



Date of Board P+C: 10/4/2023

Date of Most Recent Update: 9/20/2023

Staff Lead: Madeline Hudek

Department or Division: Strategic Planning

Project Name: Mississippi Flyway Habitat Enhancement and Connectivity Pilot

Engagement Level: Consult

This plan serves as a guide for the community engagement process for the Mississippi Flyway Habitat Enhancement and Connectivity Pilot. 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. Please explain who was engaged:

1. Project Description

1a. Project Overview:

A pilot project to enhance connectivity within the Mississippi Flyway by linking urban neighborhood parks to the Mississippi River through habitat expansion within the habitat corridors identified in the Ecological System Plan. The project location will be informed by selection criteria, developed as part of the project, and community feedback. The pilot will also include some public education related to habitat, wildlife, and the Mississippi Flyway and will go through an evaluation process following construction.

1b. MPRB Outcomes

Goal 2: Steward a continuum of nature and recreation

- Strategy 2: Support the preservation, management, and increase in acreage of natural and naturalized areas for ecosystem benefits and for public benefit.
- Strategy 5: Establish and steward natural habitat areas in neighborhood parks and prioritize in parts of the city that don't have access to regional parks connected through a thriving urban tree canopy.

Goal 6: Strength ecological connections

- Strategy 4: Enhance and support habitat and green space connectivity and reduce habitat fragmentation, recognizing the interconnection between street trees, parks, and the city as a whole.
- Strategy 12: Enhance connections to natural spaces in our park system through education, programming, interpretation, experiences, volunteerism, and accessible facilities for a diverse and multi-generational audience.

1c. Project Timeline:

- Fall 2023 – Spring 2024: Identify potential pilot locations and select a location(s) for implementation.
- Spring 2024 – Fall 2024: Design
- Winter 2024/2025: Publicly bid project
- Spring 2025: Construction
- Summer 2025 – Winter 2025: Project evaluation and public education

1d. Project Funding:

<u>Capital Sources</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
LCCMR	\$190,000	June 30, 2026

2. Project Data:

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

City of Minneapolis

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

Total Population

- 425,091

Age by Percentage of the Population

- Under 18 years: 19.7%
- Over 18 years: 80.3%

Race by Percentage of the Population

- American Indian and Alaska Native: 1.3%
- Asian: 5.7%
- Black or African American: 18.4%
- Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander: 0%
- White: 63.1%
- Some other race: 4.6%
- Two or more races: 6.9%

Percentage of the Population that Speaks a Language Other than English at Home

- 21.6%

Population with a Disability

- 13%

Source: 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate

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 project will primarily be informed by the Ecological System Plan, MPRB's Capital Improvement Program, and service area park plans. The Ecological System Plan outlines future habitat corridors which will be incorporated into determining the pilot location. Service area plans contain park plans for each neighborhood park, several of which call for replacing mown turf with natural areas within parks.

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

There's enough available data to advance this project. However, additional data may be required depending on the criteria developed for selecting a pilot location.

3. Community Engagement:

3a. Identify Project Stakeholders

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>
Surrounding community and residents	On-site signage, social media, other MPRB projects (if applicable)	Surveys – online and/or intercept	Project website and GovDelivery
Local non-profit and community organizations	Email	Surveys – online and/or intercept	Project website and GovDelivery
Park users	On-site signage, social media, other MPRB projects (if applicable)	Surveys – online and/or intercept	Project website and GovDelivery

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

3b. Advisory Committees:

For this project, the TAC and PAC will meet as a combined committee.

Technical Advisory Committee: This roster is a list of agencies and groups that are on the TAC
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Mississippi Watershed Management Organization
City of Minneapolis – Public Works
Friends of the Mississippi River
Mississippi Park Connection
City of Minneapolis – Office of Sustainability
Metro Blooms

Project Advisory Committee: This roster is a list of MPRB departments and divisions that are on the PAC
Environmental Management
Data Insights Team
Forestry

3c. 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?

- Which of these potential pilot project locations would you like to see constructed? Why?
- How familiar are you with the Mississippi Flyway?
- Did you learn anything new from your visit to the pilot project area? If so, what did you learn? If not, how come?
- Would you like to see more areas like the pilot project area?
- How familiar are you with the Mississippi Flyway after visiting the pilot project area?
- How satisfied are you with the pilot project area?
- What do you think about the new pilot project area?

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

The project will expand habitat within the park system and further connect parts of the city with little to no connection with the Mississippi River. Overall, this will make MPRB a more equitable system for people, plants, and wildlife.

4c. Identify one or more key project milestones when project evaluation will be performed

Following pilot project selection.

5. Evaluation Summary: *To be completed at one or more project milestones as identified in 4c.*

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

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

5e. 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?