

DT Park: Principles and Guidelines

Approved by the Park Committee on August 14, 2014

Vision

“The Yard in the heart of our City”

Principles

An everyday space... that serves the needs of area residents, workers, and visitors in all seasons, day and night. It will be a retreat that puts people first and accommodates daily rituals like dog walking, lunch seating, free play, family and youth activities or just taking a moment’s respite. Its active and passive areas will create synergy and be inviting for all ages and abilities. It will be designed to create long lasting memories for its occasional visitors and will be a cherished place by its frequent users.

An event space ... that is the downtown gathering place. It will be a place for year-round outdoor events in downtown. It will be a space that accommodates and amplifies the energy and excitement of stadium and community events. It will consist of varied programs. It must be designed to accommodate large park-wide “once in a decade” events such as the Superbowl, to regularly hosting thousands of people for stadium events, to hosting “once a week” events such as movies and smaller events.

Design Guidelines

- **Create a premier urban destination that draws users from around the world and serves as a retreat for the community.**
 - Captivate the imagination through bold playful design; with compelling landscapes, spaces and features.
 - Exemplify the essence of Minneapolis.
 - Seize the opportunity to become a signature park for Minneapolis & Minnesota.
- **Design the park to support programming for a sustainable long term operating model.**
- **Establish compelling reasons to make this urban space a vital part of daily life, attracting recurring visits, public celebrations and large events.**
 - Create a smart playful design that makes the park versatile and functional for a wide spectrum of demands from major events to individual activities.
 - Strive for a design that serves as a retreat with lush vegetation and tree canopy.
 - Design spaces, features, and infrastructure within the park to be multifunctional, creative and efficient in their use of space.
 - Anticipate event needs such as structures, security, lighting and noise mitigation and seamlessly integrate those features into the park design.
 - Seek to align the design of temporary structures with the design of the park.
 - Strive to integrate art into the *infrastructure* of the park.
 - Design for the important synergy and cooperative programming between the park and the stadium.
 - Pay attention to basic visitor services and creature-comforts like security, restrooms, refreshments, and places to sit, cool off or warm up.
 - Design for synergy between active and passive uses.
 - Design for universal access that creates a safe and welcoming place for all.
 - Seek to integrate opportunities for sport and exercise.
- **Complement and connect the park to the adjacent properties, neighborhoods, the full system of downtown public spaces and the downtown core.**

- Establish physical and programmatic relationships with the adjacent neighbors. Including, but not limited to:
 - The Downtown East LRT Transit Station and plaza
 - The Stadium's Plaza and the Stadium
 - The Armory and all other adjacent buildings
 - Skyway access points
 - 5th Street
 - 5th Street Residential building
- Create strong, visually appealing, approaches to the park from key site lines and access points. Including:
 - Downtown East LRT Station: The park, along with the stadium and its adjoining plaza, will serve as the front door to downtown for many visitors.
 - Portland Avenue: The street presents a clear connection with the Mississippi Riverfront and the design should reinforce a legible connection to the river, the park and the Downtown East Station.
 - 5th Street and 5th Avenue Edge: This is the closest corner of the park to the downtown office core and a clear legible connection to the West down 5th Street is needed.
- Invite users into the park through permeable streetscape edges.
 - Avoid permanent walls and fences along the periphery of the park.
- **Prioritize pedestrians and bicycles over vehicular traffic on Park and Portland Avenues through the blocks of the park.**
 - Utilize design features to allow the park to function seamlessly as one singular space. Examples include, but are not limited to, reductions in vehicular lanes, varied paving treatments, reduction or minimization of curbing and integrated ability for temporary closures.
 - Include bicycle parking.
- **Integrate an ecological and resilient ethos into its design.**
 - Base the design in best practices for ecological and resilient design. Consider things such as:
 - Net-zero energy use
 - Water harvesting and reuse
 - Carbon neutrality
 - Local sourced materials
 - Change in climate,
 - urban heat island and energy use
 - Resilient vegetation
- **Consider integrating the history of the site and area into the park's design.**

Programming Guidelines

- Actively program the park with year-round events and activities that draws a diverse range of people.