

Summary of Input from the Topic Tables

Parks and Open Space for Ford Public Meeting, February 26, 2015

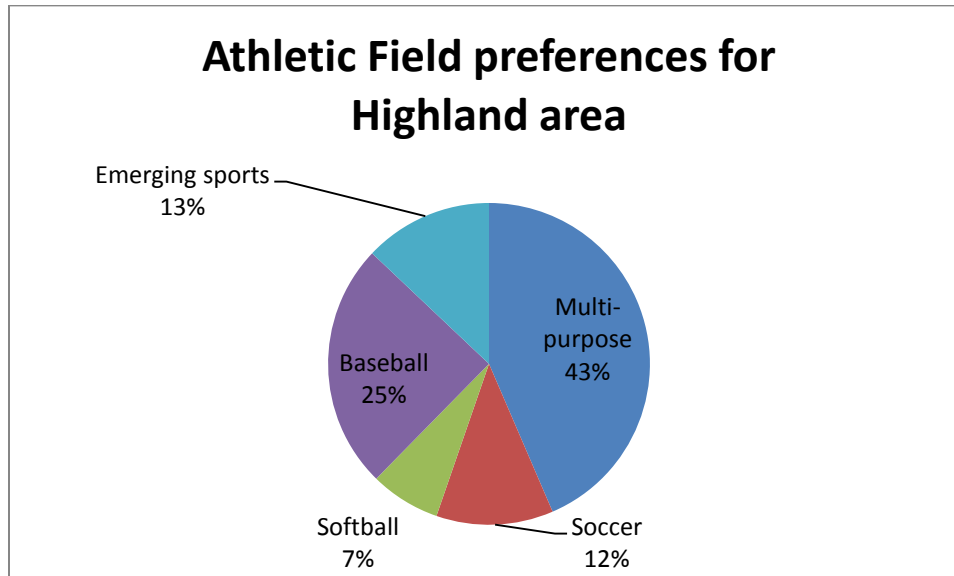
The following pages record the input received on the topic table posters during the one (1) hour input portion of the public meeting. All meeting attendees could circulate among the tables at their leisure and comment on the topics by showing preferences with dots, providing comments, or doing a drawing.

Photos of the actual topic boards are available in a separate document.

This input will be used, along with previous and future input on these topics, to inform city preferences and policies for site zoning and a public realm plan to guide future redevelopment.

Topic - Athletic Fields

Which types of athletic fields do you think are needed in the Highland area?



Multi-purpose – 37 dots

- Recreation space is limited; multi-purpose recreation space is more efficient use of space and will serve more people
- Space for over age 40 – Tai Chi, Yoga, Tennis, lifelong sports

Baseball – 21 dots

Soccer – 10 dots

Softball – 6 dots

Emerging Sports – 11 dots

- Pickleball - a multi-generation sport we must consider
- LaCrosse - is the fastest growing sport in the US (1 dot)

Where and how can fields be provided in the community?

Where

- Highland 9 - repurpose for athletic fields etc.
- Consider moving athletic fields to the Highland Golf Course
- Turf Hillcrest and use it for soccer / Lacrosse multi-purpose area - 3 dots
- Improve fields at Highland Community Center – 1 dot
- Ford river parcel
- Look into this as a neighborhood path (old school) Hamline and Ford (arrow pointing to neighborhood next to golf course)

Summary of Input from Parks and Open Space for Ford Public Meeting on February 26, 2015

