge gets general safety repairs before amenities (drops concrete)
- Support for trees, pollinator plantings, and wetland areas
- Support from Tangletown Neighborhood Association for improved lighting and public art around the Nicollet Ave Bridge (as long as lighting does not increase light pollution for residents and they can weigh in on public artist selection).
- Ensure art does not remove natural vegetation

Segment 2, Focus Area 2-2 Concept B

2/5 and 2/7 MPRB In-houses

- Support for creative nature play, bouldering walls, public art, swing features
- Concern about the amount of parking shown for families
- Need wayfinding along Nicollet

Web Survey Responses

- Support for nature playground, restrooms, water
- Opposition to visible play/restrooms (wants people to use existing areas at Nokomis, Minnehaha, Lynnhurst and Harriet for this- over 1 mile away)
- Public art, shelters, etc. are too much development for this area. Keep it natural, quiet.
- Opposition to any added recreation, improvements beyond ecological improvements
- Like the idea of having more features along the parkway to stop and look at- especially in unused spaces
- Like enhancement of recreational focus in the corridor as long as additions don’t clutter the landscape
- Make sure Nicollet Bridge gets repaired and painted (severely needed)- support for lighting
- Support for public art and lighting under the Nicollet Bridge
- Support for pollinator plantings
- Preserve trees or replant if necessary to remove
- Support for addressing erosion issues along the creek
- Separate bikers from pedestrians
- Priority should be given to pedestrians and cyclists on the parkway. Parking should not be free except for permitted residents (this could be broad, by zip code)
- Concern for added parking demand, traffic, pedestrians if added recreation

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1/31 and 2/7 Community Workshops
- Need more hubs like the bouldering wall along the creek, interpretive centers along the creek

2/21 CAC 4
- Make sure there’s a buffer between the play and the neighbors (don’t lose too many trees)
- Want to make sure nature play still feels very natural (not developed)
- Want shelter/restrooms not visible from neighbors if needed (or move to area near Nicollet)
- Support for nature play here (good bike and ped access, year round nature play with restroom)
- Make sure nature play is well maintained
- Move paddle access closer to upstream bridge (this may be easier to access/maintain)
- Concern about having enough parking near activated areas

Email Comments
- Parkway is heavily trafficked through here and people speed. Parkway could use traffic slowing devices and measures that make the parkway less attractive to commuters. Concern about additional traffic created by nature play area.
- Concern about play features close to traffic
- Ensure art does not remove natural vegetation
- Make sure Nicollet Bridge gets general safety repairs before amenities (drops concrete)
- Support for trees, pollinator plantings, and wetland areas
- Prefer Parkway road to stay open but dislike controlled intersection at the parkway and Nicollet
- From Tangletown Neighborhood Association: Support improved lighting of and around the Nicollet Avenue bridge, as well as the potential for public art. Some concern for light pollution for surrounding residents. Tangletown committee would like to be involved with any public arts proposals/selections.

Segment 3: Summary of Comments received on draft MPRT Concepts

Segment 3, Focus Area 3-1 Concept A
2/5 and 2/7 MPRB In-houses
- Preference for people of color/local artists to be chosen for public art; would like to see a focus on diversity in the community
- Support for roadway alignment as shown
- Support for restrooms/rest area at the Bunny

Web Survey Responses
- Concern re: loss of road access for residents along north side of parkway (emergency vehicle access, convenience of parking, snow removal)
- Concern about just having alley access where roadway removed
- Question material choices for 5th Ave BMP (would like to not see concrete here)
- Support for cul-de-sac on 5th with BMP

