



IMPROVING ARDEN PARK

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LAURA DOMYANCICH • MCWD • LDOMYANCICH@MINNEHAHACREEK.ORG • (952) 641-4582

TOM SWENSON • CITY OF EDINA • TSWENSON@EDINAMN.GOV • (952) 826-0317

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS VOL. 4

WHY ARDEN PARK?

The restoration of this section of Minnehaha Creek and Arden Park is the most recent link in a growing chain of improvements within the Minnehaha Creek watershed. In the past 10 years, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District has partnered with creek communities to address the impacts of decades of urbanization. This work has included restorations of the creek channel; stormwater management; the creation of riparian, wetland, and upland habitat; and improved public access.

In Arden Park, unfiltered and polluted stormwater runoff drained to Minnehaha Creek, poor drainage made the park's green space soggy and unusable, the northwestern areas of the park were inaccessible, and existing facilities were due for replacement. The restoration of Arden Park includes a restoration of over 2,000 feet of the creek, connects the creek to its existing wetlands and floodplain to reduce flooding downstream, treats 80 acres of stormwater and removes 30 pounds of phosphorus each year, and improves recreation in this community park.

HOW HAS MINNEHAHA CREEK CHANGED?

The restoration of the creek included building a new stream channel where the creek likely flowed before it was straightened many years ago. The meandering stream slows the water down to reduce streambank erosion, allows sediment to drop out of the water, and creates diverse aquatic habitat. Three large floodplain areas within the park were also restored to take on high creek flows so the park remains usable during times of high water.

There are four new creek accesses in the park that allow visitors to enjoy the water up close. Rock riffles added to the creek provide additional habitat and the sound of cascading water. New trails, a boardwalk, and bridges encourage exploration along the creek.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE PARK?

The new underground stormwater structures in the northern part of the park remove litter, oil, and other pollution before water is further filtered by a series of six swales planted with almost 7,000 Minnesota native plants selected to support pollinators throughout the year.

Beyond the swales, 320 potted trees, 850 potted shrubs, 1,000 bare root trees, 2,300 bare root shrubs, and 24,000 flowers and

grasses will be planted to create additional habitat, stabilize slopes, store carbon, and absorb stormwater. In grassy areas, soil has been graded and drain tile has been installed to divert water from the open space and make it usable in all seasons.

New bridges, a boardwalk, and trails fully connect all of the park areas by circling the entire park on both sides of the creek and creating loops within the park. Work continues on the trails, shelter building, and playground and will wrap up later this fall.

NEXT STEPS

August

- Over 35,000 new trees, shrubs, flowers, and grasses planted
- Most trails completed
- Major construction finished

September

- Park shelter construction continues
- Park shelter terrace constructed
- Final trails paved
- Final landscaping installed

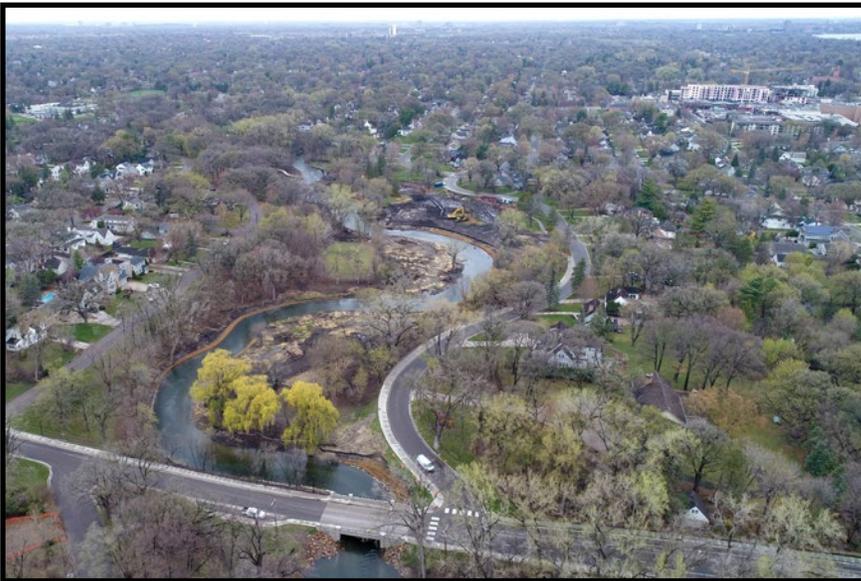
Arden Park will reopen to the public later this fall, once work is complete. New plantings will take a few years to establish and grow in. The project contractor will be maintaining the new plantings during that time.



MINNEHAHA CREEK
WATERSHED DISTRICT



Eroded creek channel, disconnected from floodplain, limited access, Nov. 2018



Restored creek channel, connected to floodplain, improved access, May 2019



Eroded creek channel, rocky, limited access, 2018



Restored creek channel, vegetated banks, improved access, 2019

NATURAL RESOURCE IMPROVEMENTS

- Regional stormwater management and treatment that improves water quality
- Improved wildlife habitat in the creek, wetlands, and woodlands
- New pollinator habitat that will expand as plants establish

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

- Preserved rustic park character
- Improved trails and facilities
- Safer fishing, paddling, and tubing
- Year-round use of open space
- A more visible, accessible, and healthier Minnehaha Creek

FUNDING

The total project cost is \$4.6 million which is being funded by Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, the City of Edina, and multiple grants.

STAY UP TO DATE

Sign up for project update emails:
www.minnehahacreek.org/arden-park