

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

Indigenous Acknowledgment and Reconciliation

Timeline

Spring 2020: Panel discussion advising MPRB on Indigenous acknowledgement and truth and reconciliation practices

Fall 2021: Parks for All, MPRB Comprehensive Plan 2021-2036 adopted by MPRB Board of Commissioners with strategies focused on Indigenous Acknowledgement and beyond

Spring 2022: Commissioners direct staff to develop a budget and begin work related to Indigenous acknowledgment and actions related to truth and reconciliation

Fall 2022: Budget request for reconciliation plan, acknowledgement statement development, and trainings approved by Board of Commissioners

Winter 2023: Inter-departmental MPRB Staff Indigenous Projects Workgroup forms

Spring 2023: Job posting for Indigenous Parks Liaison

Summer-Fall 2023: Reconciliation Plan research

2024: Development of Reconciliation Plan, Indigenous land, people, and nations acknowledgement statement, and MPRB leadership trainings

Welcome Carrie Day Aspinwall!

MPRB's first Indigenous Parks Liaison

Carrie Day Aspinwall has served as a special projects' consultant and lifelong respected leader in the local and statewide American Indian community. Carrie is a citizen enrolled member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe/Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. "I have worked with many bands, tribes, local state and federal agencies, national organizations and non profit communities, always dedicated to improving the lives of our American Indian people," says Aspinwall. "This is where my passion is, and I'm known for getting things done, Positive, Progressive, and Prepared."



Native Acknowledgment

“As part of Parks for All, the MPRB is exploring how to integrate acknowledgement of land and Indigenous peoples into our work, procedures and spaces represented in several strategies and this seed statement for continued development by staff, community, and leadership in the years to come. We collectively acknowledge that the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board system is located on the traditional, ancestral and contemporary lands of Indigenous people. This land holds great historical, spiritual and personal significance for its original stewards, the Native nations and peoples of this region, including the Dakota and Ojibwe people. We recognize that a statement like this needs to be dynamic and change as we continue to learn, understand, and heal our relationship with the Indigenous community. Therefore, these words are seeds that should grow and change with time.”

– Parks for All: Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Comprehensive Plan 2021-2036

What guides the MPRB Indigenous Acknowledgment Work and Reconciliation Plan?



Parks for All Goals and Strategies

Goal 1: Foster Belonging and Equity

Strategy 3: Amplify Indigenous stories, histories, cultural practices and connections to land through employment, partnerships, reconciliation planning, programming, ceremony, foraging, land management, interpretation and proactive community engagement across projects and programs.

Goal 7: Connect through communications and technology

Strategy 4: Educate staff and the community on critical issues facing the city and region, specifically:indigenous acknowledgment, history, rights, culture and perspectives;

Goal 8: Cultivate a thriving workforce

Strategy 11: Develop, evolve, and train staff and commissioners on: native acknowledgement practices that incorporate the complexities of treaties, tribal differences, personal experience and layered place-based histories...

This work has been ongoing:

