

Hennepin-Lyndale Crossroads

Greening Project

A NEW PARTNERSHIP between Green Minneapolis, MnDOT, the City of Minneapolis and area stakeholders is transforming the Hennepin-Lyndale Crossroads into a green oasis with a more beautiful and welcoming experience for residents and visitors.

The **HENNEPIN-LYNDAL CROSSROADS** is a primary gateway for Minneapolis and a nexus for some of the region's most important institutions and civic spaces, including the Walker Art Center, the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, Loring Park and Basilica of Saint Mary.

Green Minneapolis, the non-profit conservancy working to enhance the livability of downtown Minneapolis through greening and park projects, partnered with Citizens for Loring Park Community, the Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association and the City of Minneapolis to turn the famous bottleneck into a **GREENER, MORE PEDESTRIAN FRIENDLY** area. Funding for landscape materials was provided through a grant from the MnDOT Community Roadside Landscape Partnership Program.



HENNEPIN-LYNDAL PUBLIC SPACE COALITION

Hennepin-Lyndale Crossroads Greening is a project of Green Minneapolis in partnership with Citizens for a Loring Park Community, Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association, Minnesota Department of Transportation, Minneapolis Department of Public Works and Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board.

Made possible through the support and generous contributions of the Walker Art Center, Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, Episcopal Cathedral of St. Mark, The Basilica of St. Mary and Loring Corners, Inc.

COALITION GOALS

- Establish beautiful and well-maintained green spaces within the Hennepin-Lyndale Crossroads right-of-way.
- Facilitate communication and cooperation among adjacent property owners to develop and maintain beautiful boulevards.
- Support pedestrian improvements at the Dunwoody Underpass including additional lighting, art and landscaping.
- Advocate for ongoing public investment in Crossroads transportation, pedestrian and landscape improvements.



greenminneapolis.org

WHY GREENING?



Tree-lined streets are safer for pedestrians. One study observed 3-15 mph increases as drivers moved from tree-lined streets to non-treed streets.



Residents of neighborhoods with greenery in common spaces enjoy stronger social ties than those who live surrounded by barren concrete.



Over a 50-year lifetime, one tree generates \$31,250 worth of oxygen, provides \$62,000 worth of air pollution control and recycles \$37,500 worth of water.



WE NEED YOU

Neighborhood organizations and cultural institutions along the Hennepin-Lyndale corridor recognized the value of greening and funded the initial set of plantings and maintenance at the Crossroads. But we need **YOUR INVOLVEMENT AND SUPPORT** to continue this initiative in 2019 and beyond.

Your neighbors have already contributed \$15,000 towards the total annual maintenance cost of \$45,000, leaving a **FUNDING NEED OF \$30,000**. Urban planting areas need extra special care to thrive. Our team will care for the thousands of native grasses, shrubs, lawn and perennial gardens on the seven medians, and remove the unsightly trash that accumulates. We can all play a role in making our City more appealing and beautiful, and your contribution enables the maintenance needed to **PROTECT THE INVESTMENTS MADE**.

LOOKING FORWARD

In 2019 and 2020, the Hennepin-Lyndale Public Space Coalition will expand the project northward. With an **ADDITIONAL \$40,000** in fundraising, we can unlock public sector funds in the form of a MnDOT landscape grant, and plant Median 8 with new shrubs, vines and trees. This is another example of how we leverage public sector funds through public-private partnership. Plans for 2020 include plantings on remaining medians and engaging community stakeholders to improve the Dunwoody Underpass.

Green Minneapolis is the charitable partner accepting donations for this effort. **DONATE NOW** to keep the Hennepin-Lyndale Crossroads green and lush in 2019. [GREENMINNEAPOLIS.ORG/DONATE](https://greenminneapolis.org/donate)



Hennepin-Lyndale Crossroads

Learn more!

1960

In the early part of the 20th century, Hennepin-Lyndale was a green corridor where great institutions made their homes.

Then, 1960s freeway construction resulted in an unsafe and unsightly urban environment - a brutal pedestrian landscape.



2015

The City's **2015 ROADWAY RECONSTRUCTION** was an opportunity to create a more beautiful and green gateway to downtown.

