

# East Phillips Open Spaces Planning Project

Creating a 20-30 year vision for Cedar Avenue Field Park and East Phillips Park

## MPRB Community Update . Newsletter #2, March 2024 . Page 1

The East Phillips Open Spaces Park Plan will create a 20-30 year vision for East Phillips Park and Cedar Avenue Field Park in the East Phillips neighborhood. A 'vision' includes an updated design for each park and policy recommendations that MPRB would work to implement over the next 20-30 years.

### What has MPRB been working on since the project launched in Fall 2023?

MPRB joined community events in Fall and Winter 2023, including a Back-to-School event at Cedar Avenue Field, pop-up events at East Phillips Rec Center, and the community's Clean Sweep. The project also launched the first round of Community Collaborator work with Little Earth Residents Association (LERA) and East Phillips Improvement Coalition (EPIC) (*See page 2 for info on Community Collaborators*). Right Now, we're in a learning and listening mode. **Share your ideas with us when you see us at the parks and in the community this spring your summer!**

### Highlights from Fall Engagement September - November 2023

#### Cedar Avenue Field Park

##### What works here?

- Like the playground
- Basketball court – needs to be bigger, adjustable rim
- The field works well for events and Powwows

##### What doesn't work here?

- Need for indoor space for youth sports
- Unsafe intersections on Cedar Avenue side of street
- Not enough seating for elders near playground or near field space for events
- No bathrooms

##### What do you want to see?

- Water feature (splash pad, pool, slide, etc.)
- Indigenizing the park
  - o Space for cultural activities and ceremonial practices
  - o Firepit for ceremonial purposes
  - o Tobacco use for ceremonial purposes
- Support for design elements in 2017 plan, specially:
  - o Full basketball court
  - o Splash pad
  - o Grills/covered picnic area
  - o Like that it gives park users more options
- More swings (for all ages)
- More lighting, cameras, or other safety features

#### East Phillips Park

##### What works here?

- Basketball courts
- Enjoy the playground
- Soccer field
- Events in the rec center

##### What doesn't work here?

- Pool is unsanitary
- Needles in the park, parents can't let their kids play in some areas
- No room for youth from Little Earth to play basketball

##### What do you want to see?

- Better bathrooms
- Sports improvements
  - o Adjustable basketball rims
  - o Indoor soccer dome
  - o Nets behind goals
  - o Light soccer field for evening games
  - o Artificial turf field
  - o Multi-sport court
- Improved swimming pool/slash pad
- Address safety
  - o Lighting



## **We've Hired a Design Team!**

Over the winter, MPRB staff went through a hiring process to select a design team to work with MPRB and community on the design of both parks. The design team was selected by a panel that consisted of six MPRB departments and two community representatives through the Community Collaborator program. Urban Ecosystems, a landscape architecture firm, has a team that will support engagement, park design, and construct improvements to the parks. Look for more information about them in future newsletters!

## **Receive Funding to Engage your Community! Become a Community Collaborator**

The MPRB's Community Collaborator initiative is a paid opportunity for groups within the community to host conversations and engage with East Phillips residents about parks and recreation. This work will inform the design and priorities for the East Phillips Open Spaces Plan in 2024. Proposals will be competitive, and those that are selected will receive funding to implement their idea.

We are seeking proposals that identify creative, innovative ways to engage different communities through digital and/or in person platforms.

**Community Collaborator application release date:** Friday March 15  
**Applications due:** Wednesday, April 17

Applications will be posted to the East Phillips project page: [www.minneapolisparcs.org/epparks](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/epparks)

## **How can I get involved and share my ideas?**

There will be a lot of ways to get involved in 2024! Watch for upcoming newsletters with more information about meetings and events as we finalize our calendar.

**Sign up for email updates** under the Get Involved tab:  
[www.minneapolisparcs.org/epparks](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/epparks)

**Share your feedback by scanning the QR code** ----->

Invite us to table at your event or meet up with Emma to discuss the project:

**Contact Emma: 612-499-3711 or**  
**[epachuta@minneapolisparcs.org](mailto:epachuta@minneapolisparcs.org)**



**Share your ideas!**  
**Take the survey**