

Como Regional Park Long-Range Plan Public Comment Period

SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT

13 February 2020 - 29 April 2024

PROJECT NAME:

Como Regional Park Long-Range Plan



SURVEY QUESTIONS

Q1 | A draft of the Long-Range Plan is now available. The document can be found [HERE](#) for review. The document reflects approximately 90% progress. Note: This survey will be available from March 25 - April 26, 2024. An important component of this Long-Range Plan is to identify priorities for future projects at Como Regional Park. Please click [THIS LINK](#) for access to a survey to share your thoughts on potential future projects at the Park. Please share any additional comments you have with City staff in the text box below. Your time and input to this project and process are greatly appreciated!

Anonymous

3/28/2024 10:11 PM

Please consider refurbishing the historic Mayor Laurence C. Hodgson memorial plaque at the Midway picnic shelters. It is in deteriorated condition.

Anonymous

4/05/2024 06:30 AM

Bring BACK monkey island!!!!!!

Anonymous

4/05/2024 08:56 AM

Figure out the terrible parking problems for residents living in Como and visitors.

Anonymous

4/05/2024 08:58 AM

No matter which link I click to view document, I don't get the plan, I only get box to share my thoughts.

Anonymous

4/05/2024 12:36 PM

winter use of como park! we need more access to XC groomed trails and enhance the downhill facility.

Anonymous

4/08/2024 03:14 PM

In 1996, 106 Group was hired by St. Paul Parks & Rec to evaluate the historic significance of the entire park. We identified 3 historically significant areas within Como Park. Work was conducted in collaboration with the SHPO and HPC. If any work in the park were to receive federal funding or require federal permits, the potential significance of these areas and the park's historic eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places would likely need to be revisited. Please contact Anne Ketz at 106 Group (anneketz@106group.com) if you would like further information on that study.

Anonymous

4/09/2024 11:42 AM

With the pavillion renovation, I am hoping that we aren't sacrificing a delightful public performing arts venue in hopes of having a larger footprint for a restaurant that seems to be rotating owners every couple of years since Black Bear Crossing left. It would be a shame to

lose that space in the name of trying to increase sales.

Anonymous

4/09/2024 02:09 PM

There should be more seating not less! What is wrong with you people? That restaurant is too expensive! Unless you are going to quit having concerts, you don't need more room for the restaurant !

Anonymous

4/09/2024 02:40 PM

Expanding the restaurant should not be a priority, the neighborhood doesn't want it. We want the stage and seating area to remain the focus, reducing seating is a terrible idea and discourages community engagement.

Anonymous

4/09/2024 02:41 PM

Give the money to Phalen to improve the beach house.

Anonymous

4/09/2024 02:45 PM

Do not make the failing restaurant larger at the expense of the outdoor concert space!

Anonymous

4/09/2024 03:25 PM

Please do not allow this to happen. The pavilion and outdoor concerts are an integral part of the Como Park Experience. We do not need another over price failing eatery! Food is not why people go to Como Lake.

Anonymous

4/09/2024 03:52 PM

Please PLEASE "Plan" for Realistic Goals, and plan for NEEDS well before any WANTS from tiny groups who hold sway with your DEM admin. NO MORE BIKE LANES until you get the lights fixed and these people arrested

Anonymous

4/09/2024 04:11 PM

The restaurant is not worth boosting, but instead the venue as a music space and convention hall should be prioritized. Some sort of concessions would fit the park, but an oversized restaurant only caters to golfers.

Anonymous

4/09/2024 05:36 PM

This is TERRIBLE use of money. Fix the street lights instead! I live in Como- No One wants to eat at the crappy, overpriced restaurant. Leave it alone. It doesn't need anything... except lights. Fix that & spend the money elsewhere. This proposal is a waste.

Anonymous

4/09/2024 06:11 PM

I have heard that you are planning to increase the restaurant space by decreasing the seating space in the Lakeside Pavilion. Please DO NOT do that! That is a lovely performing space, and many times when

I have been to concerts or productions there, the space is packed!
This is a unique space and needs to be preserved, so that it can be enjoyed by many people, not just a few!

Anonymous

4/09/2024 06:19 PM

The current Como Pavilion needs to be more "Community" friendly, meaning access for ALL to use regardless of time of year. Has Saint Paul ever heard the motto, if it "ain't broke" don't fix it-I've lived in Como all my life and the current paths for Bikes are more than adequate. The Pavilion is a beautiful Landmark and I feel more and more City Council has chosen to change that by chasing pipedreams that haven't materialized. The current restaurant is only open seasonable and unaffordable to most families within Saint Paul. There needs not be more restaurant seating in the current upstairs Pavilion but access for all City residents. Where does the funding come from for these projects? Currently the Lake is "dark" a good amount of time due to the Copper thefts but that doesn't seem to be 100% priority.

Anonymous

4/09/2024 06:35 PM

The outdoor concert area should be properly maintained rather than made into a larger restaurant. Only concert area with a roof. 76% reduction of outdoor seating! Not a good idea.

Anonymous

4/09/2024 07:01 PM

I am Jay Fishman, conductor of the Minnesota Sinfonia. The Sinfonia has been performing summer concerts at the Pavilion for 35 years, and we have found it to be the best outdoor outdoor concert venue in the entire Twin Cities. Yes, even better than Lake Harriet in Minneapolis! When I heard of the new plans to all but eliminate this performance venue, at first I was shocked, and soon thereafter outraged. There are very few "good" public venues for large outdoor public concerts, and to destroy one of (perhaps) the best, to create yet another restaurant is an outrage. What is the possible logic behind such a move? Is it to create a special "high-end" eatery for people who have significant wealth, at the expense of the many who live in the area, and do not have significant means. East St Paul is an amazing community, made up of a broad mix of families, ethnicities, and many with limited financial means. We know from anonymous surveys that the make up of our audiences reflects this, especially those with "limited means." Como Park and the Pavilion are a community treasure, and if the city goes ahead with its plan, the local residents will be the losers. I don't know who came up with this plan, but in a word, it appears to be a scheme to generate money for a few at the expense of the many. I urged the city to rethink its priorities, and to think of the thousands of people who enjoy concerts and performances at the Pavilion, and if this is taken away from them, they will have few other options - certainly none on the east side. Jay

Fishman, 614 440 7661.

Anonymous

4/09/2024 07:52 PM

Please maintain the performance space at Como Pavilion at its current size. It is a true asset to the community. I have performed there and I have seen performances there. Most times I a, there the pavilion is packed with audience. I understand you I tend to allow the restaurant to expand into some of the performance space.please please do not allow this to happen. Please maintain the performance space and work harder to get more performances there if you need to justify its existence. Many community groups would love to perform there I'm sure, and pay a fee to do so. Please keep the beautiful performance space at Como pavilion.

Anonymous

4/09/2024 08:01 PM

Leave the stage and seating area as it is. Change the restaurant to a coffee shop like before. Adding more seating to the restaurant won't guarantee the restaurant will do well.

Anonymous

4/09/2024 08:32 PM

I don't want my tax dollars used for a county that I don't live in.

Anonymous

4/10/2024 06:17 PM

Como Park Ski Center needs support for winter trails and snow making. Improve the electricity and water services to Mt. Como and the ski trails.

Anonymous

4/11/2024 09:23 AM

38 million for a pavilion that already exists? Holy shit.

Anonymous

4/12/2024 08:52 AM

I am opposed to the plans to replace most of the Como Pavilion deck with a year-round restaurant. There are no other significant, covered outdoor music venues in the city that can facilitate large crowds and large orchestras like the pavilion can. There are plenty of restaurants in the metro area, but no other performance venue like the pavilion. The fact that the existing food vendor cannot maintain staff or draw much business suggests to me that the city should consider funding a way to maintain this historic, successful performance space in stead of trying to put a restaurant in a location that has proven to be unsuccessful for that purpose.

Anonymous

4/12/2024 11:17 AM

This space needs an off leash dog area

Anonymous

Please no dog park

4/14/2024 11:33 AM

Anonymous

4/14/2024 09:56 PM

My concern is the Como Park Pavilion. It listed as a high priority at a cost of 38.4 million under miscellaneous on page 61. But it's not listed as a "notable historical property " on page 32. Seems like a lot of money to spend without a clear vision. The drawing on page 13 looks like you are ripping out the stage and concert seating area for a ritzy restaurant. I understand that the plan is to take out 75% of the concert seating. This is a beloved concert space with a stage that needs an upgrade, not removal. The omission of detail information about what will happen to the concert space at the Pavilion makes this document deceptive as it now stands. The building needs an upgrade, but not at the expense of the music. -Joe Haus .

Anonymous

4/16/2024 10:51 AM

We live on East Como Blvd between Victoria and Ivy. Our concern is that if the lake road beneath our street is closed permanently, we will get a big influx of traffic on our already narrow, limited street by people trying to continue a route around the lake. There is a lot of traffic on the lake road currently, and much of it will no doubt be shifted to our street or Victoria. We could also be negatively impacted by people parking on our street in order to walk down to the lake and this will limit capacity further. If the plan to close the lake road goes through, maybe some signage should be considered that would keep most of the traffic continuing on Victoria such as "No through traffic" or something?

Anonymous

4/16/2024 04:15 PM

I would really like to see East Como Drive closed and removed for more open green space and trees! I walk around the lake everyday and the road really doesn't need to be there. Victoria and Lexington can handle all of the traffic that would normally go here and it would be great not to have the noise and pollution of cars right by the lake. The parking lot on the east can be accessed through the neighborhood.

Anonymous

4/17/2024 09:44 AM

Please do not destroy the outdoor seating for the pavilion. That area as it exists today is a gem that cannot be replaced easily once reduced by 75%. It should be maintained for gatherings, public performance and shelter. Please consider updating it but not destroying its functionality. You will be saving a lot of money also.

Anonymous

4/18/2024 04:29 PM

I support a major update on the trails and outdoor spaces and save the lake. The pavilion is just fine the way it is. "maybe a bathroom update "- save the taxpayers millions of dollars skip the fancy unnecessary total rebuild of the como pavilion. Find a experienced

manager to run the pavilion "major failure by city council to manage the buildings use" Save the lake fix the park!!!

Anonymous

4/19/2024 09:49 AM

Overall this is an excellent plan, especially as it relates to moving throughout the park. In the discussions about transportation, skating was not mentioned at all. There is a serious lack of suitable roller skating facilities in St. Paul, both indoor and outdoor. Trails should be smooth enough to accommodate roller skating, and wide enough to accommodate ski skating. Signage should clearly designate which trail skaters should use - it should be the bicycle trail because skaters shouldn't be mixed with pedestrians. I would also like to see the Como Pavilion opened to roller skating when not in programmed use. Adding a beginner friendly disc golf course to the park (9 hole with two separate tees per hole) would be great for us older players who lack nearby options on appropriate skill level courses. Today's middle aged discers will be a part of that senior population explosion and having an appropriate disc golf course for them is important. Disc golf preserves a lot of trees and green space without need for pesticides as used to maintain ball golf greens. It is an environmentally friendly sport. Please, no pickleball. And a huge please - no destination restaurant. That would add way too much motorized traffic to an already congested area. We don't need a fancy eatery, we need a basic concession that is geared toward park users.

Anonymous

4/20/2024 09:19 AM

The current outdoor concert area is much loved and well used. In my opinion, this public space should not be given away to a privately owned business. And certainly, no public funds should be used to help a privately owned business.

Anonymous

4/20/2024 01:11 PM

Please consider staffing in any redesign. Last summer, there were times that the current area was not properly staffed. Most people want drinks and treats or simple food, easily available and somewhat inexpensive. Bear in mind that it's season runs May through October at best.

Anonymous

4/20/2024 01:24 PM

This must be built with accessibility at the forefront. In order for restaurant pricing to be family friendly it should not be sold to a private party but to local concern with community ties.. No chains please! Provide scooters for rent for the disabled to access the trails around the lake. Provide picnic tables and accessible seating at every opportunity for families and the elderly and disabled who likely cannot walk far!

Anonymous

4/20/2024 01:30 PM

We do not need this!!! A waste of our tax dollars. Leave it as it is.

Anonymous

4/20/2024 01:34 PM

I hope what they they say isn't true that commenting here is a waste of time---that minds are already made up. The building by the lake is a exact copy of the old building created by the one erected in the 1800's. It fit's in beautifully with the landscape and is loved by Minnesotan's The building you prepose is cold and ugly for the park---it's a bad fit but if you insist can't you build that thing closer to where other buildings are. Don't destroy the landscape of that beautiful much loved old park.

Anonymous

4/20/2024 05:03 PM

Hello, I believe it's essential to have more seating than 225. You will miss huge opportunity for revenue with that small of venue, and musicians will rather play for larger audiences. If it is just another venue where it's hard to get a ticket, most people won't bother, and this will be a disservice to the city of St. Paul

Anonymous

4/20/2024 05:10 PM

Why does it cost 38 million to renovate this building? That's absurd unless you were going to start from the ground up and tear it all down. I think the proposed changes will negatively impact the usability of that area of the general public

Anonymous

4/20/2024 06:17 PM

I read that the number of outdoor seats at the pavilion would be greatly reduced. I strongly oppose that. From what I've heard so far, I also oppose St. Paul spending this much money to redo something that already works. There are so many other basic services, including public safety ones, that St. Paul isn't funding/doing because they say they lack the funds. My position is you need to provide/fund basic city services first (or as Duluth's mayor says: 'do city things') before you delve into other areas outside that.

Anonymous

4/20/2024 06:22 PM

The outdoor seating should be retained. It is unique and beautiful venue in St Paul. None of the restaurants thrive there, why give them more space? Please retain the charm of the current pavilion. Thanks

Anonymous

4/20/2024 08:43 PM

Will the city have the street lights around the lake fixed by then? Or same time soon?

Anonymous

4/20/2024 10:18 PM

In reviewing the plan, I saw closing the roadway on the East side of Como Lake was given a high priority. I oppose closing this road. I read elsewhere that the proposed changes to the Pavilion was greatly

decrease public seating. I also oppose this (and, in general, redoing the Pavilion). For some concerts I've observed most of the existing seating is in use. I don't see a public benefit in reducing seating; I think it's the opposite.