Community members from the Lowry Hill and Loring Park neighborhood organizations (LHNA and CLPC) recognized the importance of the corridor and need for major improvements. They organized with representatives from adjacent institutions, residents and business owners to form the project's official **COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**.

The Committee's input and advocacy had major impact, turning the City's preliminary plan which proposed modest upgrades, into a final design with significant improvements to the public realm, including:

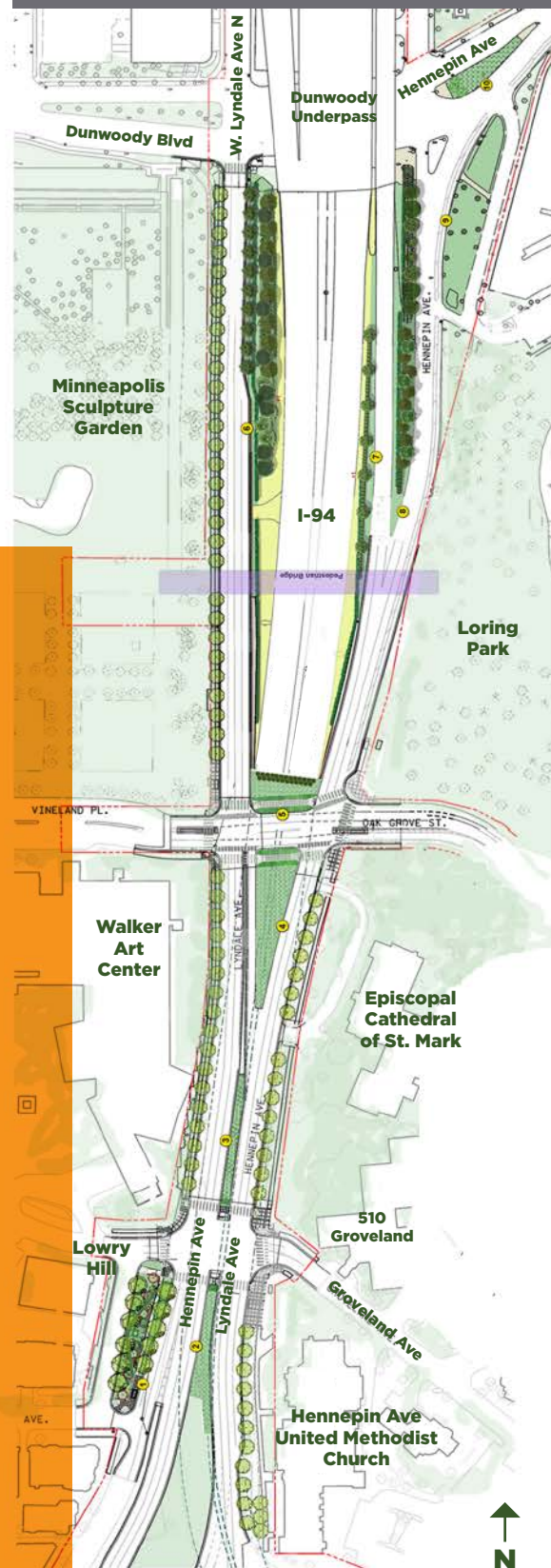
- Separated walk and bike paths on east side of corridor
- Over 1/2 mile of new boulevards with trees
- New & improved crosswalks with shorter cross distances
- New landscaped green space in some locations

When the project's advisory work came to a close, there was agreement two items required ongoing and careful attention:

- (1) **MORE LANDSCAPING**
- (2) **HIGHER LEVEL OF MAINTENANCE** than either the City or State could provide.

The **HENNEPIN-LYNDALÉ PUBLIC SPACE COALITION** was formed to find long-term, sustainable solutions to these two needs.

2015 ROADWAY RECONSTRUCTION PLAN



2016

In 2016, LHNA and CLPC received a **MINNEAPOLIS COMMUNITY INNOVATION GRANT** to consider and evaluate options for providing long-term maintenance for the multiple open spaces in the center of the corridor.