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• Concern about cul-de-sac on 5th - would rather see a 10’ wide one-way resident access lane (woonerf) on either side of the BMP to maintain access to the parkway
• In favor of restrooms
• Support for re-meandering of creek and habitat/flood prevention benefits
• Support for the pedestrian promenade on north side (from a parkway resident); will eliminate a confusing circulation pattern
• Support for pedestrian crosswalk improvements
• Concern that proposed roadway will need to be widened to accommodate consolidated traffic
• Nearby residents seem to be both in support and opposed to roadway on northside being removed
• Like addition of recreational amenities north and south of the creek
• Would like to see environmentally sensitive trail lighting
• Would like to see the 50th street and SW Minnehaha pkway crossing made safer (dislike that walkers still have to cross from the east to the west side of the parkway)
• Would like to see a speed table on Portland
• Would like to see east and westbound left turn lanes and signals on the Parkway at the Portland intersection
• Add plowable or movable speed bumps to the woonerf to aid plowing and reduce speed
• Would like to see a roundabout at 50th and Minnehaha- has this been studied?
• Move bunny to a location where there is room for restrooms and other comfort amenities
• Priority should be given to pedestrians and cyclists on the parkway. Parking should not be free except for permitted residents (this could be broad, by zip code)

1/31 and 2/7 Community Workshops
• Idea to convert Minnehaha Parkway north of creek into a 1-way to allow for more room for parking (on-street)
• Concern with traffic around the bridge, increased traffic on Parkway
• Make parkway less palatable to motorists
• Concern for pedestrian safety at crossings
• Need to address erosion in the creek in this area
• Homeowner experience is a higher priority than the creek (trade-offs are not worth it)
• Residents along the parkway use the road for parking to allow time to shovel out the alley access during heavy snows (concern for loss of on-street parking)
• Concern for eliminating frontage road/access for residents who do not have alley access
• Support for adding gathering space at Park/Minnehaha Parkway north of the creek
• Support for removing the frontage road to increase park space
• Appreciate the creation of usable space on northside of Parkway
• Idea to preserve emergency access but remove the frontage road to resolve the bad intersection at Park Ave.
• Idea for a bike/ped bridge over Portland Ave for trail users
• Idea to include traffic calming on Portland north of the creek crossing to slow traffic before intersecting with the trail
• Support for BMP on 5th Avenue
• Some residents don’t think that the 50th Street bridge is as bad as perceived
• Idea to move pedestrian crossing at 50th St bridge south to a mid-block crossing of the Parkway
2/21 CAC 4

- Support for the woonerf (permit/limited parking for residents, 3 mph, distinctive design)
- Concern about merging 2 roads increasing traffic from parkway onto Portland and Chicago
- Support for remeander near Clifton
- Concern about tree loss
- Not a lot of space around the bunny for amenities
- Want a speed table at Portland that spans space between intersections
- Want stop signs at 50th
- Concerns about flooding- would underground storage work?

3/13 Focus Area 3-1 Meeting

- Need more studies done: ecological, traffic studies, cost estimates, feasibility of moving sewer, flood studies
- Need to make area less desirable for commuter use
- Need enforcement of speed limits, reduced speeds of traffic in this area
- Concern that alley access for residents on north side of creek is not enough
- Concern for roadway access/fire code
- Consider signal, roundabout at 50th Street bridge
- Support for additional signal, bike signal at Portland/Parkway
- Concern for aesthetics, open water with 5th Ave. BMP
- Concept A maintains overall idea of this neighborhood/area
- Concept A would work if 50th Street bridge was eliminated
- Opposition to bathrooms
- Opposition to adding amenities that will draw more visitors, parking, congestion
- Idea to move all of these ideas to 12th Avenue area; more appropriate
- Concern for emergency vehicle access, response times
- Concern that any change in creek will result in flooded basements
- Concern that any change will result in lowered property values
- Remeander seems expensive and not necessary here; area is too narrow to improve
- Idea (support expressed at meeting) to create one-way (west-bound) north of creek and one-way (east-bound) south of creek
  - “Remeandering is great!”; support for prioritizing health of the creek, water quality
- Idea: create a trail loop in this area
- “Keep this area wild”
- Like/support for picnic area shown on west side of focus area
- Like/support for re-aligned intersection at Park Ave and Parkway
- Separate bikes/peds on south trail
- See Frank Burton’s 17-point comments

