

DESIGN A CITY: Engagement Results

Earth Day in 6 Languages and Online Project

- Designs created at Earth Day in 6 Languages on April 22nd, 2023
- Google Form created by Margi Kastle on June 5th, 2023
- Post cards distributed and social media images advertised
- Data collected on July 12th, 2023

Design #1: More Trees

for birds and squirrels

-creates cleaner air (and beauty)



Results:

1. parks and volunteers can plant more trees, trees help create more shade and better energy efficiency
2. More trees are great! I think we should also specifically focus on planting native trees and fruit bearing trees that provide for the inhabitants of Payne-Phalen. Non-native trees do not provide for our ecosystems to the same degree and can even be harmful.

3. Trees are very important and improve the liveability and ecosystem of any public space. Prompt replacement of damaged and diseased trees should be a priority.
4. We need more trees on the east side! We have a small tree canopy.
5. Definitely! We need more trees on the East side as we are missing so much canopy coverage and we need to restore it! It would be great if we could incorporate fruit trees to have the option for urban forestry. This would be educational and delicious! The city needs to be involved but also community members. We need to make sure this would be good for the animal and human population.
6. More trees and some fruit tree for helping combat the food desert.
7. We definitely need more trees. Saint Paul should lead the country in incorporating urban life and nature. We can safeguard it by planting trees of many different species to help prevent diseases.
8. This sounds great! I think the East Side has a lot of trees, but more is always good. And protecting what we have.
9. Yes, lungs, beauty, ones for nature. Should be right up there at the top. City Parks & Rec need to consider this. For example: they took out trees at the Arlington Hill Community Center and are replacing them with PLANTERS. Please rail against this.
10. Payne Phalen has Lake Phalen, Phalen Blvd the old Lake Phalen Creek bed and green space along it, and hills as a river city - the birds and squirrels AND BUMBLEBEES INCLUDING THE ENDANGERED RUSTY-PATCHED I'VE SEEN LIVE HERE (132 OF THEM SINCE 2016) and owls and even a coyote sometimes need URBAN WILDLIFE CORRIDORS (connected green spaces) for genetic health. The trees should be part of planned Urban Wildlife Corridors like Portland researched and wrote up BEFORE they added public transit.

Design #2: A Dog Park



Results:

1. Encourages walking and use of parks year-round. Should be balanced with human need.
2. We already have a large dog park
3. We need a dog park, and it is separated for large and small dog areas.
4. Dogs need land they can ruin and a place to socialize without bothering cat lovers like myself. How about on superfund sites where we can't build?
5. How can it fit in with the natural world (I noticed few birds at the Arkwright Park...) and consider a new disease dogs are getting at crowded parks.

Design #3: A super creative, super flexible art center theater where people all kinds of people come together to express themselves and share experiences.

The shape of the building changes based on what you need its shape to be.



Results:

1. A better bigger community hub
2. There is not a clear cultural meeting place on Payne other than the library, which is very general use. Performing arts help shape an area's identity as well as adding variety to businesses and nightlife.
3. Yes, but it also needs to be usable in the winter.
4. This is a great idea. This is a neighborhood that is complex, big influence on working class and immigrants historically and still today. Allowing for expression is super important! I'm not sure who could make this happen as there are already a few art spaces on Payne Avenue. It should protect freedom of speech while disarming hate if that should arise.
5. Yes, a place that could hold local plays and concerts.
6. This is a forward-looking design challenge. Have a competition and then a go fund me to build it.
7. How does it fit in with the natural world its located in, to not shut out art that springs from the natural world, when it's a building? Are their places to do this within bike/walking distance of everyone and not another full-time building?