Anonymous

4/21/2024 09:17 AM

I am VERY OPPOSED to the destruction of the Como Park Lake Pavilion building. The current building serves a maximum number of members of the public with its two floors of space AND the lovely outdoor stage and seating area. Over the years, one council member (now a former member thank goodness) has destroyed restaurant after restaurant because each one was not making enough money in her view. Each of the restaurants she has killed were superior in quality, price and customer service to the awful there place now. The entire building's service to the public - as a free regional park space - is paramount. Making most/all of the building a giant money-making operation for ONE person or company is NOT THE PURPOSE OR MISSION OF COMO PARK. The plan to REDUCE the outdoor seating capacity by HUNDREDS of seats is NOT in the interest of the regional public who use this park! The current space is well-used and enjoyed for music, theater productions, and general viewing of the lake and can SERVE over 900 people. Leave the pavilion AS IT IT!!!

Anonymous

4/21/2024 10:26 AM

I strongly oppose any plan to reduce the public sitting and concert space. The free live performances throughout the summer are a highlight to the community!

Anonymous

4/21/2024 10:41 AM

This is not renovation. It is PRIVATIZATION! Reducing the number of seats for concert goers? Does that fulfill the mandate of our City's leaders? Does it serve the common people? No! It serves the restaurant owners and brings a tiny bit of money to the City that's spending our tax dollars. The pavilion is just another stadium boondoggle. Sorry. I will not vote for DFL again, though I have all my life.

Anonymous

4/21/2024 10:48 AM

The crown jewel of the Como pavilion for thousands of park users are the many free or paid arts events we enjoy all summer. I strongly oppose reducing the number of seats from 900+ to 200+ in order to expand the restaurant offering. I would much rather attend a musical event or play than spend money on food. A restaurant is elitist and often over priced and will not be to everyone's taste no matter how good it is. Free arts events are for everyone and Como Park is unique in its appeal and accessibility to a very diverse population. All ages, genders, ethnicities enjoy this park. Do not give the Pavillion away to a restaurateur to make money from a small, elite segment of our

community.

Anonymous

4/21/2024 10:53 AM

I love the outdoor seating for concerts, it is the best part of the building. Please don't reduce this.

Anonymous

4/21/2024 11:22 AM

This is a terrible idea. We love going to concerts at the Como Park Pavilion. It's lovely to sit in the open air right next to the lake. Many of the concerts are very well attended and there's enough space for kids to run around and people to dance. Please don't reduce the space for audience members!

Anonymous

4/21/2024 11:41 AM

Please don't take away concert space for a restaurant. Restaurants have never done well there and I have gone to concerts for the fifty years I have lived in Saint Paul. Please reconsider

Anonymous

4/21/2024 11:42 AM

A better investment for the Como Pavillion would be to book musical acts and events that will draw more people rather than increase the size of the restaurant. The current restaurant has so little business it's likely losing money. Why throw away more money? Book art fairs, beer festivals, etc., in addition to local acts that will draw a good crowd.

Anonymous

4/21/2024 12:03 PM

You're giving away space in the Como Pavilion to a restaurant that can rarely reach capacity in that space over the last 20 years? Sounds like a terrible plan.

Anonymous

4/21/2024 12:15 PM

Do not take any of the public seating away from Como. This is one of the highlights of the area and really brings people to Como. It is great for families to be able to afford to take their children and grandchildren to concerts there and if the seating is limited, it will be a huge disappointment to the entire area, this is one of our favorite places. Please don't give it to a restaurant. There is no way I want my money spent on some thing that will be privately owned and ruined one of my favorite places.

Anonymous

4/21/2024 12:18 PM

Why reduce the seating a one of the cities best concert venue? We go at least 3 times a week for a variety of music. It's a public place, not a eating destination.

Anonymous

Do not take away any public seating

4/21/2024 12:22 PM

Anonymous

4/21/2024 12:57 PM

I am not in support of this remodel. If anything, we should restore the building, not modernize it. If Lancer wants more revenue, there are other ways to capitalize on that location.

Anonymous

4/21/2024 01:34 PM

I live in Como Park and walk the lake everyday. I attend music events and actually enjoyed the food. We NEED the following to be successful. 1. a cleaning crew to get out there during the day to wipe down the tables. 2. New furniture that is easily cleaned and can take abuse. 3. Wind breaks, so your plate stays put. 4. Do not cut seating for music events. 5. IF a nice dining service is put in place, make service a top priority. I have eaten at all of the venues. I loved the New Orlean vibe venue, but I had to sit and watch 6 servers gossiping and ignoring the customers on every visit. It was terrible. The management needs to be on site observing what is going down. No one wants to wait 45 minutes for a cup of coffee and 30 more minutes for the order to be taken. a. breakfast to go b. Lunch simple soup and sandwich of the day. c. Dinner menu, no more than 10 seasonal choices. How about a small dog run, so people stop letting their animals poop everywhere. Keep up the great landscaping.

Anonymous

4/21/2024 01:44 PM

Concert seating should not be reduced by so much!! Concerts bring in people, people pay for this space and buy from the restaurant. Economics can coexist with public spaces. If it's reduced so much that no one will come because so hard to get in, the restaurant will fail. Balance this better and it will work.

Anonymous

4/21/2024 01:54 PM

I think it would be fine to update the restaurant BUT please keep at least 400 seats available for concerts and plays for the public. Como Park is a treasure.

Anonymous

4/21/2024 03:07 PM

Non privatized outdoor seating!

Anonymous

4/21/2024 03:13 PM

All "wish I could" and "Wouldn't it be nice" projects should be shelved until all roads are fixed, bridges inspected/repaired. Quit spending on unnecessary items and stop increasing taxes at double digits. You are driving us out of our homes because of all the tax increases.

Anonymous

4/21/2024 05:03 PM

I understand the wish to make more use of the pavilion. I don't believe that making it more of a private entity is the best use. I grew up spending many days at the park and pavilion. Even though I now live

in Roseville I still enjoy time at the park and pavilion. Growing up in the 50s and 60s the park was a safe and enjoyable place. Please allow many more children and their family's to enjoy it.

Anonymous

4/21/2024 05:18 PM

Please do not spend public money "upgrading" the pavilion. The Met Council should be focusing on needs such as affordable housing rather than on wants such as a new pavilion.

Anonymous

4/21/2024 05:52 PM

Thank you for your good work toward keeping our park safe and green and accessible for all. Help us find ways to donate toward the upkeep and improvement of the park. Como Park is so valuable to our city and its' residents. Thanks, especially for keeping the walkways passable during the winter. A safe , lighted place to walk before and after work, is so important to the health of our community.

Anonymous

4/21/2024 07:09 PM

Renovation to Como pavilion is welcome if it does provide a longer season for the restaurant and better access to lakeside but please don't reduce the audience pavilion space so much that it no longer can host real community events like Roseville theater, big band, opera by the lake, etc. These events are gems, draw crowds, and make residents proud to show case Como. It's hard to tell from the drawings how much event seating is remaining. The neighborhood list serve suggest it will go from 900 to 275 and that seems too drastic, but I realize that may be inaccurate. Let's just not lose the ability to have those high points of summer, while expanding the facility and upgrading things like bathrooms and access points, and the quality of seating which are all needed. Thank you.

Anonymous

4/21/2024 07:44 PM

If this is true, it seems crazy. 'Last September, St. Paul staff said the number of outdoor seats will be reduced from 947 to 225 (i.e. 76% reduction of outdoor concert seating).' I go to many concerts at Como. They are usually quite full, some are standing room only. It was bad when the previous restaurant to this one served food on the patio. The diners often drowned out the concerts, or at least made it an unpleasant event.

Anonymous

4/21/2024 08:14 PM

Como Pavillion is lovely the way it is. It needs to not have additional commercial venues added, it's purpose is a bit of nature in the city. People should be exercising and taking photos and painting pictures there at a relaxed pace. Lexington Ave should NOT be enlarged, it's small size should be protected. Whoever wants to add commercial ventures to this space is greedy and careless with the earth. Maintain the present building, paths and golf course. Keep corrupt people out

of there.

Anonymous

4/21/2024 08:31 PM

Reducing the seating will DESTROY the very thing that makes COMO Pavilion a treasure. DO NOT DESTROY this community asset for the sake of enriching contractors. There is no way the investment adds value; this is destroying value.

Anonymous

4/21/2024 08:56 PM

Leave the outdoor pavilion seating area alone/improve for public use. Please do not take away part of that area for a private restaurant.

Anonymous

4/21/2024 09:09 PM

I live in the midway, am a 3rd generation St. Paulite, and I completely oppose this plan for Como Park Pavilion. I'm a frequent visitor to the Lake and to the pavilion and it's a well loved and well used building. The restaurants that have come and gone have NOT failed because of the pavilion. \$38 mil will not fix this, but will instead destroy a well used building and venue. Don't do this!

Anonymous

4/21/2024 09:44 PM

Please do not reduce outdoor concert seating capacity, nor give over any more space to private business(es), unless they pay the city market rental rates. The city needn't and shouldn't IN ANY WAY take on responsibility for the success of any such private business operating on park property. Like any other restaurant, the quality of their food and service, and their choice of cuisine should be allowed to determine their success or failure.

Anonymous

4/21/2024 09:56 PM

The Pavilion at Como Park rendering seems to show steps down to the water. Do not add steps down to the water. It looks architecturally impressive, but from personal experience, as water levels adjust and/or weather changes, you will have people (notably elderly and children) that will slip and fall on the steps, or into the water. You will then be looking for ways to prevent people from using that area. Consider instead, a platform, close to the water, with railings and non slip tread.

Anonymous

4/21/2024 10:06 PM

I made comments, but in short - three things are needed: 1) Return the area to the people as green space. Do not add more merchants. They are not needed. Instead, turn the pavilion over for Community Rooms once again. We went often with our group and individually, until the company that took over around 2010 let it all go downhill. 2) Return the paths to shareable between walkers/pedestrians and a two-way bike path. 3) Add more lights - for safety and comfort- as I do not feel safe walking there after sunset. Crime is up and for 2+ years,

I have noticed the lights are out and not being replaced.

Anonymous

4/21/2024 10:39 PM

The lake is the focus, not the ever changing crappy restaurants. I don't think the reduction of concert seating is a good idea. The new design of the building is ugly, keep it similar and familiar and age of the park appropriate like other historical parts of Como. That's what the charm is. The traditions and the form meeting function while maintaining integrity.

Anonymous

4/21/2024 10:41 PM

Greetings, Changing the pavilion with the restaurant facing the lake is unconscionable. Taxpayers should not be forced to pay for your mistakes. Please rethink this and listen to people that love this lake and park. This is a park that should be used and enjoyed by the general public. Please don't steal that from us. Thank you, Jan

Anonymous

4/21/2024 11:12 PM

Please don't reduce the seating in the Como park pavillion. The free outdoor concerts there are the best part of the whole park. If you do please make a bigger seating area somewhere near there.

Anonymous

4/21/2024 11:34 PM

I disagree with spending 28 million in taxpayer dollars on this project. I don't know why you guys are always wasting money. This is not necessary. The taxes in MN are ridiculous and not well used. It is fine how it is.

Anonymous

4/22/2024 03:28 AM

The Como Pavilion is an architectural gem. I'm very disappointed that your new plan modernizes its structure. Also, I have read that the outside concert space will lose more than 50% of its seating space to the restaurant. This is a public space - intended for a free, open area for everyone to enjoy. Turning it into restaurant seating not only eliminates the true purpose of the concert area, but you are using public money to support a privately owned venue. For years I was able to bring my children to this area. They loved the open freedom of moving around, exploring the space. Building a restaurant takes away our future generations from having that freedom. Too many people resent children playing near their eating space - they deem them as too noisy, too bothersome . I realize that the area needs work, but that does not mean we have to take away the current beauty of building or the public's access to a key area of the park.

Anonymous

4/22/2024 06:29 AM

I would like to express concern over the proposal to sharply reduce seating for public events at the pavilion. This is one of the few larger free entertainment venues in this area and serves a wide variety of

audiences, not all of whom can afford to eat at the restaurant. The events I've attended are always full house or close to it. The arts are and should be an important part of the service public parks provide. Please reconsider this plan.

Anonymous

4/22/2024 06:36 AM

It saddens me that we don't seem to ever be happy to leave landmarks the way they are. Everything needs to be "improved". I love going to the concerts there when I can. It is perfect the way it is. It catches all the breezes no matter how warm it is outside and you can feel connected to the water. This will diminish all that. And in the rendition, it certainly does NOT add any beauty. Just sad.

Anonymous

4/22/2024 07:17 AM

I have been a resident of Roseville since 2007. While I love my neighbors, quiet and care of our community, I have seen an increase in unnecessary projects at a HUGE cost to residents. My taxes continue to go up 10-12% a year. That is not sustainable as I approach retirement soon as my income has barely kept up with COLA. Stop the spending and consider using the money for something more important.

Anonymous

4/22/2024 07:44 AM

The pavilion has served us well for a very long time as it is. I do not promote turning the pavilion into a vendor building instead of a Parks concert area. I could understand fixing plumbing and other building needs but not nothing more than money-maker.

Anonymous

4/22/2024 07:56 AM

A great FREE family venue for family Music events. The Music concerts at the Pavilion are the best, don't screw them up. I'm almost eighty and can't wait around for a 2-3 or 4 year project, to hear Music again, at the Pavilion.

Anonymous

4/22/2024 07:59 AM

I think this should be a more modest project and that you should also spend funds on Lake Phalen amenities and bring a similar dining/beverage option to the eastside. We pay too high of taxes to continue to be treated thusly.

Anonymous

4/22/2024 08:10 AM

Please restore the Pavilion as an historic structure. Do not reduce seating. Do not devote more space to a privately owned restaurant.

Anonymous

4/22/2024 08:17 AM

Making improvements to the Como Park Pavilion is necessary, but to cut the seating by such a large amount doesn't sound realistic. Why not just make an opening for food to the Lake side. It doesn't need to be fancy. This place is a place that is comfortable for all walks of life. Don't make it only for the wealthy. Keep it as is with just a few updates! Thank you. Jeanne Andral

Anonymous

4/22/2024 08:23 AM

I'm not in favor of turning the como pavilion into a larger private restaurant. It has been a good public concert, theater, music venue for everyone. We don't need an upscale restaurant and their customers filling the parking lots so fewer people can use the park.

Anonymous

4/22/2024 08:34 AM

This building is a beautiful structure as it stands. The fact that this plan reduces seating is unacceptable, it should try to increase the seating, so all people who want to enjoy the concerts can do so. Decreasing the seating will bring less people to the park, and ultimately less revenue to the restaurant. Whoever designed this plan was not thinking about the downfall of the use of the pavilion, hence the lack of customers to the restaurant, and the ultimate demise of it. This plan should be scrapped and redesigned to make it public friendly while keeping the classy building it is as much as possible .

