

Neighborhood Priority Plan for East Isles

The East Isles neighborhood is home to some of the city's most beautiful parks. Lake of the Isles, The Mall, Joanne Levin Triangle Park, and Smith Triangle are all located within our boundaries. The East Isles Residents Association (EIRA) would like to engage with the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board to make improvements to these and other public lands through the Neighborhood Priority Plan process.

Our parks are important amenities and the neighborhood has a history of supporting and protecting the vibrancy of these parks:

- East Isles contributed over \$425,000 of our NRP Phase I dollars toward Lake of the Isles restoration and trail repair/replacement.
- Results from our NPR Phase II priority setting survey to residents (Sept 2010) indicated that 87% of respondents use Lake of the Isles and surrounding trails/park on a weekly basis.
- Our NRP Phase II Action Plan dedicated 13% of our total allocation to improving the quality of public land in East Isles.

EIRA would like to ensure the beauty of our parks for years to come. The Mall serves as a graceful transition from the activity of Uptown to the quiet East Isles neighborhood streets. The design of the new Walker Library offers a great opportunity to enhance the parkland around the new library to make a better connection between the park and the library. Other areas for improvement of The Mall include replacing park benches, planting new trees and making a better connection with the Midtown Greenway.

In 2012, the MPRB completely refurbished Joanne Levin Triangle Park, a beloved neighborhood community park. Neighborhood funds may be available to supplement and enhance the vegetation of the park.

EIRA is interested in making improvements to Smith Triangle Park. This park is the front door to the East Isles neighborhood (from Hennepin Ave). In 2012, EIRA formed the Smith Triangle Park Subcommittee to explore opportunities to make the park more inviting. The committee did extensive research on the Thomas Lowry Monument that resides in the park. A survey was sent to all East Isles residents asking for suggestions to enhance the park and for ideas regarding the monument. Most respondents reported that they think the park is neglected and efforts should be made to improve landscaping and that the Lowry monument needs cleaning and maintenance. Many respondents mentioned that the park should have more inviting amenities.

EIRA looks forward to engaging with the Park Board to explore opportunities and to discuss how we can help leverage resources to protect these precious community assets.

Priority Setting Process

In September, 2012, the EIRA Board conducted a half-day strategic planning session and to identify priorities to bring forward to the broader community at EIRA's Semi-Annual meeting in October 2012.

The Semi-Annual meeting was advertised in the local paper (*The Hill and Lake Press*), through our e-newsletter and on our website. The meeting included a guest speaker (Minneapolis parks historian David Smith) to help boost attendance.

The meeting featured a presentation of the priorities identified by the Board as well as an open forum to share new ideas. EIRA President Dan McLaughlin led attendees through a priority setting exercise. The result: the majority of the votes (59%) favored improvements to parkland in the neighborhood.