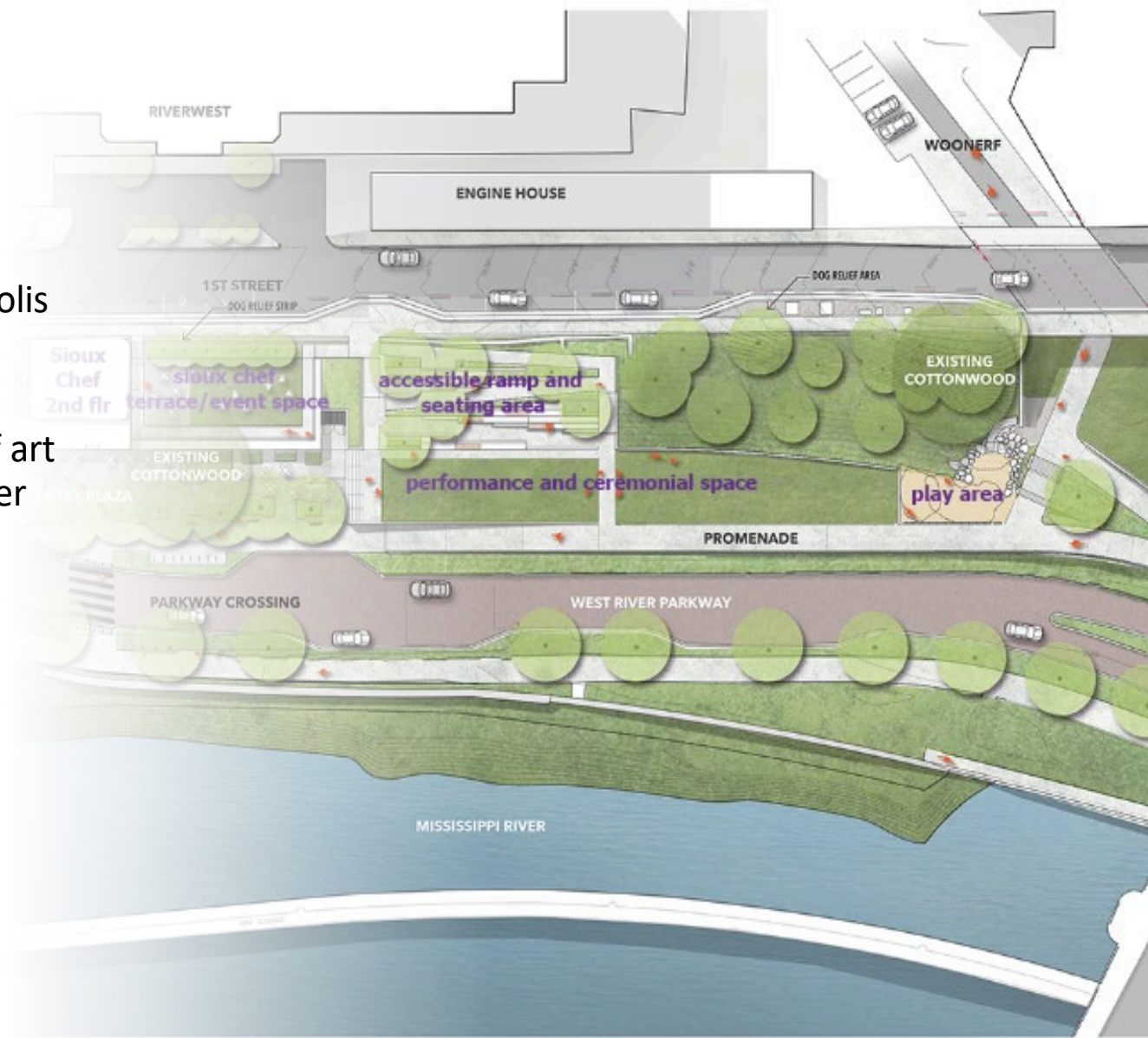
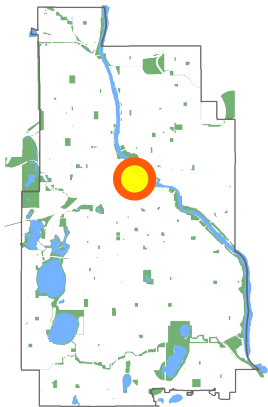
projects at MPRB that involve Indigenous community, leadership, or tribal councils

- Bde Maka Ska Cloud Man Phase 2 interpretation
- Bde Maka Ska name reclamation
- Bde Maka Ska Refectory public art
- Cedar-Isles Master Plan
- East Phillips Open Spaces Plan
- Vegetation Molestation Ordinance
- Friends of The Falls/Upper Lock and Dam
- Bde Psin and Hiawatha Golf Course
- Land disposition guidelines (pg 64 of Parks for All)
- MPRB 140 Anniversary stories
- Culturally specific youth park care crews and Outdoor Career Pathways
- Guidelines for habitat restoration in culturally sensitive sites
- Owamni festival
- Parks for All Comprehensive Plan
- Pioneers Monument future
- Proposal to rename Sibley Park
- Water Works site w/Owamni restaurant
- Water Works public art



