



Date of Board P&C:
January 20th, 2021

Community Engagement Assessment

Please fill out this form if your project, program, or initiative includes community engagement. All Community Engagement Assessments should be filed as Petitions and Communications with the MPRB Board of Commissioners and submitted to the MPRB Engagement Portal on SharePoint.

Staff Lead: Andy Schilling

Division/Department: Planning Department, Design and Project Management

Level of Engagement: Consult (See Engagement Assessment attached)

Project, Program, or Initiative Name: Loring Park Playground Improvements

Project Description (100 words recommended):

MPRB is seeking input from the community in fall 2020 and early 2021 about prioritizing needs for replacement of equipment and surfacing which is coming to the end of its life. The project scope is upgrades to the playground equipment with the opportunity to reimagine the types, themes, and experiences for the four existing playground containers with construction anticipated in 2021.

The engagement process will define the type of playground equipment and playground surfacing at Loring Park using \$360,000 in 2019 CIP funding identified for the project.

Review the criteria to determine the level of engagement that your program, project, or initiative falls under. Provide an explanation of how your project meets the criteria in the Justification section below.

Level of Engagement	Inform	Consult	Involve	Partner
Engagement Goal	To provide stakeholders with factual, accessible, balanced, and timely information to help them understand the project, program, or initiative.	To obtain stakeholder feedback on project, initiative, or program analysis, alternatives, or decisions.	To work directly with stakeholders throughout the process to ensure that perspectives are consistently understood, considered, and reflected in project, program, or initiative decisions.	To partner with stakeholders in each aspect of decision making in order to develop and implement collaborative project, program, or initiative solutions.
Criteria to Determine Level of Engagement (Which level of engagement best describes your project?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is a decision that should be based on technical, operational, or safety constraints only. This is a project, program, or initiative that does not result in a change in the type, location, or extent of the current facility or service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This project takes place in a park that has been master planned. This a new city-wide initiative or program. This is a new public policy or public policy update. The outcome is likely to change based on community input. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This project requires a CAC. This project does not have other policy guidance such as an existing master plan or public policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This program, project, or initiative is being developed in partnership with another agency or organization.
MPRB Promise	MPRB will keep you informed.	MPRB will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge feedback, work to integrate stakeholder feedback into the alternatives, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with stakeholders for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and to incorporate recommendations to the extent possible.	The MPRB and partner entity will be accountable to their roles as negotiated in the partnership and regularly evaluate overall success of the partnership.
Examples of project types	Repaving a parking lot, cutting down a tree, beach or swimming pool closures, ADA improvements, rehab	Approved master plan design implementation, city or service area wide program development, public policy development, Participatory Project Scoping	Master plans, any process that includes a formal public body making recommendations.	Jointly owned and/or operated facilities, co-creation, public/private partnership, community led projects.

This engagement grid was adapted from the IAP2 International Federation 2014 Public Participation Spectrum.

Justification (100 words recommended): Please explain how your project meets the criteria in the Engagement Grid on pg. 2. Provide a justification for each criterion corresponding to the Level of Engagement that will guide your project.

There is an existing master plan for Loring Park. The scope of the project is relatively limited playground area improvements; however stakeholder feedback is necessary to determine the upgrades to the playground equipment with the opportunity to reimagine the types, themes, and experiences for the playground containers.

For projects, programs, or initiatives that fall under the Inform category of engagement: what are your planned methods for informing the public? (i.e. posting on a project website, GovDelivery email blast, flyer onsite, multi-lingual and/or graphic information) *You do not need to answer this question if you are completing a CE Plan.*



Date of Board P+C: January 20, 2021
Date of Board Approval (for CAC's only):
Date of Most Recent Update:

Please fill out this form if your project, program, or initiative includes community engagement beyond the "Inform" level. All Community Engagement Plans should be filed as Petitions and Communications with the MPRB Board of Commissioners and submitted to the MPRB Engagement Portal on SharePoint (A link to the Community Engagement Portal can be found at <https://minneapolisparcs.sharepoint.com/planning/SitePages/Home.aspx>.)

