

PROJECT PARTNERS CELEBRATE PROGRESS ON ANNIVERSARY OF SITE CLEARING



MBA Chair Steve Cramer addresses the media on one year anniversary of site clearing.

May 15, 2008- One year ago, crews began clearing an asphalt parking lot in an underutilized part of downtown Minneapolis to make way for the new Minnesota Twins Ballpark.

Today, standing on a completed portion of the ballpark's spacious main concourse, Minnesota Ballpark Authority (MBA) Chair Steve Cramer looked out over the future playing field and said he's proud of the accomplishments project partners have achieved this past year and the significant challenges they've overcome.

"Construction is going smoothly and the process is working as it should," Cramer said. "It's amazing to think that a year ago this was a parking lot. Today it is a thriving construction site, and next year it will be an amazing change from where we are today."

To mark the one-year anniversary of the site clearing and celebrate the progress that's been made, Cramer joined executives from the Minnesota Twins, HOK Sport and Mortenson Construction on a sunny spring day at the site to update reporters on the project, which remains on schedule.

Mortenson Construction Executive Dan Mehls said crews have completed the pile driving process and have poured 15,000 of the 51,000 cubic yards of concrete the project requires. Mehls also promised a busy summer as the project partners laid out a detailed construction timeline between now and Opening Day, 2010.

Over the next few months, crews are scheduled to complete the concourse promenade and the pedestrian plaza over 394 connecting the ballpark to downtown Minneapolis. They will also begin installing the steel on the ballpark structure and sunshade as well as the limestone that will wrap the ballpark's exterior. Meanwhile, the playing field grass will be grown off-site and the large right field tower crane will come down by fall. [Please click here for a complete construction timeline.](#)

Cramer says the past year has been extremely exciting and the next year will be even more so as the ballpark really begins to take shape. He says the MBA's priorities are finding additional funding partners for district enhancements beyond the ballpark footprint and making certain critical connections to and from the ballpark are in place by 2010.

The MBA's goal is to improve the flow of fans on game days and connect people to the new neighborhood, which in just a year has gone from an underutilized part of the city to an emerging area of downtown Minneapolis.

"The ballpark is going to be the centerpiece and gathering place for people downtown," Cramer said. "It's going to be a wonderful civic asset."