

# Make the Mall A Real Park

## Background

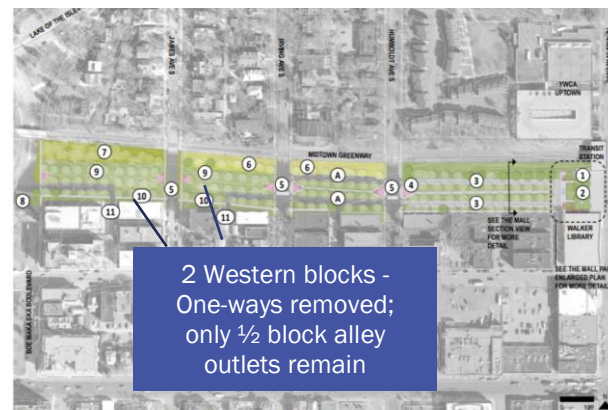
MPRB's Southwest Service Area Master Plan Community Advisory Committee (CAC) met for two years to develop master plan recommendations for the 40+ parks in SW Mpls. This MPRB-appointed group drove deep into the use details of many parks, gathered feedback from the community at dozens of meetings, and developed recommendations. The group worked very hard to prioritize equity and sustainability and balance all of the competing needs for park space.

The all of the SW park master plans were approved 10/21, except one park, [the Mall in Uptown](#), which was tabled and will be decided on 11/4. This park parallels the Greenway and sits in the four blocks between Hennepin Avenue and the lakes. Right now, it does not serve [MPRB's mission](#) to provide natural and recreational space for residents; instead its main function is two driving lanes with parking on either side. City and Park analysis have determined that driving lanes are not critical to the flow of traffic in Uptown and see little use for traffic flow. As a result, the area more or less serves as a parking lot.

## The Proposal



THE MALL - EXISTING CONDITIONS



THE MALL PARK- PROPOSED PLAN

The committee's proposal is to remove the driving lanes and parking areas on the two western of the four blocks and have the space returned to passive green space. Such green space would collect and filter stormwater before it enters the lakes, increase habitat space, give a respite for residents in hectic Uptown, and reduce driving-related pollution in the area. This park abuts the Uptown Transit Station, the Greenway, and is in the most walkable neighborhoods in the city and is therefore well served by many transportation options. Based on robust discussion at community meetings where a range of ideas from maintaining the status quo to including volleyball courts were brought up, the committee agreed that passive, natural space was a good compromise to fulfill MPRB's mission and make this area a real park with significantly increased passive, natural area. See full details of the proposal on MPRB's website linked here: [tinyurl.com/TheMallPark](http://tinyurl.com/TheMallPark)

**This compromise affects only half of the blocks; yet it is an important step for a clean environment & better park!**

## Ask your Park Board commissioner: support the proposed plan & restore green space to The Mall!

Find your commissioner here: [tinyurl.com/mprbcommissioners](http://tinyurl.com/mprbcommissioners)