Anonymous

4/22/2024 08:43 AM

I have always loved going to the concerts and plays at the Pavilion and would hate to see that space made smaller.

Anonymous

4/22/2024 08:49 AM

I am concerned about plans to reduce theater/pavilion large gathering space. I have found the indoor spaces to be woefully underutilized for 30 years, while events in the outdoor pavilion often sell out/run out of seating. I would much rather see improvements in the furniture and acoustics of the stage/band shell and enhancements to the programming. I do like plans to connect the pavilion space to the lakefront.

Anonymous

4/22/2024 09:13 AM

Please DO Not reduce concert seating ,There are many times in past summers that seating was inadequate

Anonymous

4/22/2024 09:30 AM

Put in a dog park using the unused land next to the forestry department. Do not rebuild the pavilion from scratch. Keep public restrooms open year round.

Anonymous

With the volume of visitors I find the parking inadequate. I have left

4/22/2024 09:55 AM

because of no parking available.

Anonymous

4/22/2024 10:25 AM

As a musician who has performed multiple times at the Pavilion before, I strongly urge the powers that be to preserve the stage and audience space just as it is. The recent upgrade to the sound system makes it an even more inviting and professional spot for local artists, of both stage and musical endeavors, to offer their productions. There is no shortage of restaurants in that area, but there is a distinct shortage of venues for performing arts such as this. This existing space is a priceless jewel to be preserved and celebrated.

Anonymous

4/22/2024 10:37 AM

I am a neighbor of the park. My comments: 1) two way bike lane seems excessive for a park. Less concrete not more should be the goal. 2) remodel of the pavilion seems unnecessary and very expensive. Trying to create a "profit center" by enhancing the restaurant space does not serve typical park visitors. Free concerts and plays do that well in the current space. 3) limiting traffic around the lake is a worthy goal, but it would drive that traffic into the neighborhood streets without careful planning and some expensive road development.

Anonymous

4/22/2024 10:50 AM

The restaurant area is way too large. Taking that much outdoor seating away as well as a stage for a numerous amount of shows is a detriment to the people of this city.

Anonymous

4/22/2024 10:56 AM

Thank you for all the work put into this! Love a lot of these ideas. One thing -- regarding the pavilion, I really dislike that there is very little breadth of cultural expression represented via the food there, and the programming feels that way too. I think that likely hurts sense of belonging for a lot of people. Right now, the food is also expensive and not very good. I think something like this would be an exciting change... 1. Replace the current "restaurant" into a nice cafe on the first floor, with drinks year-round but very limited options for food... 2. Maintain a full kitchen for catered events upstairs. 3. Invite various caterers that can express the cultural diversity of the region. They can use trucks or the kitchen with themes varying weekly or nightly etc. Be sure to include both Minnesota's newer cultural groups and its longer-time cultural groups and its indigenous cultural groups. 4. When possible, pair these cultural food options with related - more culturally diverse - music, dance, and other programming. Currently, there may be too much seating outdoors and not enough indoors. Also, I really like the idea of letting the lake be visible from inside for winter months. During those months, the cafe would still be wonderful. But I'd hate to lose too high of a percentage of outdoor

seating. Has there been any consideration of expanding the indoor seating going north and south instead of going east and west? That seems like it could maximize both indoor and outdoor lakeview seating without hurting either too much. Thanks again! Jeff VonWald, Como Park area resident jvonwald@gmail.com

Anonymous

4/22/2024 11:15 AM

Leave the pavilion as it is

Anonymous

4/22/2024 11:23 AM

The Pavillion has been a public space and I don't think you should reduce the capacity for the restaurant! Go vertical or expand in the other direction (towards Hamm's Falls) but do not limit the capacity of the performance area which is often capacity or near capacity. It give us a place to see regional musicians and stage productions and gives performers needed exposure...cutting the capacity restricts access to folks who can't afford or are not able to go to other venues. Keep the Pavillion as public as possible! Stanley Kusunoki 11 68 Lexington Parkway N. St. Paul

Anonymous

4/22/2024 11:24 AM

I live near Como Lake and stop by the Pavilion when I am walking around the lake. The restaurant is certainly not a destination restaurant and should not be expanded as such. A small expansion would be prudent, but what is proposed will be a waste of money. The restaurant is only busy on warm, sunny days like April 20, when lots of people are walking around the lake and when there are events. What is used hugely and needs improvement is the seating area for concerts. It is often filled for concerts and plays during the summer, even though the wooden benches and tables are terrible. To reduce the number of seats by the proposed amount is ridiculous. The upstairs restrooms do need remodeling and the whole upstairs area should be updated with lighter paint and floor. It is so dreary.

Anonymous

4/22/2024 11:35 AM

Now is the exact wrong time to invest vast sums of public money into privatizing portions of a public space, to augment the leisure of the wealthy. As a citizen of St. Paul, I do not support and am disgusted this much time and energy has already been burned. I will be contacting all my reps directly in opposition.

Anonymous

4/22/2024 12:08 PM

I don't see any information in this plan about live performances at the Pavilion. It seems like the outdoor seating space and stage is being shrunk/reduced significantly, but this is the only outdoor venue with music in the parks in a great part of St Paul, which is a lovely amenity and brings my family over to Como regularly in the summer. It would be a shame to lose that space.

Anonymous

4/22/2024 12:12 PM

Please support community performing arts by maintaining a large performance space in the Como Park Pavilion.

Anonymous

4/22/2024 12:26 PM

Why would you build a modern building style? Ruin the culture and heritage of Saint Paul? Your better off promoting the lake and beach area and families activities that could increase traffic for the building to generate better rev

Anonymous

4/22/2024 12:31 PM

Have been told that the outside seating for concerts will be cut down in order to expand restaurant. The concerts are important to all as family recreation and entertainment. Our taxes are paying for this facility and should be available for all. PLEASE do not remove seats to accommodate restaurants need. Thank you

Anonymous

4/22/2024 12:33 PM

Reducing the seating capacity of the pavilion would be a huge loss to the community. A gathering point for the arts lost for more restaurant space is a shame considering the low volume of customers to the existing restaurant. I vehemently stand against the proposed reconstruction.

Anonymous

4/22/2024 03:02 PM

I like the idea of updating Como pavilion and having additional restaurant seating outside in the current concert area.

Anonymous

4/22/2024 03:37 PM

In Sept 2023, I heard that St. Paul staff said the number of outdoor seats will be reduced from 947 to 225 (i.e. 76% reduction of outdoor concert seating). In my opinion, this outdoor space should be preserved for public use rather than given away to a privately owned restaurant.

Anonymous

4/22/2024 05:43 PM

We love Como Park concerts! Don't reduce the outdoor space! Restaurants have not survived at that location because they try to charge way too much and kill off volume!

Anonymous

4/22/2024 07:30 PM

I think it is very important to keep a large audience capacity at the pavillion that is covered but open the outdoors. We have wonderful summers and need to have a space to allow our residents and guests to enjoy it. The covered space allows for plays in the summer that have attracted my family and friends from the twin cities area to attend plays every year to our city. We don't need a space that

mimics many others in the cities. Expand usage of the space by eliminating the limitations for use and draw more people to the area. More theater, bands. Fix the bad access to facilities to make it a more attractive venue but maintain what makes it unique.

Anonymous

4/22/2024 07:37 PM

Please consider the needs of rosetown playhouse and other groups that need a large audience capacity (500+) and a covered space for audience and performers. This is such a staple for the community - please don't reduce the audience capacity.

Anonymous

4/22/2024 08:27 PM

I am quite dismayed at the plan for the pavilion. The stage has been well used by the community for productions for the community's entertainment. The reduced seating looks like the city is sponsoring a private restaurant and not the community.

Anonymous

4/22/2024 08:36 PM

It is one of the few places where I feel like a part of a community, I've grown up on this stage and have seen many performances from many groups, with many generations, the Como pavilion is what makes St. Paul special. If you make it smaller, you will lose community

Anonymous

4/22/2024 09:21 PM

Como pavilion needs to be able to continue to host large audiences over 500 people and have covered space for everyone. Such a treasure to attend theater and music concerts in the summer!

Anonymous

4/22/2024 09:34 PM

Reducing the stage area to that tiny amount erases years of history and so much community involvement. I remember when the Saint Paul Opera Workshop performed from that space, and now it's Rosetown. Those shows take anybody from 3-100! Most shows have 100 participants, local residents taking part in an inclusive community activity. Please don't turn the current stage into restaurant. We need a place to gather and enjoy the arts so much more. Without those shows as draws, the restaurant will lose some business, as well. Keep Como stage the way it has been please.

Anonymous

4/22/2024 10:59 PM

I am not a St. Paul resident but do enjoy walking around the Lake and having some food and drink with friends. The restaurants that have occupied the Pavilion have left a lot to be desired. It would be nice for the community to have some input on this if the space is going to be renovated as extensively as planned. I for one, as a vegetarian, would like to see some good veggie options, please no fried food menus, just fresh healthy food.

Anonymous

4/23/2024 05:45 AM

Woah! While I understand making the pavilion more accommodating for many things, please don't cap seating for events at 250. 500+ seats are filled for MANY community events. Those events will not be able to continue if only 250 a night would be attending. To be frank- we have never seen restaurants do exceptionally well— why take away from the community and our lakeside events for more restaurant seating at a location where a restaurant doesn't last more than 5 years before turnover ?

Anonymous

4/23/2024 06:22 AM

Como Pavillion is a wonderful outdoor entertainment space, please don't take away or cut the amount of seating.

Anonymous

4/23/2024 07:53 AM

This space should be for the public to use not a restaurant. I grew up here as did my kids. We all have great memories of concerts and just playing in this space

Anonymous

4/23/2024 08:03 AM

Please do not reduce the seating capacity of the lakeside pavilion for performances. This is the greatest, unique aspect of Como regional park. The nightly performances all summer long is such a wonderful part of many people/families lives and park experience. Please do not restrict people's ability to receive exposure to the arts!

Anonymous

4/23/2024 08:54 AM

Changing the capacity of the performance venue would significantly impact community theater organizations such as Rosetown Playhouse that rely on this space to perform summer shows. These large audience tickets sales of 700+ keep the organization in the black and able to continue its work in the community year round.

Anonymous

4/23/2024 09:28 AM

I think the proposed changes are perfect for the space and fully support everything in the proposal!

Anonymous

4/23/2024 09:58 AM

Please do not decrease the seating. I look forward to performances there by nonprofits that rely on large turnouts. This would negatively impact many great nonprofits - primarily focused on the arts - that give back to the community by use of this space.

Anonymous

4/23/2024 10:06 AM

Community upgrades are important, but not if it means losing vital community space for the sake of a restaurant. We have so many places to eat but so few arenas that allow for so many members of our community at once to gather for shows, performances and

presentations. I truly hope my tax dollars go to supporting our community arts instead of unnecessary expansions for the sake of consumerism.

Anonymous

4/23/2024 10:07 AM

Don't decrease the performance space! Community theater relies on that space and its occupancy

Anonymous

4/23/2024 10:11 AM

Though I am pleased attention is being paid to this gem of a park- there are a couple of things that concern me. The pavilion is beautiful as it is- I have always enjoyed going to concerts and plays there- it brings community together in a space that can be intimate or packed- I would hate to see the spaces for seating dwindled to 250. A restaurant like it is- is perfect- we don't need to have another Sea Salt type restaurant- this is St. Paul- not Minneapolis. by taking up lake facing space for a restaurant doesn't feel inclusive of the neighborhood - but more for people who can afford to dine out and a fancy place. There are many places in the cities that have transitioned into dining spaces that haven't worked more than a few years keg and case, the 5.0, the rotating restaurants on St. Anthony Main- the concern for me is building around a restaurant. Keep it as an open pavilion for mixed entertainment!!!

Anonymous

4/23/2024 11:14 AM

I believe that this outdoor space should be preserved for public use rather than given away to a privately owned restaurant

Anonymous

4/23/2024 02:07 PM

I love the plan and am excited by it!

Anonymous

4/23/2024 02:16 PM

The pavilion should be left alone! Why can't we. Preserve history? Bring back more shows and use that space as it was built for. It's a beautiful structure, leave it alone!

Anonymous

4/23/2024 02:18 PM

I respectfully oppose expansion of the restaurant into the public concert area. In recent years there have been 2 to 3 concerts and/or plays at the pavilion every week of summer and they are well attended. We could not comfortably get by with less seating. And plays could no longer be done at Como without a backdrop. Please don't ruin a good thing. These concerts and plays at Como have been a cherished tradition for many generations. Jeffery Thole, St. Paul Como Park.

Anonymous

Please do not take away seating at the pavillion.

4/23/2024 02:42 PM

Anonymous

4/23/2024 02:52 PM

Do NOT privatize the public pavilion. Keep all the outdoor concert seating that is currently there!

Anonymous

4/23/2024 02:52 PM

Please, leave concert area as is. Restaurant can go elsewhere.

Anonymous

4/23/2024 03:08 PM

Strongly opposed to the changes to the pavilion! Decreasing public space for the benefit of a privately owned restaurant is exactly the wrong direction.

Anonymous

4/23/2024 03:09 PM

Update the pavilion but keep it as is. We spent so many hours sitting on park benches listening to concerts and attending the community singing events many years ago. It is a great place to create and promote community, a larger restaurant will not do that.

Anonymous

4/23/2024 03:13 PM

No reduction in event seating at Como Lakeside Pavilion! We enjoy large events there all summer long, and it is a completely UNIQUE space in Saint Paul. Some changes -- like the relocation and increased accessibility of bathrooms -- are certainly welcome. But the structural changes accommodate the privately-owned restaurant which has yet to be successfully operated at this site anyway. In its current form, it isn't even affordable for most families who use the park every day. The Pavilion is a unique and treasured part of our neighborhood. It is a public resource and should not be redesigned to accommodate the business goals of a private restaurant. Please take a moment to participate in the parks' survey and share your feelings about this

Anonymous

4/23/2024 03:26 PM

Leave the pavilion as it is! Please stop spending our tax money on projects that nobody wants or can AFFORD!!!

