

VISION St. Louis Park

discover dream design

Introduction

We/I appreciate this opportunity to interview you about your experiences in St. Louis Park, whether they are long or short, and your dreams for our community. This interview is a part of a community-wide conversation initiated by the St. Louis Park community partnership that includes:

- City of St. Louis Park
- St. Louis Park School District
- TwinWest Chamber of Commerce
- Park Nicollet Health Services
- Children First.

We want to include as many of our 44,000 residents, including children and youth, as possible as well as the other 44,000 people who work here but live elsewhere.

Ten years ago, hundreds of citizens of St. Louis Park shared their ideas and dreams for the future. Our new city center, Excelsior & Grand is one of the results of that vision process. The City will continue to direct energy toward the eight goal areas identified in 1995. Here is a handout on those eight existing goal areas and some of the results.

In June, a diverse group of residents and workers met and identified four topics for this inquiry about the future of our community – ***connectivity, transportation, health*** and how to make St. Louis Park an even more unique and ***special urban place***. The purpose of these interviews is to discover what is already working well and how we can build on success. It is also an opportunity for you to say what you appreciate and value about your (neighborhood, workplace, or group) and support its bright future.

This interview will take about an hour. After we finish I will fill out a summary sheet to be collected. We also encourage you to attend the Community Summit this winter when we will all share ideas about the future and shape the direction of our community for the next decade. The city, business partners, citizens, the school district, youth and senior citizen organizations and others in St. Louis Park will begin initiatives after the summit to guide the development of our future together.

www.stlouispark.org

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TOPIC: Connectivity

St. Louis Park is a growing, dynamic community that welcomes new neighbors and workers of all ages, faiths, abilities and cultures. 8000 kids and 6000 senior citizens live here. Our school children speak 38 different languages. We live in 7000 apartments, 13,000 houses and have 2000 different businesses. There are 300 crime-watch block clubs and 21 neighborhood associations. We are a community that fosters connections among all ages, races, cultures, abilities and faiths.

- A. Tell me about a time when you felt most engaged, energized and happy with your connection to people in St. Louis Park.
- B. Tell me about a time when you felt most connected and appreciative of people in St. Louis Park who are different from you.
- What did you and others do to make it a memorable experience?

(If you haven't had this experience in St. Louis Park, tell about a time when you had a similar experience in another community.)

- C. What is already happening in St. Louis Park that makes it possible for us to enjoy and benefit from the rich diversity of our community?
- D. If you had three wishes to make it possible for people in St. Louis Park to be more connected, what would you wish for?

NOTES

Use your notes to fill out the summary sheet on the last two pages.

TOPIC: Transportation

In 2000, residents said that the location was the thing they liked best about living in St. Louis Park. We have three major highways that cut through our city allowing easy access to downtown and surrounding areas. Busses provide service on major streets and the Cedar Lake trail and Southwest trail are available for off-road biking. Easy, convenient transportation is important to everyone who lives and works in our city.

- A. What ways do you use for getting around?
- Which way do you enjoy most?
 - Have you or your family been in another community where the transportation system was wonderful? If so, what did you like about it?
- B. What do we already have in the way of transportations systems that you would like to see more of in our city?
- If we asked children, youth and senior citizens the same question, what do you think they would say?
- C. If you left and returned in 10 years and found St. Louis Park to be a leading edge community for ease of mobility, what new things would you see?
- What do you imagine was the most important first step in becoming a community renowned for its transportation system?

NOTES

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TOPIC: Health

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Research shows that our overall health as individuals and as a community depends on many factors:

- A healthy lifestyle
- Clean water, air, land
- A safe environment
- Feeling good about our neighbors
- Getting help and care when we need it

St. Louis Park has recreational facilities, parks and trails. We have excellent medical facilities including Methodist Hospital and a variety of clinics. We receive care and support from firefighters and other City services, as well as from neighbors, volunteers and nonprofit organizations, to name just a few.

A. Has living or working in St. Louis Park contributed to your health and vitality? If so how?

B. If you had three wishes to support health for you, your family and everyone (all ages, economic levels, abilities, cultures) in St. Louis Park, what would they be?

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Use your notes to fill out the summary sheet on the last two pages.

TOPIC: Special Urban Place

Our city is 10 square miles with many places to enjoy the outdoors: 50 parks, 10 miles of trails, Minnehaha Creek and Westwood Nature center. We also have places for recreation including Excelsior & Grand, the Rec Center and school facilities. Studies indicate that inviting, stimulating, well-designed public spaces enrich community life, promote health and help us connect with each other.

- A. Tell me about a time when you found yourself describing St. Louis Park as a great place to live.
- What did you say?
 - When you spend free time in St. Louis Park, where do you go?
 - What do you like most about each place?
- B. What are three wishes to make this an even more pleasing and vibrant urban place?
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- C. Imagine your wishes are fulfilled, what is the most distinguishing feature of St. Louis Park?

NOTES

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A. I'd like to learn about your first experience with (your neighborhood, workplace, group)

- What attracted you to (your neighborhood, group, workplace) ?

B. Looking at your entire experience with (your neighborhood, group, workplace), tell me about a time when you felt most involved or excited.

- What about (your neighborhood, group, workplace) helped make this a peak experience? (It might be leadership, structures, rewards, systems, skills, strategies, and/or relationships).

C. What are some things you value most about what you do at/in (your workplace, group, neighborhood)?

D. Without being humble, what do you value most about yourself, as a friend, parent, or citizen?

E. (optional question here from your group, neighborhood or organization)

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Use your notes to fill out the summary sheet on the next two pages.



Interview Summary Sheet

Please complete this summary sheet as soon as possible after your interview. Reflect on what you heard and write down the best ideas, stories, and quotes. (Fill out both sides of this page.)

1. What did your interview partner say is working well in St. Louis Park that should be continued and/or expanded.

2. What were the best ideas you heard in this interview. Especially make note of good ideas we should share with others in our community – community members, City Council, others.

- Connectivity

- Health

- Special Urban Place

- Transportation

- Their Organization or Neighborhood

- Other?



3. What was the most compelling story you heard?

4. What do you think was the best idea, thought, or phrase that came out of this interview- something you would want to pass on to other people?

We will invite you and the person you interviewed to the Vision Summit in February.

Name of person interviewed _____

Email _____ Phone #: - _____ - _____

Address _____

Date _____

- Resident, lives in St. Louis Park
- Works in St. Louis Park
- Young person living in St. Louis Park

Neighborhood, workplace or group: _____

Years spent living in St. Louis Park? _____ Working in St. Louis Park? _____

Your name, the interviewer: _____

Your email or address: _____

Thank you again for your efforts in helping to improve our community in St. Louis Park.

Please return this summary sheet to City Hall, 5005 Minnetonka Blvd, 55416 during weekdays or place it in the after- hours drop box located in the parking lot.

For more information, questions, or concerns about the visioning process, please contact:
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