Design #4: Safe Schools

no police

no shooters



Results:

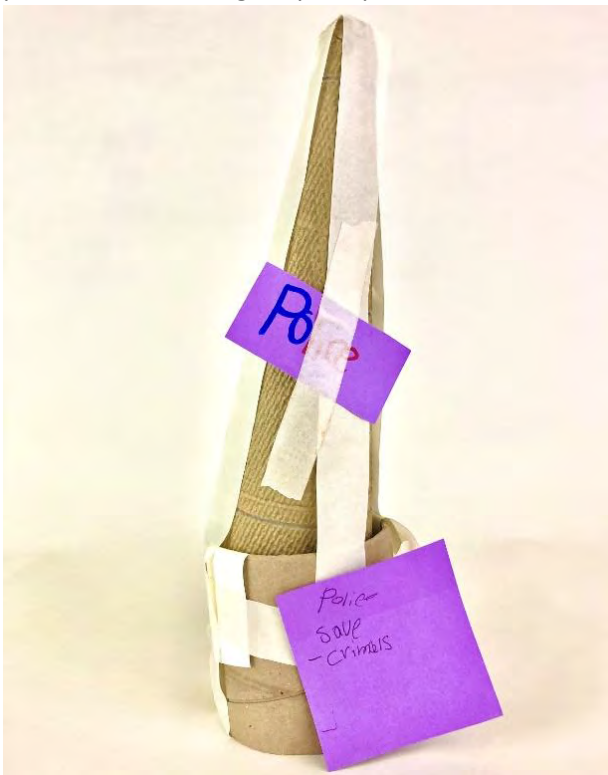
1. more guns do not make us safer. children don't need to be policed, they need to be understood and empowered
2. Completely abolishing the police and investing those vast sums of money in our community to help keep everyone fed, housed, and cared for will go a long way towards ending violence - not just in our schools, but in our community as a whole. There is no place for the violence of the police in our community and especially in our schools.
3. Yes.
4. Absolutely. We need students and adults to be safe at school.... But the feeling of safety is hard to define because it can be very different depending on who you ask.
5. More programs to keeps students occupied.
6. I like this. More mental health resources for schools.
7. Rules, laws, enforcement. Metal detectors keep guns and police out. Schools must be safe places.
8. I live six blocks east of Lake Phalen but if all schools have the same problems an education connection with the outdoors (something bigger than us) using the DNR School Forest Program (funds for an urban coordinator would be needed...we have forests near each school) and also easy paths from school to jobs to post-high school education are needed to give young people hope and options.

Design #5: Police

Save

-Criminals

Note: In speaking with the artist who created this design, they wanted to convey an idea of safety and being protected from danger by the police.



Results:

1. police are not a comforting presence to many

2. Stick some blue lives matter stickers in fun and unusual places.
3. Police respond to crime; they do not prevent crime.
4. Koban should be built throughout the neighborhood, especially at parks and public areas. There should be at least a sergeant or higher. Every police officer should be at one for one day a week.
5. The police I have met are all polite brave community defenders. We are lucky to have them. Now our Ramsey County Sheriff, that is another matter. He is a problem.
6. More support for block clubs would be good at least here in D2. People move in and out fast in our 50% rental area.

Design #6: Raised beds!

Which plants would you want to have growing?



Results:

1. provide free healthy food at community food shelves
2. Improving access to nature and space to grow our own food is an important part of food sovereignty and something we should definitely invest in seeing more of.
3. Community gardens tend to be off of the main Payne thoroughfare and are not as visible. Up against where people travel, live, and shop will integrate these efforts better and raised beds seems like a great idea.
4. I love this idea!
5. I think community gardens are fantastic. I also love the idea of people growing food in the boulevards in front of their houses for anyone to eat thought the summer
6. This is hard. Maintenance. Water in endless drought. I would say medicinal cultural herbs available for anyone, with educational explanations and summer demonstrations.
7. Saint Paul Parks and Public Works should restore and maintain all the green spaces with native plants and add in a certificate you can get to harvest (berries, walnuts, wild plums, etc.). Added community garden plots would be nice too - I have one way over at Rivoli Bluff where I volunteer, when they had extra not spoken for through Urban Roots.

