

## Highlights

### Overarching Themes

- Keep the focus on natural and subtle design elements without feeling sterile
- **“Advocate for above standard”**
- History means something broader than just Ford plant
- Accessible and enjoyable by all ages
- Create amenities that are multi-seasonal

### Stormwater

- preserve land and feature water as amenity so we can **“have cake and eat it too”**  
Overwhelming support for recreating stream flow and for 9 acres of stormwater treatment if it does not compete with park land dedication.
- **“Everything we’ve talked about [streets, parking, bikes] revolves around the creek”**  
Many mentions to reuse water if possible, no one says “grey water” but they allude to the concept and support it.
- Generally want to trade buildable land for great stormwater cause you **“can’t tear down buildings later”**, but some confusion as to why they are mutually exclusive
- **“Maximize ‘stroll-ability’”** from Ford neighborhood to river.
- **“Trails and trees are the best features”**
- **“9 acres [of stormwater features] will require hard negotiations with the developer. Stand your ground, this will be important”**

### Public Art

Strong preference for natural/water based art—**“nothing flashy”**. Many mentions of interactive/usable art, art appropriate for all ages, and community-based, local art. A handful of mentions of honoring history though art and dedicated areas for rotating art installations

**“Have stationary bikes to lift and move water so kids will ride, see water move ... don’t tell them, but they’ll get exercise”**

### Waste/Recycling/Composting

Most people would take advantage of organics collection at a curbside, but all three facilities (waste/recycling/compost) should be available together in civic spaces, too. People **“don’t want to hunt for bins”** and successful design is **“all about clear labeling and graphics”**. **“Make recycling easy so people will do it”**

### History

- History before Ford—**“chronology of diverse past and history”**
  - Native people (lots of mentions)
  - Geology
- Union Workers (many mentions)
- **“Do a comprehensive interpretive plan”**
- Desire for oral/video history interviews as well as art/structure elements
- Desire for reused materials/structures from Ford site

*The following 10 pages provide the detailed meeting input for each topic:*

*Public Art (p.2) – Honoring the Site’s History (p.3) – Stormwater Background (p.4) -- Stormwater Options (p.5) -- Stormwater Innovation (p.6) – Re-Discovering Water (p.7) – Potential Water Features (p.8) – Water Feature Connectivity (p.9) – Solid Waste and Recycling (p.10) – Vegetation in Public Spaces (p.10)*

## **Public Art**

**In your opinion, what is the function of public art? What should it accomplish?**

- Use “Ford” history in art, for example, sculptures from Model A/Model T parts. Or use saved parts of “original building” in public art.
- A city can only be a “destination” city when it has a lot of creative public art. It needs to be grand as well as pop out in small ways when you turn a corner.
- I’d like to see us reimagine public art as environmentally focused-to create habitat, address storm water, and make room for non-human species
- Include venue- space where different artists can have different installations. Rotate. Example- In Madrid City Park, large “conservatory” where different ideas exhibited
- Artist work with community...engage community. Art should engage 8 to 80, interactive and fun for all. Does not have to be flashy
- Incorporate nature, provoke action
- Artwork that can be rotated on and off site
- Water features incorporating art – use storm water – love this idea
- Help create a sense of place and interpret the natural elements in the area
- Public art should be developed within a broader interpretive planning context. Art should be place based. The approach should be comprehensive and not just seen as a big area to set down unrelated works. A comprehensive and place based approach is key
- Integrate public art with storm water management, parks and open space
- Look at form, function and add decoration (Gaudi)
- Bring community together. Reflect qualities of the natural context. Connect to history of site – both industrial and native. Local artists. Touchable/interactive
- Capacity for temporary / rotating????
- Poems are good so are simple plaques and sculptures. Nothing too flashy please
- Process should work with neighborhood – “Friends of Highland AAS” – tap our community pulse
- Provoke thoughtful and meaningful discourse, spur your own imagination, connective, foster positive memories
- Like the idea of utilitarian public art, gallery for local art and space for intimate theatre, music and dance
- Add students and faculty to the initiative – it would be a learning opportunity

