Community Input

Halloween Party

- Family participation in voting for favorite activities onsite. Kids and family members in attendance were asked to vote on their favorite activities at Westwood. The outcome of the voting was not the goal but rather to let members of the community know about the community meetings and to allow the team to invite them to the conversation.

Community Meetings

- Materials presented at 2nd meeting for discussion. The attendees were split into two focus groups and spent time with each group during the duration of the meeting. One group focused on the site the other focused on the building.

Website Input – SIDEWALK
COMMUNITY INPUT

Halloween Party

- Family participation in voting for favorite activities onsite

Community Meetings

- Materials presented at meeting for discussion

Website Input - SIDEWALK
What would you like to see at Westwood?

More cool stuff with bees
What would you like to see at Westwood?

More fun animals and classes
What would you like to see at Westwood?

More activities around or on the lake
COMMUNITY INPUT

Halloween Party

- Family participation in voting for favorite activities onsite

Community Meetings

- Materials presented at meeting for discussion

Website Input - SIDEWALK
Building & Parking Layout Plan
Westwood Hills Nature Center
St. Louis Park

Legend
- Contours
- Trails
- Parcels
- Aquatic Bed
- Emergent Vegetation
- Forested
- Moss/Lichen
- Rock Bottom
- Rocky Shore
- Streambed (Intermittent)
- Scrub-Shrub
- Unconsolidated Bottom (Basins & Channels)
- Unconsolidated Shore (Banks & Sandbars)
Preliminary Recommendations
Westwood Hills Nature Center
St. Louis Park, MN
Appendix B - 13
Preliminary Recommendations

Westwood Hills Nature Center

St. Louis Park, MN

Appendix B - 14
Expanded Play Area

**Westwood Hills Nature Center**

St. Louis Park  

MN

Appendix B - 16
CONCEPT PLAN
WESTWOOD NATURE CENTER  01/12/2016
COMMUNITY INPUT

Halloween Party
  - Family participation in voting for favorite activities onsite

Community Meetings
  - Materials presented at meeting for discussion

Website Input - SIDEWALK
Post:

Posted: September 29, 2015 3:22 PM
Westwood Hills Nature Center Master Plan
Are there any new activities or amenities you would like to see offered?
Likes: 0  Responses: 24

Responses:

Posted: October 9, 2015 5:19 PM
Susan Bloyer
Bird-watching, maybe some local stewardship activities, planting native species of wildflowers like Echinacea.
Likes: 0

Posted: October 11, 2015 9:27 PM
Sarah Reuben
Expanding the edible garden and allowing for lots of hands-on learning. Consider expanding the building closest to the parking lot to include additional visitor space and resources. Incorporating an area for hands-on water learning and play.
Likes: 1
Posted: October 12, 2015 6:31 PM

**Victoria Thor**

Decide if the nature center will be focused on the natural world or human amusement. It would be a great loss if human amusement is placed above preservation. Tours by naturalists are great. Bird watching activities would be welcomed. Focus on stewardship of our natural world through educational programs for children and adults would be most welcomed.

Likes: 1

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Posted: October 12, 2015 7:2 PM

**Rachel Rickert**

I would love to see a community garden that kids can become involved in. It would be neat if there was a visitor social networking board that you can post and share bird watching and nature photography to.

Likes: 1

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Posted: October 12, 2015 9:17 PM

**Chelsey Bahe**

I refer many of the families I work for to Westwood as a first family nature experience beyond their backyard. So, some type of family group that meets regularly in all types of weather and is lead by a naturalist but with no specific theme or lesson would be fun. Like a playgroup or nature club for all ages of kids and their families.

Likes: 0

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Posted: October 13, 2015 3:39 PM

**Billie Reaney**

This natural preserve is an extraordinary asset to the city. Whatever you do, keep it focused on nature in all its glory. A little more parking is needed -maybe provided right outside the preserve itself. Handicapped access - can inventive minds come up with an ingenious but not intrusive method for easier access to the interpretive center?