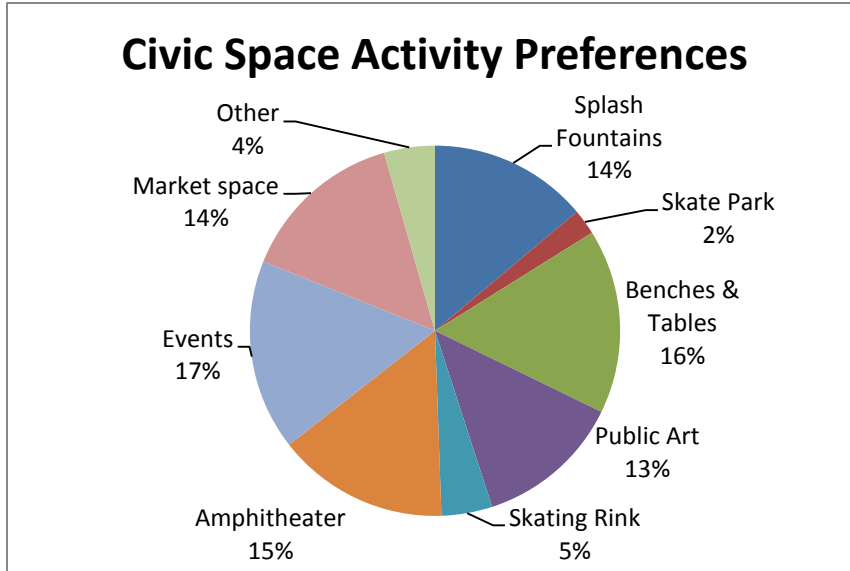
- Field located on Ford Site on the border of Hidden Falls Regional Park
- Keep the 9 acre Ford site “natural”. Find space for the athletic fields on the Ford site.
- Move ball fields for road Cretin/Montreal connection
- Little League fields, as located, feel like a blocked flow. Relocate south? Relocate somewhere else?
- Be open to locating ball field on co-op basis with Cretin, St. Catherine’s and Saint Paul Academy to save valuable space at site.
- Playing fields at the Recreation Center were not included in the list of playing fields in Highland Park. The presented map was useless for identification of areas mentioned

How

- Multi-purpose fields so all people can use it
- Make Hillcrest multi-purpose and Ford exclusive to baseball and softball – 1 dot
- Loop Trail
- No more (except Little League) specific playing. Children are but a part of the population. see comments at other areas
- Extend Montreal west to link with Cretin – 1 dot
- Move field to connect with Montreal and Cretin. Need north-south and east-west routes.
- I think using up open space allowance on fields would not be a good decision
- These should be fields needed by this development and not a regional park
- It is too early to decide. It will depend if the development attracts young families or mostly elderly.

Topic – Civic Square

What types of activities would you like in a civic space at Ford?



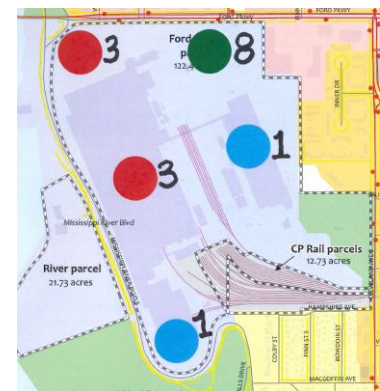
Events – 30 dots
 Benches and Tables – 29 dots
 Amphitheater – 27 dots
 Market Space – 26 dots (2 said Farmer’s Market)
 Splash Fountains – 25 dots
 Public Art – 23 dots
 Skating Rink – 8 dots
 Other – 8 dots – Community Theater and music
 Skate Park – 4 dots

Notes on activities:

- Music from amphitheater to the residential neighborhood?
- Some space for events
- Evolving art park – have raw materials for anyone to create with - sculpting forts, play area. Be creative, not structural.
- No skateboard
- Skate parks energize kids of all ages, health benefits, social

What considerations for location of a Civic Space are important?

- Ford plant parcel – 6 dots
- Ford Parkway too busy for civic square; need quiet area – 1 dot
- Quality over quantity
- Give the river priority
- Activities and locations that are dog friendly
- Incorporate Ford façade [former elements that have been preserved] into civic square
- I love the idea of the civic square as a connector to existing Highland – so much of this depends on what the Ford site becomes
- I’d like proximity to Ford Parkway so that it’s not too tucked away from the neighborhood.
- Make it a gateway with a clear entryway that identifies Highland Park
- Provide notice of events



