



Community Engagement Plan

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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 (<https://minneapolisparcs.sharepoint.com/planning/SitePages/Home.aspx>.)

Staff Lead: Siciid Ali

Department or Division: Strategic Planning

Project Name: MPRB Plan for North Mississippi Regional Park

Engagement Level: Involve

This plan serves as a guide for the community engagement process for the MPRB Plan for North Mississippi Regional Park. 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 Involve 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:

This is to be filled out before the CE Plan is submitted to the Board as a P+C.

- Lind - Bohanon Neighborhood Organization
- Webber - Camden Neighborhood Organization
- Shingle Creek Neighborhood Association

1. Project Description

1a. Project Overview:

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is currently developing a 30-year community-driven

park plan aimed at envisioning the future of North Mississippi Regional Park. MPRB staff will actively engage with the community to co-create this vision, fostering a profound sense of ownership and inclusivity throughout the planning process. The masterplan will comprehensively address the maintenance, operation, and enhancement of North Mississippi over the next 20 to 30 years.

North Mississippi Regional Park runs between I-94 and the shoreline of the Mississippi River, from N 42nd Ave to 53rd Ave N. The park further extends to the west to include a portion of Webber Park and the 49th Ave. Corridor. Webber Park is administratively split between the neighborhood park called Webber Park, and North Mississippi Regional Park. The boundary line between these two parks runs between the natural swimming pool building and the tennis courts. The trail along Webber Parkway is included in North Mississippi's portion of the park and connects North Mississippi to the Grand Rounds Scenic Byway System through a connection with Victory Memorial Parkway. An additional connection to the Grand Rounds Byway can be found at the park's southern boundary, where there is a connection to the St. Anthony Parkway.

North Mississippi Regional Park, owned and maintained by the MPRB, is one of the 10 Regional Park Implementing Agencies in the Twin Cities region. According to the Metropolitan Council's Annual Use Estimate for 2022, MPRB Regional Parks recorded 26 million annual visits, making it the most visited implementing agency in the regional system. Among these visitors, North Mississippi attracts approximately 334,144 each year.

The 2021 Regional Parks and Trails Visitor Study from the Metropolitan Council found that North Mississippi Regional Park is the 5th most visited park by groups with children in the 7-county regional system (30% of visitors reporting having children with them). Additionally, 17% of visitors report having a disability, making it the second most visited park by groups with a disability in the 7-country regional system.

Park visitors enjoy a multitude of year-round activities such as walking, biking, running, kayaking, canoeing, birding, and fishing. The Carl W. Kroening Nature Center is located within the park and features learning spaces and the 'Nature in the City' exhibit. Naturalist staff provide environmental education and nature-based programs year around for all ages.

Park Plans play a critical role in the park boards mission and are a requirement for receiving park improvement funding through the Metropolitan Council. Characteristics of a park plan include the following:

- Provide a vision to guide long-term development and improvement to a park,
- Guide stewardship and help ensure that park features and amenities reflect the needs of the communities they serve,
- Help ensure long-term financial and ecological sustainability,
- Involve extensive engagement with individual and group stakeholders, other community partners and governmental entities, and
- Subject to review and comment by the public, as well as public hearings and approval by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board of Commissioners.

The completed park plan will direct policy and design implementation for North Mississippi Regional Park for the next 20+ years.

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

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

Goal 1: Foster belonging and Equity.

Strategy 5: Identify and remove barriers to park access as a way of fostering economic, psychological, social, and cultural resilience for new and current park users.

Goal 2: Steward a continuum of nature and recreation

Strategy 4: Create, interpret, and program nature-based experiences, including but not limited to environmental education, community gardens, and bird watching, across the city, especially in parts of the city that don't have access to regional parks, to foster stewardship of nature, joy, and to introduce new users to the park system.

Goal 6: Strengthen ecological connections.

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:

Spring 2024: Project start up

Summer-Fall 2024: Vision and Discovery

Summer-Winter 2025: Design

Spring 2026: Park Plan approval

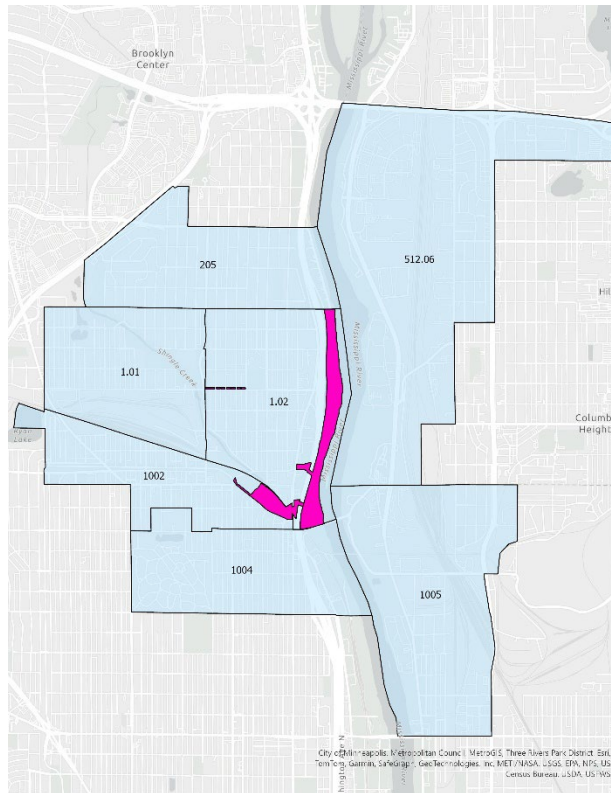
1d. Project Funding:

