

Park Committee: Vision, Principles, & Guidelines

DRAFT

VISION

This will be developed with the Park Committee. This is the "elevator speech" that describes the defining characteristics of the Park in terms of function, performance and design.

PRINCIPLES

The following are applicable excerpts from the Vision and Principles developed for the Stadium by the Stadium Implementation Committee. These draw from the Design and Planning Principles from that document. Where applicable, the references to the stadium or plaza have been edited to say "Park". This is intended to serve as starting point for the Park Committee's discussion of Principles on December 12, 2013. There are duplicates in the statements as they were originally developed in reference to the stadium and its plaza.

A place . . . that activates its surroundings and creates a memorable experience for fans on game day and for nearby residents, workers, and business owners every day. It will provide a seamless transition to nearby properties while promoting public safety and accessibility. Public spaces will be versatile and friendly for all users and include landscape features designed to reflect the four seasons and be usable and attractive year round. The resulting stadium building, site, and plaza will stand as a national example for best sustainable practices for this type of facility. The resulting stadium building, site, and plaza will also stand as a national example for best accessibility practices for this type of facility and make Minneapolis the home to the three most accessible stadiums in the country. The design team shall consider the following when designing the site and surrounding area and the plaza:

A neighborhood . . . where the stadium stimulates high-density, mixed-use development of varying scales and styles that is designed to be transit-oriented. The vibrancy of this area will be expressed through enhanced connections to places of interest, activation at the pedestrian level, and shaping a quality public realm through infrastructure improvements and landscaping. It will be a place that prioritizes the pedestrian, safety and the sustainability goals of the city and it will become a valued and welcome place to live, work and play, day and night, and all year round. This will be a neighborhood:

Function & Use

1. Create a bold, iconic, urban park and world-class outdoor destination that stands up to and complements the stadium design.
2. Make the park a cherished community destination that is flexible, multi-functional and beautiful to look at, walk by, and pass through every day, day and night, year round, and through the winter, even when it is not in use.
3. That integrates the best principles of park design and programming in a dense, mixed-use community.
4. The Park attracts residents, business, and investment, and helps catalyze the area to become a true, mixed use urban community.
5. That engages with the stadium, supporting commercial activity and flexible formal and informal programming and use by stadium events

6. That engages with the community, supporting activity and flexible formal and informal programming for every day, day and night, and all year round including the winter months.
7. That encourages activities and uses for people of all ages, including the growing number of families living in and visiting Downtown.
8. Integrate family-friendly features for use on game days and for neighbors year round.
9. Integrate public art into the infrastructure of the plaza space.
10. Design to allow active programming and use on game days and every day.
11. Use high-quality materials - ranging from paving and trees to lights and street furniture – to create a memorable urban experience.

Connections & Systems

1. That encourages commercial uses on the ground floor of buildings that surround and are nearby the Park that promote extended hours of operation in pursuit of city streets that are lively at appropriate hours of the day and night.
2. Supports growth and reinvestment in Downtown East, Elliot Park, and Cedar Riverside by improving walking, biking, and transit connections between them and placing people, pedestrians, and cyclists first over vehicles.
3. That uses green corridors and view corridors to connect the site and area to the Mississippi River, enhance 5th, Portland, Park, and Chicago Avenues, strengthens connections between the riverfront, Cedar Riverside, Elliot Park and the Central Business District.
4. That stimulates and enables the growth of existing corridors and including the Chicago Avenue commercial corridor and the Washington Avenue arts corridor and that strengthens connections to existing cultural and community assets in the surrounding neighborhoods.
5. That creates green corridors by integrating strong streetscape design features such as continuous street tree canopy, pedestrian and bicycle systems, public art, seating opportunities, rain gardens, “sensory” gardens, and storm water management systems.
6. Ensures safe, enjoyable, and accessible pedestrian routes to the stadium and other nearby destinations through strategies such as wider sidewalks, trees, landscaping, and street furniture.

7. Design the Park as a 21st Century urban landscape with an ecological ethic rooted in natural and cultural processes that integrate storm water management, native plants and regional materials.
8. Implement a landscape design that is lush and green to attract people to the park from the neighborhoods to the north, south, and east, the downtown core to the west, and the Mississippi River.
9. Include a generous tree canopy to provide shade, wind protection, and reduce heat-island effects.

10. Make the Park a safe place by using principles of crime prevention through environmental design. Incorporate physical features designed for people and activities that maximize visibility and natural surveillance to foster positive social interactions.

11. That is safe and utilizes the principles of crime prevention through environmental design (CPETD) to maximize visibility and natural surveillance and foster positive social interactions.
12. Coordinates with planned infrastructure improvement projects in the surrounding area to eliminate barriers and enhance connections between the neighborhoods and to the Mississippi River.
13. Integrates the LRT station into the Park & Stadium development as much as is feasibly possible
14. Improves the experience for transit users at the Downtown East LRT station during peak times – such as after Vikings games – through consideration of queuing space, loading times, and overall safety and comfort.
15. Where surface parking lots are replaced by development over time and tail-gating and game day parking is accommodated increasingly on closed-off public streets, plazas, and parks.
16. Integrates bicycle connections and amenities within the Park and throughout the surrounding area.
17. Manages the role and impact of automobiles in a multi-modal transportation system.
18. Encourages sustainable, long-range economic growth and development that benefits the larger region and increases regional equity by supporting city and county policies related to the attraction and retention of women- and minority-owned businesses and the creation of a diversified workforce through the use of inclusionary hiring practices in the creation of permanent jobs.

GUIDELINES

This will be developed with the Park Committee. The guidelines will provide specific direction on those aspects of park design, performance, program, vision and principles that are deemed critical to a successful outcome and fulfillment of the vision.