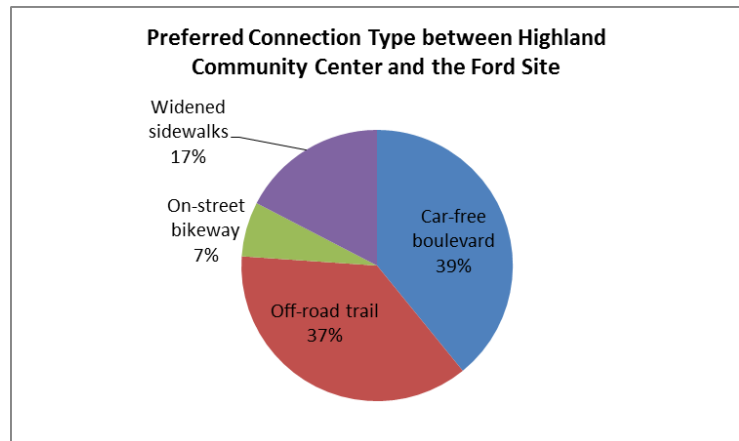
Topic – Highland Community Center (connecting to)

Where should a connection occur between the Highland Community Center and the Ford site?

- Ford Parkway (3 dots)
- Other:
 - Hillcrest Ave (between Cleveland and Kenneth)
 - Bohland, behind Lunds
 - Bohland Ave from S Kenneth St to Cleveland, then south on Cleveland with a bike trail, then straight west through apartment driveway (2 dots)
 - More along Saunders Ave, which goes right into the Little League fields (2 dots)
 - Montreal or close to it (1 dot)
 - Use streets to south of Community Center
 - South side of Ford property; separate bikes and pedestrians on trails (1 dot)
 - Depends on open space area location
- Does it even need to happen?

Which type of design works well for this connection?

- Car free boulevards (18 dots)
- Off-road trail (17 dots)
- Widened sidewalks (8 dots)
- On-street bikeway (3 dots)
- Auto 25mph speed limit
- Keep bikers and cars apart
- It is safer for all ages if the bike lane is off the road. More people can enjoy it.
- Connect south of Community Center, across Cleveland, with skyway
- NYC Style high-line Trail/Park meat packing district – NYC



Topic – Greenway Corridor

What types of greenway corridors would you like to see on the Ford site?

Image option #3 – 11 dots



Notes:

- Across the Ford site to Hidden Falls with minimal landscaping
 - Combine a stream/storm water corridor with bike/pedestrian trails-meandering through the site and connecting to Hidden Falls
 - With space for greenery on sides of trail
 - This, plus a third lane for walking
 - Bike and pedestrian trails must be separated
 - Separate trails for bikes and pedestrians
- I like the stream idea but we need more flowers and plants – especially native plants and wild flowers

Image option #2 – 10 dots (plus 2 additional dots placed between #2 and #3)



Notes:

- too urban
 - It would be great to daylight the stream
 - I like the idea of something in between natural, native and sustainable “landscaping” with a designated pathway separated for safety. Planning to minimize the potentially detrimental effects of the impermeable surface, example – rain garden idea*
- Waterslide naturalisque on river bluff or along stream in more urban area*
- *note –bullet points (post-its) placed between #2 and #3
- Stream like Trout Brook and Minnehaha Creek

Image option #4 – 7 dots



Notes:

- More formal, may encourage more bike commuting
- High density development- option 4 will make trail users feel safe in a high density situation. Give access to the east side of highland to the river by cutting through (drawing of map)

Image option #1 - 3 dots



Notes:

