

The Hub Review

Positives

- Art sculptures
 - Reuse of 3M materials
 - Scale made it easy to walk up and touch
 - Creative steel art pieces
- Spaces/walking path
 - Great juxtaposition
 - Wide paths
 - Great materials
 - Solar panels
 - Concrete next to pavers
 - Creating a walking path with slabs & rocks
 - Mix of permeable pavers, natural stone, and steel walls
 - Stone seating
 - Rocks laid out to look like water in some of the open spaces
 - Lighting
 - Variety of native plants, trees, & grasses
 - Layout feels clean combining art, nature, and business in an urban setting
- Informative panels
 - Enjoyed learning the history of the site, 3M, & the people who worked there
 - Combination of visuals and written information
 - QR codes to get information in other languages
 - Nice chronological summary of the site
 - Makes the site feel welcoming and explorative
- Map that points out East Side green spaces and trails
- Appreciation for the local collaboration with the East Side Arts Council

Negatives

- Odd location
- Purpose not understood
- No space for lunch or a picnic
- Not kid friendly
- Not friendly to non-English speakers or those with cognitive learning issues
- QR codes may not be intuitive for some, based on language and technical skills
- The information about 3M may not be interesting enough for people to use QR codes
- It would be great to have an audio version in English or another language
- Make it more hands-on and truly interactive
- No easy access or accessible parking
- Lighting not enough when dark
 - Parking is dangerous (crossing streets)
 - Parking lot is locked

- No trespassing sign near one of the businesses seems uninviting
- Light industrial buildings not as “nice” as those in The Heights renderings
- Not taken care of
 - Some couldn’t find garbage cans
 - Others found garbage cans overflowing
 - 1–2-person encampment onsite
 - Hate speech, graffiti, and vandalism
 - Pieces missing from one of the features
 - Hot Cheetos found on another
 - Weather damage and rust
- No indigenous narrative
- Locked gate coming from Vomela
- Trendy art and design without regard to the neighborhood is wasteful and irresponsible with taxpayer money (was taxpayer money used to create this?)
- One of the art pieces felt too modern and didn’t fit the neighborhood (metal hoops)
- Why are we giving 3M free art?

Recommendations

- It would be great if there were some old materials from the golf course that could be used in an interactive outdoor space at the new site
- Active outdoor playground equipment
 - Gears on a board that move when you move one gear
 - Water wheel
 - Xylophone
- Develop a clear plan for maintenance and upkeep
- Consider what Met Transit did with a competition to have people, artists, & design companies submit designs for innovative, interactive outdoor spaces
- Interactive water & sand/dirt area for kids (like the new playground at Battle Creek)
- Illustrating the purpose of the site and why it was created – why the community is invited to use this space (multilingual)
- Visit the Intertribal Cultural Corridor, which contains murals and artwork reflective of the diverse past of the East Side community
- Consider a more intentional pollinator garden rather than visually appealing – spaces like this are great hosts for our endangered Rusty Patched Bumblebee
- More of a natural native mix of grasses and forbs together instead of one block of one species

Inspiration

- <https://indigenous-roots.org/intertribal-cultural-corridor>
- <https://www.lowerphalencreek.org/bruce-vento-nature-sanctuary>
- Signage: <http://www.red-wing.org/343/He-Mni-Can-Barn-Bluff>
- Big Rivers Regional Trail Parking Lot/Overlook was recently redesigned and includes many great features.
- The signage at Indian Mounds Regional Park

- Interactive components: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/New+Playground/@44.9439158,-93.0011411,20z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x87f7d7bf8268d3a1:0x35c69791ea1dd591!8m2!3d44.9439158!4d-93.0008675>
- https://outlook.office.com/mail/safelink.html?url=https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fsaintpaulhistorical.com%2fitems%2fshow%2f249&c=E,1,9GwzjJbJy0rbABXyrLK1mNwMHeSQtQ_gDY4zliMlzLg8w2W-211Kyn7xwTOU27y9MgfR_XxYhVTcJnXWPIgr1fSzE-2Yoaq1ftNnY3lpqvcEAtJol2T5Nr1&typo=1&corid=308b1f8a-259e-5d49-5893-4edc708872dc



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