Email Comments

- Still need a solution around 50th/Parkway intersections. Dangerous for bikers.
- Support for Bunny area here: trails between active area and creek create a barrier for running kids and more trees are preserved
• Concern about enhancements around Bunny bringing more traffic to this pinch point- spread amenities out along the creek
• Add left-turn lanes/lights to parkway-Portland intersection to reduce backups and fumes
• Prefer low-traffic frontage road between Park and Oakland rather than busy parkway road (slope and curve make this dangerous to add add’l traffic to)
• Support for woonerf on north side
• Concern about tree removal and habitat loss
• Concern about alleys being used for emergency vehicles
• Make the 50th Street bridge just for bikes and peds to prevent the using the middle stretch of the parkway for east-west commuter travel
• Increase size of 50th/Parkway intersection and realign so that people crossing the parkway are more visible to eastbound cars trying to make a right turn onto the parkway. Add a stop light at this intersection.
• Realign east Parkway and 50th intersection so it’s not skewed
• Left turn queuing lanes on Minnehaha and Portland would help traffic and protect crosswalk users. Also add leading pedestrian intervals and consider bike turning movements
• Portland to the creek to Park Ave is a major commuter bikeway, and the Park intersection with Minnehaha is very problematic. Maybe bikers could use the south side of the creek and there could be a new NE/SW oriented bridge crossing the creek at Park for cyclists
• Consider making the north parkway a one-way from Park to 4th (too narrow currently to support two-way traffic)
• Suggest south Minnehaha Parkway be a one-way from Portland to Chicago

Segment 3, Focus Area 3-1 Concept B

2/5 and 2/7 MPRB In-houses

• Support for the roadway alignment as shown
• Strong support for overlook, promenade
• Bike crossing at parkway needs to be re-examined/evaluated

Web Survey Responses

• Concern re: loss of road access for residents along south side of parkway
• This concept addresses transportation/traffic flow issues at most intersections with thoughtful greenspaces. 51st Street and Tarrymore are still unsafe intersections for bikes/peds
• More pedestrian bridge crossings at roadways
• Love the plan to enhance the Bunny area
• Do not want food trucks or restrooms at the bunny (concern it will attract too many people/pets given already tricky conflicts between bikes, peds, and cars in this areas)
• Concern about lack of space for proposed bunny improvements and loss of trees/lack of parking
• Could you move the bunny to the more spacious area west of Portland?
• Support for pedestrian crosswalk improvements
• Support for Concept B overall: shifts traffic to north, creates better spaces for kids, improves intersection of 50th and parkway, likes the overlook and activity area close to the bunny. Does not think parking is a problem. Would love to have restrooms at bunny, even as a nearby
resident. Good location for this. Like the woonerf idea, would like to see more events like Twin Cities marathon in this area.

- Support for Concept B—better bike/ped circulation, makes more usable park area and increases safety
- Support for creek meanders and habitat enhancements
- Support for concept B because it addresses long-term issues of traffic in this area (from a neighborhood resident); trade-offs will be worth it
- Concern of increased traffic and widening of new parkway road
- If new parkway road on north side, add cul de sac BMP on 5th street so that 5th doesn’t connect to new parkway road
- Concern about cars sliding downhill and over the overlook/into traffic at 50th and the Parkway
- Concern about speed of east moving traffic on new parkway road (would like to see this be a westbound one-way, with a corresponding eastbound one-way on the south side of the creek)
- Support for new bridge connecting south parkway to 50th/4th intersection
- Neither plan addresses intersection of 50th and Parkway (bridge)
- Nearby residents seem to be both in support and opposed to roadway on southside being removed
- Concern for traffic close to residents yards
- Concern for tree loss
- Would like to see a roundabout at 50th and Minnehaha- has this been studied?
- Make sure there are left turn lanes on Minnehaha Parkway at Portland.