Anonymous

4/23/2024 03:29 PM

Please keep the concert seating and stop contracting with restaurants to come into the park. Use the park caterer instead. Pop, ice cream, hotdogs and popcorn is all that is needed. Spent the \$\$ attracting great bands and theater groups to come perform outside

Anonymous

4/23/2024 03:33 PM

Do not lower the seating space in the pavilion. Many events would require turning people away and that would hinder the experiences.

Anonymous

4/23/2024 03:46 PM

Please do not reduce seating capacity at the Como pavilion nor make changes to suit a private business owner. This is such a proud public gem and more effort should be put in place to honor its legacy and continue using the space as it has been and more! Bring back the St. Paul park and rec program musical as well - help to make those performances successful rather than a private business. This is worth the energy of the city because this space is so special and has so much potential if it were only managed better.

Anonymous

4/23/2024 03:52 PM

Are you serious...this is an historic site that needs to be preserved not expanded so some private entity can make a profit of the tax payers back! I don't know what reasoning brought this about but the failure of previous restaurants should reflect on the folks who ran those enterprises and not the property itself which I'm sure like all old properties could use a little fix up but not this! Waste of my money!!! A very very strong NO!!!!

Anonymous

4/23/2024 03:53 PM

\$38 million for the pavilion is ridiculous

Anonymous

4/23/2024 03:55 PM

About the pavilion: I have attended a lot of concerts here, some as a camera operator for local TV for very cool shows. Rarely is it more than 1/3 full. I have been to the restaurant a number of times and eaten outside as a safer place during COVID and the seating is rough, to say the least. It would be perfect if the dining seating could be included as seating for any show. If more accessible bathrooms would take part of the space (yay), or additional vendors in part of the space would be a good use. All this would make the building much more usable and pleasant. It has been remodeled many times. I hope this one is a better fit for the community

Anonymous

4/23/2024 04:06 PM

I thought this building was spectacularly lovely when I moved here 7 years ago. It is still one of my favorite venues as is! Please reconsider this change?

Anonymous

4/23/2024 04:08 PM

Please do NOT make this proposed change to the Como Lakeside Pavilion!! We love the open airiness of the currently structure!! Concerts and musicals are highlights of our summer months. The current setting allows for come-and-go fluidity - it allows us to enjoy parts of these events while walking around the lake, and then pop in for a closer in-person experience. It allows for the free flow of air, spontaneous dancing to the sides and back of the space, a sense of the freedom and community of summer! Please don't take this away from us! (I'm not sure what the impetus for a restaurant in this

location is. There are plenty of restaurants in St. Paul, and even some great ones fail after a few years. This seems like a recipe for another revolving door eatery, likely subsidized in some way by the city. Simply put, don't do it. This would not be progress.

Anonymous

4/23/2024 04:21 PM

It would be a shame to reduce the seating for the event space to so little. The Rosetown summer musical is iconic in this location and it would be impossible to do in renovated space. I support renovating the restrooms and improving accessibility, but preserve the large event space seating!

Anonymous

4/23/2024 04:26 PM

This project will be a monumental failure unless you tie your project to educating the public regarding the history of Como. Of course the is basically unknown with the exception of the book I'm writing. For example, do people know where the first settlers on the lake, do they know in 1849 the first baby was born on the the lake?, do they know there once was a hospital on the lake?, do they know there was an alms house on the lake, do they know one of the hotels had a toboggan slide from the roof into the lake, do they know in the earliest day their loons on the lake and early settler were threaten by prairie fires etc. Probably not, but I know they are interested. I'm working with RCHS and have an article that I think they would let me share with you. It is a small example of a forth coming book on COMO's unknown history but will show you the potential of what can be incorporated in to your effort. If you are interested please contact me Jim Ramstrom JIramstrom@gmail.com. 612-741-6871

Anonymous

4/23/2024 04:32 PM

I am excited about many updaters to Como Park. However, I would like to see seating be increased at the Pavilion to a minimum of 500 to allow for some of our well attended and favorite organizations to continue to use the space, like Rosetown Playhouse. Allowing seating to stay plentiful would encourage community events and connection to Como Park.

Anonymous

4/23/2024 04:50 PM

Como pavilion in conjunction with Como park have always been for the people of Saint Paul and surrounding communities. Reducing capacity to make more room for an expensive restaurant is contradictory to why that pavilion and park are even there.

Anonymous

4/23/2024 05:21 PM

Spending \$38,000,000 on renovating this building is ridiculous with all the other affordable housing and infrastructure improvements needed in our City. Can't help but wonder if Amy Brendmoen is once again behind this destruction of an historic building and egregious waste of

money...disgusting.

Anonymous

4/23/2024 05:22 PM

You NEED to keep this as a public space!! Not a restaurant owned space. I understand change is good but this will not go over well in my opinion.

Anonymous

4/23/2024 05:29 PM

I am concerned about the Pavilion. I have enjoyed many many events even tho the seats are uncomfortable and picnic tables leave a lot to be desired, if I am going for food and entertainment. The concern I have is the amount of people that will be reduced. I think the "restaurant" area has always been a problem and food is generally mediocre. It would be better to invite a couple/few food trucks. A lot of trucks have much better food than the pavilion

Anonymous

4/23/2024 06:29 PM

We need more outdoor seating than what is proposed.

Anonymous

4/23/2024 07:00 PM

Dear City Staff It is not in the interests of the public who has enjoyed many seasons of theatre and music in the pavilion to create a space with less seating How does that us, the citizens that can't always go to some of the traditional theatres but will attend this wonderful space for it's openness, accessibility to all ethnic groups and affordable entertainment. With hopes you will consider keeping the larger seating . Bettiana LaSorella

Anonymous

4/23/2024 07:21 PM

Please leave the theatre part as it is! Rosetown needs space for both actors and audience! Please don't take that away from the theatre community! Judith Johnson

Anonymous

4/23/2024 07:25 PM

Page 7, typo 106 Group vs 106 Grout Page 12, the District 10 Como Community Plan is due for a refresh and the Como Regional Plan should be flexible to accommodate any updates presented by District 10 in their review. Page 21, Improve the area in front of the Pavillion and the Hamms waterfalls. Could be a great place for a long/large pergola to partially shade folks to sit and eat and drink food and beverages from the Pavillion. Page 21, the Bridge over Lexington should be beautified, painted mural, or tile mural, a very ugly though functional bridge. We can do better. Page 22, Crossing Horton from the South to the North by the lake should have a solar flashing light for the cross walk for safety. Cars move fast along the curve there. Page 26. Better sidewalks along Beulah Lane, consider bike path along Jessamine from Lexington to Hamline and then all along Hamline on the Park side to Chelsea Heights. Bike path from

Lexington along Jessamine all the way to the U of MN transit road under Snelling to Energy Park Drive... Page 26. Consider redoing the water feature within the Como Woodland Classroom. About 20 feet from the wayfinding sign near Hamline and Como on the north side of the walk. Page 32. The overflow parking area at Arlington and Hamline (within the Park) is not shown on the map. This might be a really nice place to put a Pickle Ball court on the edge of the parking lot. Page 32. Transit Stop on Hamline and Como needs a shelter as does transit stops along the curve to Lexington. Solar sidewalk crossing lights should also be included along this stretch to slow traffic. Page 33. Consideration should be made for additional Historic Districts in areas south of Midway Parkway and Warrendale areas. Casiville Bullard actually owned two homes in Como. The other is along Maryland and should also be noted as a Historic Site as he owned land where Como Highschool now is. Page 48. There is no guiding principle regarding art or beautification/maintenance of existing structures. In many locations signage could be incorporated into an ART piece or Decorative Map and make it more interesting. There are many historic topics that could be included to enhance a park experience. Page 54: Nagasaki Rd and E Como Blvd might be a very good place for a Round About to ease traffic conflicts. Page 56: maybe a Round About on the Como Curve at the parking lot/street. Page 58: great ideas to have a path through the golf course. It can also extend to Hamline. Page 60: Wayfinding should also include mileage markers for walking/biking. IE .5 miles to x, 1.3 miles to Y... Page 61: Public Art, there are many ways to include it, but more examples should be presented for comments. Page 62: Conduct Cultural Landscape Study, is that of the park only, or also the surrounding area. It seems many studies have been done regarding the park, but there should be comprehensive studies of the neighborhood of which the park is included. Many of the items on this page should be incorporated even if they were Unranked. So much focus is directly around the lake other area get neglected. Even having a trail within the Como Golf course from Chelsea to the parking lot would make for nice circular traffic options for walkers and bikers within the parks western side. Page 67: Should there be a connection made around Hamline to Energy Park Drive over the railroad tracks as a part of the BNSF Railway possible Aquisition. Pg 68: Historic and Cultural Resources study should be of the neighborhood around the park in addition to the park. There are many studies of what is at the park, but relative to the indigenous history there appeared to be treaty boundaries that went through the neighborhood. Pg 69: Additional technology upgrades are needed in the Street Car station. Possible restroom facilities could possibly added near the street car station.

Anonymous

Please do not reduce seating at the Pavilion. Rosetown is a treasure

4/23/2024 07:29 PM

and allows people of all ages to perform! I would never have even been to the park without rosetown.

Anonymous

4/23/2024 07:32 PM

Reduction of the concert space by such a large percentage is wrong and short cited. This public space has and will continue to be a great asset to St Paul and the whole area. Please consider what this would mean. A restaurant is great but let's not lose the public part of a community treasure. I grew up in St Paul and visit Como frequently. I know I speak for many who love what this pavilion offers the citizens of our area. Thanks

Anonymous

4/23/2024 07:36 PM

In general I concur with the proposed plan's emphasis on access and convenience. HOWEVER, I strongly object to the downsizing of the performance space by 75 percent. Every summer there are many performances that attract well over 500 people, some times many more. Reducing the audience space will mean many community groups that have had years of successful performances will no longer use the pavilion. Reducing the audience space to a mere few hundred implies a level of exclusivity that you really don't want to foster for a community resource. Please reconsider a method for retaining an audience size of AT LEAST 600.

Anonymous

4/23/2024 07:51 PM

Please don't do this. It's ugly, expensive and unnecessary

Anonymous

4/23/2024 09:00 PM

As someone who has lived nearby for 35 years, performed and attended so many concerts and shows here, it is astounding to think that any plan to reduce audience adn performance space is even being considered. This aspect of the PAvillion is so much of what is at the heart of its existence and vibrancy. There are plenty of ready eateries and restaurants on Grand and in ROseville. To affect a beloved and unique historical GEM by increasing restaurant size, is beyond anyone's understanding, and speaks more to greed and profit than community JOY and VIBRANCY! The Pavillion is a place of JOY for those of all ages, but especially seniors and their elderly parents, as most grew up going to the PAvillion. Thank you for allowing feedback and comments.

Anonymous

4/23/2024 09:01 PM

I understand the need for better bathroom facilities at the pavilion. Restaurants have not been popular/successful at the pavilion, so don't plan for one. Maybe winterize the Midway picnic pavilion and make that a restaurant. I love going to shows and concerts at the pavilion and enjoy being able to be outside but protected from the elements. Please be considerate of those shows and concerts and

the folks who attend them and do NOT eliminate seating space.

Anonymous

4/23/2024 09:16 PM

The Como Pavilion space has long been a center for music and arts for the community to enjoy. The proposed reduction in seating for these performances will limit the number of people who can attend. Please reconsider this extreme reduction.

Anonymous

4/23/2024 09:19 PM

I support improvements to the Como pavilion generally, but do not support the massive reduction in seating capacity. Community theater and band shows are a neighborhood highlight of the summer. Please do not change the stage location or the seating capacity!

Anonymous

4/23/2024 09:26 PM

Why would you ruin such a historic landmark?

Anonymous

4/23/2024 09:33 PM

I'm against the restaurant and for leaving it with outdoor/covered space with the same amount of room as it currently has so concerts may be given and citizens can listen and remain outdoors. No privately owned restaurant of any kind.

Anonymous

4/23/2024 09:35 PM

I feel it is important to have accessible bathrooms that senior citizens can access easily on the same level as the pavilion. Continue to have covered event space which is available for large events and plays to be performed. Update the benches and have more available in the pavilion.

Anonymous

4/23/2024 10:22 PM

The historic building at Como Lake should not be tampered with. The proposed addition is atrocious.

Anonymous

4/23/2024 11:08 PM

Please leave the seating capacity at the Como Lakeside Pavillion where it is currently at. It's a wonderful place to see shows in this area of town.

Anonymous

4/24/2024 01:10 AM

Hello, the Pavillion has always been a magical space to enjoy music and performances on the water. The proposed changes drastically alter the space's capacity to do this. The changes make this space considerably smaller and while I do think the bathrooms need improvement, the whole point of the space is to allow the community a public performance space outdoors, as there are not many (with the same capacity) to support this. Please reconsider this, as again, the point of a public facility is to benefit the public's access to see events

at the Pavillion. Decreasing the space in favor of a commercial entity, is not in the public's best interest. If anything, more space should be added to the Pavillion to accommodate larger performances to make it a summer destination. When some organizations perform in the space, there is barely enough space to accommodate the amount of people for the event.

Anonymous

4/24/2024 01:19 AM

Do not decrease the seating capacity at the pavilion. This holds many for the enjoyment to be had for a reason. You will lose functions if you decrease so dramatically their capacity.

Anonymous

4/24/2024 06:19 AM

There are so many great events that happen at this place that serve more than 300 people. It would be a great shame to negate the community of these things. One thing we look forward to every year is the Rosetown musical, this is a unique space for that and one of the reasons we keep coming.

Anonymous

4/24/2024 06:44 AM

Please don't make the pavilion smaller! We love going to see the Rosetown Playhouse shows there every summer, it's such a beautiful venue and it always helps support the restaurant and icecream shop too.

Anonymous

4/24/2024 07:10 AM

Please do not reduce seating capacity! So many wonderful arts groups utilize the space every summer. Why reduce? Simply renovate and keep the same capacity!

Anonymous

4/24/2024 07:25 AM

I applaud the plans to improve venue accessibility. I do not support reducing the capacity of the performance venue. I am a long resident of St Paul (my whole life) and of Como Park (30 years). The Pavillion is a unique and historic performance space for our community. The proposed plans change its purpose to serve the community to a purpose to serve retail business. We have plenty of spaces to go to a restaurant. We do not have any spaces like the Pavillion to view performances. The proposed plans have lost sight of this purpose

Anonymous

4/24/2024 07:31 AM

I'm concerned about the renovation plans for this wonderful community resource. The things we and our neighbors value most about the Pavillion are the concerts and plays we can go see there. We've eaten there various times too and found the food and dining experience to be good. To reduce outdoor seating is a big mistake. Many of the events held outdoors draw full crowds and the new reduced seating will not allow for everyone to attend, or for some of

the events to even be held there. The pavilion is a historic building and we should look to its roots when making changes. At its core were events. It was a place that welcomed the community in. We shouldn't redesign this place to better suit a business. The events held at the pavilion are one of thing main benefits of living in the Como park area. To get rid of them will decrease the value of the area.