**Where have you seen public art succeed? Fail?**

- No Weisman Art Building because glaring out of context, bad lines. Use local artists. Make it changeable over time. Make it usable, touchable and interactive. Kids can play on it/climb on it. Incorporate water and even frozen in water

## Input from Ford Public Meeting on “Water, Waste, Art, And Greenery”, June 23, 2015

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- Process – how will it be created? Engage community and make art interactive
- How can we incorporate classical music or personal composition in this area? Also, poetry.
- I am intrigued by public art you can sit in, different benches –chairs. Trees to climb?
- U of M success
- Use of lights in art for enjoyment in evening winter months – example- Millennium Park in Chicago. Interactive, Experiential, 8 to 80, Waterfall use of technology, the bean, experimental water
- No more snoopy
- Public art should reflect the Ford and pre Ford use
- Look at success in west side neighborhood. People need ownership and participation
- Caponi Art Park in Eagan – amazing sculpture, natural stone materials, free park, engaging community with art appreciation
- Don't add sculpture unless fit into the environment (see Caponi Art park) Keep nature focus, not urbanist. Remember the river.
- Manhole murals or engraving to show sites history
- Some permanent and some changing art – keep the door open for community creativity and involve the kids
- I would want to have a note or say – keep it timeless and natural so that it does not become an eyesore

## Honoring the Site's History

### **What elements of the site's history do you think are most important to recognize?**

- Is there really that much pride about the Ford Motor Company in this neighborhood? Keeping the mural is a nice touch I guess
- For plant history/artifacts are important – but so is the more ancient Native American history. Also geologic history is important – connection to the land/water
- History all the way – Geology (river) Archeology (Native Americans) Ford plant, production workers
- The whole site has been called the Ford site so it should be Ford oriented. Cars too!
- History of the Mississippi (2<sup>nd</sup>)
- Create chronology of diverse past and history
- Indigenous history! Rename the community in an original native name
- Ford – workers, union, products and St. Paul history. Nature – settlement community
- How much is currently known about Dakota history?
- Start with indigenous history/perspective/cultural knowledge
- Union River, native settlements, indigenous and euro
- Celebrate the native people who preceded Ford by many centuries. Also honor local Ford folks.
- Resources? Log, group? B'Dote. Memory map (Mona Smith) healing place collaborative
- Whatever Native American bands used this area should be documented by a Ramsey County historical site – sod house or tipi or unique in a sheltered spot. Make high room of solar panels

### **What suggestions do you have for honoring the site's history in the redevelopment?**

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- Honor McKee Trucking (auto transport)
- Honor Labor Unions – get their input
- Pillars too big for wider ¼ acre ??? use of artificial materials in park areas and or ??? stones, slate brink in moderation and timber
- Theme restaurant, museum with banquet meeting facilities
- Rename the community for its original indigenous name.
- The city should do a comprehensive interpretive plan. This will ensure the sites interpretation and stories are approached in a comprehensive manner. Public art would be a key component of such a plan to ensure art and other interpreted media are placed based and not individual expressions unrelated to place or in isolation from the context. An interpretive plan will provide a comprehensive approach in keeping with other project goals for a comprehensive, integrated approach to redevelopment
- Integrated art into architecture. ??? sign posts. Interactive elements that use art to tell story, thematic signage (style storefront)
- Make sure to include all voices and stories too, as comprehensively as possible, interpret the site’s history and encourage stewardship
- Think “StoryCore” and NPR – and stories of veterans... do something similar to honor middle class auto workers who built this neighborhood
- Public art and history – Interactive history walk, engage 8-80, tell, share histories of early workers, use auto parts in sculpture, art, use parts of original building
- Work this in like they did at Mill City – so focus on innovative, interesting design that highlights and works with surrounding existing area instead of a stand-alone site feature. Don’t go overboard. There’s also the fact that growing up a block from the Ford plant was miserable in a lot of ways (smell, air quality, etc.)
- Have middle and high school students interview Ford plant workers and others and film short films.
- Input from Native Americans
- Involve teachers and students and trash/rubbish companies
- Honor the workers with a history of the UAW at the plant
- Important geological site – could be used by school groups
- Honor the history of the Ford plant as well as the history of the Native Americans the Mill City Museum is a wonderful example of how to make a beautiful space that people want to visit
- Incorporating history of Ford site inclusive of history before the factory (Native American ties?) Inclusion of Ford into public art – YES!
- Sorry to lose Minsque ???? Training building---robotic display may intrigue visitors and provide interactive functionality. UAW member and retiree