1/31 and 2/7 Community Workshops

- Concern about loss of trail access from north side of creek (Oakland area) to Bunny
- Like the intersection changes shown, but impacts to adjacent residents don’t seem worth it
- Good idea to get rid of oversized intersection at Minnehaha and Park Ave
- Roadway (as shown) is too narrow
- Oakland is also used as a bike connection
- Concerns about traffic being funneled to a single intersection, increased roadway widths, loss of parking
- Support for food trucks near the Bunny
- Idea: remove parking on west side of Portland south of Parkway and add grade-separated multi-use trail connecting south to Pearl Park

2/21 CAC 4

- Bikers trying to move north onto 4th from the parkway will have difficulties
- Bunny could be moved if needed
- Create a buffer between the north side houses and the new parkway road
- Concern about safety of residents on the north side with the new road and access for those on the south side where the road is removed
- Support for two lights at Portland intersections and a speed table in between
- Pedestrian movement and crossings are not ideal

3/13 Focus Area 3-1 Meeting

- Need studies (traffic, water quality, groundwater, infrastructure, real estate values, etc..); need to understand the issues before can support any ideas
• Costs for sewer movement will outweigh benefits
• Like/support for bike signal at Portland/Parkway south of creek
• Like/support for creek remeander/braiding on west side of focus area
• Like/support wide trail on south side as long as emergency vehicles can get through and no other vehicles
• Opposition to new pedestrian bridge on west side by residents on south/east side facing; doesn’t seem to address pedestrian circulation very well
• Concern that making this area a destination will further increase the traffic problems that exist here today
• Need more parking for people who are disabled to use the park
• Idea: send park users to Pearl Park to use restrooms
• Need to address mode priority/right of way at 50th Street/bridge area still
• Concern that alley will not adequately service homes with removed roadway
• Concern there will not be enough parking for visitors to residences
• Need restrooms and drinking fountains somewhere, just not here
• Concern that any changes to creek will result in flooded homes
• Leave the creek as-is, don’t need a plan or to make any changes
• Like/support for pollinator plantings
• Like/support for Park Ave/Parkway re-alignment
• One-way roads would work better
• Find ways to discourage commuter traffic, calm speeding, enforce stop signs
• Exciting vision, like enhancement of Bunny area for neighbors. Will be heavily used if upgraded.
• See Frank Burton’s 17-point comments

Email Comments
• Would like to see on-street bike lanes on the realigned parkway
• Would like to see a separate, delineated bike trail, even through the promenade/woonerf area
• Dislike how Creek loses all/most trees north of the bunny area
• Concern about tree removal and habitat loss
• Concern about alleys being used for emergency vehicles and lack of streetfront parking
• Move the bunny sculpture to a less busy and trafficked area that has more room for gathering
• Concern about visual impact and traffic backups of new parkway bridge south of 50th
• Support for the reorientation of 50th and the Parkway intersection to be unskewed
• Add a convenient connection for cyclists moving eastbound and north onto Park across the Parkway
• Preference for Concept B because it de-skews and rationalizes 50th St, 4th Ave and Minnehaha Parkway intersections, moves bike/ped connections away from vehicle traffic, and creates a dedicated bike/ped crossing of Portland (which could be improved with the addition of a refuge island)
• Concern about space limitations and traffic safety with this road realignment
• Want street parking for residents from Park to 4th Avenues
• Concern about safety and traffic management at the intersection of Park and the Parkway
Segment 3, Focus Area 3-2 Concept A

2/5 and 2/7 MPRB In-houses
- Centerpoint will try to pursue a permanent easement of pipe in this location (14th Ave east of the cascade pools/BMP, south of the creek)
- Strong support for the raised intersection/enhanced pedestrian crossing at the location shown

Web Survey Responses
- Concern about tree removal (throughout concept area, cascading BMP called out)
- Concern about standing water at BMPs and mosquitos
- Emphasize natural resource preservation/conservation- don’t displace wildlife for BMPs
- Support for pollinator play lawns
- Support for remeanders if done sensitively
- Trail crossing at 12th Ave should be separated or high visibility crosswalk
- South-side trails should be improved to match the quality of the northside trails
- Concern about accessibility of south side trail reroute (especially with stairs)
- Suggestion to keep ped trail low south of the creek to connect 14th Ave ped bridge to 12th
- Suggestion to meander, add stairs, or regrade ped trail at 14th to connect to the ped bridge to prevent slipping when wet leaves or ice are on the trail (too steep currently)
- Preserve sledding hill at 14th on south side of creek (ensure BMP/trails don’t interfere)
- Would like a ped trail on the north side too (for a loop)
- Mountain bikes use trails west of Bloomington on the south side of the creek, but ride in all weather and are eroding the slopes, creating wide, muddy, ripped up trails. Would like the wooded slope and natural surface trails to be protected and preserved for foot traffic.