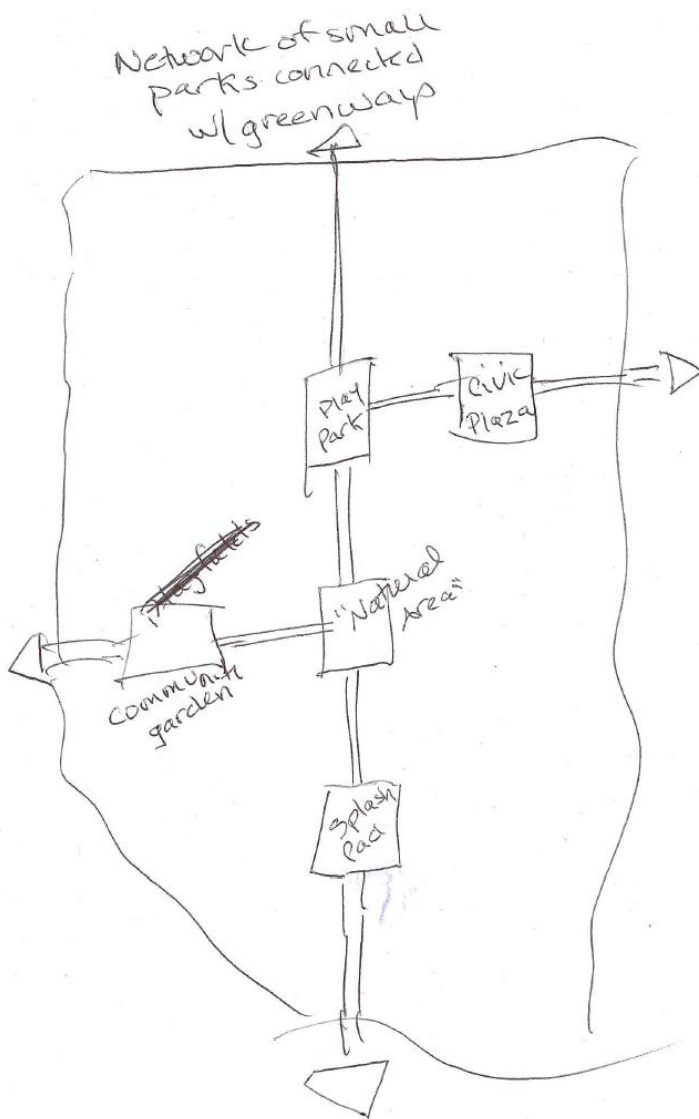
- the more “natural” the better

Summary of Input from Parks and Open Space for Ford Public Meeting on February 26, 2015

General Notes on greenway corridor idea:

- Look at Greenline in Minneapolis and do something similar
- Make streets safe for biking, 25mph max speed for autos
- Paths for safety no exercise, already have the river for exercise
- This is an opportunity to connect other parts of the City of Saint Paul use CP rail line as a connecting greenway to the rest of Saint Paul (1 dot)
- Dedicated bikeway
- Is the site big enough and will connections be made on the edges?
- Have good informational and directional signage which is attractive
- Connections to the boundary intersections could be mini-civic spaces

Below - Concept drawing from participant



Topic – Hidden Falls Regional Park

Objectives:

- Support Highland Village, parking ramps
- Light rail transit thru site
- Sports activities on level side (west) wouldn't obstruct views
- Leave things or promote natural development of trees and wild plants. Don't plant trees of same species.
- High buildings are a blot on the skyline, on the senses
- Creating a transit parkway (ped/bike); the watershed geography to Hidden Falls
- Daylight stream into Ford Site – absolutely! ditto

How can Hidden Falls complement and be better connected to the Ford site and Highland neighborhood? *{Comments have been organized into common themes below.}*

Stream feature

- Use the creek feature with trails to connect the new neighborhood to Hidden Falls Park
- Love the idea of connecting Hidden Falls to the Ford Site
- Love the idea of stream that feeds the falls
- Love the stream through the site to the falls.
- I would love to see the restoring of a traditional and natural stream through the site (rather than pipes)
- #1 priority connect open stream to Hidden Falls and integrate storm water treatment
- Happy Face drawn by sketch of restored Hidden Falls



The restored Hidden Falls Creek is complemented by a new Mississippi River Boulevard Bridge

Bridge over stream

- Love the bridge
- Mississippi River Blvd. bridge is an excellent idea
- Concept of a natural integration of ground water into Hidden Falls- I am strongly in favor of and love the idea of the bridge. Agree!