Staff Lead: Andy Schilling

Department or Division: Planning Department, Design and Project Management Division

Project Name: Loring Park Playground Improvements

Engagement Level: Consult (See Engagement Assessment attached)

This plan serves as a guide for the community engagement process for the Linden Hills Play Area and Site Improvements Project. The plan may be modified as circumstance warrants during project duration. Substantial modifications are to be communicated to stakeholders and the MPRB Board of Commissioners.

As required by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Community Engagement Policy, this project requires a Community Engagement Plan because the project falls under the Consult category of community engagement for which MPRB is required to obtain stakeholder feedback on project, initiative, or program analysis, alternatives, or decisions. This CE Plan was used with a GARE Racial Equity Tool Kit framework.

Key Stakeholders should be engaged in the creation of this plan. This is to be filled out before the CE Plan is submitted to the Board as a P+C. Please explain how they were engaged:

This plan is being developed in collaboration with community stakeholders and MPRB staff input. Community stakeholders include: Citizens for a Loring Park Community (CLPC), and Friends of Loring Park as well as key staff from neighborhood childcare and education facilities. These stake holders were consulted in developing this plan, which is a living document. We will also be engaging with the public at Loring Park, though limited due to the ongoing pandemic. Community feedback is being used to shape the engagement process and plan.

1. Project Description

1a. Project Overview:

\$360,000 is available for playground area improvements at Loring Park from the 2019 Capital Improvement Program.

Improvements may include the replacement of the existing play equipment and surfacing in the playground. The playground footprints remain as existing.

1b. MPRB Outcomes (*What goals, strategies, or values in the MPRB Comprehensive Plan does this project, program, or initiative relate to? What goal in the Racial Equity Action Plan does this relate to?*):

Vision Theme 3: Dynamic parks that shape city character and meet diverse community needs.

Vision Theme 4: A safe place to play, celebrate, contemplate, and recreate.

1c. Project Timeline:

Community Engagement will move forward in fall 2020 and early 2021.

1d. Project Funding:

<u>Capital Sources</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
2019 CIP	\$360,000	These funds to not expire; however, MPRB is obligated to use these funds by 2022.
Total:	\$360,000	N/A

2. Project Data:

2a. What are the boundaries of the community engagement area?

Loring Park Neighborhood.

2b. What are the demographics of the community engagement area? (*Please refer to percentages of the population when possible and note the sources of the data.*)

The demographic information for the Loring Park Neighborhood indicates that approximately 7% of the population is 17 years and younger, 5% is under 5 years, and 14% is over 65 years of age. The data regarding Race/Ethnicity shows that approximately 73% of persons are White, 14% are Black or African American, 6% are Hispanic or Latino, 5% Asian or Pacific Islander, and

5% are Two or more races. Disability statistics designate 14% of the population as having a disability. 17.5% of the population has an income below the poverty level.

Source: Online: MNCompass.org

<https://www.mncompass.org/profiles/city/minneapolis/loring-park>

2c. List any key findings or excerpts from relevant plans or policies that are informing this project, program or initiative, especially if community was engaged in the policy or plan: *The purpose of community research is to collect data that will best inform specific project decisions or strategic direction and support the policy goals of effective community engagement.*

Research completed in advance of and during project development may include review of previously completed directives or mandates, master plans, community studies, industry trends and historical and demographic data. MPRB staff is responsible for determining the research data necessary to support and document decision-making for a project and building off prior community engaged planning, policy and design.

2d. What are the data gaps? What additional research needs to be done to understand the project stakeholders and project scope?

Identifying the user groups of the playground is a gap; however, the neighborhood organizations for Loring Park are well organized and are able to provide contacts for schools and daycare facilities.