Anonymous

4/24/2024 07:37 AM

If the plan involves reducing or eliminating the space for music I disagree with the plan and it shouldn't move forward!

Anonymous

4/24/2024 07:42 AM

Please preserve dedicated performance space at the Pavillion!

Anonymous

4/24/2024 07:59 AM

Hate this plan. The Como Pavillion is beautiful just as it is! Save the city \$ and spend it on something else that is in need.

Anonymous

4/24/2024 08:02 AM

The planned redesign for the pavilion is a travesty. The loss of the vast majority of seats in the theater area represents a loss of the arts in service to capitalism. Be better.

Anonymous

4/24/2024 08:02 AM

I really enjoy the theater, music activities that happen all summer long! It seems this plan would severely diminish these opportunities.

Anonymous

4/24/2024 08:09 AM

Why such a large reduction in capacity for the pavilion? The documentation you provided does not open well on devices, and when it does open there is not a clear indication of that change. A decrease in 75% capacity without much explanation does not make sense. Updates/upgrades are always welcome, but the heart of the Como area and that pavilion is that it can accommodate LARGE groups.

Anonymous

4/24/2024 08:13 AM

Please leave the pavilion how it is. It's historic and a fixture in the como park neighborhood just how it is.

Anonymous

4/24/2024 08:37 AM

Part of the issue with the Pavillion is the vendor that holds the contract to operate the restaurant. The food is not very good, the prices are too high, and the hours are bad. In particular, if there was a coffee shop open in the mornings it would be utilized heavily. The number of people walking around that lake starting at around 6am is quite high, even in the winter.

Anonymous

4/24/2024 08:40 AM

I live near the pavillion and go there often to listen to music in the summer. The benches are usually full. Why take away a portion of this beautiful space to give to a private restaurant? The restaurant is serving the equivalent of horrible processed fast food. Most TC parks have a unique food service with imagination. This place serves the same zoo food, yuck. The restaurant has limited hours and is rarely full. Never open in winter. Why take an inviting, open, covered space and shut it off to people? I moved here 6 years ago from the uptown area when I saw how the "improvements" were going to destroy the character. Its terrible there niw. I feel urban planners are doing the equivalent of a thesis project for their resume and leave disaster in their wake. This is poor planning or someones getting a kick back. LEAVE IT OPEN!!!

Anonymous

4/24/2024 08:47 AM

Another playground closer to the lake would be a big draw for families, make the park more accessible and enjoyable for all ages, and mix well with the current uses of the park and lake. Two spots I would look at putting it would be on top of the hill by the pavillion—contains the kids but close to food and vendors at the pavillion. Families would love to get food to go at Dock and Paddle and eat it up on the hill on the picnic tables while the kids play. Or I would put it near Schiffman Fountain—still close enough to Dock and Paddle but further away to space out the attractions so no one place becomes overcrowded, and the people who hate children can enjoy their beers and jazz music in peace.

Anonymous

4/24/2024 08:48 AM

Como Park Pavillion is a one of a kind, gorgeous building. All summer long there are musical and theatrical events and programs that are attended by so many people. Please, please, please, do not change the pavillion and limit the seating. IT would be such a huge and tragic mistake.

Anonymous

4/24/2024 08:54 AM

Please do not remove E Como Lake Dr. I, along with hundreds of other people use that road every day. Closing it will only increase traffic through the adjacent neighborhood and cause headaches for the neighbors.

Anonymous

4/24/2024 08:57 AM

The pavillion is a cherished historical bldg. that is well loved and used. It should be preserved and refurbished to keep its historical architecture and use of space. Making it smaller to put in a restaurant is not in the best interest of our community. Keep the charm of original bldg. It is grounded in our past. The concerts are usually well

attended and great for family and friends to meet and enjoy the natural beauty of the lake while being protected from the elements. Yes, to new seating and refurbished restrooms .

Anonymous

4/24/2024 09:10 AM

You can't reduce seating at the Pavilion for events from the current 947 to 225! The annual Rosetown playhouse shows is by far the best event that's held at Como park. It's a longstanding staple within the community. That and other theater and arts shows would suffer greatly with reduced seating.

Anonymous

4/24/2024 09:21 AM

Do not change the stage/audience opportunity for something unique like the summer musical, and concerts.

Anonymous

4/24/2024 09:28 AM

As a member of the public that frequents Como, I love the greenery and the parks, and I adore the pavilion. I've both cast in, and seen, the wonderful theatre there. The arts are already underfunded and cut all the time... Please keep the current amount of seating at the pavilion!!

Anonymous

4/24/2024 09:28 AM

Seems like you're giving up a lot of seats. I'm a big fan of the concerts and musicals in that space. Often there are over 500 people in there. This design makes that impossible. Not a good idea.

Anonymous

4/24/2024 09:40 AM

Please don't reduce seating to under 300! Keep the seating capacity at same or near same number. Thank you!

Anonymous

4/24/2024 09:52 AM

I love everything else in the plan but the actual pavilion design. It's rather ugly and takes away from the beauty of the building. The stairs is a great idea to access the lake/dockside from the patio, rooftop idea is hideous, and I can see that as a potential danger zone in the winter and now Parks would just have to put up a high fence gate around it. That would make it even uglier. And, that green room inside the pavilion balcony decreases capacity and took away the open space. Why not just find a way to add walls that are retractable instead of building such an ugly permanent inner room.

Anonymous

4/24/2024 10:02 AM

I'm worried about this plan as it will remove the ability for community theater and concert to perform to a significant audience. My fondest memories of this pavilion are from performing and attending events, and removing it would be a shame. I would hope the plans could be restructured to accommodate both the improvements and ability of

the arts to perform.

Anonymous

4/24/2024 10:13 AM

Please don't twice the seating at the Como Pavillion - the Summer shows put on there are such a wonderful part of bringing the community together in this time of isolation & solitude.

Anonymous

4/24/2024 10:19 AM

There is a speed issue on Nagasaki and Lexington that I think could be fixed with raised crosswalks or narrower vehicle lanes. I also believe there could be better surfaces (wider, smoother) for biking (wheeled traffic) as these paths end up feeling congested once there are scooters, roller bladers, bikes and skateboards on the path at different paces. Lastly, the pavilion needs some improvement, which I believe can help in keeping people involved in the park over the winter and less busy months. I think the proposed building is a good improvement, but needs to balance the ability to still have events that can hold more people (current seating being 950 is perfect, proposed building will be less without ability for overflow seating). Rooftop is a fantastic option that I fully support, I think this would be great in the summer.

Anonymous

4/24/2024 10:32 AM

Please make this space to build community

Anonymous

4/24/2024 11:20 AM

This outdoor space should be preserved for public use rather than given away to a privately owned restaurant. There are plenty of restaurants in the Twin Cities in downtown areas - don't need one in a public space! There ought to be laws against this!!!!

Anonymous

4/24/2024 12:28 PM

The plays and concerts at the pavilion should be high priority. Stage and lots of comfortable seating.

Anonymous

4/24/2024 12:38 PM

I rarely see the restaurant have even 50% occupancy, spend the money on refreshing the entire building and keep the band stand area the same size. Please don't ruin that experience for us.

Anonymous

4/24/2024 12:54 PM

We would find it tragic if Como Pavillion spaces got reduced in the pavilion to where Rosetown Community Theater and other events could NO LONGER happen. The number of families and older people who show up to this amazing multi-weekend theater experience is exactly why I am so proud of Minnesota and Como Park.

Anonymous

4/24/2024 12:57 PM

Please keep seating for Lakeside Pavilion to 900+seats. Please keep seating for shows and theater.

Anonymous

4/24/2024 01:06 PM

I love that the City is interested in improving the Lakeside Como Pavilion to better serve the public. However, I am baffled by the proposal's assumption that the public will be better served by gutting the theatre space in favor of more restaurant space. When I and the community think of the pavilion, we first think of theatre. We do not think of the restaurants that cycle in and out of the space. Having such a large, accessible theatre space for the community to enjoy is a rarity these days, and losing that beloved space would be a blight on the community and a slap in the face to the thousands of theatre makers and lovers who eagerly await the shows and magic they will experience in the pavilion each summer. Small-scale theatre spaces are not in short supply in the Twin Cities; large-capacity venues are one in a million. I think the desire to make the pavilion more suited to year-round activities/services is commendable and would serve the community well. However, these updates should be done while ensuring that the size of the theatre and audience remain comparable to the current venue. A green rooftop and the terraced stairs to the lake look beautiful. The need for first-floor accessible bathrooms is long overdue. I would love to see the community benefit from these improvements, but not at the expense of the pavilion's history as a music, art, and theatre venue. Como Park has been near and dear to my heart my whole tenure as a Saint Paul resident. I first moved here with my then-fiancé, married my now-husband in the Como Park Conservatory, took our wedding photos outside the Lakeside Pavilion, and found my community with the Rosetown Playhouse theatre org. The Rosetown summers at Como Park are just as important to Saint Paul residents as they are to our neighbors in Roseville. Though Rosetown was first just a Roseville-based org, they have undoubtedly become a staple in the Como Park community and are a valued Saint Paul member. I hope that the City honors the traditions that have been built at the Lakeside Pavilion and ensures that the renovated space does not destroy the positive impact large performances bring to our community.

Anonymous

4/24/2024 01:10 PM

The community needs this venue for theater and music. From kids to adults have put on spectacular plays throughout the years and it would be a crime to take that away from them and the rest of us who enjoyed cheering them on.

Anonymous

4/24/2024 01:13 PM

Please keep the concert seating. Don't give the space to the restaurant.

Anonymous

4/24/2024 01:40 PM

Please keep the pavillion! We use it regularly for our kiddos and love the live shows there

Anonymous

4/24/2024 01:53 PM

See comments next to bullets. I want to make it clear this survey tool is severely lacking in ability to effectively communicate. Can it be shared when there will be in person events we can also respond to? The attempts at community meetings have been presentations with limited ability to provide feedback, and questions asked were never responded to in subsequent communications. It feels strongly like we are being TOLD what will happen, and our opinions are not actually going to be considered if they are not in line with predetermined outcomes. Como Lakeside Pavilion Vision Plan Concurrent with the development of the Como Regional Park Long-Range Plan, Saint Paul Parks and Recreation worked with a consultant to analyze the Como Lakeside Pavilion and create a vision to upgrade and improve the facility to better accommodate public use and operations. Design goals for the Como Lakeside Pavilion Vision Plan are as follows: • Renovate and relocate bathrooms for accessibility. This is a good idea. • Maximize all space for public use. • Add vendors and services for year round use. I do not care about going to parks to go shopping. I do not care about vendors. We need one small food vendor, no restaurants and no need to make it complicated. No new kitchen. • Appropriately size spaces to meet community needs. – So we want to keep the Rosehouse Players. We want musical diversity. We don't want a smaller stage with paid admission or some requirement from a business to buy something. Things can be good and be simple. • Maintain the historic quality of this landmark building and upgrade overall aesthetics. Overall aesthetics how? By adding "modern" grey look or those awful metal chairs we see all over? • Promote community events and connection to Como Lake. Please define this by listing these events! I think there are a lot already. What would be new or change? Would it be accessible? • Direct amplified sound toward natural sound breaks. Why? We love hearing music in our yards. We love hearing the music across the water. Again, not a needed change from neighbors. Who made the specific recommendations for sound etc? Why was that determined? How many use the park recreationally and not as part of their job? I think that all of this feedback is just so the team can feel better about what they have already decided they want to do based on who knows original idea. Go back to the drawing board and start over on this one. I will look forward to a transparent publication of 100% of the comments submitted by this survey without redactions. Please note, that likely, a data request of that nature will be made. At meetings where there were actually enough time for comments, no one was in favor of this, and most were left confused about why a city with so many other needs is investing this much money here. We just want an updated stage, a coffee shop and accessibility improvements.

Anonymous

4/24/2024 01:55 PM

The least intrusive Pavilion plan cuts the performing/audience space by 2/3! The performing/audience space is the best feature of the Pavilion - there's not another covered, outdoor place like it in the entire metro area. Please do not ruin it by minimizing it and shoving it off into the corner of the Pavilion.

Anonymous

4/24/2024 03:39 PM

Make what you have functional and accessible. Do not spend my current or future tax dollars with a bloated project that neglects the needs of the local community, only to cater to risky commercial business while also reducing the capacity for existing thriving community usage of the pavilion.

Anonymous

4/24/2024 03:43 PM

The addition of a children's play structure would dramatically improve the family-friendly nature of the area and increase use by adults with children. There is currently no child friendly activities around the lake (kids don't like long walks!)

Anonymous

4/24/2024 04:04 PM

There are many people who enjoy the concerts and plays at the Como Pavillion. Reducing the seating so drastically will affect many people. You don't need to change the seating capacity.

Anonymous

4/24/2024 04:27 PM

The venue como pavilion is unique in its ability to host large outdoor events in the space. It would make sense to modify the orientation and move the audience so that they may view the water. Removing seating in favor of restaurant and kitchen space is ridiculous because it restricts access to the water for more people. Adding a kitchen with a lake view makes no sense. Placing the stage somewhere oriented so that people may see the water is important but assuming that any restaurant space should be under city control makes no sense and spends tax dollars needlessly with a future loss almost certain. The noise is something that lakes are good at allowing. Water allows sound waves to travel over it. If you don't like to be able to hear what everyone says on the lake don't live on the lake. Jason Brelsford

Anonymous

4/24/2024 04:51 PM

Please don't limit the audience size at the Como pavilion. What a tremendous loss this would be. So sad Mike Larsen 612-281-8597

Anonymous

4/24/2024 04:55 PM

I strongly oppose the plan to redesign the Como Lake Pavilion!

Anonymous

4/24/2024 04:59 PM

I am against the plan to redesign the Como Lake Pavilion.

Anonymous

4/24/2024 05:20 PM

I miss Black Bear so badly. When considering how to make the pavilion more functional, consider what we lost. Remember that the city actively destroyed an indigenous-owned business that was a pillar of the community? Remember that it COST the city to break that contract? Also, the golf course DOES NOT SERVE THE COMMUNITY. You want pickleball courts and disc golf and a dog park? Put them where the golf course is, so that more than a few dozen rich white people are able to utilize the green space there. Don't reduce the green space we have.