## Stormwater Background

- Extremely Important
- Any possibility for underground water storage to be pumped up in dry seasons?
- I would love to restore the creek as a means to improve water quality and reduce stormwater runoff! (a 2<sup>nd</sup>)
- Restore as much of the creek to natural conditions as possible, don’t allow development without plan to deal with runoff, bumpout at corners with rain gardens (a 2<sup>nd</sup>)
- Reduce discharge rates. Are there any lost or hidden springs? Daylight them and incorporate them into the system
- Perhaps permanent ponds and fish storing? Controlled by gated valve system

## Stormwater Options

### Is it important to trade buildable land for more robust stormwater options? Why or why not?

- It is necessary to trade buildable land for more robust stormwater options so we can ensure a sustainable water supply and water quality for the future
- The CP rail spur has a ditch along the tracks they culverts are all plugged the water does not flow. It breeds mosquitoes. Rain gardens along with hiking/biking path would be good
- Yes, because we need to be leaders on moving the needle, and we must plan with the longer term in mind – as well as our friends down river
- I would advocate above standard – I think ?? to preserve buildable land, feature the water openly, and be effective as possible. Have cake and eat it too
- Stormwater build well initially. If things go well, more buildings could be worked in later, but you can't tear buildings down later
- How often will the ??? and water be tested for pollutants
- Diverse development patterns may utilize conv. s/w mgmt. in conjunction with above standards. But the conventional standards should be integrated with the standards prior to any discharge to the creek and river. Prioritize above standards
- This reconstruction of the creek will form the “spine” of the Ford site development. Everything we've talked about in previous weeks revolves around the creek – traffic, bike and walking paths, rain gardens, parking, etc. It will be the focal point of this new part of Highland Park. For me, this vision of the creek finally makes the project make sense.
- Talk to Susan Overson @ MNRRRA for bridge funding. Do it!!!
- Involve students
- Capture it, hold it, use it, then release
- Stacked functions - get other functions out of your stormwater features - parking, park, plaza/water feature, minimize land loss, add value to the property with the amenity
- Reach for the best result – this is great! Do the maximum redevelopment of the creek, from headwaters to the Mississippi
- Yes, of course! We need to think about options that will be best for the long term and protect our valuable water resources and land
- Invest now in best practices to get durable results – keep eventual possible upgrades or changes in ????? in planning
- Move to a system that uses the water, not just holds it and filters it underground. I want to see stormwater features. The bigger the better!
- Yes, trade buildable land for stormwater options. Why? Because there is no shortage of built environment in Highland Park. Well done surface stormwater features offer both aesthetic and utilitarian aspects that are more important than another store
- Do as much as you can
- Yes, I would err on the side of having greater stormwater tx options over increased construction and impermeable surface. This is a great opportunity to create a beautiful sustainable space and we need to take advantage of that! That said I do think several options were mentioned (ex. cistern use as in CHS field and green roofs) allow for both stormwater management and buildings.