Public Art

- \$400,00 City of Minneapolis Art in Public Places allocation
- For a permanent work of art at Owámmniyomni & Water Works Park
- Began 2020



Three Winter Conversations

23 artists & Community Leader participants

Facilitator: LeMoine LaPointe, Sicangu Lakota

Dakota tribal affiliations:

- Upper Sioux Mdewakanton Community
- Lower Sioux Mdewakanton Community
- Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate
- Flandreau Santee Tribe
- Spirit Lake Nations

Other tribal affiliations:

- Ojibwe
- Onondaga
- Oglala
- Haida
- Pawnee





Star Tribune, Upper Sioux Agency State Park, 2023



Priorities

- Be a **Good Relative and Reflect Dakota Values**
- Acknowledge the **Site's Story and the Land's History**
- Base the **Artist Selection on Dakota Values**
- **Demonstrate Commitment** of City & Park Board
- Be Grounded in **Native Leadership and Decisions**
- Establish a **New Way of Working with the Native Community**

Priority: City and MPRB Will Establish a New Way of Planning and Working with the Native Community

Goals

- Redefine and strengthen a formal reciprocal **relationship** between the City/MRPB and the Native Community, center Dakota people and knowledge, build trust, and embrace Native **land control**.
- Address the **silos** and competition that undermine the efforts to understand and connect with these places. Through collaboration and conversation, develop shared learnings and **change mindsets** about these places.
- Acknowledge this project serves as a catalyst for how the City/MRPB work with the Native community to achieve this **community's big picture desires**, and reverberates into other Dakota sites and spaces in the region.



Circle News - Dakota Wicohan Wikoska & Wiciyenna Singers, Gibbs Farm 2018

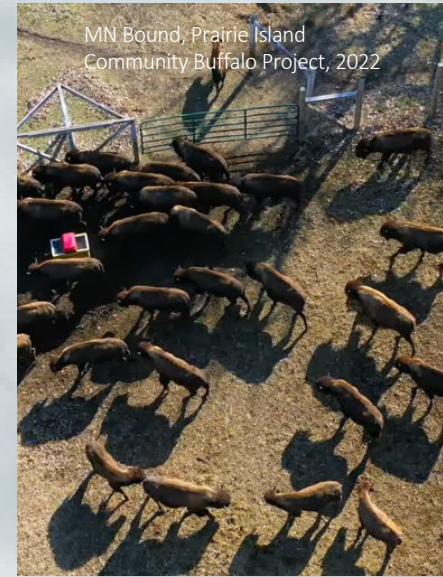
Action Steps

- Center this process on **Native community** decision-making, authority, continuity, and accountability.
- The organizations/institutions doing related projects along the Mississippi and within the larger Bdeote Sacred Landscape should be in conversation and **collaboration**. The City/MPRB should discuss how this relates to their work city-wide.
- Proactively identify the **sacred homelands** in the metro area that should be honored.
- Create policies for acknowledging Dakota **sacred sites** in the City, and selecting and designing projects about Native people and places.
- Develop **real allies** in the City/MPRB for these projects to be truly successful.
- Provide **dedicated funding** for Native staff positions and advisors.
- Determine a process for **designating the water as a living being with rights** and influence on governmental entities



Questions to Consider

- Who is already doing this work along the river? Whose support is most needed to implement this? What **partners** along the river should be collaborating?
- How will City/MPRB support the Native community and develop a **relationship** that that is responsive to the Native community? How do the City/MPRB and Native community engage in **genuine conversations**?
- What is the process for defining and designating **sacred sites**?
- How is **land back** possible?
- How can the City/MPRB **recognize** Indigenous wisdom, traditions and realities without erasure?
- What actions are needed for **truth and reconciliation**? Is there a way to connect and consult with the City's Race, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (REIB) Department on existing truth and reconciliation work?
- How does this work relate to the City's collaboration/MOU with the **Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors**?