1/31 and 2/7 Community Workshops
- Pedestrian trails need lighting
- Picnic play lawn area could be a bike park or off-road biking area

2/21 CAC 4
- Formalize the natural surface trail along 50th and add a boardwalk to allow people to cross the cascading BMP

Email Comments
- Concern about tree removal and habitat loss
- Add curb cuts and crosswalks for bikes and peds at every intersection along the north side of the parkway (helps cyclists and others get to the trail)
- Crosswalks that are set back from the intersection (those sidewalks crossing streets north/south of the parkway) need zebra stripes to increase visibility of crossing
Segment 3, Focus Area 3-3 Concept A

2/5 and 2/7 MPRB In-houses

- Sledding hill as shown here is categorized as ‘neutral’ per the Asset Management Inventory
- Boardwalk as shown here has better flow

Web Survey Responses

- Idea to eliminate unnecessary frontage road at Speedway (west of Cedar) and use the space for snow-storage, stormwater treatment, etc. (both concepts)
- Support for the bike skills course north of the tennis courts
- Support for the simpler boardwalk concept in A
- Support for accessible sloped trail from 16th to Bloomington
- Support for ephemeral art (temporary installations)
- Need trails on the south side of the creek at Cedar (to connect to trails in Nokomis-Hiawatha)
- Make sure there are left turn lanes on Minnehaha Parkway at Cedar
- Consider an off-leash dog park/playground here and canoe rentals
- Support for separation of modes crossing Cedar
- Concern about slippery boardwalk surface if wood
- Add benches in the shade along both sides of the creek
- This is a gateway to the city and neighborhood
- Consider having a high-speed bike route to keep cyclists out of traffic

1/31 and 2/7 Community Workshops

- Idea to remove Cedar crossing entirely (grade-separated crossing for the trail) or provide traffic calming options along Cedar Ave
- Need lighting on pedestrian path
- Idea to include a connection to 17th Ave. Bikeway (near tubing access point)
- Strong support for bike skills course – would get heavy use

2/21 CAC 4

- Support for tubing/paddle launch
- Use old bikeways where possible
- Preserve trees where possible when remeandering
- Make trails less steep at Bloomington intersection
- Consider a combined left turn at Bloomington
- Support for wetland restoration and wildlife habitat creation/preservation
- Like naturalized landscape near the creek and more manicured look nearer to road

Email Comments

- Support for bike/ped access beneath new Cedar bridge with improved at-grade crossing
- Show detail of Cedar/Minnehaha intersection with safety improvements including an ADA accessible crosswalk, wider crosswalks, separating bikers and walkers, and adding leading pedestrian intervals. Study a traffic circle. Consider a dedicated left turn lane.
- Eliminate frontage road near gas station and use space to add left turn lanes on the Parkway for turning onto Cedar. Or, eliminate at least the eastern part and have the gas station maintain and pay for the ROW access to their drive access.
- If elimination of the frontage road is not an option, limit traffic to one-way eastbound only
- Add a fence or landscape separation between 18th Ave sidewalk and the Church (they use sidewalk for parking and walkers lose passage, plus snow removal is a problem)
- Eliminate the right turn lane on southbound Cedar Ave (use space for a boulevard on the east side of Cedar for pedestrians and snow storage)
- Concern about tree removal and habitat loss
- Support for the grade-separated Cedar Avenue crossing while maintaining the at grade connection for neighborhood retail/amenity access
- Bloomington and the Parkway intersection should be de-skewed (remove island in the northeast corner, add curb extensions on corners to shorten crossing distance and slow vehicles, tighten turn radii). And/or add island medians to provide refuge for crossers and prevent high-speed shallow angle turns.
- Create a crosswalk at Longfellow
- 17th Ave needs a curb cut, bicycle connections between the bike trail and the bike boulevard, and a pedestrian connection to the trail.
- 18th Ave needs a curb cut and crosswalk (18th and Longfellow are links between the neighborhood and the Parkway)