Likes: 0

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Posted: October 15, 2015 8:29 PM

**Rita Martinez**

Handicapped access needs to be improved. I would love to see regularly schedule naturalist led walks/gatherings specifically for older adults

Likes: 1
Appendix B - 29

Posted: October 16, 2015 5:42 AM

**Victoria Thor**
I would like to see more native flowering plants added to the "Prairie" area to attract more butterflies and birds, and along the upper trails- plants that would survive grazing deer. The more diversity of plant life, the more diversity of wildlife we would have the opportunity to observe. Think "rewild."
Likes: 1

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Posted: October 16, 2015 7:25 PM

**Cassandra Lyons**
I am a Life Coach and I would love to offer classes to the community on living the the life you desire, while integrating nature walks. I would love to be able to hold these classes at the nature center Brick House.
Likes: 0

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Posted: October 17, 2015 11:40 PM

**Sharon Abelson**
I think the Nature Center is a great asset to SLP and the greater community. Please keep it wild. It is such a great oasis in the city. I love the new upper pond and waterfall. It is lovely. I love that kids come to learn about and be in nature but I'd like to see more adult classes offered especially about foraging.
Likes: 1

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Posted: October 18, 2015 11:8 AM

**Chelsey Bahe**
Nature preschool. The kind where the kids are outside most of the time in all weather and there aren't strict lesson plans, curriculum or learning objectives. Something that incorporates nature preschool with playwork principles and had teachers who were trained in playwork and child led learning.
Likes: 1

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Posted: October 18, 2015 2:26 PM

**Billie Reaney**
I agree that this is a great place for children. I know that home-schoolers use the facility and the naturalists to augment their lessons. But is it viable to add in pre-schoolers if that would require more staff with the training in playwork and child led learning?
Likes: 0
Export: Are there any new activities or amenities you would like to see offered? - mySidewalk

**Susi Saxl**

Presentations to adults on how to create your own natural areas to attract wildlife, birds, etc.
Likes: 0

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**Samantha McKinney**

Allow dogs on leashes to be on the trails. It really limits how much I use the park.
Likes: 0

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**Victoria Thor**

Keep pets out of the center! They would have a negative impact on the wildlife that resides there. We are visitors in their home. Walk the dogs in the neighborhood or go to a dog park.
Likes: 0

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**Scott Oreschnick**

I would like to see a skateboard park in the northwest corner.
Likes: 0

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**Victoria Thor**

Hi Scott, I agree there is a need for skateboard parks for our teens to use. I don’t think the Nature Center is the proper location for that. Better to install one at the park near SLP Jr. High. A skateboard park just might prove to be too risky a legal venture for the city to pursue. We need to consider what our teenagers would like to see when planning for our city parks.
Likes: 0
Billie Reaney
This is a nature center, not a park. It is meant to be as close to nature as possible, so that children and others can learn about and appreciate nature. That goal is not consistent with skateboard parks or gardens or golf - to name a few. Those things are worthy and should have their places in parks but not in a naturalist area.
Likes: 0

Scott Oreschnick
Victoria- my mistake. I was linked to this page responding to a question for Calhoun/Harriet. It was not meant to be for Westwood hills.
Likes: 0

Victoria Thor
Now worries. Teens and young adults need to be part of the plan for any park service. :-)
Likes: 0

Jessica Laabs
Outdoor yoga classes.
Likes: 0

Billie Reaney
Again, this is not a park. It is a wild life area. Nature unscripted. That should be the focus of the people who come. Classes for yoga or singing or javelin throwing or egg coloring are all perfectly nice activities, but not here.
Likes: 0

Shandra Dayton Prowell
I realize my mile-marker comment should have been here.
Likes: 0
Post: January 12, 2016 10:20 PM

**Chelsey Bahe**
The kids said that they wish there was a fort city and a big fallen tree to climb. A smaller playful element along the path near the canoes would be nice. Nothing big, even a couple of stumps or a fort or fallen tree would do.

Likes: 0
Post:

Posted: September 29, 2015 3:24 PM

Westwood Hills Nature Center Master Plan

What do you like to do when you visit Westwood Hills Nature Center?

Likes: 0  Responses: 19

Responses:

Posted: October 9, 2015 3:31 PM

Andrea Nyhusmoen

We like to play on the playground, walk the trails, attend the Halloween Party and Winter Solstice Walk, and check out the Interpretive Center.

Likes: 1

Posted: October 9, 2015 3:35 PM

Agata Wang

We walk the trails, attend the family programs (Branching out, Bug Houses, etc), play in the playground, and check out all the items at the Interpretive Center.

