

IMPROVING ARDEN PARK

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS Vol. 2

The following is based on input we have received from the public about what they value about Arden Park. We are thoughtfully considering how the park design will reflect these values.

BALANCE

The conceptual plan proposed for Arden Park strives to balance natural resource improvements with community goals. The natural experience at Arden Park will be preserved and enhanced with consideration to public input we have received.

FISHING

The consultant working on this project is a national expert in restoring fish habitat. His experience fishing the creek below the dam and talking to proclaimed regular fishermen will inform the creek design. We are continuing to look at the impact of the 54th St Bridge on creek flow and the fishing hole.

RAPIDS

The conceptual plan replaces the dam with rock rapids upstream, which will be good for fish passage, safer for recreation, and will be aesthetically pleasing even in dry conditions.

HABITAT

The conceptual plan adds rock riffles and deeper pools for more fish habitat throughout the seasons, provides a flowing stream that will have more dissolved oxygen for fish and fish forage, and leads to appropriate nutrient and sediment dispersal throughout the creek corridor. Minnesota DNR studies have shown that biodiversity and ecological health improves after dams are removed.

COMMUNITY INPUT

We hosted 4 public meetings over the past year and asked for comments online to solicit community input. Public input informed the draft conceptual plan (*see reverse*).

If the project is approved, we will use public input we've received to update the conceptual plan to maximize benefits and reduce costs.

NEXT STEPS

- A community meeting is scheduled for mid-July 2017 to respond to input provided at the June 13 meeting
- It is anticipated that the City of Edina and the MCWD Board of Managers will consider the project for final approval in August 2017
- If the project moves forward, developing the actual preliminary design would begin in the third quarter of 2017, incorporating input from the public
- Agency coordination and the regulatory process would begin in the third quarter of 2017
- A draft design would be presented in the first quarter of 2018 and approved during the second quarter
- Construction would begin in the fourth quarter of 2018 and be completed by the end of 2019

FUNDING

There are currently no funding commitments from either the City of Edina or MCWD. The total project cost is approximately \$4 million. If the project is approved, we anticipate that the project cost would be shared across the project partners and would qualify for some grant funding.



The CITY of
EDINA



MINNEHAHA CREEK
WATERSHED DISTRICT
QUALITY OF WATER, QUALITY OF LIFE



DNR STUDY

Researchers at the Minnesota DNR studied how 32 barriers in Minnesota streams affect fish diversity.

They found that **"on average, about 40 percent of a watershed's fish species are abruptly absent upstream of complete or near-complete barriers."**

In addition, they found that pollution-tolerant invasive species, like the common carp, are abundant upstream of most barriers because they can survive low dissolved oxygen levels and warmer water temperatures that result from holding water back.

Aadland, Luther. (2017). River Revivals. *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*, May-June 2017. <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/mcvmagazine/issues/2017/may-jun/dam-removal.html>.



The dam when dry



The dam with water flowing

The dam dates back to at least 1938 and is one of the two remaining man-made barriers left on Minnehaha Creek that impair the creek's natural function.