

# Minnehaha-Hiawatha Community Works NEWSLETTER



Hennepin County Housing, Community Works, & Transit

Issue # 7 November 2013

## Hiawatha Avenue Landscape Restoration

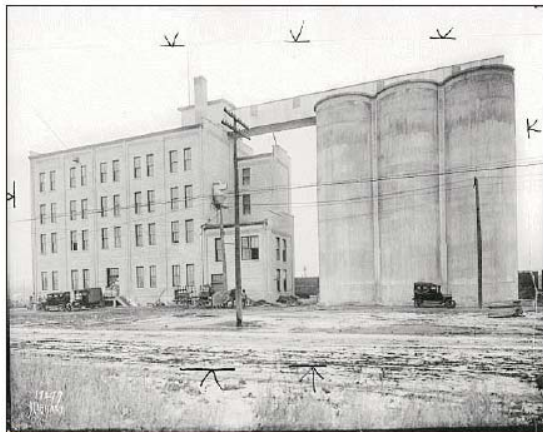
**Open Houses in December** - Hennepin County will be holding two Open Houses in early December to give community members a look at concepts to improve landscaping along Hiawatha Avenue in south Minneapolis.

The Open Houses will provide the chance to review, ask questions, and make comments on ideas for the corridor. The plan is slated for completion early 2014 to meet deadlines for potential funding sources. Pending funding, installation could begin in spring or summer 2014.

### Hiawatha Avenue Landscaping Open Houses

**Wed, December 4 / 6:30-7:30 pm**  
Corcoran Park Recreation Center  
3334 - 20th Avenue South

**Mon, December 9 / 6:30-7:30 pm**  
Hiawatha School Park Rec Center  
4305 East 42nd Street



**F** built 1916 razed 2011

American  
Flour and  
Cereal Mill

Clarx  
Milling  
Co.

Photograph ca. 1918

Ralston-  
Purina

In 1916 the American Flour and Cereal Mill Company, later the Clarx Milling Company, constructed a brick and concrete mill between E. 38th and E. 39th streets (your current location). The Ralston-Purina Company next developed the property into a feed mill that operated from 1923 to 1993. The mill was razed in 2011 and is now the site of Longfellow Station, constructed in 2013.

*Historic panel at Longfellow Station  
38th Street and Hiawatha Avenue*

**The Opportunity** - The landscaping along Hiawatha Avenue is showing its age.

The trees are in poor condition and provide inadequate tree cover. The corridor welcomes travelers to Minneapolis, yet lacks aesthetic appeal.

Hennepin County is working with the Minnesota Department of Transportation, City of Minneapolis, the Park Board, and Mississippi Watershed Management Organization to look at ways to improve the landscaping along the area.

The county has contracted with LHB to develop a landscape restoration plan for the corridor from 32nd to 46th streets. The consultants will conduct soil testing, identify preferred tree species and other vegetation, and develop a planting scheme for the area.

## Historic Panels at Longfellow Station

Hennepin County and Sherman Associates, Inc. have teamed up to create some amazing artwork along Hiawatha Avenue. Fifteen new eight-by-12 foot panels have been installed at the Longfellow Station development at 38th Street and Hiawatha Ave.

The panels provide a look back at the history of the grain mills along the Hiawatha corridor. This display builds off the historic and cultural inventory completed as part of the Minnehaha-Hiawatha Community Works project.

One of the major themes identified in this work was the grain elevators that dot the corridor. Only a few of these iconic structures remain, and this effort documents this industry that played such an important role in the development of the area.

## Spring Intersection Construction

Hennepin County has released the advertisement for bids for the construction of intersection improvements along Hiawatha Avenue. A contractor will be selected in mid-December.

The project will include four intersections -- 32nd, 38th, 42nd, and 46th streets. Thirty-fifth and 28th streets will be added to the project if funding allows.

Construction is scheduled to begin in mid-April 2014 and will take around two months to complete. Expect to see new curb extensions, median improvements, bicycle improvements, and crosswalk enhancements as part of the project.

*Info - [www.minnehaha-hiawatha.com/crossings](http://www.minnehaha-hiawatha.com/crossings)*

## Longfellow Community Hop Garden

The Longfellow Community Council (LCC) is partnering with local hop growers to create the area's first "community hop garden." Gardeners will be able to purchase "shares" in the Garden and would work cooperatively to grow and harvest the hops. The site is also planned as an outdoor classroom to learn more about hop growing.

The Garden broke ground in July, but a late start delayed planting until 2014. The hop garden is sited at the northeast corner of 38th Street and Dight Avenue on a vacant property that the LCC has leased from Hennepin County.

*Info - [www.communityhops.org](http://www.communityhops.org)*

## Minnehaha Reconstruction Update

The County's proposal for reconstruction of Minnehaha Avenue is being brought to the Minneapolis City Council for municipal consent in December. Check the project website for the latest updates: [www.hennepin.us/minnehaha](http://www.hennepin.us/minnehaha)

## CARE Project Identifies Priority Strategies

The Hiawatha CARE Project is a community collaboration to address environmental / health risks in East Phillips and western Longfellow. Last year, community members identified five issues as high priorities: air pollution, asthma, clean water, economic instability, and poor nutrition / obesity. In addition, addressing health disparities and environmental sustainability rated highly as guiding principles for this work.

The CARE Project team developed an Action Plan which included specific strategies that could be taken to address these risks. Throughout summer 2013, the project team talked to people in East Phillips and Longfellow about their thoughts on these strategies. Community members identified five specific strategies as having the greatest potential impact to deal with these issues in the community (see box at right).

**Next Steps:** The project team will be looking for resources and opportunities to implement these strategies. If you see possible connections to your work in the community, or if you want to partner in implementation, please contact us at [care@hennepin.us](mailto:care@hennepin.us). Check the project web page for additional information on the community's identified risks and strategies to address them.

*Info - [www.minnehaha-hiawatha.com/care](http://www.minnehaha-hiawatha.com/care)*

### Community CARE Strategies

- ◆ Make it safer and easier to walk and bike to places in the neighborhood.
- ◆ Support partnerships to improve jobs skills, train workers, and create learning opportunities for all.
- ◆ Reduce children's exposure to secondhand smoke.
- ◆ Improve access to healthy, affordable food through gardens, farmers markets, and urban farms.
- ◆ Work with business and industry to reduce local air pollutants.