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Lester Park Elementary

Safety Greenspace Parking

Site Optimization

This urban neighborhood school site is being enhanced by:

1. Purchase 8 residential homes and conveyance of state property to more than double site size
2. Closure of 53rd Ave. E. to make the site contiguous
3. Greenspace at this site will go from almost 0 to nearly 3 acres
4. Nearly the entire existing school site will become soft surface play area
5. Multi-story building design to reduce footprint
6. Building location to maximize greenspace.
7. Acquisition of nature area/outdoor learning space across street, connected via lighted greenspace.

The reasons that the parcels chosen at this site are: the parcels already acquired lend to that direction (along with State of Minnesota land), including the closure of 53rd street which is the one that makes the most sense since it is the less traveled street surrounding the school. The contiguous parcels are the ones chosen.

The property across Glenwood provides an outdoor learning space and unique experience in the urban setting.

Evaluation Process for site expansion:

Evaluated: existing vehicular and pedestrian traffic patterns

Existing site drainage patterns

Identified: existing utility locations

Parks and other green space

Locations of city, county or state owned property near site

City of Duluth school facility parking ordinances

Potential solutions to efficiently meet educational adequacy requirements.

Potential solutions to create safe separation of pedestrian and vehicular traffic

Potential solutions to provide efficient traffic patterns.

Potential solutions that meet all applicable building codes

Explored: local, regional and national best practice models

Located: existing facility parameters that may affect potential solutions.

Consulted: The Minnesota Department of Education