Natural features

- Protect the natural resources existing in the park
- Passive natural spaces, incorporate safe building design for park structures to protect birds
- Create topography – if soil removed create lakes landscaping to attract birds/wildlife
- Codes/guidelines for birds built environ
- Native grass and plants buffer land for flood times
- Extend natural areas and create connection for park users

Trails

- Construct a pedestrian/ bike path connecting the two sites

Summary of Input from Parks and Open Space for Ford Public Meeting on February 26, 2015

- Greenway corridor bike/ped path from Highland Park/Ford Parkway to Hidden Falls
- “Greenway” bike connection from Highland Park – Second this
- I support the concept of trails like those around Minnehaha Falls in Minneapolis.

Stormwater management

- Slow release storm water treatment
- Wetland corridor restore original ecosystem – Agree!

General comments

- Hidden Falls should engage the southerly edge of the Ford site
- Top priority
- Expand the boundary of Hidden Falls Parkway to include bluff top parkland (move MRB to East)
- This is a critical piece of connecting the Ford site and Highland to an already amazing underutilized asset (to preserve Ford for other uses)
- This should be tied into a “gateway” area on the Ford site of the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area new headquarters (instead of it being hidden inside of the Science Museum) (they’re looking for a new home) the MNRRA deserves its own space and there is no better spot. This is on the Mississippi gorge.
- Could “stream” walkway be added to connect the real stream to the civic space near Lunds? People could actually find the falls with signage. I would also recommend a bump out for bike parking on the upper bike path.
- Hidden Falls Park should be made safer from point of area of road going into park. No need for lots of money for entrance, this should not be a priority – Agree!
- It would be great to make the creek and falls area feel like the “front door” to Hidden Falls Park.

Topic – Little League Fields

What do you think is important for the future of the Little League fields?

- Prioritize private ownership so other open space can be created/utilized - 4 dots
- 8 fields (4 baseball and 4 softball) - 2 dots
- I would not want to see the Little League space preclude other public park space or trails - 2 dots
- Baseball and softball fields
- Wish we could get more use out of those fields
- Privately owned and multi-use
- Repurpose Highland 9 for baseball and soccer
- I would be open to private ownership especially if this prioritizes other natural green space
- Used for more than baseball – be able to transition to other sports
- These fields should be open to more than Highland Little League – more similar to a HGRA model



What considerations do you think are important for location?

- Move to St. Gregory site - 4 dots
- Move fields off the Ford Site - 3 dots
- Little League should be the #1 priority - 2 dots
- Move fields to allow Cretin/Montreal connection - 2 dots
- Area C (Ford river parcel) - 1 dot
- Objective to remain privately owned and operated - 1 dot
- Adjacent to “at risk” populations and densities of youth and lower income
- Minimize bright lights at night and visible to neighbors
- Consider location that can share parking with other uses
- Keep the athletic fields (including Little League), they are valuable and scenic

Topic – Mississippi River Blvd (along the Ford site)

Should realignment of MRB be considered to create more space along the river? Why?

- Yes - 30 dots
 - It'll help draw attention/linkage to the space and capitalize on the beauty of the river area
 - Potential for flyover – bird habitat
 - Safety more space for trails
 - Create more space for a bluff top park
 - Moving MRB to east would create bluff top open space – allow space for separated trails and provide a riverfront destination for the new neighborhood
 - By adjusting the Hidden Falls Regional Park boundary to include part of the Ford site, the City could access State-funded Regional parks money not requiring as many City funds
 - A once in a century chance to establish relationships, but remember to uphold the aesthetic quality of regional parkway traditions

- No - 6 dots
 - Prefer moving MRB to west when possible

What are important considerations for locating a trail along the east side of the road?