Anonymous

4/24/2024 05:27 PM

Please do NOT cut back the performing space at the Pavilion! We need this beautiful venue for concerts!

Anonymous

4/24/2024 05:28 PM

Keep the Como Pavillion as is. Just maintain it better. Renovate the basement. Put a business in there that will maintain it as part of the lease. Parks do not hire enough employees to maintain it properly. They build big beautiful facilities and do take care of them do to shortage of staff.

Anonymous

4/24/2024 06:49 PM

I do not think the out door cover area should be reduced in place of a larger kitchen/eating area. There have been several types of eating venues in the building non have managed to survive, you think a bigger area would make it work? I think not!

Anonymous

4/24/2024 08:21 PM

Como Park has been a family favorite through three generations... Now in my late 70s we can recall the Pavilion of our childhood years as a frankly old dump before extensive renovation. However, its large performance space has allowed for FREE entertainment for decades for tens of thousands of visitors. We hope that it will be remembered this place is about PEOPLE, not another high buck restaurant unaffordable to many. Audience space should be your first priority in order to allow Saint Paul to retain its finest regional park of all...THANKS!

Anonymous

4/24/2024 08:39 PM

Como Pavilion Redesign I have enjoyed Como Lake and Park for 13 years, living a block from the lake. Unfortunately I have found the City of St. Paul's management of the Como Pavilion and activities provided in the pavilion and park lacking. The city forcedly replaced Black Bear Crossings Café in 2015 with Como Dockside, a creole themed restaurant which they initially praised, to only have this close

in 2017. Next came the current restaurant, first known as Spring Café, and later rebranded as Dock & Paddle after new ownership in 2019, both of which continue to receive only mediocre reviews for both its food and service. One must ask how these restaurants and restaurant owners are being selected, and why the City of St. Paul can't secure a good restaurant for the Como Pavilion? On August 17th Pope Architects presented their plans for the rebuild of the Como Pavilion. The new design being proposed is rewarding an under-performing restaurant by giving them 1/3rd of the facility as an open-air seating area, plus another 1/3rd as an indoor restaurant and seating area, then squished the theater stage and seats into the remaining 1/3rd of the pavilion. The need to have viewing of the lake while dining and watching a performance was quoted, yet the proposed layout of the stage will have the audience not facing the lake, but does have the restaurant center stage (pardon the pun) and facing the lake. Pope architects were asked if they knew what the average performance attendance was after quoting a capacity of only 250 people for the new theater, and they said no. How can a community facility designed for community performances be redesigned with zero thought or attention to the performance function of the theater, or attendance levels of the theater? City council president Amy Brendmoen argues that the restaurant is not the issue, it is instead the poor layout of the pavilion that is the issue. I would argue instead that if the city would stop focusing on monetizing the pavilion instead of focusing on building a fun community-based facility, then the pavilion and Como park would thrive. Imagine a revitalized pavilion filled with community activities, and by chance having a great restaurant as well, wouldn't this drive the city's desired food sales and monetization of the pavilion? Some specific ideas immediately come to mind. How about turning the lower level into community activity rooms filled with events? Not to mention the completely unutilized second and third floors of the pavilion. People could rent the space for their clay class or martial arts class, monetizing the pavilion. Wouldn't these event participants also utilize the restaurant, further monetizing the pavilion? What ever happened to Friday movie nights, couldn't the Como Pavilion rival the Riverview Theater, plus offer unique movie treats and beverages? Why has there never been Winter activities and the pavilion open during the Winter? What about an ice rink on the lake with skate rentals?, Centennial Lakes is popular with skating, so why not Como Pavilion? Lake Harriet has a winter festival right on the lake, couldn't Como Lake do the same? And once again, participants would probably seek out snacks and food. Has the city ever considered having a farmers market during the Summer? An art festival during the Summer? How about a blues or jazz weekend music festival? Rock the Graden has collapsed, so how about Rock the Pavilion? How about craft and holiday events?, these are always special, with the opportunity to celebrate all cultures as well through these events. I felt this year was

one of the worst and slowest Summers for free community performances at the park and pavilion, and this is after watching the pavilion sit dormant for another Winter. The facility seems way underutilized, especially for the most beautiful venue in the Twin Cities. I think it should be the responsibility of the City of St. Paul to plan and schedule events for all seasons. This would be a great use of tax dollars, and might even make Como Lake and its pavilion the place to be in the Twin Cities. I agree with a redesign of the pavilion being needed, but the focus should be on the community and the performances and activities at the pavilion, not the restaurant and its profits. Monetization will come if the pavilion is crowded with activities. In closing, if a coffee shop is brought in, please make it a legitimate coffee shop, and not just an espresso machine in the corner of Dock & Paddle, plus maybe keeping it open year-round.

Anonymous

4/24/2024 08:42 PM

As a professional artist and neighborhood member, I can confidently say that nothing like Como pavilion exists anywhere else in the twin cities. Its large capacity and protected stage makes it possible for big community theaters, bands, and other groups to have a place to accommodate audiences of 500+ in our summer months. These large scale community events are so important to the health and vibrancy of our city. Cutting down the audience capacity would make it a less viable and less special place for the arts and community in St. Paul.

Anonymous

4/24/2024 08:46 PM

I'm appalled in the reduction of space for performances. I don't care about one more place to eat near Como Park. It's the theatre and the musical performances that build community. Go back to the drawing board, and give up the idea that a restaurant is the be all and end all. Just because something provides revenue doesn't mean it has more importance than community based performances.

Anonymous

4/24/2024 09:20 PM

I'm very disappointed in the plan to essentially privatize the Como Lakeside Pavillion to be of use mostly for the private on-site restaurant. This is a public park and jewel of St. Paul. Many people from our community enjoy concerts there in the summer from various music groups, and the plan will take that away from the community. It's not right for our tax dollars to be used to turn this into a private event venue that would greatly reduce the visitor capacity and end the tradition of Music in the Park.

Anonymous

4/24/2024 09:39 PM

The outdoor concert seating should be kept open to the public. I feel the public would be better served by promoting the plays and free music that is performed there. Once it is made into a private business

area it is likely to be gone for good. Other private businesses would feel that Como Park should be opened up to them too. Linda Raasch a Como area retire

Anonymous

4/24/2024 09:40 PM

Do not cut down on seating available at Pavillion concerts-they are very well attended. Como park staff supporting events has been very poor the last year or two from what it previously was,

Anonymous

4/24/2024 10:02 PM

Minimal changes seem best. The outdoor space by the pavilion should be preserved for public use rather than taken over by a privately owned restaurant.

Anonymous

4/25/2024 01:13 AM

I completely agree with the proposed closure of Como Lake Drive. It makes complete sense and creates a safer space for the pedestrian/bike use around the lake. The other part of this closure that has not been addressed/missed is the traffic flow/roads that will be used once Como Lake Drive is removed. Como Blvd E, in its current state cannot handle any increased traffic on it. It is too narrow in several areas and part of it is one-way... not to mention emergency vehicles fitting on the street. It isn't and shouldn't be a main traffic route. Traffic needs to be directed North up Victoria to Larpenteur or other main East/West streets. To ensure vehicle traffic follows the intended routes, road routing improvements need to be made such as: additional one-way roads to prevent vehicle traffic cutting through neighborhood streets, additions of dead ends, permanent road access closures, etc. This absolutely needs to be part of the discussion and plan of closing Como Lake Drive. I also agree with the updating of Como Lake Pavilion... it is long overdue and needs to be maintained going forward, so we don't have to do this again in 30 years. What I don't understand is why not separate the covered area in half... half for the restaurant and the other half for the entertainment/live music area (which is used a lot over the spring, summer, and fall months). Having the restaurant space in the middle is a complete ineffective use of the space... it leaves you with two small areas on both sides that can't really be utilized nearly as well if it were split in half. I understand that moving the restaurant from its current location would cost more, but overall the cost of that would be a very small percentage of the overall proposed \$38 million update. If you are going to make improvements to better use the space then don't do it half way... spend the little bit of extra money and do it right to utilize the space in the best possible way that will benefit everyone the best; half and half... not one quarter, one half and one quarter. Would you do that with your own house/building???

Anonymous

4/25/2024 07:19 AM

Our family enjoys the free outdoor elevated pavilion space. We cannot afford to eat out at a restaurant as the only option to access the site on our daily walks around the lake.

Anonymous

4/25/2024 09:36 AM

I born and raised in St Paul and have many fond memories of Como Park when growing up in the midway area one of them is the concerts at the Pavilion reducing the seating I think would be a really bad idea .. Garrick Meyer ...

Anonymous

4/25/2024 09:53 AM

As much as I support the Como Pavilion being updated (more accessible restrooms for sure!), I'm concerned that any renovation that drastically reduces audience capacity will fundamentally change the ability for the community to enjoy it as a performance space. It's a wonderful, unique thing to have a covered, outdoor performance space with a large audience capacity. Any audience capacity of less than 500 would cause that space to not be a viable performance venue for some groups that perform there every year. Performing at the Como Pavilion is a highlight of my summer, and living so close to a place with frequent outdoor events is one of my favorite things about living in the Como neighborhood. Please make sure that any renovations prioritize the ability for large community events, as that is one of the best things about this neighborhood.

Anonymous

4/25/2024 10:43 AM

Please, do not reduce seating for concerts and productions.

Anonymous

4/25/2024 11:55 AM

We love the Rosetown playhouse and it is a cherished way to make theater accessible to our communities. Both for folks to join and for folks to attend. This plan would reduce the space available for community events like Rose town Playhouse and make it impossible for them to continue to survive. Please reconsider this plan. Affordable and accessible community theater is rare and a treasure for all of us. Thank you for your good work in behalf of our communities

Anonymous

4/25/2024 12:41 PM

I am not in favor of spending 38 million dollars of public money to add to a restaurant by decreasing outdoor seating by 76%. Como Pavillion represents something really wonderful about St. Paul. It is a gathering space for music, concerts, plays, public meetings and private festivities. People stroll through with bikes, strollers, walkers and wheelchairs in the expanse of available seating during programming. I have often thought that the Pavilion could be better managed with better cooks, better seating, more advertising. Put the money toward improving the kitchen if necessary, hire a chef to sell

delicious affordable food, spend money on better benches, put money toward advertising programs, bring back public dancing. Use the space. Don't limit it. Thank you. Sherie Bosak 2 miles from Como Pavillion.

Anonymous

4/25/2024 12:51 PM

I don't want the performance area to lose so much space-I really enjoy seeing the Rosetown Players plays there and some of the concerts. It's kind of upsetting to me that the plan includes making the outdoor seating area so small to increase the restaurant area. The restaurants have not been successful and this just seems like a waste. I support fixing the basement and improving the bathrooms and bathroom access.

Anonymous

4/25/2024 12:57 PM

Please, as you plan for your changes--reinstate the sprung wood floor so dancers can use this venue. We have lost so many venues. We want to be able to count on you. L.K. Fifield, Keane Sense of Rhythm

Anonymous

4/25/2024 01:17 PM

Please do not diminish the Como Park Pavilion venue. It is important to provide a space that's adequate in size to serve the needs of entertainment groups willing to share their talents and passion with the public, maybe even igniting interest in audience members to join in and share the joy. Como Park Pavilion provides an amazing venue for gathering diverse groups who might not otherwise share the same space to enjoy the same events. The sprung stage and its current size is engineered to provide a safe and spacious platform especially for dancers. Ask any dancer about the difference between dancing on a sprung stage and wood over concrete...there's no comparison. A cheap, wood over concrete stage invites injury. Diminishing the size of this stage will greatly diminish the groups who will be able to continue to contribute to the long tradition of Como Park Pavilion and its entertainment accessibility to all. Simply put, if the stage is too small and too hard to dance on, groups will stop performing. Como Park Pavilion may become a dead space instead of the vibrant venue it is today. Please take all of this into serious consideration.

Anonymous

4/25/2024 01:25 PM

Please maintain a sprung wood stage. It is much safer and more effective for dancing ensembles. In addition, the current large stage can accommodate large ensembles and crowds. The same cannot be said about similar venues. Please maintain the large capacity to uphold this asset to the community events held in this space.

Anonymous

4/25/2024 01:35 PM

Cutting back the performing space is not a good idea. Decades ago I would go by the pavilion and dream of it being rescued and

reopened. The city did that, and I've enjoyed it ever since. I am also very aware that food vendors have had a tough time in that spot, several have come and gone. Cutting back on the outdoor area for the sake of more restaurant space is absurd. That space can fill up during performances, and is used in-between as well. With a dearth of similar spaces for performance in St Paul, covered and with seating, I very much hope that it will be retained in its current size. Thank you

Anonymous

4/25/2024 01:44 PM

As tap dancers we need to be considered in the dance floor and audience planning. An appropriate floor for the safety of the dancers is prime as is the seating area for the audience. Our audiences for the performances generally runs large so adequate seating with roofs is important. Thank you.

Anonymous

4/25/2024 01:45 PM

Please consider keeping the stage a sprung wood stage that continues to be big enough for large ensembles, a roof that covers the audience, and allows for large crowds. Como Lakeside Pavilion is a wonderful venue and its commitment to providing free events to the community is highly valued. Keeping the stage and the purpose it serves in mind is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Anonymous

4/25/2024 01:58 PM

The community needs at least one venue to accommodate Art. That means a stage large enough to actually perform on with a quality floor with seating capacity for groups of any number. It's sad that money and not people are making decisions.

Anonymous

4/25/2024 02:44 PM

Please do not close E Como Lake Drive!!!!!!

Anonymous

4/25/2024 03:36 PM

I would not be in favor of changing the outside stage on Como Lake. There is no where else in the twin cities where there is a nice big outside covered stage for performers as well as viewers. This is so wonderful in the hot summer. Performances can go on rain or shine. It would be a shame to change it to accommodate yet another restaurant.

Anonymous

4/25/2024 03:53 PM

I am a Como resident and I want to weigh in on this proposal. I truly cannot figure out why the restaurant, which is privately owned gets the seating preference for this remodel. I think that should really be rethought. I, for one, am NOT in favor of this renovation to include so much outdoor seating for a restaurant that doesn't even pull in that many people!