Segment 3, Focus Area 3-3 Concept B

2/5 and 2/7 MPRB In-houses
- Need access lane to drive equipment to BMP (Cedar Ave east of wet meadow area south of the creek)
- Support for fishing opportunities in this area (and throughout the creek)
- Opposing views on keeping or removing the ‘little road’ between 18th Ave and Cedar Ave. Kids, church and neighbors use the roadway often.

Web Survey Responses
- Idea to eliminate unnecessary frontage road at Speedway (west of Cedar) and use the space for snow-storage, stormwater treatment, etc. (both concepts)
- Idea to incorporate XC skiing in this area
- Support for the nature play area
- Support for sledding hill gathering area
- Support for accessible sloped trail from 16th to Bloomington
- Concern about the pavilion on the edge of the wet meadow being underutilized (prefer concept A)
- Like trail connection on the south side of the creek at Cedar- needs to connect to Nokomis-Hiawatha
- Make sure there are left turn lanes on Minnehaha Parkway at Cedar
- Support for separation of modes crossing Cedar
- This is a gateway to the city and neighborhood
- Consider having a high-speed bike route to keep cyclists out of traffic
- Concern about slippery boardwalk surface if wood
• Add benches in the shade along both sides of the creek

1/31 and 2/7 Community Workshops
• Idea for connection to trail around golf course/Lake Hiawatha/Lake Nokomis
• Need lighting under and near bridge
• Strong support for nature play area, would provide interest along a stretch of the creek without a lot of recreational areas today
• Idea to extend the natural surface trail to the west of the overlook/gathering area on sledding hill

2/21 CAC 4
• Preserve trees where possible (remeanders and bike park)
• General support for this concept

Email Comments
• Support for bike/ped access beneath new Cedar bridge with improved at-grade crossing
• Show detail of Cedar/Minnehaha intersection with safety improvements
• Create a crosswalk at Longfellow
• 17th Ave needs a curb cut, bicycle connections between the bike trail and the bike boulevard, and a pedestrian connection to the trail
• 18th Ave needs a curb cut and crosswalk (18th and Longfellow are links between the neighborhood and the Parkway)
• Show detail of Cedar/Minnehaha intersection with safety improvements including an ADA accessible crosswalk, wider crosswalks, separating bikers and walkers, and adding leading pedestrian intervals. Study a traffic circle. Consider a dedicated left turn lane.
• Eliminate frontage road near gas station and use space to add left turn lanes on the Parkway for turning onto Cedar. Or, eliminate at least the eastern part and have the gas station maintain and pay for the ROW access to their drive access.
• If elimination of the frontage road is not an option, limit traffic to one-way eastbound only
• Add a fence or landscape separation between 18th Ave sidewalk and the Church (they use sidewalk for parking and walkers lose passage, plus snow removal is a problem)

Segment 4: Summary of Comments received on draft MPRT Concepts

Segment 4, Focus Area 4-1 Concept A
2/5 and 2/7 MPRB In-houses
• Concern with exposed soil inside the 100-year floodplain (in reference to bike park location)
• Bike parks are a great idea, even if not in this location
• Support for keeping one tennis court and adding a bike park
• Paved trail on south side of creek (between 32nd - 34th Ave) seems unnecessary
• Paved trail along Parkway at stormwater BMP area is also not preferable (a path is not shown, other than a sidewalk along the roadway)