- Maximize/strengthen a natural connection to the Hidden Falls Park
- Pay attention to accessibility for all – walk, bike, wheelchair, etc.
- No trail on east unless good reason. I think the mature trees that line and buffer are valuable.
- We do not need a trail on the east side. More possibility to move along the Ford site.
- Make the west side of the road attractive – divert the road to the east
- Separate bike and pedestrian trails
- Trail going north
- Good idea so long as trails are separated
- No – don't foresee any other use except current use- what would more ...[couldn't read] provide
- What needs more attention is the existing trail north of Ford Parkway – very dangerous
- Something more subtle, not a large built structure
- Ok to move Parkway but do not build anything along the river – keep heights down
- Regional trail on west side. Ford site internal sidewalk network.
- Do not move road east - save trees there
- Function of Ford is to connect spaces. Function of site is views, river connection, recreation
- Space next to river is precious but limited. Use not just for trails but open park tables benches – Yes (1 dot)

Summary of Input from Parks and Open Space for Ford Public Meeting on February 26, 2015

- Trail should remain along the river, but move the road for habitat views, river connection
- The trail must be separated – trail for bikes and pedestrians
- The Mississippi National River and Recreation Area headquarters needs its own space and not hidden away in the Science Museum. It deserves to be here.
- Site/View/Recreation should dictate over road access across the site – Yes
- Realign River Boulevard and create scenic overlook for Hidden Falls opening, add riverside park space
- Strong and safe connections to neighborhood
- Since the bluff area is currently narrow, shifting the road east provides 70' of “new space” to use.
- Keep the road as is.

What would make a nice “gateway” look?

- Second picture – 2 dots (add photo example here?)

Topic – Neighborhood Park

What types of activities would you like in a neighborhood park at Ford?

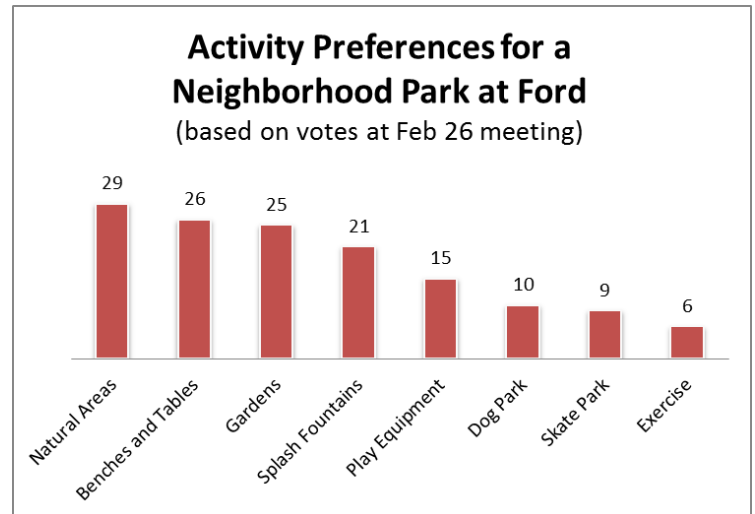
Natural Areas – 29 dots
Benches and Tables – 26 dots
Gardens – 25 dots
Splash Fountains – 21 dots
Play Equipment – 15 dots
Dog Park - 10 dots
Skate Park – 9 dots
Exercise – 6 dots

Other – 4 dots

- Music stage, film arena
- Way Finding theme education recreation
- Retail
- Freedom wall – Charlottesville, VA pedestrian mall *[Image at right]*

Notes:

- Common green area with no autos
- Keep it open and natural
- Splash pad and public art
- Naturalistic waterslide
- I would love to see community gardens with green energy integrated into the site
- I strongly oppose a dog park
- The greater the housing density, the greater the need for pet/dog areas. Roof top terrace could also work. Close to housing!
- Put skate park next to Police station by Highland pool
- Community gardens
- Play equipment tied to science and energy, science experiments



What considerations for location of a neighborhood park are important to you?

