



Date of Original Board P+C: January 20, 2021
Date of Update Board P+C: September 29, 2021
Date of Most Recent Update: August 31, 2021

Staff Lead: Daniel Elias

Department or Division: Planning

Project Name: Northeast Athletic Field (NEAF) Park Improvements

Engagement Level: Consult

This plan serves as a guide for the community engagement process for the *(insert project, program, or initiative name here)*. 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 *(insert level of engagement here)* 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:

The Northeast Park Neighborhood organization was engaged in the creation of this plan.

1. Project Description

1a. Project Overview:

The proposed project is scoped to build a new playground near the Northeast Recreation Center. Additionally, west of Fillmore Street, a new softball field will be built, and an existing field renovated. The fields will include new lighting and irrigation if funding allows. The maintenance access drive will be relocated of railroad property and onto MPRB property and the small parking lot will be removed to allow for maintenance access only.

1b. MPRB Outcomes:

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

Goal: Park facility renewal and development respects history and focuses on sustainability, accessibility, flexibility and beauty.

Strategy: Build quality facilities that can be adapted to new uses as community needs change.

Racial Equity Action Plan Goal: The MPRB provides programs and services that are responsive and reflective of community needs.

1c. Project Timeline:

Scoping – Fall 2020

Design – Winter/Spring - 2021

Construction – Fall 2021

1d. Project Funding:

<u>Capital Sources</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
2018 Neighborhood Capital Levy	\$80,000.00	N/A
2014 Neighborhood Capital Levy From 910AP611	\$57,631.81	N/A
Amended 2020 Covid From NPP20	\$426,000.00	N/A
Amended 2020 Covid From NPP20	\$400,000.00	N/A
Amended 2020 Covid From Capital	\$90,258.00	N/A
PROJECT TOTAL	\$1,053,889.81	

2. Project Data:

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

Northeast Park Neighborhood and high user groups of proposed improvements (softball and playground users).

2b. What are the demographics of the community engagement area?

Low residential population of approximately 780 people, with 45% people of color.

24% of owner-occupied housing have children under 18 in the home.

34% of renter-occupied housing have children under 18 in the home.

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 2019 Board approved East of the River Master Plan made a few minor modifications to the 2014 Board approved NEAF Park Master Plan to meet level of service needs for the service area and design modifications with the new NE Park Recreation Center. The proposed new playground and ball diamonds are both included in both the 2014 master plan and the 2019 East of the River Master Plan.

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

The 2019 and 2014 master plan Community Advisory Committees and the Northeast Park Neighborhood Association will also provide insights into who else should be engaged in the process. Around the playground improvements, staff will work to engage with local youth that will benefit the most from the proposed improvements.

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>
Northeast Park Neighborhood Association	Email and attend virtual board meeting	Neighborhood meetings discussion, online survey, and Virtual Open House	Posted on the project website, public hearing and email blasts
Yinghua Academy	Email to administration and potential meeting with Parent Group	Online survey and Virtual Open House	Posted on the project website, public hearing and email blasts
2019 East of the River and 2014 NEAF Park Master Plan CAC Members	Email, Gov Delivery e-blast, and phone	One-on-one conversations with staff upon request, online survey and Virtual Open House	Posted on the project website, public hearing and email blasts
Softball Players	Email list serve outreach	Online survey and Virtual Open House	Posted on the project website, public hearing and email blasts
Youth	Email through recreation programming lists	Online survey and Virtual Open House	Posted on the project website, public hearing and email blasts

*With COVID considerations in mind, these engagement methods are entirely virtual in nature to ensure safety for community and staff.

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

3a. Advisory Committees:

Technical Advisory Committee: This roster is a list of agencies and groups that are on the TAC
N/A

Project Advisory Committee: This roster is a list of MPRB departments and divisions that are on the PAC

Information Technology

Community Outreach

Asset Management

Recreation

Public Safety

Forestry

Communications

3b. Will a Community Advisory Committee be required for this project, program, or initiative?

No

4. Analysis:

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

What style/type of play features would you like included in the new playground?

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

We will strive you build a new playground responsive to the local youth in the neighborhood.

5. Evaluation Summary:

5a. Identify one or more key project milestones when project evaluation will be performed.

Playground Concept Plan approval

5a. Who was engaged during the process? See attached data from survey.

5b. How did the engagement inform the project outcome? Results from the online survey informed the creation of multiple playground concepts focusing on an adventure course. These options were reviewed internally by Recreation and Asset Management staff for appropriateness for the on-site programming provided at this site.

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

Using the Theme and Goal below as a guide, the project will develop a new playground centered around accessibility and flexibility for a wide range of users.

