



METHODIST HOSPITAL BOARDWALK

PROMOTING HEALING INSIDE AND OUTSIDE HOSPITAL WALLS

PROJECT BACKGROUND

For much of the first half of the last century, Minnehaha Creek was treated as a ditch for polluted stormwater. Land use decisions filled and drained wetlands and straightened sections of the creek, increasing the amount of polluted runoff reaching the water.

When Methodist Hospital approached Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) with a permit application for its new Heart and Vascular Center, both parties recognized opportunities to align our goals. This sparked a collaboration between Park Nicollet and MCWD to explore other ways we could enhance the Methodist Hospital campus while also improving the health of Minnehaha Creek.

The resulting project, which was completed in 2009, restored curves to the straightened stream, improving wildlife habitat and flood storage. The hospital complimented the restoration with a boardwalk, providing a critical link between environmental and human health. This is the birthplace of the Minnehaha Creek Greenway (see reverse).

PROJECT BENEFITS

- Improves water quality
- Improves habitat for fish and other wildlife
- Increases public access to the creek with a boardwalk, canoe landings, and educational signage
- Reduces flood risk
- Promotes healing



The creek before restoration



The creek after restoration

“What we once considered a nuisance is now our greatest asset. Having a healthy stream and wetland incorporated into our Methodist Hospital campus differentiates us from other health care facilities. This place of healing now promotes well-being inside and outside of its walls.”

- Duane Spiegle, VP of Real Estate and Support Services, Park Nicollet Health Services

METHODIST HOSPITAL FLOOD WALL

Record rains in 2014 pushed Minnehaha Creek out of its banks for much of that summer. At Methodist Hospital the overflowing stream threatened to cut off access to the loading dock and interrupt the delivery of life-saving medical supplies.

To protect its operations from future flood events, the hospital explored building a permanent wall between the creek and loading dock. Working together early in the design process, the hospital and MCWD found an enhanced solution that resulted in a plan that improved both the creek and the hospital campus.

The project protects the hospital from future flooding, created essential floodplain storage, restored a wetland, and improved ecological diversity.



MINNEHAHA CREEK GREENWAY

Since the initial partnership with Methodist Hospital, MCWD has carried forward its momentum, creating a greenway around Minnehaha Creek. The Greenway offers a unique connection to the creek for the surrounding neighborhoods and businesses, turning what was once a barrier into an attraction.



For more information about these projects, visit www.minnehahacreek.org.