## **Stormwater Innovation**

### **What type of innovation do you consider priority?**

- Cistern Storage – 6 dots
  - Add smaller detention/retention areas throughout area to manage rainwater around the site. I love the idea of storm water parks that also have art especially interactive art like stepping stones, moving sculptures
  - Connect cistern storage to homes and business for lawn/garden and toilet water just like the St. Paul Saints stadium – 1 dot
- Stormwater Park – 10 dots
  - Roller skating and ice skating sounds good - 1 dot
- Alternative Surface Treatments – 13 dots
  - Teach homeowners and commercial landlords about permeable pavers and driveway diversions into rain gardens
- Green Roofs – 14 dots
- Rain Gardens – 17 dots
  - Add budget for holding classes on how to build residential rain gardens. ( I just drove to Edina for a class held by the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District). Distribute materials on how to build and what to plant. Encourage concave (rather than mounded) boulevards so they don't run off.
- Other please list:
  - Tree Trench
  - Green roof farm
  - Urban forest to deal with rain before it hits the ground – 2 dots
  - A nursery for preferred trees styles along by the new river drain line

### **From an aesthetics standpoint, would you want to see stormwater management visible or hidden?**

- Visible – 22 dots
  - Visible, but incorporated in a park or public art venue
  - Visible: the desire to communicate visually our communities commitment to the environment educating and celebrating storm water innovation
  - Visible – as reminder, reinforce that water being recycled etc.
  - If there is capacity for underground storage of stormwater in cisterns that can be used in dryer seasons
  - Visible – awareness an education key for all generations who interact with the site
  - Gently grade from buildings to sidewalks so runs into streets rather than basements. Don't use slab foundations because they waste the ??? of earth around the sides of building in winter. ??? also nourish any boulevard ground cover etc/
  - Make sure water infiltrating the soil happens in places without high toxicity in the soil – 1 dot
  - Make as much storm water management as visible as possible. It's a treasure.
  - Model community should be visible for ???
  - Have stationary bikes to lift and move water so kids will ride, see water move and don't tell them, but they'll get exercise – 1 dot

- Visible – it could be a great opportunity to teach adults and students – 1 dot

## Re-Discovering Water

- It will be a huge feature – looks interesting, need info, signage
- It would be very exciting to see the uncovering of the upper Hidden Falls Creek area!
- Taking 9 acres will require hard negotiations with the developer. Stand your ground, this will be important
- Repair drainage on the rail property and install rain gardens along with bike and hike trail
- These are great ideas – consider making islands and bridges so the flow isn’t all in one place (diverge and converge), make good walking paths, separate from good biking paths along the creek, maybe a paddle boat rental (summer) and ice skating rink (winter)

### **How do you feel about the size of the system?**

- Love it – Great idea
- Cannot see any downside. Seems like a benefit all around.
- Great vision – very forward thinking! Like that it won’t take away from active and passive park space too
- I like the possibility of as much water being visible – both the river and falls park area
- Love the transition idea
- Would like to see a connection between this and dedicated parkland – seems like the 2 should work together. Need development parks and a way to move water in an environmentally sustainable way – but splitting parkland and this seem odd to me.
- Love it 9 acres perfect
- Permanent water feature – yes! Flowing water highly designed urban setting. In winter turn into ice ribbon for skating
- Not big on rain gardens- don’t add much stormwater value. Tree trench stormwater reuse (need to treat?)
- Like the phased winter feature – like a natural stream – steep and straight at upstream, then flatten and fuller finally flat and meandering at downstream end
- Why not? Sounds like a great idea and like it would add a lot of beauty to the site. That said, if it would start eating into the open space allotment (the 9 areas discussed in the previous meeting) I would probably advocate for a smaller size. It seems like a great way to connect the site to the area/Hidden Falls Park. It seems like it would be a beautiful feature near a residential building or restaurant etc.
- Make as much of a connection to historical system as possible.
- St. Paul needs to rediscover Hidden Falls – I grew up in the West 7<sup>th</sup> area. No one there knew that hidden falls ran off of the Ford site. Collect as much stormwater as possible so the Hidden Falls stream runs all the time
- Big prospect – How is neighborhood affected and connected?

## Potential Water Features

### **How do you feel about multiple design types?**

- Minimize straight lines and sharp angles at plaza type spaces.
- Have clear breaks between design types so it you feel unique areas.
- Be careful to not create something to “artificial” or suburban looking. Like the idea of multiple design layers.

