



**EVENT RECORD**  
Loring Park Neighborhood Master Plan

---

January 22, 2011

**Community Workshop III**  
**Designing a Sustainable Neighborhood**

**Event Preview** (published ahead of the event by web & email)

**Event Summary & Results**

Warm Up

Station #1 Perimeter Linkages

Station #2 Placemaking & Internal Connections

Station #3 Sustainable Solutions

**Event Notes** by Jana Metge





## EVENT RECORD

### Loring Park Neighborhood Master Plan

---

## Event Summary

*by Peter Musty, updated January 28, 2011*

A lively community design session was conducted Saturday, January 22nd, at the Hennepin United Methodist Church on Hennepin. About 35 Loring Park residents and stakeholders participated in a three-part session, facilitated by a consulting team put together by Peter Musty LLC and Creative Community Builders (CCB). The goal was to engage the neighborhood in both blue-sky thinking and practical change concepts.

### Video

An eight minute video by MTN summarizing the master plan effort was played for participants. This can be downloaded

### Presentation

Peter Musty ....

### Warm-Up

The first part included a physical and verbal warm-up led by CCB associate, Harry Waters Jr., a theater artist and professor at Macalester College. Participants got up and moved and interacted, exercising speaking and listening skills. A rope exercise was employed to challenge folks to learn and work together.

### Three Teams, Three Design Stations

Participants were split into three teams, equal parts 'idealists', 'realists', and 'moderates'. They were asked to name their team, and were told they would be visiting each of the three station for twenty five minutes each.

[Walkability, Inc.](#)

[Loring United](#)

[Air Loring](#)



## EVENT RECORD

### Loring Park Neighborhood Master Plan

---

## Station I: Perimeter Linkages

The challenge issued was:

***“Today at Station I...  
How do we achieve complete multi-modal  
connectivity to surrounding districts?”***

Bill Weber of the Master Plan consultant team facilitated the exercise, challenging each team to identify the range of solutions for achieving greater connectivity in all directions.

### Walkability Incorporated

- continue I-94 tunnel farther north to create opportunity for a plaza
- when tunnel is rebuilt make a two level tunnel to avoid horizontal expansion and harm to the churches of the Walker art museum
- improve pedestrian/bike traffic across the Hennepin/Lyndale bottleneck
- rebuild the confluence of Hennepin the Lyndale Avenues over the I-94 tunnel as a roundabout
- build office and retail space over I-94 at the Nicollet Avenue bridge
- improve Lyndale Avenue for pedestrians and bicyclists from the Dunwoody Institute to the Farmer’s Market
- develop public transit in a circular route around the downtown – both for pedestrians and vehicles
- build pedestrian access to and from the Loring Greenway at LaSalle Avenue
- develop streetcar service on Nicollet Avenue



### Loring United

- ensure security, especially along Nicollet Avenue
- improve biking!
- no more freeway access
- remember Greyhound & Megabus
- provide for wheelchair movement



## EVENT RECORD

### Loring Park Neighborhood Master Plan

---

- multi-modal – combinations
- difficulties now:
  - south – Lyndale underpass a little scary
  - northwest – walk to Farmer’s Market...convoluted, unclear route
  - west – Armanji Bridge much used
  - northwest – 12<sup>th</sup> Street route needs improvement
  - west: 15<sup>th</sup> & Hennepin!
    - Extend the Lowry Hill Tunnel north – a park on top.
  - west: Dunwoody Blvd under I-94
  - west: route to future Van White Boulevard
  - west: bike link to Cedar Lake Trail
  - southwest: to the lakes
- bike route across park

#### Air Loring

- safe vs scary
- needs clear bike route across freeway to Farmer’s Market
- 15<sup>th</sup> & Hennepin – KEY CROSSING
- build a ped-bike overpass at Hennepin & Groveland!
- Improve the connections to Stevens Square and Uptown
- build an aerial tram from Clifton down to the park (not serious)
- the Loring Greenway underpass is too dark

#### Repeated or Popular Ideas

- Much better pedestrian and bicyclist movement is needed northwest to the Farmers’ Market, the planned LRT station on Royalton Street. Getting across I-394 and navigating the other streets in that industrial area is confusing and scary.
- Improved access will be needed to the planned extension of Van White Boulevard and the nearby planned LRT station.
- Safer and easier pedestrian and bicyclist movement over I-94 is needed at Oak Grove Street (aka 15<sup>th</sup> Street), Groveland Avenue, LaSalle Avenue, Nicollet Avenue and First Street. The last four locations are not perceived as safe from a personal security standpoint nor are they inviting places to walk or bicycle.
- An improved route to the Uptown area is needed.
- An improved route to the from the lakes is desired.
- A connection between LaSalle Avenue and the Loring Greenway is desired.
- Improved lighting under the Loring Greenway at LaSalle Avenue is desired.
- The planned streetcar would aid access to the LRT station on Fifth Street as well as points along lower Nicollet Avenue (“Eat Street”)



## EVENT RECORD

### Loring Park Neighborhood Master Plan

---

- A shorter route for pedestrians across the long blocks between Clifton Avenue, Oak Grove Street and the park would be helpful.
- The bicycle route across the park is not clear.

