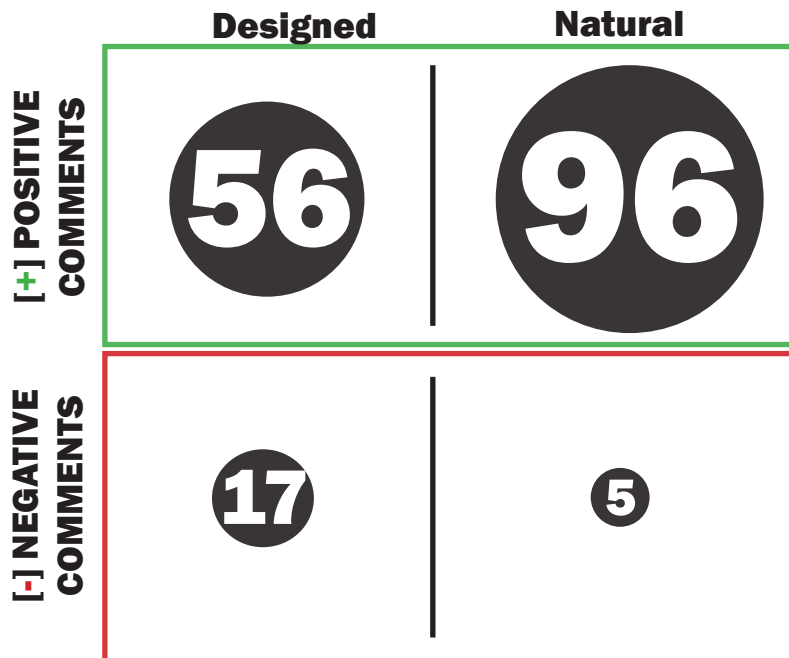


Natural // Designed

Many of the community engagement comments focused on whether or not the park should take a more natural or designed form. Comments voiced support for a mixture of these two types of spaces and the major of respondents positively mentioned natural spaces, seeking to restore the site to a clean, ecologically balanced place.

NUMBER OF COMMENTS



“ It is my community. I’m interested in returning it to a natural place...”

“ This area may be better suited to a designed area because of its industrial past”

“ ..let natural systems and resources be the lead factor in determining functionality of built environment - human use should incorporate sustainability and with climate consciousness guiding all decisions”

COMMENT SUMMARY

NATURAL [+] // DESIGNED [-]

- Support habitat, wildlife, and river ecology
- Experience a peaceful and pleasant river
- Needed respite in an urban area
- Bring river front back to its natural state
- No need to recognize industrial history

DESIGNED [+] // NATURAL [-]

- Attract community thru activity
- There are existing natural areas along the river (North Mississippi Regional Park)
- Build on the existing industrial character
- Many desired uses would require more designed spaces

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Provide a mixture of designed and natural spaces

Balance use by people with the natural ecology of the site

Designed and natural spaces should be restorative to both the site and the people in them

Natural spaces should focus on cleaning the soil + water on site

INDIVIDUAL // GROUP

Respondents identified that there should be specific elements that cater to individuals and groups. The majority of the comments did not seek a park that excluded either individuals or groups but were supportive of inclusive spaces that could accommodate different numbers of people. Respondents were also concerned about ensuring that the park was safe for everyone and how use/people in the park could help facilitate a safer environment for all users.

NUMBER OF COMMENTS

24 comments referred to use by **groups**

10 comments referred to use by **individuals**

“Something that involved the individual on different levels”

“A place to sit, while writing, reflecting”

“places to convene and gather”

“Come with friends and kick it”

COMMENT SUMMARY

Group Activities + Uses

Group comments focused on ensuring that there were spaces for people to gather together. Generally these comments referred to local residents and organizations. There was a desire for both planned and organic gathering spaces.

Individual Activities + Uses

The majority of the comments that desired spaces for individuals referred to people coming to the site to experience nature. These comments centered around bringing nature back into the site as a place for quiet and reflection. Other individual comments focused on more active uses like walking, running or exercising.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Park should **support group activities** especially around food and picnicking

Include **spaces/features** that can be reserved and are others that are open

Create **energy, community and safety** in the park through **group gatherings**

Ensure that the park is **comfortable if you come alone**

Create spaces for **people to connect with nature** and the river

Provide spaces for both **active and passive** individual users

ACTIVE // PASSIVE

Respondents were interested in both active and passive uses at the Upper Harbor Terminal Park. Walking, boating and playing different sports were some of the most popular active uses and view of the river, meditating and sitting/relaxing were some of the most popular passive uses. Many of the other requested uses/activities included both passive and active elements.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS



“People need to move, sports, anything where you can move your body

“I've always found it calming and meditative to walk along it or near it. I used to love seeing the herons that would roost in the trees on a small island near the park north of this location.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Provide a mixture of space for active and passive use

Opportunities for programmed exercise + movement

Consider possible active uses in the winter

Consider the adjacent uses/spaces for active + passive uses

Provide both active and passive activities that relate to the river

PUBLIC // COMMERCIAL

To better understand how respondents felt about the inclusion of commercial spaces/uses in the park, comments were reviewed for references to public or commercial uses.