Likes: 0

Posted: October 9, 2015 4:37 PM

Jennifer Deming

We enjoy walking the trails at Westwood Nature Center, especially the one around the lake. Our children like the new playground as well.

Likes: 0
Export: What do you like to do when you visit Westwood Hills Nature Center? - mySidewalk

Posted: October 9, 2015 5:15 PM

**Susan Bloyer**
I like to walk the trails, look at the exhibits, participate in programs. I like adult programs, though.
Likes: 0

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Posted: October 9, 2015 5:29 PM

**Kimberly Holien**
We use the playground, walk around the lake, use the wooded trails and visit the animals.
Likes: 0

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Posted: October 11, 2015 9:7 PM

**Sarah Reuben**
We walk around the lake, use the playground, and go inside the building to look at the animals, furs, skulls, etc.
Likes: 0

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Posted: October 12, 2015 6:24 PM

**Victoria Thor**
I walk the trails for exercise, take photos, but I come to connect with nature and to see the wildlife. We are so fortunate to be able to see mink, deer, turkeys, song birds, owls, water birds...
Likes: 0

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Posted: October 12, 2015 6:56 PM

**Rachel Rickert**
Walking the boardwalk around the lake and the trails.
Likes: 0

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Posted: October 12, 2015 8:21 PM

**Andrew Hogg**
Kids like playground, hiking, and looking at the stuff and animals in the nature center
Likes: 0
Export: What do you like to do when you visit Westwood Hills Nature Center? - mySidewalk

Posted: October 12, 2015 8:48 PM

**Chelsey Bahe**
We mainly use the trails and the playground. We like to have picnics at Westwood and meet up with friends to play and explore. The kids have loved participating in programs and seeing puppets in the past but their schedule doesn't allow for much of that now.
Likes: 0

Posted: October 15, 2015 8:26 PM

**Rita Martinez**
Walk the boardwalk around the lake and trails
Likes: 0

Posted: October 16, 2015 7:13 PM

**Cassandra Lyons**
Walk the trails, visit the owl and the hawk, walk through the grounds outside the nature center facility enjoying the view and the waterfall, talk with other visitors to see what they have seen along the trail.
Likes: 0

Posted: October 17, 2015 11:20 PM

**Sharon Abelson**
I like walking the paths around the lake and throughout the center. I enjoy seeing the wildlife and vegetation the nature center has. I also enjoy seeing the hawk and other creatures.
Likes: 0

Posted: October 26, 2015 5:51 PM

**Susí Saxl**
Being able to walk the trails, kids programs, being in nature so close to downtown is truly amazing.
Likes: 0

Posted: November 17, 2015 3:56 PM

**Samantha McKinney**
I like to head down to the boardwalks and view the wildlife.
Likes: 0
Export: What do you like to do when you visit Westwood Hills Nature Center? - mySidewalk

Jessica Laabs
Kids programming, Halloween party, picnics, playground, trails. Great birthday party location as well!
Likes: 0

Helen Keuning
We enjoy the trails and boardwalks, the playground, the programming and the amazing naturalists!
Likes: 0

Megan P
The programs (for families, day camps and puppet shows), hiking and exploring the trails, boardwalks and docks, looking for nature art, enjoying the playground, visiting the animals in the nature center and enjoying the quiet.
Likes: 0

Shandra Dayton Prowell
Taking my children for walks to explore and look for wildlife, letting my kids play at the playground, nature summer camps, and runs/walks on the paths by myself
Likes: 0
Post:

Posted: September 29, 2015 3:23 PM

Westwood Hills Nature Center Master Plan

What facilities or programming would you like to see improved to make you visit more often?

Likes: 0  Responses: 22

Responses:

Posted: October 9, 2015 5:17 PM

Susan Bloyer

For me, it’s a question of time. However, I would prefer more adult-oriented programs. I minimize my activities with kids, even though volunteering on Mother Nature’s Trail is a tradition.

Likes: 0

Posted: October 9, 2015 5:29 PM

Kimberly Holien

It would be nice to have swings at the playground. Having earlier hours on the weekend would also be a good improvement.

Likes: 0

Posted: October 11, 2015 9:19 PM

Sarah Reuben

Expansion of the playground as well as placing the taxidermied animals closer to eye level for better viewing/observation. It would also be great if each animal’s natural habitat could be re-created.

