Excelsior, MN

Problem Statement

How can the design move forward utilizing tourism to better support the interests of the community?

Site Analysis & Inventory

Lakeshore Revitalization of an Urban Environment with a Tourism Approach

Site Location

(Park Commons & Lake Street)

Schematic Plan

Lake Minnetonka, located 15 miles west of Minneapolis/St. Paul is a collection of 16 interconnected lakes with about 238 miles of shore. The lakes are formed by glacial riddling during the last ice age. Lake Minnetonka is located 20 miles due west of Minneapolis/St. Paul. The community due to its prominent location on a peninsula between Lake Minnetonka and the Mississippi River, the site has a long history of development. The plans that go along with the state of Minnesota’s new development, the Lakeshore project, includes area land use changes such as former A-Bank to Social.

Land Use Issues

- Much of the Activity has shifted from Water St. and should be reconnected to promote the sense of place.
- Under utilized historic districts
- Lost sense of place or identity. Need for preserving historic character of city
- Poor access to Excelsior Bay
- Disconnection from downtown to waterfront and Municipal Docks
- Charter docks
- Disconnect to water: Need for reactivation of waterfront hub

Opportunities

- Enhance port as city gateway
- Increase foot traffic
- New crosswalk
- Sidewalk/Linkage to Municipal Dock
- Revamp Park Commons community space
- Interaction with water (Swim)
- A reestablished greenspace that was once underutilized
- Expanded greenspace
- Waterfront hub
- People need visual refreshment and mental exercise when biking or driving, and the built environmental landscape with rolling bluffs or mounds that semi-mimic waves. The grassy protrusions provide footing & reinforcing

Transportation Issues

- Pedestrian & bicycle crossings on Water Street
- Increased foot traffic
- Expanded greenspace
- New crosswalk
- Sidewalk/Linkage to Municipal Dock
- Revamp Park Commons community space
- Interaction with water (Swim)
- A reestablished greenspace that was once underutilized

The key word to focus on is the 'establishment' of ideal relationships, which essentially is the only purpose of design to maintain the public’s needs. The rendering to the left simulates an entrance pavilion into the heart of the Park Commons. A few questions that one could consider are:

The 'Minnehaha'

- Lakeshore Environmental
- Revitalization of an Urban Environment with a Tourism Approach

Urban Plaza Section

Lake Minnetonka should be redeveloped in order to maintain pedestrian scale.

- Low density single family
- High density single family
- High density high density along with a convenience hotel
- This could parallel the historic and scenic railroad through the Excelsior-Bayfield Central rail bed located above.

Section Cut Detail

There are benches along the north and south dock landing. Eventually, Excelsior installed dock meters to alleviate this issue but it is very a significant amount of space for pads 10 feet in length.

The Rendering creates an entrance to the park. The entrance, and the site analysis and inventory go done before any design work begins. By any means, we can see how the proposed park changes our site. Renovating the old parking lot and creating a parking lot.

People need visual refreshment and mental exercise when biking or driving, and the built environmental landscape with rolling bluffs or mounds that semi-mimic waves. The grassy protrusions provide footing & reinforcing.

Revamp Park Commons community space

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