Anonymous

4/25/2024 04:16 PM

Please ensure that the stage and audience spaces remain large, as that is part of what makes this venue unique in the twin cities area! There are also so few outdoor spaces with flooring that is appropriate and safe for dance, and if the stage loses the sprung wood surface, it will not have the same draw for performing artists, or provide the same kind of quality cultural experiences to the community as it does now. Please consider this in your planning process!

Anonymous

4/25/2024 04:59 PM

FOR GOD'S SAKE, DO NOT ELIMINATE THE BAND STAND!!!!!!
WE DON'T WANT THE MUSIC TO STOP IN THE PAVILION!!!!

Anonymous

4/25/2024 05:07 PM

I hope that any renovation of the lakeside pavilion maintains seating capacity. I have enjoyed many well-attended shows there.

Anonymous

4/25/2024 05:28 PM

Reading through the long-range plan, most of the communities' comments were about maintenance and safety. For example, repaving of areas of bike paths that are filled with potholes and cracks. I think maintenance and upkeep is often overlooked and detracts from park experience, and should be the main focus of this plan, rather than adding in a bunch of new amenities. This especially applies to the Como Pavilion, which I saw hardly any comments about. This plan downplays/hides the effects of especially redoing the Como Pavilion. If the Como Pavilion is redone according to this plan, the seating for events at the Como Pavilion would decrease from 947 to 225. This would be a huge detractor from people going to the Como Pavilion for events. It would prohibit larger events, such as Rosetown Theatre, Hillcrest Theatre, Twin Cities Jazz Festival concerts, and Operatic performances from being at the Pavilion at all, and would severely the number of the people who could experience music in the parks at all during the summer months. Growing up in the Como Park neighborhood, I attended music in the parks events at least 2-3 times a week all summer long. I don't think my parents would have been able to bring me as often if the pavilion had a smaller seating area, where it would be harder to fit strollers, and easier to be distracted by loud kids. Even now that I am older and no longer live as close to the park, I still make a point to attend multiple concerts and performances at the Como Pavilion all season long. Having a big open covered space for concerts, performances, and events is very unusual in the Twin Cities, and should be celebrated and kept. The Como Pavilion is iconic and beloved as it is, and allows for equity in attending events with it's big open space. A sampling of those that attend music/theatre events at Como Pavilion that would NOT be able to if the space were smaller: People walking by and stopping for just

a half hour on their walk, families with children who may need to move around more or go to the back when listening to music, those with strollers or wheelchairs who need wide open areas to move around, and those with sensory needs who need more space. Not to mention, reducing seating from 947 to 225 would have a HUGE negative impact on community theatre groups and musician/band groups that depend on the size of the Como Pavilion to be able to function in the community and have a space to perform open to all. Minneapolis just repaired and repainted the Lake Harriet Bandshell and added accessible bathrooms, but otherwise kept the bandshell the same with the same amount of seating. This project seems to have been received wonderfully by the community, with much praise and acclaim. The Como Pavilion is the ONLY similar spot in St. Paul, and limiting the number of seating by a factor of 4 would hugely detract from it being used by the community. I'm all for maintaining the Como Pavilion (repairing, repainting) and making more accessible by adding accessible bathrooms for instance, but PLEASE don't take away the big open area or divide it up smaller. My love of music and theatre I can partly attribute to all the music and theatre events I was exposed to as a child in the big open space at the Como Pavilion. Please don't take that away from the next generation of children. Dividing up that space smaller and reducing event seating would definitely prevent families from seeking out events at Como Pavilion.

Anonymous

4/25/2024 06:53 PM

This should be a public space. I grew up in St Anthony park, worked at the Como Park Conservatory and at the pony rides when I was a kid.

Anonymous

4/25/2024 06:55 PM

No the city does not need an exclusive restaurant here. We need a vibrant public space that brings the community together and doesn't price us out of this public space.

Anonymous

4/25/2024 07:15 PM

The report begins with an acknowledgment to Native peoples, stating "As we consider that the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement has brought us to current day, we commit to understanding, respecting, supporting, and advocating for Indigenous People and for this land." If we take this commitment seriously, we should also recall that that the space at the heart of this project, the restaurant at the Como Pavilion, was previously owned and operated by a Native American businessman, David Glass, under the name Black Bear Crossings. We should also recall that he was wrongfully removed from this space in an effort led by then-Councilmember Amy Brendmoen and her partner, Mike Hamm, then-Director of St. Paul Parks and Rec. This process culminated in the loss of one of St. Paul's few Native-owned and operated businesses, alongside an

\$800,000 settlement awarded by the city following a judge's finding of a wrongful breach of contract. It is worth noting that Glass contended that the contract was terminated due to racial discrimination, specifically his unwillingness to comply with CM Brendmoen's recommendations that he reduce the restaurant's Native American decor. I have serious concerns about any report that claims to recognize legacies of violence and displacement of Native Peoples, while at the same time offering no recognition of our own active history of wrongful removal and breached contracts at this very site in question. When we choose to ignore this history -- one which also happens to be extremely relevant to the project proposal in question - - we are actively contributing to, and reinforcing this abominable history.

Anonymous

4/25/2024 07:54 PM

The stage at Como pavilion is a large, sprung wood stage where dancers and other performers can safely perform for the public free of charge. And, the audience has a roof over their head accommodating hundreds of people. Please preserve it or accommodate these performers in the new plan

Anonymous

4/25/2024 08:13 PM

I am appalled by the proposed changes to Como Pavilion. These changes ruin the pavilion for most of its current uses. Saint Paul should and must do better.

Anonymous

4/25/2024 08:16 PM

Please dont make it so small. It is a wonderful thing as it is!! It will be a terrible shame to change it. Bonnie West

Anonymous

4/25/2024 08:25 PM

Please don't change it. Why would take away seating? Then less people can enjoy the park.

Anonymous

4/25/2024 08:52 PM

The best use is for plenty of seats for the concert pavilion. These shouldn't be removed to expand the restaurant. Manu people come to enjoy the concerts there.

Anonymous

4/25/2024 09:15 PM

It is hard for me to believe that one of the most visited regional parks in the city is not giving more thought in expanding the use of the Lakeside Pavilion. These past few years it has entertained the area with plays and concerts and instead of reducing the numbers of people it could accommodate I would think you would want to expand the seating area and thus provide more reason for other venues to make use of the wonderful space as well. The Conservatory and Zoo have had marvelous "makeovers" since we moved here 50 years ago.

You could tell that much thought and planning went into those projects. I can still recall what the zoo used to look like :(I think the Pavilion could use some of that same consideration - expand not reduce the seating area!

Anonymous

4/25/2024 09:42 PM

While I understand the need to expand the restaurant, the current plan will reduce the audience capacity to one quarter of the current size. This will drastically reduce the number of customers coming to the restaurant and upend the usability of the space for theaters like Rosetown, musicians and private events. It will not be worth it. I am not sure how best to update or expand the kitchen, but reducing the size of the theater space is not the way to do it.

Anonymous

4/25/2024 10:13 PM

When considering design modifications and upgrades to the Lakeside Pavilion, please ensure that its use as a performing arts venue is prioritized. This includes being able to accommodate large crowd sizes. It is a beautifully unique venue which has served as an important site for many performing artists and the organizations that support them.

Anonymous

4/25/2024 10:13 PM

Please leave most of the pavilion space as public, as it is now. We appreciate being able to attend concerts and performances there every summer, and it feels more welcoming to have a space that is open to all and is not limited to restaurant customers.

Anonymous

4/25/2024 10:35 PM

I support the proposal to close a portion of East Como Lake Drive to add space for recreation. This will reduce conflicts and make travel easier on busy days for walkers, joggers and cyclists

Anonymous

4/25/2024 10:37 PM

Please PLEASE do not go through with this plan. Summer musicals at Como Pavillion are my favorite part of the summer. Please don't take away this entertainment for the good of the community.

Anonymous

4/25/2024 10:48 PM

Como Park is just about perfect, in my opinion, and a couple of years ago my family and I moved near it BECAUSE of it. I'd like to know more about the justification/purpose for such a big project at this point in time; so far all I've seen is conjecture about a population boom, mostly of older (>75) people. I'm not sure I see older people's needs reflected here. I know officials like feathers in their caps, but what about designating some sites as "to be maintained but otherwise left alone"? I just ask all involved to reflect on the idea of grandiosity and what "remaking" every corner of a city to make

everything basically the same really does to that city. The best way not to take away what is special about Como Park is to do very little to it, isn't it? It's always tempting to remake things in our own image.... There are many, many parks in the metro area to accommodate population growth.

Anonymous

4/25/2024 11:02 PM

Como Park is a wealthy neighborhood that already has plenty of green space and community space- and the Como Park lake, trails, and pavilion area are well used. We don't need to spend millions of dollars expanding and refitting the pavilion. There are other neighborhoods in St. Paul that would benefit far more from improved and expanded community projects and green space. Met Council could find much better uses for this money.

Anonymous

4/26/2024 02:04 AM

The historic pavilion is unique in that it supports a large # of performers - dancers, musicians, etc. Although I am in favor of improving venues, I do not believe changing the size of the stage or reducing the audience capacity under the wonderful covered area is the right thing to do. Also, whatever changes are made, please make sure the stage is still sprung wood stage which is the way it should be so that it is safe for dancers. Barb Newton

Anonymous

4/26/2024 06:03 AM

Lakeside Pavilion stage and seating should be preserved as close to original size as possible to encourage community activities of larger size, especially those that are free to all. Stage needs to support all kinds of performance artists, including theatre, musicians and dancers. Dancers must have a sprung floor, such as the one that is there now, for safety of the performers. This will encourage future dance shows to use this venue. With Cowles Center having closed this year many in the dance community are searching for space for relatively smaller audiences. The pavilion is a great venue but the stage floor must remain sprung. Thanks for these great plans.

Anonymous

4/26/2024 07:29 AM

Please retain the incidental dirt path around the lake, worn by runners and dogs , right next to the paved pedestrian path. As a runner, running around the lake for 30 years, I and many other runners use that dirt path intentionally as it's easier in the joints than the paved path.

Anonymous

4/26/2024 08:12 AM

I love this stage and have the opportunity to see many dance and concert performances there. It would be a shame if the stage was made smaller and especially if it was not a "sprung" stage for the safety and comfort of dancers.

Anonymous

4/26/2024 08:18 AM

Can't access the link!!!

Anonymous

4/26/2024 08:21 AM

I am very grateful for the improvements to our awesome park. I wish there was A LOT MORE DETAIL about the pavilion. For such a high priority and essential space, there was very little said about the actual plan. How we will learn more and weigh in on that? Please make that a top priority, too. Thank you.

Anonymous

4/26/2024 08:25 AM

Hello! Thanks for the efforts in putting this plan together. I would like to comment on the proposed changes to the Lakeside Pavilion. I am a member of the Minnesota State Band, which has performed at the pavilion for more than 100 years. We use no amplification to share our music with the public. Our music is a variety from patriotic, popular, to classic concert band repertoire. With the proposed changes to the pavilion, it appears the stage will be too small to accommodate the group. How can this long standing tradition of providing summertime music to inspire the public at the Como Pavilion best continue? Can design revisions be made to the proposed pavilion?

Anonymous

4/26/2024 08:48 AM

It is my understanding that the plans for the pavilion will reduce the audience capacity greatly and increase the size of the restaurant. The pavilion is unique and serves the community well as there is no comparable space for public performances . Restaurants abound in St Paul and have not been successful to date in that space. To sacrifice the performance space for a restaurant that may or may not succeed, and for which there is no compelling reason to be in that location is, in my opinion, a travesty

Anonymous

4/26/2024 09:11 AM

I am retired and now am taking up tap dancing.Its so good for my body and my brain.We have our once a year dance recital on the como pavilion stage.Its a wonderful place to perform with our large group of tap dancers.please don't ruin that stage so it's unavailable for us to do our large tap dance recital,thank you Mary Johnson

Anonymous

4/26/2024 09:12 AM

It is important to preserve the size of the stage and spectator capacity at the Lakeside Pavilion. There are many great events such as concerts and plays that would no longer work if the size is reduced.

Anonymous

We are not in favor of the proposed plans to increase the restaurant

4/26/2024 09:22 AM

size and focus of the Pavillion. Please preserve the event space and consider uses that will better serve residents who currently frequent the park.

Anonymous

4/26/2024 09:34 AM

I would love for the building to be maintained. However, I don't want the building to downsize the amount of seating for the theater space. The furniture is in disrepair. I do not want my taxes to go up AGAIN. Especially for a space that will mainly be used for a for profit business.

Anonymous

4/26/2024 09:36 AM

Please make sure the new stage by Lake Como is a sprung wood stage so that it is safe for dancers and performers. A sprung wood stage can attract more clients to the venue. Thank you.

Anonymous

4/26/2024 10:21 AM

This is a travesty. The Como Pavillion is an historic building whose integrity and history needs to be protected! Furthermore it is an elitist and racist move to deny our communities of this very inclusive community building and area.

Anonymous

4/26/2024 10:43 AM

We requested fir 9 yrs outdoor daily fitness in outdoor como pavilion like Wisconsin dies They pull club programs to outdoor parks We want to walk to daily group fitness and that pavilion usually is empty Parks and rec apparently blocks this We only have 60 days of hood summer weather

Anonymous

4/26/2024 11:05 AM

While I appreciate much of what is being proposed or considered for the Long-Range Plan, I am horrified by the thought of reducing seating in the Lakeside Pavillion. I've been a cast member in three Rosetown Playhouse productions performed at the Pavillion over the last 15 years, and will be doing my fourth this summer. Every single performance sells more than twice as many tickets as the proposed 225 seats that would be available under the city's proposal. I have attended other concerts and events over the years that have had many more than 225 people in attendance. There are plenty of other places to eat within a mile or two of Como Park. There are no other venues for live performances that offer the atmosphere and capacity that the Lakeside Pavillion offers. Please don't spoil this valuable community asset. Cory Springhorn, 651-403-3422

Anonymous

4/26/2024 11:25 AM

Please save the seating at this pavilion! It is a treasured part of the theatre community!

