



**NEWS RELEASE | April 11, 2017**

## **Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and Minneapolis Parks Foundation invite community members to learn about progress on the Water Works project**

*Two community open houses will be held on Monday, May 1, 5:30-8pm, at Mill City Museum, and Tuesday, May 2, 11:30am-1:30pm, at the Water Works site*

**Minneapolis, Minn.** – The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and the Minneapolis Parks Foundation are hosting two community open houses to inform the public about progress on the Water Works project. Water Works is a transformative park development project adjacent to St. Anthony Falls and the Stone Arch Bridge that will bring significant new historic, cultural, and recreational amenities to the most iconic location in Minneapolis and the region. The open houses will be held 6-8pm, Monday, May 1, at Mill City Museum, and 11:30am-1:30pm, Tuesday, May 2, at the Water Works site.

In 2016, the Minneapolis Park Board retained, in partnership with the Parks Foundation, a multi-disciplinary design team headed by Damon Farber Landscape Architects and HGA Architects to complete schematic design through construction administration for phase one of the Water Works project, known as the Mezzanine Phase. The 106 Group, a cultural resources consultant, has been working with the design team on identifying significant historical and architectural resources on the site. Construction is slated to begin in 2018, with completion in 2019.

### **About the Water Works Open Houses**

At both open houses, community members will be able to see updated designs and hear from Park Board and Parks Foundation staff and the design team. Registration is not required for either public meeting.

The Monday, May 1, open house will begin at 6pm and be preceded by a walking tour of the Water Works site at 5:30. Following the tour, the meeting will proceed with a presentation by Park Board and Parks Foundation staff and design team members, followed by one-on-one discussion and opportunities to comment on the designs.

The Tuesday, May 2, meeting will have no prepared presentation. Community members are invited to stop by and speak with staff and designers, view the designs, and share their comments. In case of inclement weather, the alternate location for the May 2 meeting is the Crown Roller Building, First Floor Innovation Room, 105 S 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Minneapolis.

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**About the Minneapolis Parks Foundation**

The Minneapolis Parks Foundation transforms human lives through parks and public spaces by aligning philanthropic investment and community vision. The Parks Foundation co-leads the RiverFirst Initiative with the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board and is responsible for private fundraising and implementation of the Water Works and Great Northern Greenway River Link projects. The Parks Foundation also supports innovative Minneapolis parks projects through equity funding and champions world-class design through its Next Generation of Parks™ Event Series. Learn more at MplsParksFoundation.org.

**About the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board**

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board is an independent, semi-autonomous body responsible for the Minneapolis park system. With 179 park properties totaling 6,804 acres of land and water, the Park Board provides places and recreation opportunities for all people to gather and engage in activities that promote health, well-being, community and the environment. Its Grand Rounds Scenic Byway, neighborhood parks, recreation centers and diversified programming have made the park system an important component of what makes Minneapolis a great place to live, play and work. More than 22 million annual visits are made to the nationally acclaimed park system, which was named the number one park system in the nation in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 by The Trust for Public Land's 2016 ParkScore® Index.

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