Design #7: Apartment Building

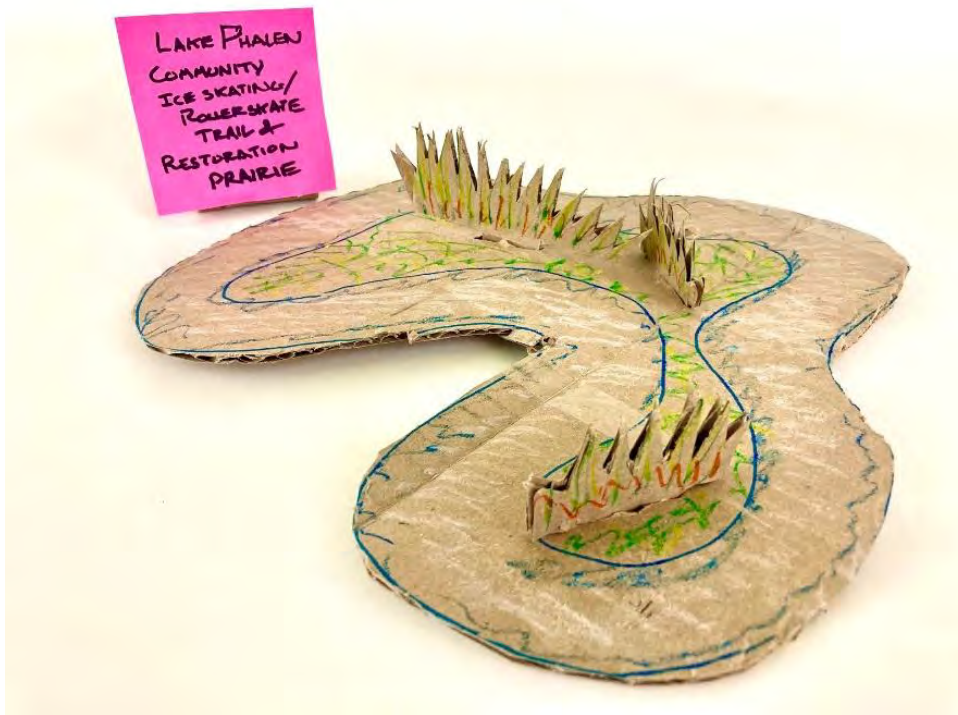
-Housing for Everyone!



Results:

1. nobody should be homeless!
2. Housing is a human right that is being denied by real estate investors. Not only do we need to house everyone but we need to give them ownership of their own dwelling so it cannot be taken from them. Requiring first refusal in all housing leases is a great start.
3. Yep. Would be great if they weren't all owned by private equity firm who pretend like they are doing a neighborhood a favor. Keep hammering them with affordability and rent cap limits.
4. We absolutely need more affordable housing.
5. We need to change the building codes to multifamily and business can be built in the neighborhood.
6. We need more mid-sized housing, not more giant apartment buildings. City zoning laws need to change to accommodate this. We need more housing like the townhouses on Phalen Ave by Tedesco and the fire department.
7. More deeply affordable housing. I like this! Maybe Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services is the right partner for this.
8. Green technologies and materials, more sharing of common spaces, courtyards, interesting design, nature a partner.
9. Studies say crime goes up with density and I bet that's because 1. green space for kids to learn from and play in isn't there and 2. services go away in economic downturns and money is saved from removing them from low to moderate income areas which leads to more crime. So green space and continuous services in economic downturns need to be considered...plus safe walking to buses 10 minutes away that come every 10 minutes as in Seattle. Otherwise kids walk in the street with more and more fast cars like on our block = dangerous!

Design #8: Lake Phalen Ice Skating/ Roller skate Trail & Restoration Prairie



Results:

1. This is an excellent idea in improving our environment and access to nature in Payne-Phalen. Specifically restoring the Phalen Golf Course to prairie and wetlands would not only end the environmental damage of the golf course but allow the land it was built on to begin to heal from that damage and benefit the community.
2. Fun idea, good use of fallow space. Similar to community gardens. Lower maintenance or about the same?
3. Oh, this would be fantastic in the winter and a way to bring in more money to the East Side.
4. Keep
5. Would this be where the golf course is now? The lake freezing is not dependable and waning.
6. I see individuals try to make rinks, but it takes too much work except for something small. Public ice fishing events and supporting the recent restorations at the NW part of the park and ADD VENTO TRAIL WALKS EAST OF THE PARK. I am leading a bird walk there for Audubon on August 13 1:30-3:00. Also a Trash Pickup for Friends of Parks and Trails to highlight this long-standing problem of no one picking up trash along Phalen Boulevard July 18 at 5:30. More of this and not having to go to parks out of town would be great.