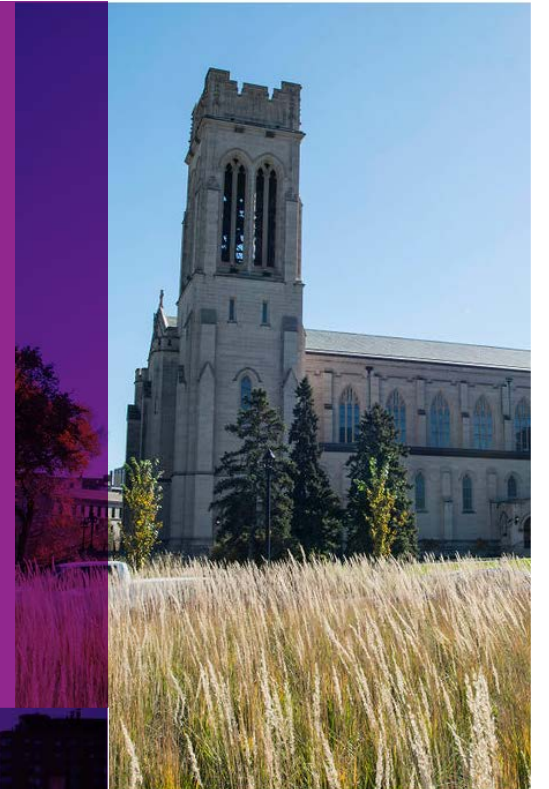
The recommendation from the assessment was to establish a conservancy-type district supported by donations from area property owners and residents.

Given the high traffic volume, it was determined that most maintenance work should be performed by contract workers, including weeding, watering, fertilizing, trash pickup and lawn mowing.

2018

A partnership was established with **GREEN MINNEAPOLIS**, a nonprofit conservancy with a mission to transform downtown through parks and greening. Green Minneapolis' experience managing public spaces fit perfectly with the needs of the Hennepin-Lyndale Crossroads.

Green Minneapolis coordinated the planting and maintenance of seven Hennepin-Lyndale medians in 2018 with \$15,000 in funding from a MnDOT Roadside Community Landscape Partnership grant, over \$50,000 from the Lowry Hill and Loring Park neighborhood organizations and the \$15,000 Minneapolis Community Innovation grant.



2018 New Plantings & Ongoing Maintenance

Lowry Hill

LOWRY HILL GATEWAY GARDEN includes 15 varieties of trees and plants, including Arcadia Juniper, Coral Bells and Maynight Salvia. The decorative urn is the centerpiece of the garden, with colorful seasonal plantings.



NEW KARL FOERSTER GRASS planted at center of Medians 2-5, and supplemental mulch added to existing grass

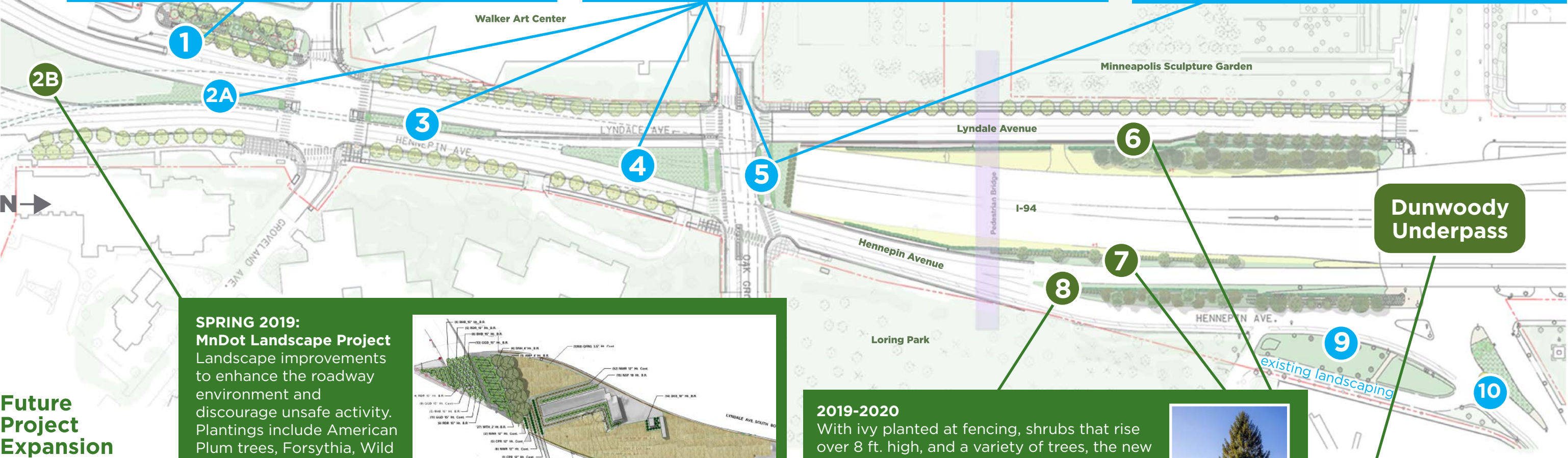
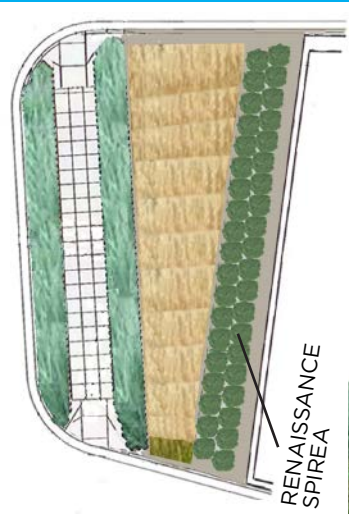