Web Survey Responses
• Concern/support expressed for designing this area with future flood levels/climate change in mind
• Concern for 28th Ave Crossing for bikes/peds
• Support for bike park as shown
• Opposition to bike park as shown, will disrupt passive recreational park users, “isn’t there one planned for Nokomis Hiawatha?”, too large- would ruin habitat (owls nest in trees next to tennis courts). Create a bike park, just not in this space, which hosts valuable wildlife.
• Consider having a bike park near a park building where there is parking, bike maintenance and comfort amenities, first aid available
• Strong support for keeping south side of the creek trail free, especially west of 34th Ave.
• Would like more trail lighting in this area (and throughout)
• Support for pickleball courts
• Concern that too much space will be converted from ‘natural’ areas to ‘recreational’ areas
• Would like to see a paddle take-out/parking closer to Minnehaha Park so it’s easy to walk over and eat at Sea Salt (and improved bike/ped connections to there and the 46th Ave station)
• Support for trail along 35th to 34th Ave intersection
• Support for bringing the Parkway together at 34th, but it should Include left turn lanes on the parkway (or consider a small roundabout)
• Concern about safety of large, multi-directional intersection if parkway is realigned at 34th
• Remeander area east of 34th is heavily used by ultimate players and dog owners and as a sledding hill- these activities will be displaced if the remeander is built as shown.
• Proposed bridge seems backward and prevents ped access from one side of 34th Ave to the other
• Do not support new bridge at 34th
• Need better mode separation from Nokomis to 28th Ave.
• Support for stormwater management, pollinators
• Dislike meandering east of 34th- would be better as a pollinator play lawn
• Consider a small turf soccer field (like the one at El Colegio) at the tennis court

1/31 and 2/7 Community Workshops
• Concern for construction/park development in area between 31st and 32nd on south side of creek (wildlife habitat concerns)
• Strong support for bike park as shown
• Idea to convert tennis courts at 32nd to permeable surface, arboretum, garden similar to concept B
• Like picnic area along parkway
• Sledding hill at 34th Ave is popular today
• Concern re: roadway design at new bridge intersection
• Like the single track bike trails (NOTE: none are shown in this concept)

2/21 CAC 4
• Like Bike Park along trail as destination
• Keep bikes separate from peds at Nokomis Ave crossing
• 29th Ave bmp area erodes a lot right now and is used as an informal beach
• Support for Parkway stormwater BMP
• Concern about Parkway stormwater BMP and standing water/mosquitos
• Concern about picnicking/recreation in parkway boulevard
• Want trails at 34th to go under bridge on the north side of the creek
• Concern about sharp trail curve for bikes at 34th north of the creek
• Support for the tennis courts location here
• Support for the replacement of tennis courts on 30th with flood storage
• Concern about steep slopes and the pedestrian trail between 32-34th south of the creek (people currently use this without a path...not sure if one is actually needed)
• Support for the remeander at 34th
• Concern for the remeander at 34th (too much earthwork needed?)
• Ped crossing at 39th and Hiawatha needs to be addressed and sight lines improved for cars/bikes

Email Comments
• Suggestion to add on-parkway bike lanes between Nokomis-Hiwatha and Minnehaha, as bike trails do not follow the parkway here, and this is a heavily trafficked route
• Oppose the 36th Ave extension across the parkway

South Minneapolis Green Fair
• Meandering stormwater feature could be a beautiful activated space
• Concern that the bike park is too big- would take away too much habitat west of the tennis court- it’s a unique open space for solitude (keep within tennis court footprint)
• Love bike park- makes sense here- like size
• Replace tennis court with artificial turf space
• Keep the creek the same here in order to maintain existing habitat
• Increase meandering wherever you can- has positive benefits
• Like ideas for activating the space
• Need more pickleball
• Love skating area
• The more pollinator gardens, the better
• Like Overlook
• Would prefer having both tennis courts kept and resurfaced
• Art doesn’t need to be here- nature is its own art

Segment 4, Focus Area 4-1 Concept B
2/5 and 2/7 MPRB In-houses
• Strong support shown for bike parks, especially to replace underused tennis courts
• Strong support shown for urban arboretum idea—"such a great addition to MPRB!"
• Question arose of the theme or type of trees to be displayed—local/native species?
• Concern that pedestrian path through woods and wetlands would change the parklike natural character
• Preference for natural trail (or no official trail) from 30th to 34th on the south side of the creek
• Concern about loss of trees for pollinator lawns
Web Survey Responses