Design #9: Moove (movie) theater

Y did the cow cross the road? To get to the moove theater



Results:

1. There is not a clear cultural meeting place on Payne other than library, which is very general use. Performing arts help shape an areas identity as well as adding variety to businesses and nightlife.
2. The building that says: National Chevy Association used to be a theater. I would love this. We have the plaza theater, and we need another like that!
3. Sounds like a further conversation with Trilingua Cinema is needed! They want to have a space.
4. The MN Humanities Center should open its COMMONS on Friday nights for the community. We saved the building from demolition for them. What do we get? ESAC and ESFL and Indigenous Roots can jointly program with a grant.
5. Good idea! We used to go to a theater in Dayton's Bluff and drive all the way east on 36 to a movie theater now that the one off White Bear Ave has stayed closed after COVID.

Design #10: A free public school system

Provides an education for all, an education population and a preservation of democracy.



Results:

1. Investing in our public schools and teachers, as well as converting our public schools into democratic schools would vastly improve our youth's autonomy and educational opportunities.
2. SPPS doing its best. Would be great if wasn't undercut by charter schools.
3. This is mine. I 100% support it.
4. I like this idea but have more questions. Would this be all ages and how would it be different from regular public schools? Would it emphasize basic skill sets (reading/writing/math) or also have ESL and citizen applicant resources if this is for all ages? Wondering if something like this exists already.
5. Don't we have this?
6. I am for free public schools. No school play banning please!

Design #11: A public library.

Because they are the last free places for our democracy, information, info literacy, WIFI access, job support, arts, & heritage etc. :)



Results:

1. so important for there to be a place where people can exist without any expectations. gives youth a safe space

2. Libraries provide a very essential service and should be expanded into even more aspects of our lives like tools, seeds, maybe even bikes! The sky's the limit with libraries!
3. No notes. SP Library is killing it.
4. Libraries (and schools) are the backbone of our communities. They provide SO many resources and activities for people.
5. Always. And with more community programming, please.
6. The public library on White Bear is close enough for us. No book banning please!

Design #12: Town Square

-More green space

-A space to gather for everyone



Results:

1. green space is important for democracy!
2. Payne Phalen doesn't have obvious center and it makes sense to focus on creating one.
3. But without cars, a walkable town square would be amazing.
4. How about that sunken field bounded by Case, York, Jessie and Edgerton? That area needs a garden of Eden to regenerate the neighborhood.
5. We live 6 blocks east of Lake Phalen, so I'll stay out of this one...but for us it feels like we are ignored and are more part of Maplewood....I see Arcade and Payne (we go there a lot to the YMCA and art events) as the center of Payne-Phalen town.

"What's missing? What do you want included in a more inclusive and sustainable city! Be sure to include who your design is for and why it is important!"

1. Make it expensive to own empty and derelict buildings. These landowners are lazy, inept, uncreative, and shouldn't benefit from others actually investing and living here.
2. Payne Phalen needs to be more walkable and safer. One idea that often gets voted down is implementing traffic circles or round about. This may be an opportunity to have a garden space/trees within the center of that while making our community safer (& slower!) There are many ways that Payne Avenue could be a safer (& greener) street and we need to do this soon!

3. I believe that investing in undergrounding the utility lines is an excellent use of funds. Not only does it make our community more beautiful, but it also helps to protect our infrastructure from extreme weather, which is only going to get more common with climate change.
4. The design should be for all classes of people. Income integrated. Designs compatible. Unsegregated. A community.
5. Thanks for this opportunity, it was great seeing what everyone came up with.