

LEARNING TABLE #9: GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE - NOTES

Minneapolis Public Works plans to reconstruct the intersection of 38th & Chicago (George Perry Floyd Square) and will begin this effort by engaging with the community. Engagement throughout the project is intended to help redesign the area in a way that reflects community needs.

Learning Table #9: Green Infrastructure



Learning Table: Green
Infrastructure; June 26, 2023



Upcoming Learning Table: Metro Transit
July 24, 2023 ; 6pm; Sabathani Community Center

Created by Public Policy Project, The Learning Table provides the “learning water”; a place to ask critical questions and develop the “learning glue”; a place to develop relationships, create partnership, share ideas, and make commitments, to explore for incorporation in the 38th & Chicago Re-Envisioned Project. At the Learning Table, we Learn Together; Create a Shared Approach; Coordinate Efforts; and Ensure Community Benefit.

The ninth learning table topic focused on a discussion on community resilience through green infrastructure. During this Learning Table, guest facilitators from Minneapolis Public Works, SRF Consulting, and Ten X Ten Landscape Architecture and Urbanism provided an overview of green infrastructure around the intersection of 38th and Chicago. Topics included the differences between green infrastructure and sustainable landscaping, why green infrastructure is important, and how plants can provide environmental, social, cultural and economic benefits to the community.

The session was co-facilitated by James Trice, Public Policy Project and Sharice McCain, NEOO Partners. Following the presentation attendees were given question prompts to explore at their tables in small groups. The notes below provide the raw transcription of the public response to the prompts.

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People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. TTY users call 612-673-2157. Para asistencia 612-673-2700 - Rau kev pab 612-673-2800 - Hadii aad Caawimaad u baahantahay 612-673-3500



What We Heard

The 21 attendees of the ninth Learning Table were presented with questions to discuss and answer in small groups.

What green spaces or infrastructure currently exist in the area? Are there green spaces you are familiar with in other places (nationally/locally) that you would like to see?

- “Say their Names” Cemetery and the stormwater pond
- We would like to see a community garden or Sculpture Garden
- Trees (Willow Tree for example) that form a canopy over the street between 13th ave NE and 15th Ave NE would be an example
- Green House
- Natural cooling station (trees)
- Natural ecosystem in the pond @37th ave (Ducks, owl, eagle, muskrat, etc)
- Powderhorn Park
- Phelps park
- Bancroft School Grounds
- Meditation garden
- Bridge over the pond where people can through in coins



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What historical and cultural themes would you like to see reflected in the design of green spaces?

- Prairie Grass
- Land Acknowledgement
- To let the memorial dictate the landscape so they can be in harmony
- How do we make the trees say “BLM”
- An architectural vision that will help make the place feel whole
- Herb garden- many cultures represented (Fruit, herbs, Vegetables, flowers)
- Having blooming plants
- Ways to engage further w/ greenhouse → it is the future
- More boulevard food gardens
- Tree in the middle of the street
- Incorporating the Sankofa Bird and the Haitian Revolution tree of liberty
- Native Grasses

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Based on the options presented, which options do you think make the most sense? Are there any additional options we should consider?

- MLC- Statue of George Floyd
- Benches
- Water fountains
- Public oval table
- Permanent sidewalk
- Edible herb garden
- Green round-abouts at surrounding interactions (Four more fist)
- Anti-racist movement/organization present
- No Justice, No streets
- BLM
- Let the memorial dictate the landscape
- Redevelopment of street design and correcting urban heat island
- Indigenous wisdom → land back
- We want the space to be in harmony with the memorial and we are flexible as to what that looks like
- Feels like they are telling us what they are going to do



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What role are you willing to play in maintaining vibrant green infrastructure at George Perry Floyd Square?

- Artistic face-lift in the Speedway and Unity Store and Cup Foods
- Learn the note that green space laces in the vitality of a city
- Advocate for the inclusion of milkweed into the green space
- We will participate in programming
- Shout out to the Caretakers, they are already doing a lot of the work

Additional Comments:

- George Floyd Sign
- More trees on Chicago and 38th
- Vine-covered dressing spot for peoples closet
- Pet-friendly spaces: a space where dogs can be.
- This program feels like a distraction, not addressing the issue at hand: the killing of George Floyd. We need to anchor a process around a plan for an anti-racist organization center. We're seeing the ways that white supremacy characteristics show up in institutions through this process.

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