#### **Points of Agreement Among All Teams & Participants**

- Much better pedestrian and bicyclist movement is needed northwest to the Farmers' Market, the planned LRT station on Royalton Street. Getting across I-394 and navigating the other streets in that industrial area is confusing and scary.
- Improved access will be needed to the planned extension of Van White Boulevard and the nearby planned LRT station.
- Safer and easier pedestrian and bicyclist movement over I-94 is needed at Oak Grove Street (aka 15th Street), Groveland Avenue, LaSalle Avenue, Nicollet Avenue and First Street. The last four locations are not perceived as safe from a personal security standpoint nor are they inviting places to walk or bicycle.
- Improved lighting under the Loring Greenway at LaSalle Avenue is desired.
- A shorter route for pedestrians across the long blocks between Clifton Avenue, Oak Grove Street and the park would be helpful.

DRAFT





## EVENT RECORD

Loring Park Neighborhood Master Plan

---

### Station 2: Placemaking & Internal Connections

***“Today at Station II...***

***Placemaking: Developing an urban  
design framework of destinations &  
walkable connections.”***

Tom Borrup...





## EVENT RECORD

### Loring Park Neighborhood Master Plan

---

## Station 3: Sustainable Solutions

***“Today at Station III...  
Brainstorming & mapping green solutions  
that are implementable Loring-wide.”***

Lauren Huynh...

The following is a list of ideas generated by participants (three teams) at the January 22 Design Workshop. The brainstorming exercise was facilitated by Lauren Huynh.

### Short Term Solutions

Team: Air Loring

- Historic Architecture Sustained
- Invest in green infrastructure such as locations for recharging electric vehicles
- Dedicate parking for low-emitting vehicles and scooters
- More community gardens
- Greening the neighborhood
  - Container gardens
  - Green roofs
  - Window boxes
  - Motivating residents to do more
- Walkable streets that are pedestrian friendly and safe
  - Improvements on LaSalle





## EVENT RECORD

### Loring Park Neighborhood Master Plan

---

- Adding more street trees
- Improve energy and water efficiency
  - Replace windows and light bulbs
- Improving Stormwater Practices
  - Addition of rain gardens
  - Provide information to residents on how to reduce stormwater runoff
- CLPC Neighborhood Agreement and Sustainable Commitment from residents
- Addition of Public Safety Center with police outpost
  - Max. two officers

#### Team: Walkability Inc

- Add green roof on the Hyatt hotel
- Add visible public recycling stations around neighborhood
- Add sidewalks around perimeter of Loring Park
- Improve stormwater best management practices (BMPs) at the Mpls Convention Ctr and surface parking lots
- Evaluation of properties for potential expansion of district energy
- Improve walkability and safety for residents
- Provide more (energy efficient) lighting to improve walkability and safety

#### Team: Loring United

- Tap into local utility programs to help energy usage of older buildings in neighborhood
- Climate friendly, low maintenance or no maintenance landscaping
- Increase vertical greening such as green walls
- Provide recognition for neighborhood greening
  - Awards
- Promote (correctly done) composting
- Promote neighborhood rideshare program
  - Place on community website
- More trees in neighborhood
  - Street trees and in parks
  - Along 94/ Lyndale/ Henn.
  - Planting of mid-size trees that can provide shade in fewer years
- Better lighting throughout the neighborhood
  - Minimize hot spots from parking ramps
  - Use colors that are more aesthetically pleasing for residents
    - Current LEDs has less than ideal color output
- Increase urban agriculture/ community gardens in the city
  - Edible fruit trees in boulevard

### Long Term Solutions

#### Team: Air Loring

- Prioritize lots for future development
  - Along streetcar line
- Solar powered aerial tram from Loring Hill
- More green roofs
- Rid of surface parking
- Streetcar on Henn./ Nicollet





## EVENT RECORD

### Loring Park Neighborhood Master Plan

---

- More diversity of housing using Danish model
  - Multi-generational
  - Co-housing model

Team: Walkability Inc

- Utilize more pervious pavers for surface parking and in pilot areas in neighborhood
- Solar powered aerial tram from Loring Hill
- Expanding district energy options
- Nicollet Area LEED development/ new construction be LEED certified/certifiable
- Improve building energy efficiency for existing buildings
- Build parking ramp in Oak Grove
- Utilize water efficient fixtures
  - Tied to remodeling
  - Apartments/ residential dwellings

Team: Loring United

- Increase building energy efficiency
- Extend district energy to other more residents and building owners
- Increase green by connecting to the Loring Park with the Sculpture Gardens
- Increase connection - improve on bikability/walkability
- Reduce use of single occupancy vehicles
- Increase car sharing programs such as Hourcar
- Increase building water efficiency
- Plant more edible landscapes
  - Fruit and nut trees
- Improve stormwater practices
  - Green roofs

**Additional comments at wrap up for Table 3**

- Expand downtown bus line boundary/ property
- Expand Hourcar program to all of Minneapolis
  - Improve traffic in Loring Park