



# Minnehaha Falls & Glen and MN Veteran Home Restoration Project

\*The project summary and additional information is available online at [www.minnehahacreek.org](http://www.minnehahacreek.org).

## Project Summary



Stream velocity during heavy rainfall events has eroded the stream bank.



Stream velocity during heavy rainfall events has eroded the stream bank. Garbage cans would likely be swept away in a spring rainfall event without restoration work in this area.

### ➤ Why is the project happening?

In short, the project is happening because the area has degraded over time. Structural failures, erosion problems, stormwater management issues, and other problems threaten historic, cultural, and natural resources in the Minnehaha Falls and Glen area and at the Minnesota Veteran's Home.



Eroding bank slope and failing wall.



Failing wall.



Failed wall and eroding bank slope.

## ➤ What does the project involve?

The project takes a variety of approaches to fix the existing problems:

- stabilizing streambanks and bluffs around the creek
- installing rock vanes and toe boulders in the creek
- managing invasive species and reforesting the area
- constructing trails and walkways
- protecting historical and cultural resources
- managing stormwater throughout the site

There are two main project components:

- stormwater management at the Minnesota Veteran's Home (MVH)
- restoration of the Minnehaha Falls and Glen area

### Minnesota Veteran's Home

New stormwater management practices will be put into place at the Minnesota Veteran's Home. Erosion problems will be repaired and stormwater directed into a new rain garden. Innovative best management practices (BMPs) such as rain gardens, porous concrete and infiltration areas will be used to manage stormwater on the MVH site. Traditional stormwater structures such as storm sewer and curb and gutter will be either removed or used to redirect stormwater into the new innovative BMPs.

### Maps

North Half of MN  
Veteran's Home Project Area



Stormwater Innovation

South Half of MN  
Veteran's Home Project Area



Stormwater Innovation

### Minnehaha Creek

The second part of the project is in and along Minnehaha Creek, near Minnehaha Falls and in the area below the falls (Minnehaha Glen). The creek and glen repair will include adding retaining walls for stabilization, removing slumped concrete crib walls, adding bridge abutment protection, and bio-engineering the bank for added stabilization. Revitalizing the trail system is another major component along Minnehaha Creek. Some of the improvements include replacing part of

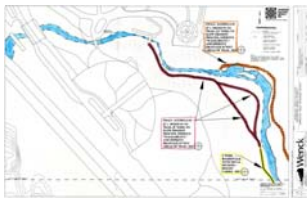
the trail with an elevated boardwalk with metal decking, stabilizing stair systems, adding aggregate to the trail to slow erosion and improve “walkability”, and prevent erosion in areas with steep slopes. Vegetation restoration will be done next to the falls; however, no restoration of the falls will be taking place.

## Maps

North One-Third  
of the Creek Project Area



Structural



Trails

Middle One-Third  
of the Creek Project Area



Structural



Trails

South One-Third  
of the Creek Project Area



Structural



Trails

### ➤ Where is the project taking place?

As mentioned above, there are two areas of the project. The first is Minnesota Veteran’s Home located at 5101 Minnehaha Avenue South in Minneapolis. The second is along Minnehaha Creek starting where Minnehaha Avenue crosses over Minnehaha Creek and ending where Minnehaha Creek enters the Mississippi River.



To view aerial image of project area click on map above.

## ➤ Who are the project partners and contractors?

A unique partnership between several organizations has brought the project to life.

- Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- State of Minnesota Veteran's Home
- Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
- State of Minnesota



Failing wall.

The project was out for public bid. MCWD is currently reviewing the bid packages.

Organization	Contact	Email	Phone Number	Contribution
*State of Minnesota District 62	Senator Patricia Torres Ray	sen.patricia.torres.ray@senate.mn	651-296-4274	\$2,500,000
District 62A	Representative Jim Davnie	rep.jim.davnie@house.mn	651-296-0173	
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District	Mike Wyatt	mwyatt@minnehahacreek.org	952-471-0590 ext. 204	\$2,500,000
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Aaron Snyder	Aaron.M.Snyder@usace.army.mil	651-290-5489	\$1,000,000
Minnesota Veterans Home	Everette Wright	Everette.Wright@state.mn.us	612-728-7348	\$345,000
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Mike Kimble	mkimble@minneapolisparcs.org	612-230-6400	landowner

\*The Minnehaha Falls Restoration was part of the 2008 Bonding Bill passed in April. The sponsors were Senator Patricia Torres Ray and Representative Jim Davnie.

### ➤ **When will the project start?**

The ground breaking ceremony is set for Friday, November 21, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. at Minnehaha Falls Park (the main park building). The address is Minnehaha Falls Park, 4901 Minnehaha Avenue, Minneapolis. Construction is expected to start December 2008.

### ➤ **How long will the project take?**

The project was out for public bid. MCWD is currently reviewing the bid packages. Once a contractor is selected we will know more about the timeline for completion. Most of the major earthwork will occur in the winter of 2008-2009 with revegetation work throughout the site over the spring and summer of 2009.



Temporary techniques preventing the crib walls from failing. Walls have been undercut due to stream velocity during heavy rainfall events. Walls will receive new footings during restoration work.

### ➤ **How will the project affect me?**

The project will require closing the park for the timeline defined by the contractor. A likely scenario during construction will see the bluffs open for visitors with the entire Glen (everything below the falls viewing area) closed for the winter. The project was out for public bid; MCWD is currently reviewing the bid packages. More details will be available once a contractor has been selected.