Anonymous

4/26/2024 11:42 AM

Hello City Staff and thank you for all of your work on this project. Our family purchased our first home and moved to the neighborhood in 2016. We absolutely love it here and love all the opportunities it provides for our families. I'm the Treasurer of a new 501c3 nonprofit in Como Park: The Como Ball Youth Baseball & Softball Association. We are having a great start with over 120 kids registered for our summer season. We've been humbled by the outpouring of support and financial contributions from the community. It is very exciting! We want to establish Como Park as a destination for youth sports in the Twin Cities and one of the ways we can do that is by providing high-quality facilities and fields. This year we will be renting the Como Pavilion Picnic Fields for our players. We'd love to see some improvements to these fields and we'd be happy to work with you and provide volunteers to make that happen. I noticed on page 56 of the Como Regional Park Long-Range Plan, Header: Development Concept, Picnic Grounds, there is a note that states: PG1 "Explore programming opportunities for underutilized space" We would love to talk about the possibilities for improvements for those fields and expanded programming for our league. I think this could be an amazing destination for baseball/softball games and tournaments for our 6-12 year old players. These fields are right by the mini-golf course, playground and picnic area. Families would love this! We'd also like to discuss the possibility of selling concessions and having storage available for our equipment around the Picnic Pavilion. I know the work that goes into executing plans like this, but fortunately, we can be partners in this. We want to see these improvements as much as you do, and Como Ball would love the opportunity to work with you to make these improvements. Thank you, Michael Brafford 1096 Kilburn Street Saint Paul, MN 55103 mjbrafford@gmail.com

Anonymous

4/26/2024 11:45 AM

As you look at budget and priorities, I hope you focus on affordable, achievable initiatives rather than huge capital projects. This is a great plan, Como is a place for everyone in our community, families, teens, seniors, please continue to make it accessible and engaging for all!

Anonymous

4/26/2024 12:09 PM

My comments concerning the Como Master Plan and Pavilion remodeling are in my attached letter to Mayor Carter. Thank you for considering my comments. Como Pavilion - Carter DPA.pdf

Anonymous

4/26/2024 12:39 PM

I think the Plan does quite a good job in reflecting public input and comments received. However, I'm hearing a lot of concern from performers at the Lakeside Pavilion regarding proposed reductions to the performance space. The plan only references the Pavilion study in general terms, but I'd like to see more opportunities for comment on that concept plan.

Anonymous

4/26/2024 12:54 PM

My family moved to Como park 7 years ago and the highlight for us by far has been living near to the lake so that we can walk over to the pavilion and enjoy all the events that happen there. We go to most of the live music events and the ones we miss we can hear from our house. As dancers we especially love the events where to live band leaves room on the floor for us to dance with a large group of fellow dancers. The other highlight of the summer is the annual Rosetown Playhouse performance. It is so much fun to go to outdoor theater in our beautiful pavilion! The kids love it! It is such a wonderful, community building event. We see neighbors, friends, and classmates there. It is like a giant neighborhood get together we can count on every year. The redesign of the pavilion would make these events very unlikely to continue. Right now it is a destination for people to come and join in our neighborhood festivities and if this was changed as proposed I'm not sure what gathering place we could have that rivals what we will have lost.

Anonymous

4/26/2024 01:19 PM

It would be amazing to get A playground near Lake Como, either by the Pavillion or Schiffman Fountain. Also great to have More vendors in and around the park—coffee, bakery, grab-n-go food—by way of kiosks, semi-permanent structures, food trucks, etc. Swapping out the baseball field near Como Town for pickleball courts would be awesome. And rebuilding the new pavilion to be in the same classical style as the current is my vote!

Anonymous

4/26/2024 02:22 PM

Rosetown summer shows have been a huge part of the community and bringing people together through song and dance. Some of my truly happiest memories are of performing with Rosetown Playhouse at Como every year, and I truly miss it.

Anonymous

4/26/2024 02:34 PM

I would like to have a sprung wood floor for the stage of the lakeside pavilion (as it is now). I would like to have the stage and the seating area roughly the same size that it is now.

Anonymous

4/26/2024 03:06 PM

Comp park is for the community not so much for private enterprise. Don't destroy the wonderful things you already have in the park such as the pavilion stage. If you need to add something find a place that won't destroy what you have.

Anonymous

4/26/2024 03:23 PM

Please make sure that you have a sprung wood stage with whatever plans you finalize. You are one of the only venues in the twin cities that has a sprung wood stage that can accommodate large groups of

performers.

Anonymous

4/26/2024 03:23 PM

As an out of town visitor I find the pavilions that dot the many lakes in Dt. Paul to be unique attraction. We discovered the Rosetown performances on one of our trips and continue to return each year, whether we were living in St. Louis or Kansas City. You can say they are an economic engine for St. Paul. In reviewing the proposed changes I deeply dismayed that you neglected to account for one of the park's attractions. It would seem the reduction of seating capacity would make it impossible to continue having the annual community theater event. think the plan has the unintended consequence of losing an important use. One that helps bring the community together while also supporting financially the city. I encourage you to take a second look and make sure the facility can accommodate such events that require larger seating. Thank you.

Anonymous

4/26/2024 03:49 PM

Renovate the Pavilion, but do not decrease the capacity. The pavilion should not be restricted to a select few who can afford to attend events there

Anonymous

4/26/2024 04:02 PM

Please do keep members and the community well informed on planning and decisions regarding the future of Como Regional Park.

Anonymous

4/26/2024 04:09 PM

We are concerned with the pavilion updates—we are afraid there won't be space for musical performance groups, which would remove a cool thing for the community.

Anonymous

4/26/2024 04:29 PM

I've lived in Como Park for 35 years, directly across the lake on the east side / opposite the pavilion. Even the so called "minimal" changes sound like a bad idea. Move the toilets and expand the kitchen, but the stage should face the lake itself. If there is money to spend in the area then fix the lights around the lake. It's becoming dangerous to walk at night.

Anonymous

4/26/2024 04:34 PM

I don't understand why I wasn't informed about the Lakeside Pavilion survey; I was invited to the meetings this winter for performers, and have been directing groups in summer concerts at Como for over 40 years. The plan as it stands ignores the main use of the Pavilion: a superb concert and theater performance venue. Attempting to change it to primarily a dining and banquet venue is a very risky plan as anyone in the food business will confirm. The Pavilion is currently THE BEST outdoor concert venue in the metro area; the Lake Harriet

bandshell doesn't come close. Any plan that reduces, rather than enhances, use of the space as a performance venue would be foolishly turning our backs on over 100 years of history. Sincerely,
Paul D. Husby, Director, St. Anthony Park Community Band

Anonymous

4/26/2024 04:50 PM

PG1 area (p. 56) was identified as "underutilized space". This space receives excellent south-facing sun exposure and hidden from public streetview. Therefore, please accept a proposal for less than 5 acre turfgrass nursery publicly accessible to Como Park users during Park Hours (w/ reel & roller equipment to be stored locally)

Anonymous

4/26/2024 04:54 PM

I appreciate and welcome any improvements to the paths, signage, picnic areas, etc., along with the efforts to increase native plants and protect the shoreline from erosion. Those seem like great uses of city money to make the park more accessible, as well as to maintain the beautiful natural habitat. I have issues with the pavilion renovation. Apparently, there was a prior survey that addressed the pavilion, but I did not see it when it was advertised (and I do live in District 10 - I'm a Como resident). Thus, I am sharing my thoughts now, and I hope they are considered. To begin, I think making the pavilion more accessible, moving around the bathrooms, and similar changes are appropriate and welcome. My issue comes with the addition of a restaurant and the significant reduction in the size of the stage and audience area. I don't come to a city park to eat at a restaurant; I'm confused as to why that seems to be the focus of the redevelopment. From the plans, it also looks like the new restaurant would be in addition to the food option that is currently there. How silly to reduce space where people can gather and watch the lake (while under cover from sun or other inclement weather), in addition to attending performances (many of which are free), and instead put in a restaurant where people would be forced to spend money. In the past two decades, there's been a rotating list of restaurants that have been in and out of the space that is currently there. Why does the city think a second restaurant will be a stable success? I also am really put off by the fact that the restaurant would be a space where you'd have to PAY to access it. It would be so sad to see a community space turned into something that can only be enjoyed by a select few. The food option that is there now (Dock & Paddle) is fine, there doesn't need to be more than that. (And even that food is getting more expensive every year, but at least I can walk through that space and utilize the covered outdoor area without having to buy food.) In addition, I'm extremely disappointed that the proposed plans drastically cut the stage/audience space. Performances, like Rosetown Playhouse, will not be able to be staged anymore. I go every summer to see those performances-- and they are consistently packed. I've gone to free showings there as well; also heavily attended. The covered stage is a space that is

being used and enjoyed. When performances are not being held, it is a space in which people can spread out, relax, and watch the water. It serves so many purposes. Why that would be reduced (to, again, make room for a restaurant) is baffling to me. I've also seen justifications for moving the stage (and thus reducing its size/seating area) based on the fact that under the current set-up, the audience can't see the lake. Well, when I'm watching a performance, I'm watching the performance. When it's done, I can just turn around and voila, the lake! I've never thought to myself "I wish I could see the lake" when I attended a show. So many of the long-range plan's projects seem worthy -- they make spaces more accessible, safer, and resilient to climate change or other environmental factors. Some of the changes to the pavilion further these same goals (moving the bathrooms makes total sense). But the other drastic changes proposed to the pavilion are unnecessary, costly, and seem to ultimately LIMIT who can access the space. I love Como because so many people use and enjoy it. I hope the addition of a restaurant and accompanying reduction in community space is reconsidered.

Anonymous

4/26/2024 05:10 PM

DO NOT TRY TO MAKE COMO PARK A MONEY MAKER. Pause and think maybe that is why it is a nice play to visit.

Anonymous

4/26/2024 05:50 PM

I am disappointed to see the plan to add more restaurant space while taking away from the outdoor seating for public concerts, theater and other events. We don't need more restaurants that will be under utilized and eventually closed because the privately owned enterprise doesn't make enough money. We need to promote FREE public opportunities to listen to great music and be exposed to live theater. I am very sadden to see that the public seating is being reduced by 2/3 and pushed off to the side while a restaurant with swinging windows and a lake view are added right in the middle of the space - WHO NEEDS THAT and who will be able to afford to eat at that restaurant - for sure it will be the upper middle class, not the ethnically diverse population that walks around the lake.

Anonymous

4/26/2024 07:18 PM

I live at 1460 East Como Blvd and if the plan includes closing the road around the lake it will cause too much traffic on East Como Blvd where many people walk, run and bike including babies. They were suppose to build a sidewalk 20 years ago when they paved but did not. If the road is closed I will have to move out of St.Paul after 68 years!

Anonymous

4/26/2024 07:45 PM

Ideas about the Como Lakeside Pavilion updates: I would favor choice 1 with the minimal changes and updates. I do not think we

need another high priced sit down restaurant since the last few have not been well managed. Being a longtime Como resident and Como lake walker I think a simple cafe would work best. This could be a place to meet, buy coffee and pastries and visit with fellow walkers and friends. Also, you need to do a better job at getting the word out about your plans and gathering public comment. Not every one is on the internet, gets email updates or goes to meetings. I would have your staff available around the lake at different times during the day and week to answer questions, hand out information and ask people their opinions about the Pavilion and other plans. I love the Como area and the Pavilion for meeting people and going to concerts. I'm glad to see the city is willing to improve the Pavilion and maintain that facilities. Every day I walk or bike and the city has done a good job maintaining the paths and the grounds. Keep up the good work. Take care.

Anonymous

4/26/2024 09:06 PM

Good music is a huge draw and beneficial to the entire community. Please offer more culturally diverse music. The community bands and barber shop quartets are getting old. When Molly Maher curated the music it drew huge crowds to the pavilion. It included African, Indian, Indonesian, Irish, Scottish, Americana, jazz, country, big band, rock, classical music and more. Each concert attracted a huge crowd. They even patronized all the frail, mediocre and expensive restaurant renditions from Black Bear to the present. People certainly aren't flocking to the pavilion for the food.

Anonymous

4/26/2024 09:39 PM

Please NO! Our family looks forward to the many amazing productions at the Como Pavilion and they simply won't be possible if you remove the majority of the seats!!! When do you stop caring for the community?

Anonymous

4/26/2024 10:26 PM

The Como Pavilion project is identified as a high priority with an estimated cost that is \$35 million. This plan is totally out of touch with the history of the pavilion and the greater needs of the park system and St. Paul. Please reconsider this!!!!

Anonymous

4/26/2024 10:53 PM

In my conversations with neighbors on the east side of the lake, most of them are totally unaware of the plan for the pavilion. I believe the outlandish cost and elimination of the large outdoor venue is shortsighted We will lose this unique space forever!

Anonymous

4/26/2024 11:00 PM

Hello, Please do not change the Pavilion. It is so lovely the way it is and the picture of the new plan is ugly. Restaurants come and go in

that location, but the lovely open area in the pavilion overlooking the lake is one of my favorite places. Please find another way to spend the money. Thank you. Joan Hutchinson St Paul resident.

Anonymous

4/26/2024 11:44 PM

I am disappointed to see the renovations for the Como Park Pavilion would significantly decrease the capacity for seating. My favorite event at Como is the Rosetown Playhouse's annual summer musical. decreasing the capacity would make this wonderful tradition impossible. What a shame that would be to the community!

Anonymous

4/27/2024 07:53 AM

Please leave the historic Como Park pavillion alone! The zoo and the rest of the park is already messed up! It's losing its charm. You want to cut down trees, and have more traffic? Please leave the area be! That new school that took St. Andrew's place looks like an Aldi store! Quit wrecking what is part of St. Paul's charm. I heard another person wants to make \$ off the renovation with a new restaurant in the pavillion. People don't want an overpriced restaurant smelling up the neighborhood. Save the history by preserving what we have. Better things to do in the city with the high taxes we all pay!

Anonymous

4/27/2024 08:12 AM

Priorities for St. Paul residents and families: 1. A playground near Lake Como, either by the Pavilion or Schiffman Fountain. 2. More vendors in and around the park—coffee, bakery, grab-n-go food—by way of kiosks, semi-permanent structures, food trucks, etc. 3. Swap out the baseball field near Como Town for pickleball courts and bocce ball courts. 4. The new pavilion should be rebuilt in the same classical style as the current.

Anonymous

4/27/2024 12:58 PM

Please don't take away this incredible theatre space! There are far more people that come for the performances than for the restaurant. The theater is an open public space and a jewel of the neighborhood

Anonymous

4/28/2024 05:06 PM

So proactive maintenance — Fix the roof when it needs it, paint it. Plant more trees. Nothing else! The pavilion is perfect. Do not reduce public access for a private company to enrich itself. Como Pavilion is a treasure.

Optional question (318 response(s), 12 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question