Likes: 0
Posted: October 12, 2015 6:26 PM

**Victoria Thor**

I would like to see the nature center stay as wild as possible. I can understand how young families like the playground but I avoid the busiest times because the loud voices from the playground chase away the wildlife. I would not like to see the playground expanded. Let’s keep the focus on nature and preserve what we have there. I question whether the nature center was the best location for a playground. (I realize that there isn’t a playground nearby which may have been the motivation.)

Likes: 1
Chelsey Bahe
Expand the natural play area
Likes: 0

Rita Martinez
Put in more benches on the trails. Looks like there isn't a way for folks in a wheelchair or tied to a walker can get down to the lake -please change that. Would like to see some walks/talks about nature geared towards older adults. Let's have an adult day camp!!!
Likes: 1

Victoria Thor
We need to think LONG TERM when it comes to handicap accessibility. It will not be long until wheelchairs are replaced by exoskeletons that allow people to walk upright. Before we hack away to create move paved trails, think perhaps of temporary solutions for handicap accessibility that can be returned to it's more natural state when technology advances options for those in need.
Likes: 0

Sharon Abelson
I would like to see more programming geared toward adults. My kids loved all the nature center classes and camps but they are grown now and I’d like to be able to attend more classes there. Wood Lake Nature Center in Richfield offers many adult classes I’ve been to. I’d especially like to see foraging classes and learn about edible plants that are right here in our yards and neighborhoods. How about woodworking for wildlife where you make nest boxes or bird houses (not the child’s version). Perhaps a class on living ‘green’ by making homemade cleaning supplies, natural lawn and garden solutions, homemade soaps, etc. Or a class on how to live ‘with’ wildlife in your neighborhood - it could include tips for nuisance animals and also how to make more natural yards suitable for birds or wildlife.
Likes: 1
Posted: October 21, 2015 5:47 PM

**Cindy Henrich**
I would like to see the lake get cleared a bit more. Looks like it is filling in.
Likes: 0

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Posted: October 22, 2015 11:58 AM

**Laura Hedlund**
Numerous research studies including [http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22472137](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22472137) are demonstrating the link between human health and intact natural space. People who work with asphalt have higher rates of cancer. Education on the health benefits of nature will get more people into parks. The University of Minnesota’s Center for Spirituality and Healing is coordinating “Nature Heals” activities including sending 30 days of email. St Louis Park could do a similar effort. Please FEEL the soil. We have so little intact land left. Ripping up soils, destroying trees, plants and fungi have impacts which are impossible to see with the human eye. The human heart has the seed the feel the impact. Do not pave the park. Instead use the millions of dollars to study accessibility and offer the services which could provide access to underserved..
Likes: 0

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Posted: October 26, 2015 5:54 PM

**Susie Saxl**
Continue to eradicate non-native species like buckthorn.
Likes: 0

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Posted: November 7, 2015 7:42 PM

**Julie Rappaport**
I’d like to see more food foraging classes... The Edible Mushroom Grotto behind the playground should be offering some King Strophapharius (bigger and better tasting than Portebello, and more nutritional value, as well.) The Edible Shade Garden next to the building will be better tended this coming summer, as well, with more public and FREE classes offered on Edible Food Forests through the Park and Rec Playground program and SLP SEEDS. I’d like to know what else is edible that grows there, and if it is safe to eat.
Likes: 0

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Posted: November 17, 2015 3:57 PM

**Samantha McKinney**
I would like the opportunity to have more experience with different species of wildlife.
Likes: 0
Jessica Laabs
Expanded hours and kid's programming. Also continued art partnerships/installations like the nest one.
Likes: 0

Helen Keuning
Having the actual bathrooms near the playgrounds open for public use (not just the port-a-potty) would elicit a sigh of relief from many moms (and dads)!
Likes: 0

Megan P
Suggestions or maps/ kits for self guided nature hikes or scavenger hunts that families could do. I think the current programing and staff are wonderful! More information about items available for rent.
Likes: 0

Shandra Dayton Prowell
Mile markers that are easy to read and find so I can track my run no matter which path I take. And a big yes! to the suggestion about open bathrooms by the playground!
Likes: 0