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- I think opening the creek above River Road (on the rail road track area) is a very good idea. Maybe a 5 acre wetland area would improve the quality of the ground water feeding the Hidden Falls Creek
- Multiple design types, good even great, so long as they're timeless and woven into the natural landscape
- Restored drainage similar to suggestion can combine or connected with NW-SE Summit Ave Blvd. Natural only semi-formal design for its banks – more and more natural as flows toward river
- With a SMDU Watershed, how do you maintain a base flow?
- Fully supportive of premium option – getting it right ecologically speaking. Loved the long term design. Great!

### What impressions do these concepts give you?

- Love the mix of natural and places to touch water
- Love the centralized stormwater management and the combo with daylighting the stream
- And the cost to maintain any of these creative designs?
- What about frozen times – could be some of those or maybe always open due to current? How about place for kids and adults to ice skate
- The mix seems to aid a transition between the highly “developed” areas and more wildness of the park. Let's see water throughout
- Beautiful spaces! Love the ability to touch and walk up to the water. Feels less urban, which is what this 'hood is about.
- Maybe have mini tributary swales along perpendicular streets that lead to main river. That would add more water/raingarden areas around the site.
- Put in a pond that could be a skating rink in the winter
- Multiple looks better; transitioning from urban to nature
- It's great that this is in addition to parkland. Maximize the greenspace!
- Stormwater features – pond that can be an ice rink in the winter and a sledding area
- Love the idea of the natural zone. It would be a great step in developing a more livable environmentally friendly city.
- Seek input with teachers and students

### What is missing from these ideas?

- Water features – ponds with fish (sunnies, crappies, etc.) that would provide family recreation/fishing
- Like the idea of connecting Hidden Falls to Ford site. Look at Jamison Square Park in Portland, OR. Great water feature/park in the middle of city ( but not obnoxious like Waban in Minneapolis)
- Streams using water run-off
- Available wading and splashing summertime with skating surface and warming area in winter
- City of Salt Lake has a nice urban feature
- Maximize the natural zone and transition zone and keep the upper formal zone to a minimum. Maybe have the creek diverge and later converge so there are more opportunities for bridges and trails and spreading waterways over more of the site

## Water Feature Connectivity

### What does a connection mean to you and why?

- Showing off the entire water system – source to falls



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- Any chance for cross country ski paths – realize this will take wider pathways and provision for setting tracks.
- The better we handle our storm water the healthier we all will be – full stream please!
- Why not combine water reclamation/conservation (Hidden Falls Creek) with park land
- Can a water reclamation/conservation system include small fishing ponds with sonnies/crappies, etc.?
- Connect Ford site to river along Hidden Creek – trails and creek
- I like natural meanders that are visually pleasing. I want a path that runs the length of the river
- Slower traffic or on MRB if more access to river
- Hear see and touch water, visual and atmosphere, travel along
- Maximize “walking” not adding more traffic – like water connection – uncover head of creek as much as possible
- Tobogganing hill
- A water feature should be all the way through the development. Make it grand and connected to the falls

### What features would draw you to the area and why?

- Colorful paintings, trails which are marked, explained, signage with art, involve students in creating art, handicapped accessible, create a bridge and have walkways, safety features
- I like tiki lanterns by paths at night with tropical ambiance plus soft classical piano music
- Connection to river is important
- Daylight as much of the stream as possible. Love water features.
- We want more green space. Not only 8 acres...public park
- Maximize “stroll-ability” from Ford neighborhood to river. Fabulous ideas! Go for it!
- I would like to see the natural brought up to Ford Parkway so it is not as ugly on Ford as it is now. Break up the stores and retail. Make walkways with the water
- Trails and trees are the best features
- Connect as much as possible. This is a great idea. I like the artist conception here. Agree with comment that trees and trails are best.
- Pathways, trails and exercise stations
- Butterfly park (open in winter too) Conservatory
- ????
- A creek, trees and butterflies
- Easy access to river. Possible space for ??? and slow ????
- Cross country ski trail, bike trail, walking, space for music in summers
- Easy access by foot/bicycle. I think a connection is important 0 would be nice to see the creek begin to visible within the site
- I hope the lip of each waterfall will not look unnatural even if falls are in guided streams

