

## H. ENVIRONMENTAL

### Enhance and Naturalize Waterways

In June of 2012, Chester Creek and its adjacent hillsides sustained extensive damage from flooding. Additionally, because it is fed by natural flow upstream, numerous neighborhood storm water inflows, extensive up-stream parking lot and building runoff, as well as runoff from the paved drive and parking lot surfaces within the Park itself, maintaining a cool water temperature in Chester Creek is a challenge. As a result, Chester Creek will be 'redesigned' to help restore the hydrology and ecological function of the creek, stabilize the stream banks, and improve creek habitat within the Park. The intent of the Mini-Master Plan is to describe the built environment in plan form while ensuring any future improvements include features to minimize impacts to the stream and associated natural systems.

The following guidelines should be incorporated when completing improvements:

- Maximize bioengineering stabilization solutions for the stream bank
- Design stream restoration and enhancements to withstand future flood events
- Protect built elements from flood damage
- Create opportunities to control water runoff volume, rate, temperature and sediments from adjacent surfaces entering Chester Creek

### Forest Management

To accomplish widening of the Huckleberry Ski Run to increase space, sightline and safety for skiers and the addition of a new "fun slope" featuring gentle waves of snowy berms, 0.21 acres of underbrush, small aspen and birch and invasive buckthorn will be removed. The Plan aims to restore high-quality native trees to sizable areas of the Park and includes additional planting of 1.06 acres of new trees including pine, maple, aspen and birch. This equates to five new trees being planted for every one removed.

### Enhance Views from and into the Park

Historically, views from Chester Park overlooking the City's hillside and Lake Superior were numerous. Over the decades, the natural tree line has expanded and now limits the expansive views. Achieving dual goals of restoring historic views while preserving some of the trees which have grown will require an ongoing, proactive and managed transition.

### Vegetation

Stands of tall red and white pines, along with other selective plant types, including local areas of dense Yew plantings and slope side vegetation, are critical to defining the Park's aesthetics. Not only is this vegetation necessary to stabilize erodible soils, protect the creek from sediment, and shade pavement areas, but they also stimulate visitors health and provide places to see sensitive species.

If possible, work should be minimized to avoid areas where sensitive and critical plant varieties are found.