3. Community Engagement:

The MPRB supports the use of a variety of techniques to interact with and obtain information from stakeholders. Outreach and research tools and methods can be applied for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to the following:

- a. Evaluate success and measure community impact of existing programs, services or facilities.
- b. Gain stakeholder insight and perspective regarding development of a new program, service or facility.
- c. Proactively identify or explore park and recreation trends or ideas.
- d. Determine essential services to be provided for a community or park area.
- e. Query stakeholders when proposing or revising policy.
- f. Resolve persistent conflicts or problems.
- g. Educate or inform the public on proposed changes, initiatives and projects.
- h. Reflect on projects, programs and initiatives after adoption by the Board or report on how community input has been integrated.
- i. Learn the history of local context and community.

Project Stakeholder <i>(students, ethnic communities, neighborhood groups, community leaders)</i>	Outreach: How will you reach out to the stakeholder? <i>(i.e. go to parks, neighborhood listserv, engage with cultural media)</i>	Engagement: How will they participate? <i>(i. e. online survey, focus group, community open house, intercept survey)</i>	Reflecting Back: How will stakeholder groups be reflected back to about the project progress or outcomes? <i>(Posted on project website, ribbon cutting, e-blast, site visit, celebration)</i>
Friends of Loring Park	Email, meetings, and survey.	Newsletters, Website, Social Media	E-blast, reporting findings at a neighborhood meeting, website updates, and an invitation to a ribbon cutting celebration
Citizens for a Loring Park Community	Email, meetings, and survey.	Newsletters, Website, Social Media	E-blast, reporting findings at a neighborhood meeting, website updates, and an invitation to a ribbon cutting celebration

Daycares, Private Schools, and Youth Organization Representatives – Varies	Email and Survey	Provide feedback via online survey.	E-blast, reporting of findings, website updates, and an invitation to a ribbon cutting celebration
Playground users	Email; personal contact.	Provide feedback via park pop-up engagement at the playground with social distancing in place, online survey	E-blast, reporting findings at an Open House, website updates, and an invitation to a ribbon cutting celebration

If needed, describe the outreach, engagement, or reflection methods you will use that are referenced above:

3a. Advisory Committees:

Project Advisory Committee: This roster is a list of MPRB departments and divisions that are on the PAC
<i>Project Advisory Team</i>
Staff will convene a PAC of MPRB staff. The PAC will provide technical insight into the existing conditions within the park and assist with understanding community needs and program needs, to help prioritize the proposed site improvements associated with the project. The PAC will include members from the following departments:
MPRB Recreation Division (Rec. Center Director, Program Staff, and Athletics)
MPRB Environmental Stewardship Division (Forestry, Asset Management, Environmental Management Departments)

Community Advisory Committee:	
Committee Recommended Slate	Board Approved Slate
Board Individually Appointed CAC Members	
Commissioner	Appointee

4. Analysis:

4a. What questions will you be asking community to respond to in your outreach and engagement?

4b. How will your community engagement outreach, engagement, and methods make MPRB a more equitable system?

5. Evaluation Summary: *To be completed at one or more project milestones, and at the completion of the project, program, or initiative.*

5a. Identify one or more key project milestones when project evaluation will be performed (i.e. Draft design review, draft policy review, project mid-point)

5a. Who was engaged during the process? (i.e. demographic info from online survey participants, the CAC, and community engagement whenever possible. Refer back to Section 2 in the CE Plan and how your engagement reflects the diversity of the community in the engagement area.)

5b. How did the engagement inform the project outcome? (i.e. public tabulation and amendments following a public comment period)

5c. How did the project and engagement fulfill a goal or strategy in the MPRB Comprehensive Plan?

5d. Please describe any new or innovative engagement methods used during the process:

5e. What recommendations do you have for future engagement around this topic, park, or area?

5f. What, if any, were the unintended outcomes of your CE Plan?

5g. Were there any barriers to successful implementation of your CE Plan?

5h. Were you adequately resourced, including staff support, expertise, and funding?

5i. If applicable, how can this project, program, or initiative, or MPRB continue to partner and deepen relationships with underrepresented communities?