

## Arden Park Public Review Process

The civic engagement strategy included a series of three public meetings. Seeking to understand the desires and values of the community at the beginning was a critical piece in shaping the development of the Arden Park Concept Plan. About 800 invitations were sent to neighbors in the Arden Park neighborhood and northern Minnehaha Woods neighborhood (the area bounded by 50<sup>th</sup> and 56<sup>th</sup>, and Wooddale and France). The public notice also provided the opportunity to participate through the project website: [www.minnehahacreek.org/arden-park](http://www.minnehahacreek.org/arden-park).

### Public Meeting 1

We started with a blank slate, recognizing that a concept plan should be informed by the neighborhood and users of the park. Before putting a pen to paper, we convened the neighborhood in the first meeting and asked these three key questions;

- 1) How do you use the Park and what is valuable to you about the Park?
- 2) What issues or concerns need to be addressed with the Park?
- 3) What are your desires for the future of Arden Park?

Input from the participants was organized into five major categories; community placemaking, connecting with nature, water recreation, recreation (passive and active), and maintenance and safety. This feedback informed the draft concept for meeting #2.

### Public Meeting 2

We convened the neighborhood for a second meeting in November and presented the initial concept ideas to an audience of about 25. A series of small focus group discussions focused on the creek, facilities, and trails helped to further refine the concept plan and allowed us to check some assumptions. There were several themes that emerged;

- It was apparent that the neighbors viewed the park as a community resource with one participant saying, “the park belongs to the neighborhood.”
- Neighbors were in favor of a community meeting place, but there was some hesitation about improvements that would draw a lot of additional traffic to the park.
- There were concerns about the schedule of any future work and the funding source. The neighborhood had recently undergone a street reconstruction and have recent memory of the impacts and assessments.
- Flooding and drainage issues were a concern.
- The natural character of the park was of high value and there was a desire to have more opportunities to connect with the creek and nature through both passive and active modes, both in the Minnehaha Creek corridor and adjacent park areas.
- Nature, native plants, ecosystem health, and natural beauty frequently appeared in comments
- In-stream recreation included a wide range of users from adventure seeking kayakers to leisurely tubers. There was a desire for more access points from which to fish and view the creek.
- There is an opportunity to better connect the portion of the Arden Park Neighborhood west of the park, both visually and physically along Brookview Avenue.
- The trails, with multiple access points, loops, and types were well received.
- The permanent ice rink might accommodate a summertime use as a sanctioned dog park, as opposed to a sport court.

- Overall, the requests were modest, asking for upgrades to existing facilities. Residents indicated that the ice rink and warming house are highly valued and heavily used, but in need of improvement.

### Public Meeting 3

After assembling public input, input from the Park Maintenance staff, Council and MCWD Board of Managers the final draft concept and perspective rendering were developed and presented at a public forum on May 1. Attendance increased to approximately 50 residents. Questions and discussion focused on fish and habitat impacts as a result of the change to Minnehaha Creek, funding and schedule. Following the presentation there was at large support expressed for the project.



# ARDEN PARK RESTORATION CONCEPT PLANNING

## **PUBLIC INPUT SESSION**

Thursday, October 6 | 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Wooddale Church Great Room, 5532 Wooddale Ave., Edina

Join us for the first of three gatherings to envision a restored Arden Park, one with an improved connection to Minnehaha Creek, better opportunities for recreation, and improved natural beauty.

The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) and City of Edina are beginning to plan a restoration of the park and want to hear from you on how it can best serve the community. We'll be working with a creative landscape design team to create a plan for the park that improves Minnehaha Creek and serves broader community goals.

Learn more at and provide your feedback [www.minnehahacreek.org/arden-park](http://www.minnehahacreek.org/arden-park)



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**PUBLIC INPUT SESSION**  
**ARDEN PARK RESTORATION CONCEPT PLANNING**



## **PUBLIC INPUT SESSION**

Thursday, November 10 | 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Edina Public Works, Multi-Purpose Room, 7450 Metro Blvd (note: a different building than City Hall).

Join us for the second of three gatherings to envision a restored Arden Park. The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and City of Edina are beginning to plan a restoration of the park, one with improved connections to Minnehaha Creek, better opportunities for recreation, and improved natural beauty.

We will convene again on November 10th to share draft visual concepts that have been prepared based on your input from the initial meeting. We welcome your continued participation via the project website and community gatherings as we work together to develop and refine the Arden Park Restoration Concept Plan.

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# IMPROVING ARDEN PARK

[WWW.MINNEHAHACREEK.ORG/ARDEN-PARK](http://WWW.MINNEHAHACREEK.ORG/ARDEN-PARK)

RENAE CLARK • MCWD • [RCLARK@MINNEHAHACREEK.ORG](mailto:RCLARK@MINNEHAHACREEK.ORG) • (952) 641-4510  
JESSICA WILSON • CITY OF EDINA • [JWILSON@EDINAMN.GOV](mailto:JWILSON@EDINAMN.GOV) • (952) 826-0445

## ABOUT

Some major improvements are being considered for Arden Park that will restore Minnehaha Creek and enhance the user experience while keeping the park's natural, rustic character.

The proposed work is part of the City of Edina's commitment to providing excellent parks where residents can regenerate, connect, and enjoy nature, and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District's ongoing effort to restore its namesake.

We've used extensive input from local residents to put together a concept plan (*see reverse*) for park improvements. This input has included two public meetings with residents of surrounding neighborhoods and an online survey.

During the community meetings, residents described how they use the park, issues to be addressed, and desires for the future of the park.

## COMMUNITY MEETING

**Monday, May 1st  
6:00 - 8:00 PM**  
Edina Community Lutheran Church  
4113 West 54th St., Edina

Please attend to review the final draft of the Arden Park concept plan and learn about next steps.

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## CREEK IMPROVEMENTS

- Removes 4-foot dam, improving passage for paddlers and fish
- Adds 500 feet of stream through existing wetlands and floodplain
- Treats regional stormwater
- Contributes to more consistent creek flow
- Improves wildlife habitat

## PARK IMPROVEMENTS

- New walking trails and potential new bridges
- New park building
- Drier and more usable lawn area
- Retains existing playground and ice skating area
- New areas to sit and enjoy natural beauty of the creek

## FUNDING

A multi-agency funding plan that includes potential grant dollars is being developed. Details coming soon.



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