Public- ownership by the public, activities/uses are free or a fee is assessed by MPRB.

Commercial- uses/activities that would be run or managed by private entities, inclusion or use may include costs. Examples would include: restaurants, private rentals, food trucks, etc.

NUMBER OF COMMENTS

53

comments referred to 'public' activities/use

35

comments referred to use 'commercial' activity/use

“Our primary priority for the site is to retain public ownership of the riverfront, make it accessible through trails and recreational amenities, and to restore as much of the shoreline as possible

“Permanent restaurant that draws a crowd... with food trucks or casual cafe with food for before and after shows.”

COMMENT SUMMARY

PUBLIC

- Importance of providing public river access to the community for a variety of uses + activities
- Having a public space ensures that it will be affordable and accessible for everyone
- Connecting the proposed park activities and uses with existing public spaces (MPRB Recreation Centers, Libraries, existing community organizations)

COMMERCIAL

- The ability to purchase quality food and drinks on site
- The park provides different types of rental equipment, specifically boats/kayaks
- Ensuring that commercial activity connects to the community and supports existing community businesses
- If commercial activity occurs, the products and services offered are affordable to local residents

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Public space + access should be the foundation of the park

Food and rentals are key features to the space

Commercial activity can bring unique features + experiences but must be affordable

Connect to existing or new community businesses

ACCESS + CONNECTIONS

Access to the park and its connections to other key places were a main theme of many comments. Respondents wanted to ensure that the space was accessible to residents of North Minneapolis and were concerned that the current connections were not sufficient. Respondents also understood the importance of UHT in terms of its integration in the broader system of parks + trails.

BARRIERS

- I-94 FREEWAY
- CONDITIONS ON THE DOWLING AVE. BRIDGE
- THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER (ACCESS FROM NE)
- PARCELS/ USES TO THE NORTH AND SOUTH OF THE SITE
- SURROUNDING INDUSTRIAL USES
- LIMITED TRANSIT ACCESS

KEY CONNECTIONS

- THE NORTH MINNEAPOLIS COMMUNITY
- NORTH MISSISSIPPI REGIONAL PARK
- PUBLIC RIVERFRONT/GRANDROUNDS
- NORTH MINNEAPOLIS COMMUNITY PARKS
- POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT SITES

MODES

WALKING + BIKING

Respondents who mentioned walking and biking to the site were concerned about the connection over the Dowling Avenue bridge and it not being a safe connection. Respondents were excited about the opportunity of connecting to other walking and biking trails/ spaces.

CAR

Respondents who mentioned driving to the site were concerned about lack of space for parking and the ability of the space to handle large events. Respondents also believed this was the mode that would be used the most to access the site.

TRANSIT

Respondents who mentioned transit were concerned about the current lack of transit in the area. Respondents recommended that MetroTransit be engaged with to ensure that frequent transit provide access to UHT.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

The site must be **accessible to northside residents**

Plan the park to **accommodate future connections** (Grand Rounds, N. Mississippi, etc.)

The **entrance + entry feature** to the park is key to create a welcoming space

Bike + Pedestrian connections must be improved to **allow residents to access the site via non-car modes**

Consider how the **development sites + the music venue will effect parking and access** to the park

INDUSTRIAL STRUCTURES

Many respondents were interested in the future of the industrial structures on the site. Comments on the industrial structures either offered ideas for how the industrial structures could be re-purposed or recommended that the structures not be included in the site. The majority of respondents were not connected to the “history” of these features but were curious about how they could be re-purposed for different activities or uses.

NUMBER OF COMMENTS

50% *Comments were split between ideas for re-using the structures and removing them from the site.*

“The industrial relics provide an interesting opportunity to interpret the history of the site, but we do not view preserving them in their current state as integral or necessary. We think there is a lot of leeway in how they can be re-used, re-purposed or even re-interpreted elsewhere on the site if necessary.

“Prefer that the “industrial heritage” is not prioritized. The industrial heritage tells of a history of corporate agriculture, pollution of water (fertilizer domes), chemical farming/industrialization of our food chain, and decreased ecosystem/food crop diversity.

“The domes are strange, but we could see them being used for artistic purposes/graffiti/indoor activities.

Re-Use Ideas

- Roller Rink
- Recording Studio
- Bandshell
- Music Venue
- Interpretation of agricultural history
- Cut down to create semi-enclosed spaces
- Gardens
- Playground
- Art Venue (inside and outside)
- General indoor space in the winter
- Climbing wall

KEY TAKEAWAY

There is a strong interest in the industrial relics due to their **interesting forms and possibilities for re-use**. There is not a strong interest in the history of these structures as that history is not strongly or positively connected to the surrounding community. **Re-use should be considered if the re-use adds to activity and uses of the space.** Structures should be removed if they take away from use of the park + park features by the community.