What is this work? An evolution:

- *Indigenous Land, People and Nations Acknowledgement Statement and Actions*
 - *Indigenous Reconciliation and Acknowledgement Plan*
 - *Indigenous Reconciliation Action Plan*
 - *Indigenous Truth and Reconciliation Action Plan*



What is the MPRB Indigenous Acknowledgment and Reconciliation Action Plan?

MPRB is embarking on an Indigenous Reconciliation Action Plan to provide guidance for staff and commissioners to take action on systems, processes, relationships, and sites related to acknowledgement, truth, and reconciliation of historical and contemporary Indigenous land, people, and nations. This work will include a range of approaches including but not limited to policy development, partnerships, trainings, land acknowledgement, and sites of significance mapping.

What should be the priorities for this work?

What ideas do you have for how MPRB should be incorporating acknowledgement and reconciliation of Indigenous land, people, and nations into our work, spaces, and policies?

Reconciliation ACTION Plan Topic Area *Buckets*



- Identify and plot significant/sacred sites
- Work with artist to represent and map
- Strengthen partnerships with universities and museums
- Build off City inventory
- Be mindful of what can and cannot be shared publicly
- Work with elders and scholars

- Developed by Board including guidance for use by others in the system
- Include sustainable action
- Bridges cultures in understanding of stewardship
- Acknowledges the travesties of history

- Seek Dakota Relatives
- Plug into other tours
- Creation of MPRB Tour/Significant Sites
- Training for staff related to land stewardship practices and other topics

- Public Art
- East Phillips Open Space Plan
- Sibley Renaming
- 140 year anniversary



Reconciliation ACTION Plan Topic Area *Buckets*



Agreements

- City of Mpls/MOU with Community
- City of St Paul Tribal MOU examples



Land
Stewardship

- Park access for cultural uses
- Land disposition possibilities
- Incorporate Indigenous approaches to natural areas and cultural uses of plants



Interpretation

- Signage
- Audio tours
- Interpretation in Dakota of plant names
- Kiosk updates
- Renaming and reclaiming of names



Workforce

- Indigenous Parks Liaison – longterm plan
- Workforce development for native community
- Partnership opportunities with colleges

Reconciliation ACTION Plan Topic Areas

Buckets



- Consultation Policy
- Naming Policy
- Vegetation Molestation Ordinance



- \$80,000 from the General Fund in 2023 for Reconciliation and Acknowledgement Work
- Parking Fees
- Registration Fees
- Scholarships
- Honor Tax



- Dakota Values
- Trust building
- Fostering connection to land and culture through parks

Next steps

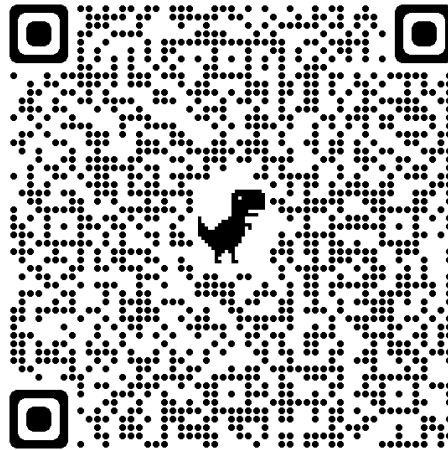
- Meet with Tribal Councils, MIAC, and MUID (November-January)
 - Commissioner/ Superintendent availability to join?
- Workgroup with staff
- Dakota Advisory Committee formation
- Policy Advisory Team

Thank you

Questions?

Please keep in touch

https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/park-care-improvements/park-projects/current_projects/minneapolis-park-and-recreation-board-indigenous-acknowledgement-and-reconciliation/



Proposed Project Timeline