LITTLE BLUE STEM GRASS planted along all walkways throughout Medians 2-5



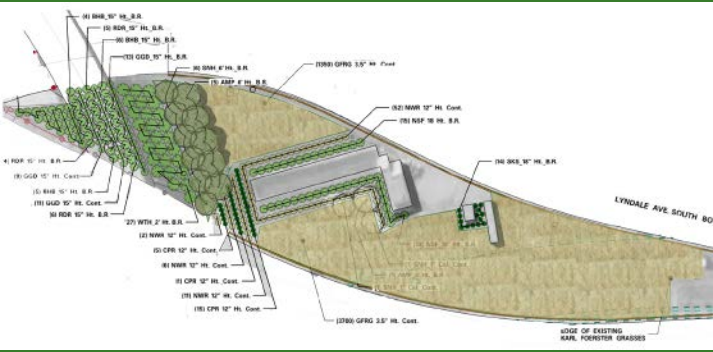
RENAISSANCE SPIREA

double row of flowering shrubs planted at Vineland crosswalk, above I-94 tunnel entrance (pictured in bloom)



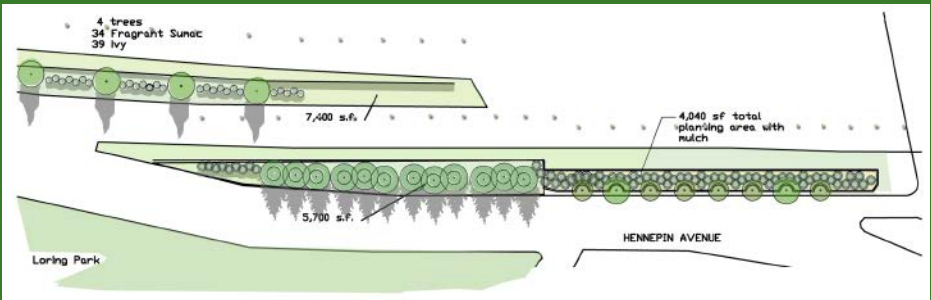
Future Project Expansion

SPRING 2019: MnDot Landscape Project Landscape improvements to enhance the roadway environment and discourage unsafe activity. Plantings include American Plum trees, Forsythia, Wild Rose and Feather Reed grasses.



2019-2020

With ivy planted at fencing, shrubs that rise over 8 ft. high, and a variety of trees, the new landscaping will provide multiple layers of screening and create an important buffer between I-94 and Loring Park. Trees proposed include Norway Spruce and Ponderosa Pine.



2020

Future plans include landscape improvements to Medians 6 & 7, and engaging community stakeholders on ways to improve the Dunwoody Underpass.