## Solid and Waste Recycling

### What would increase convenience for recycling or capturing organics in the public spaces of the Ford site?

- All three facilities at main business corners and around the parks. Include sitting spaces along boulevards and throughout parks and include clear facilities near these areas

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- I'd like to see this as many places as possible without offending people who don't think this is important (which I don't understand). Curbside collection will be welcome.
- Educate everyone. Make recycling easy so people will do it
- Clear signage, educate what is intended. Convenience intergraded into plan.
- Use photos/drawings to indicate what goes in each recycling container
- Community gardens to create demand for compost
- Paint, decorate containers (like on Greenway) checkout Barcelona, La Rambla and other areas that combine “form, function” with decoration
- Make it simple, clean and easy. Container systems easy to use and keep clean (e.g. container exchange)

**Please indicate where you would be most likely to take advantage of organics collection.**

Transit Stop – 6 dots

Square / Park – 9 dots

Street / Curbside – 12 dots

Other – 1 dot

- Re-cycling A line RBT
- All of it visible; don't want to hunt for bins; lost if put into art areas
- All about how you label things
- It's all about clear labeling and graphics. Make it clear and easy.
- Bins everywhere, drinking fountains for filling reusable bottles
- Good to have multiple recycling containers right next to waste cans, because people won't walk to the right container. Instead, they'll just put recyclables in the trash can
- Try to make containers aesthetically pleasing and emptied frequently. Really need them where ever people are. I use whatever is available to me. parks are good

## Vegetation in Public Spaces

**What are your thoughts on the function of trees and other vegetation?**

- Trees soften the rigid corners and facades of buildings. Streetscapes that are not made by solid lines of same like hedges. Lexington Avenue is an example from Summit - note of poor design. Evergreens should also be varied and rarely used if take long to grow since warming occurs. ???
- I love the idea of color in the winter – all seasons
- Use vegetation for cover and shade, green roots and maintain winter attractiveness, functional and convenient to maintenance and travel, old and large trees are key part of old comfortable community feel of neighborhood
- Love alternative pics – combines art and vegetation
- Avoid planting trees in rows unless as art work. Focus on natural design. Keep planting a cutting so trees are of different ages
- Love nature! Butterfly and pollinator gardens, few conifer – not tolerant to climate change
- Love diverse, resilient, native an grass alternatives
- Green roofs, commercial and residential, green walls, grass and lowland vegetated corridors and view sheds, exercise formal to natural transitions, create controllable ??? zones in small areas
- I would love to see no grass in any areas of the Ford site development. Or rather, no turf. Natural grasses, perennials, natives, and berry-producing trees would be wonderful. Fort Snelling is a great

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birding area, so providing vegetation that feeds the birds would be fantastic! I love when industry and nature blend, like the views along the Greenway!

- Involve students and teachers. Rubbish haulers.
- Install milk weed plants along the CP rail property that is supposed to be a future bike/walking trail
- Maximize plantings including: xeriscaping, native plants, butterfly friendly, winter color and form, all surfaces (walls, roof, etc.) color and texture range of seasons, fragrance. Bring back white locust trees!
- Trees and foliage? An absolute must for this Ford project.
- Vegetation helps make the space feel like a neighborhood rather than overly urbanized/concrete. I love the idea of considering the winter structure and aesthetic of making an ecological connection to the river. Take care of our pollinators!
- I would love to see less grass and flat surfaces – flowers and milkweed for bees and butterflies
- As much of a canopy as possible to catch / deal with rainwater before it hits the ground, diversity so changes in climate and insects can't cause so much damage, as much native plants as possible, more trees and vegetation instead of public art projects
- Function of trees and other vegetation essential. Would love to see color along with native plants and large trees (an assortment)
- Low maintenance! Let's not mow. Trees – coniferous and deciduous – need some green in the winter, hardy, flowering trees/shrubs. Native plants to this area sustain bees and butterflies. I like lots and lots of flowers in the summer.