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

Goal: Park facility renewal and development respects history and focuses on sustainability, accessibility, flexibility and beauty.

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

Due to COVID and timing (design during winter of 2020/21), engagement was not as innovative as I would have liked. This project relied on on-line engagement as it was moved up in the CIP during COVID because it was believed that engagement would be moderately successful if held on-line only.

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

Efforts to reach out to the local, adjacent school were ineffective. These efforts could be doubled-down on for future projects.

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

Engagement focused on those with computer/internet access and those already plugged into the process.

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

The schedule and pandemic were the greatest factors affecting engagement for this project.

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

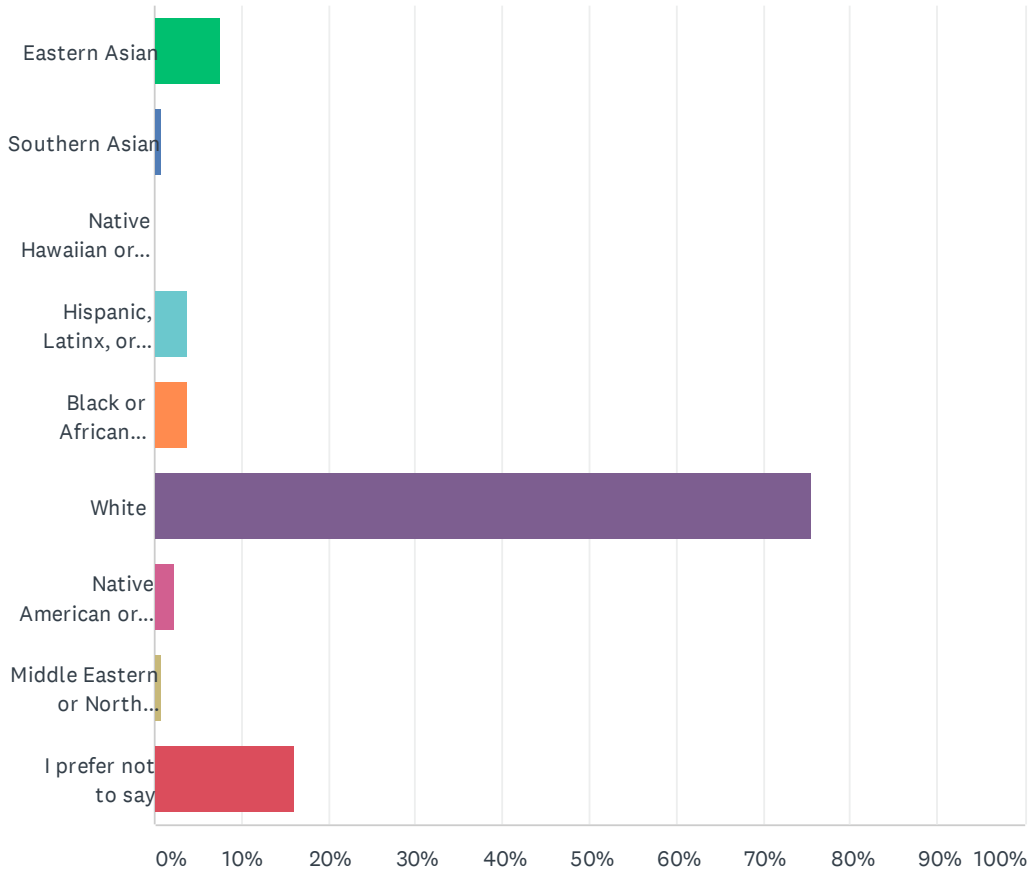
Yes

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

N/A

Q6 I identify my ethnicity as (select all that apply)