- Concern that too much space will be converted from ‘natural’ areas to ‘recreational’ areas
- Concern of over-development, too much paving, destruction of our parks
- Dislike formal trails on south side of the creek
- Concern that urban arboretum will not be used and will fall into disrepair
- Opposition to any more hard-surface courts in the park
- Concept B is better for people who use the area for walking, running, or skiing
- Support for trail along 35th to 34th Ave intersection
- Support for pickleball courts/tennis in this location (preserves owl nesting trees)
- Concern for boardwalk materials (should be more durable than wood)
- Concern that any change in the creek function will adversely affect nearby homeowners (additional flooding in basements)
- Support for replacing the ped bridge at 36th (needs to be repaired at least)
- Would like to see a paddle take-out/parking closer to Minnehaha Park so it’s easy to walk over and eat at Sea Salt (and improved bike/ped connections to there and the 46th Ave station)
- Intersection crossings at 34th need to be replaced (not accessible)
- Concern about removing ped bridge over creek at 32nd Ave.
- Prefer bike park as shown, because Concept A bike park is too big
- Dislike bike park if it is dirt- would be better paved (less dust)
- Opposition to bike parks in general in the corridor
- Need better mode separation from Nokomis to 28th Ave.
- Support for stormwater management, pollinators, boardwalk
- Support for pollinator play lawn east of 34th
- Preference for plan B over A
- Preference for pollinator plantings/urban arboretum concept over stormwater boulevard

1/31 and 2/7 Community Workshops

- Concern that any construction/park development/trail in area between 31st and 32nd on south side of creek (wildlife habitat concerns)
- Residents north of trail have frequent basement flooding problems. Hoping that the plan will alleviate some of this
- Opportunity to close Crosby/34th Street with plan
- Concept needs to address safety/visibility/wayfinding at bridge/Hiawatha/parkway intersection
- Support for natural surface trails throughout boulevard area
- Concern that sledding hill between 34th and 35th will be removed
- Concern that bicyclists will use the pedestrian path if the bike path is located too far from the creek
- Idea to convert tennis courts at 32nd to permeable surface, arboretum, garden similar to concept B; space as shown for a bike park is too small and space would better serve for natural resources/habitat area
- Don’t want to see a permanent trail, like the natural character of the area
- Idea to put bike park where pollinator play lawn is shown today at 30th Ave (more space)
- Idea to involve reflective/calming art in the art walk
2/21 CAC 4
- Support for pickleball at tennis court (no preference as to tennis court location)
- Support for bike park
- More support for arboretum idea than BMP from Concept A
- Like the natural surface trail through the boulevard
- Don’t feel the need to activate the south side of the creek (people use it now without formal trails)- could remove paved trail here. Also creates conflict with sledders.
- Concern about tree removal and the addition of lighting between 30-32nd (south side)
- Keep bike and ped trails separate (north side of creek at 30th)
- Support for wetland/bmp between 31st-32nd
- People pull out kayaks at ped bridge on 31st on the north side
- Concern about sharp turn for bikes at 34th (blind corner)

Email Comments
- Support for bike/ped access beneath 34th Street bridge
- Suggestion to add on-parkway bike lanes between Nokomis-Hiawatha and Minnehaha, as bike trails do not follow the parkway here, and this is a heavily trafficked route
- Opposition to ped path on the south side of the creek near Nokomis/31st (frequently under water/muddy...may be a wetland)

South Minneapolis Green Fair
- Support for planting edible plants in the urban arboretum
- Like the natural surface path along story walk
- Support for story walk and public art
- Like nature play
- Support for pickleball
- What about a dog park area? Maybe one of the tennis courts?
- Support for more natural areas and native planting
- Formalize swimming areas
- Trail is very eroded between Chicago and Bloomington
- Keep the bike path under 34th
- Like having a the story walk as an alternate option to the sidewalk
- Support for not remeandering creek too much around 34th (too expensive)
- Like tennis court in this location