- River Parcel – 5 dots
- Ford Plant Parcel – 5 dots

Notes:

- Put it in the center wherever the residential is located. Could be a focal point and mini civic space.
- By the Ford River site or tax the hell out of them
- North of Ford Parkway does not have a neighborhood park. Need play area close by.
- Use CP rail line as a greenway bike path
- Use Hidden Falls area for dog park

Summary of Input from Parks and Open Space for Ford Public Meeting on February 26, 2015

Examples and Ideas for a neighborhood park at Ford

- Centennial Lakes area *[Image added below, on left]*
- Park experience like Savannah, Georgia *[Image added below, on right]*
- Interested in connection of rail corridor to the river or CBD (Central Business District)
- Use Hidden Falls creek as a green infrastructure piece

Centennial Lakes area



Aerial of Savannah, Georgia parks systems



Topic – Parkland Dedication*

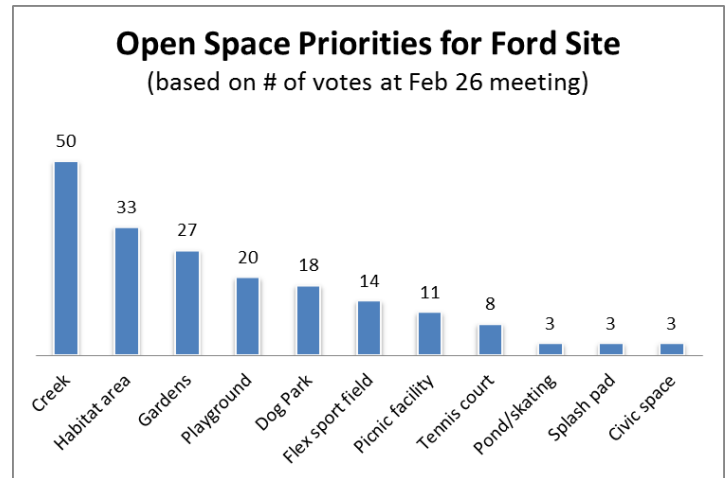
**Based on proposed city requirements for parkland dedication for new development, it is estimated that the Ford site development will require that a minimum of approximately 9 acres be designated for public parks and open space.*

Prioritize which elements you'd like to see in 9 acres:

1. Creek feature (10 – 15 acres) – 50 dots
2. Habitat Area (3+ acres) – 33 dots
3. Community garden (0.5-1 acre) – 27 dots
4. Playground (0.6 acres) – 20 dots
5. Dog Park (1+ acre) – 18 dots
6. Flex athletic field (10 – 20 acres) – 14 dots
7. Picnic Facility (0.8 acres) – 11 dots
8. Tennis court (0.3 acre) – 8 dots

Other ideas:

- Pond/skating – 3 dots
- Splash pad – 3 dots
- Civic Square – 3 dot
- Large green space trees, fields – 1 dot
- Improved boat landing at Hidden Falls - 1 dot
- Yoga/Tai Chi



Notes:

- Anything but a dog park
- There is a skating rink at Highland water tower, playing fields at recreation center and Little League, playing fields at the school; no need for more athletic fields; need for a dog park
- Any space big, green, flexible
- Tennis courts are a waste of space for the use of few
- Why add habitat area? Already have the river. Adding a natural habitat to an area surrounding by a river of natural habitat doesn't make sense. Saving existing River habitat makes sense. Agree!
- Splash pad currently lacking in this area. I agree.
- I would love to see a community garden with rain water catchment watering
- The more "natural" the better for this scenic 9 acres
- Trees, gardens pollinators, nature, butterfly
- Souvenir shop, boat launch is at Hidden Falls, history of the Mississippi River Room; Tourists = business for St. Paul and Highland. It's by the airport and the blue line.
- The Mississippi National River and Recreation Area deserves its own headquarters here, since they're looking for a new home anyway. There is no better spot since this site is right on the gorge

Summary of Input from Parks and Open Space for Ford Public Meeting on February 26, 2015

Tradeoffs for more open space

- Parkland dedication should be 12%, not 9%
- High density for greater green
- What about trying to leverage the idea of privately owned public space to supplement
- Need increase residential housing density; encourage private development, more tax base
- Partner with St. Kates to use their athletic fields
- OK with public \$ for natural space, less development and housing- especially considering Fig. 5 Cleveland Development
- Want more than 9 acres of open space

General Comments

- Zero diversity represented at this meeting, so I hope there are other ways to reach out to youth and nonwhite people