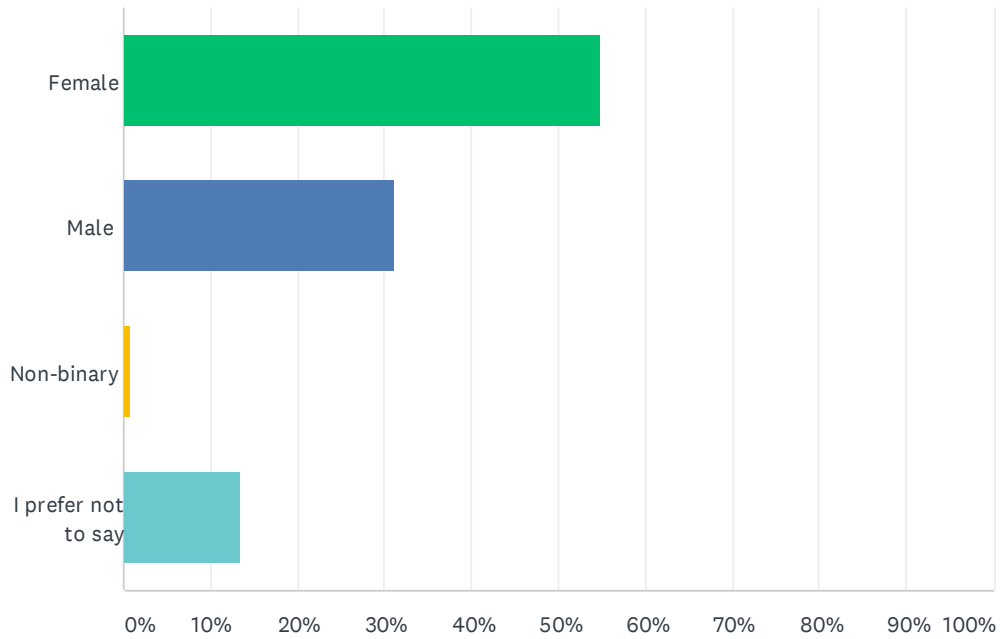
Answered: 131 Skipped: 16



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Eastern Asian	7.63%	10
Southern Asian	0.76%	1
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.00%	0
Hispanic, Latinx, or Spanish	3.82%	5
Black or African American	3.82%	5
White	75.57%	99
Native American or Alaska Native	2.29%	3
Middle Eastern or North African	0.76%	1
I prefer not to say	16.03%	21
Total Respondents: 131		

Q7 I identify my gender as...

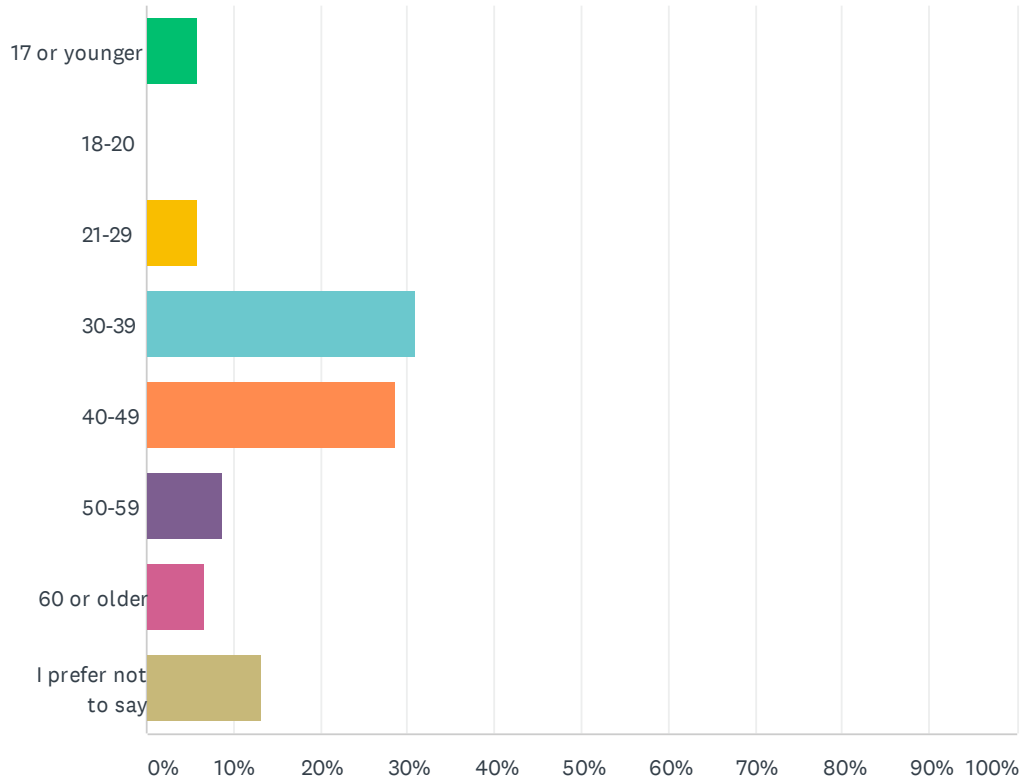
Answered: 135 Skipped: 12



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Female	54.81%	74
Male	31.11%	42
Non-binary	0.74%	1
I prefer not to say	13.33%	18
TOTAL		135

Q8 What is your age?

