

Prospect Park 2013 Neighborhood Priorities

The neighborhood has identified a number of specific priorities through the many outreach efforts outline in question 2. These include the development occurring with the new LRT line, the neighborhood school, a community garden and the noise created by I-94 with recent increases in traffic after the failure of the I-35 bridge across the Mississippi.

The community is engaged in planning and implementing a build-out of Pratt Community School that is necessary to accommodate current needs for K-5 education and anticipating the future needs following new development north of University Ave.

PPERRIA is dedicated to advancing the neighborhood endorsed vision of the creation of a richly diverse, affordable, connected, mixed-use urban village in the area of the Prospect Park LRT Station and along the University Avenue corridor between the campus and the city line. It is also working to secure appropriate redevelopment of the Franklin Avenue-East River Rd. Good Samaritan site.

In the near term it is necessary to identify the volume, types of traffic and resulting parking demand associated with new development that is projected to occur along and north of University Avenue between the campus and Hwy. 280. This effort will be taken by the PPERRIA Master Plan and Transit Committees and in coordination with Prospect Park 2020, the city of Minneapolis, the county and others.

To address long range solutions to the problem of highway noise in the community, PPERRIA plans to advance a master planning concept of the development of a land bridge in the area between the Franklin Avenue bridge east toward Hwy. 280. This project would be undertaken in partnership with the neighborhood Sound Wall Task Force, Metropolitan Design Center of the University of Minnesota and the University District Alliance. The purpose of this study is to develop the conceptual design approach as well as engineering construction costs related to this concept. The goal is to use this information to begin the process of developing political support for this project, which creates land in the heart of the city, enables infill housing, creates public realm green space and provides economic return to the city, state and others in terms of revenue and vitality.

The neighborhood has obtained permission from the MN Dept of Transportation to use three plots of land near a freeway wall as a community garden. This will provide an opportunity to create a community garden together with programs that foster inter-cultural and inter-generational relationships and programs that educate neighborhood residents in gardening skills and encourage them to invest in the community.