COLDWATER
SHARED HISTORY
TOWARD A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE
except from Dakota origin story

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

they lead the disheartened group
to the land of the pines,
to the world of the ghosts.
they showed them how to live
as men now do.
thus tokahe and his followers
were the first people on earth.

their descendants are the dakota...
Early in the Spring, Col. Leavenworth discovered the fountain of water where the troops now are, & to which they moved as soon as the ice would permit. It is a healthy situation, about 200 feet above the river, and the water gushing out of a lime stone rock is excellent. It is called "Camp Cold Water."

JAMES DUANE DOTY, CAMP COLD WATER, JULY 31, 1820
part one: orientation

part two: setting the stage

part three: project proposal

part four: the crown jewel
part one: orientation

part two: setting the stage

part three: project proposal

part four: the crown jewel
part one: orientation

part two: setting the stage

part three: project proposal

part four: the crown jewel
part one: orientation

part two: setting the stage

part three: project proposal

part four: the crown jewel
where is the site?
what are the issues?
CULTURAL

consideration for Dakota history and culture as this site is considered sacred within their religious beliefs
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HISTORICAL
camp coldwater, dakota war, Bureau of Mines
CULTURAL

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HISTORICAL

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ECOLOGICAL

Natural landscape reclaiming and restoration to oak savanna. Continued effort to monitor and improve water quality.
what’s the site’s potential?
Connection between the site and the Mississippi River.
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Engage veterans home, due to close proximity to Camp Coldwater (significant history related to Minnesota's Military).
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Elucidate sustainability and inclusivity aspects of the projects.
Connection between the site and the Mississippi River.

Engage veterans home, due to close proximity to Camp Coldwater (significant history related to Minnesota's Military).

Elucidate sustainability and inclusivity aspects of the projects

What kinds of marketing/social media should we employ? Facebook, Twitter, QR codes?
we propose...
Build on NPS plan by adding interpretive material that honors the cultural and historical significance of this site while preserving its ecological integrity.

Photo credit: Jinjer Stanton, Capture Minnesota
what’s the current condition?
Former Bureau of Mines (closed 1996)
what is the site’s future?
NPS Coldwater Project (Bureau of Mines)

• Phase I: Demolition and Initial Restoration

• Phase II: Springhouse and Reservoir Restoration

• Phase III: Full Landscape Restoration
PROJECT PROPOSAL
Builds upon the demolition and subsequent restoration of the landscape as proposed in the project by NPS
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Implement opportunities for interpretation and education
Builds upon the demolition and subsequent restoration of the landscape as proposed in the project by NPS

Implement opportunities for interpretation and education

Strive for inclusivity by incorporating multiple perspectives and histories in the realization of the site
what’s the SCIENCE?
WATER
• Hydrology
• Chemistry
• Microbiology

SOILS
• Composition
• Chemistry

BIOTA
• Wildlife
• Vegetation

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
• Contamination
• Waste management

Source: National Park Service
how is it EXPRESSED?
Interpretive Center
Historic photographs
Art Gallery
Restrooms
Visitor information
Outdoor gathering place

Need for prioritized use by Dakota communities

Oral History Project
Modeled off “Small Kindnesses, Weather Permitting”
public art along the Hiawatha LRT
Interpretive Center
Historic photographs and Artifacts

Photo Credit: Minnesota Historical Society

Interpretive Center
Art Gallery
- River Themes
- Children’s Art
- Dakota Art

Martha Rock Keller
Todd Bordeaux
Gwen Westerman
how’s it implemented?
CONSULTING of native american individuals and organizations
CONSULTING of native american individuals and organizations

3-STEP PROCESS

:: work with multiple agencies to establish relationships within the dakota community

:: begin a dialogue about the site

:: let their input and history inform decisions
IMPLEMENTATION of prioritized use
IMPLEMENTATION of prioritized use

Filter Special Use Permit Requests

- Priority give to Dakota community uses
- Questionable requests flagged and brought before a committee that includes Dakota representatives
- Requests denied that are deemed culturally insensitive or ecologically damaging
DESIGN and DEVELOPMENT
DESIGN and DEVELOPMENT

HANDICAP ACCESSIBILITY
DESIGN and DEVELOPMENT

INTERPRETIVE CENTER
FLOOR PLAN OF INTERPRETIVE CENTER

HISTORIC IMAGERY AND INFORMATION DISPLAYED ALONG CURVED INNER WALL

FRONT DESK

MENS RESTROOM

WOMEN’S RESTROOM

OFFICE/STORAGE

GALLERY FLOOR

OPEN AIR GALLERY SPACE

ENTER FROM ALL SIDES

EDGE OF ROOF OVERHANG
FLOOR PLAN OF INTERPRETIVE CENTER
PARTNERS in project development
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NATIONAL: National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs
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STATE: Minnesota Historical Society, MPCA, Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota DNR
PARTNERS in project development

NATIONAL: National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs

STATE: Minnesota Historical Society, MPCA, Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota DNR

LOCAL: Preserve Camp Coldwater Coalition, The Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Community, Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, Great River Greening
Why invest in Coldwater Springs?
the birthplace of MINNESOTA
Camp Coldwater founded by the first military settlers in the region during the construction of Fort Snelling.
Settlers used Camp Coldwater as a trading post and a nexus for new settlers to establish themselves.
central location
Near Airport and Mall of America
Near Airport and Mall of America

Near Hiawatha Light Rail Transit
Near Airport and Mall of America

Near Hiawatha Light Rail Transit

Between two major tourist attractions: Minnehaha Falls, Fort Snelling
cultural significance
Sacred site to the Dakota population as part of the Bdote and because the ceremonial uses of spring water

Potential to repair strained relationships with Minnesota’s Dakota population and the Dakota diaspora

A temporary monument constructed by the Mendota Dakota community as part of an annual ceremony to honor those who died in the Dakota War of 1862

Photo Credit: Minnesotahistory.net
Image taken during the 1998 protest of the re-routing of Highway 55
encourage understanding and respect
Acknowledgment of the shared history of the site
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Encouraging dialogue between different communities and cultures to foster respect for different value systems
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Move toward a transcommunal and unified society of Minnesotans
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Encouraging dialogue between different communities and cultures to foster respect for different value systems

Move toward a transcommunal and unified society of Minnesotans

Transcommunality is a general, open, improvisational **mode of cooperation that emphasizes coordinated heterogeneity and autonomy across “identity boundaries”** not only of those such as “ethnicity” “race,” “class,” and “gender,” but also of organizationally, philosophically and cosmologically diverse settings. Transcommunality entails a changed way of thinking, a paradigm shift, or to use the Andean Indigenous terminology of pachakuti, “a change of direction,” that moves beyond the classic Eurocentric progressive emphasis on an homogenizing “unity” based on the leadership of one group, while on the other hand also escaping from the aimless splintered relativism of current perceptions of compartmentalized diversity in which there is no constructive contact among different peoples.

Transcommunality emphasizes a general ethics of respect in which **mutual recognition and acceptance of diverse, divergent, sometimes opposed perspectives occurs among dynamically interacting partners** who themselves are transformed through their mutual contacts. Transcommunality sees distinctly rooted group locations (geographical or philosophical), with their often clear-cut boundaries and internal senses of communal integrity as positive foundations for interaction. It is precisely from such rooted locations that diverse communities can reach out with confidence to one another, so creating constellations of cooperation that reinforce rather than undermining their own identities.

John Brown Childs Editor, Transcommunal Cooperation News
Santa Cruz, California
May, 2007
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