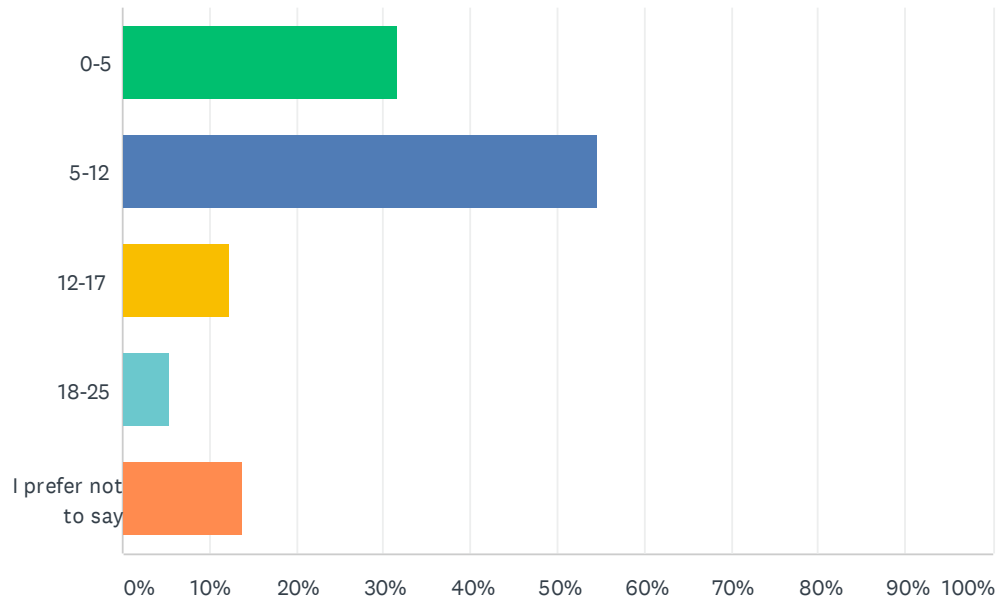
Answered: 136 Skipped: 11



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
17 or younger	5.88%	8
18-20	0.00%	0
21-29	5.88%	8
30-39	30.88%	42
40-49	28.68%	39
50-59	8.82%	12
60 or older	6.62%	9
I prefer not to say	13.24%	18
TOTAL		136

Q9 What is the age of the playground user(s) in your household?

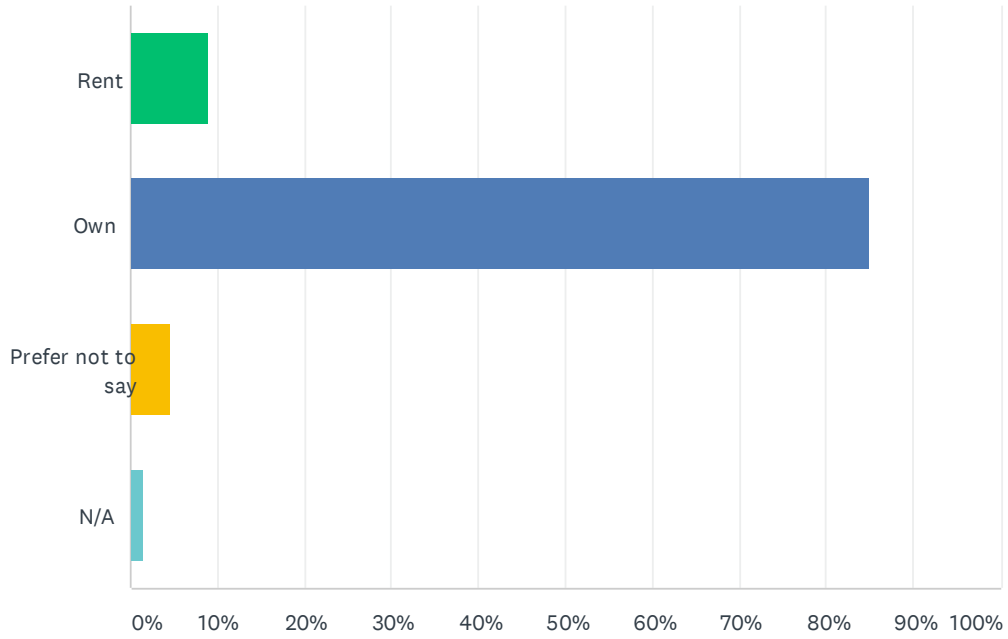
Answered: 130 Skipped: 17



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0-5	31.54%	41
5-12	54.62%	71
12-17	12.31%	16
18-25	5.38%	7
I prefer not to say	13.85%	18
Total Respondents: 130		

Q11 Do you rent or own your home?

Answered: 133 Skipped: 14



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Rent	9.02%	12
Own	84.96%	113
Prefer not to say	4.51%	6
N/A	1.50%	2
TOTAL		133