<u>Capital Sources</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
Parks and Trails Legacy Fund	\$400,000	

2. Project Data:

2a. What are the boundaries of the community engagement area? *(For regional facilities include neighborhoods adjacent to the park and city/regional boundaries.)*

Local: The local demographics include census tracts 1004, 1002, 1.01, 1.02, 205, 512.06 and 1005, which are immediately adjacent to North Mississippi Regional Park. In the image below, the pink areas represent North Mississippi Regional Park.



Regional: Regional users are represented through Hennepin County data. While there are visitors from all over the 7-county metro, state and beyond, county data is being used to capture park visitors who are most likely to frequent North Mississippi Regional Park.

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.)*

Total Population:

Boundary Area	Regional (Hennepin County)	Local
Population	1,270,283	24,134

Race by Percentage of the Population:

Race	Regional (Hennepin County)	Local
White	69.91%	44.59%
Black or African American	13.27%	25.55%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.65%	1.64%
Asian	7.23%	10.30%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander race	0.03%	0.05%
Some other race	3.26%	10.65%
Two or more races	5.66%	7.50%
Hispanic (of any race)	7.03%	15.79%

Age by percentage of the Population:

Age	Regional (Hennepin County)	Local
Under 5 years	6.30%	8.20%
5-18 years	15.80%	17.20%
18-25 years	8.30%	8.30%
25-64 years	55.40%	56.30%
65 years and over	14.20%	10.00%

Data sourced from ACS 2021 5-Year Estimate Data Profiles

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, activity plans, 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.*

North Mississippi Regional Park was previously master planned by the MPRB in 1986 and 2002. In 2002, the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission approved an amendment brought forth by MPRB staff requesting that a portion of 49th Avenue corridor between Shingle Creek Regional Trail on the west and North Mississippi Regional Park on the East be included in the park boundaries. In 2013 the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission approved an amendment brought forth by MPRB staff requesting that the eastern portion of Webber Park be included in the park boundaries.

North Mississippi Regional Park's southwestern boundary continues to the west and includes a portion of the land commonly known as Webber Park. The Northwestern portion of this park is eligible for regional funding, but the rest of Webber Park is part of the MPRB's local park system, which receives separate funding.

The MPRB Board of Commissioners approved a park plan for Webber Park as a part of the North Service Area Master Plan in 2019. The park's plan ends at the new boundary line. The park plan for North Mississippi Regional Park will consider what is planned for Webber Park to ensure resources and amenities are distributed in a manner that best services the community.

The North Mississippi Regional Park boundaries fall within the boundaries of the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization Watershed (MWMO), which completed a 2021-2031 Management Plan. Any potential development of local surface water/stormwater management plans will be made by MPRB staff in coordination with MWMO staff. Shingle Creek runs through the park and therefore the MPRB will work with the Shingle Creek Watershed District as it develops plans.

Above 53rd Ave N, North Mississippi Regional Park is under the jurisdiction of the Three Rivers Park District. While there is not currently a park plan in place for this section of the park, should Three Rivers Park District create one during MPRB's plan development process, this may be used to inform future planning decisions.

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

Though we know how many people visit the overall regional park annually, we don't know the demographics of the people that visit North Mississippi. There is also a gap in understanding how people use the park.

3. Community Engagement:

3a. Identify Project Stakeholders

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, projects, programs, and initiatives.
- 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>
Local organizations in the adjacent areas, that could include but are not limited to: -Adjacent neighborhood organizations, committees, and residents of: Linden Bohanon, Weber Camden, and Camden Industrial	Attend community events, present to neighborhood associations, recommend CAC appointees, neighborhood listservs	Online survey, possible community open house, neighborhood organizations will be asked to help select the recommended CAC slate and to engage their community in all public meetings.	Website, direct email, GovDeliveries, news articles, flyers at community nodes
Citywide neighborhood organizations and community groups	Attend community events, recommend CAC appointees, neighborhood listservs	Online survey, possible community open house, neighborhood organizations will be asked to help select the recommended CAC slate and to engage their community in all public meetings.	Website, direct email, GovDeliveries, news articles
North Minneapolis Residents	Attend community events	Online survey, possible community open house, neighborhood organizations will be asked to help select the recommended CAC slate and to engage their community in all public meetings.	Website, direct email, GovDeliveries, news articles

Park Users	Go to parks/park events, MPRB listservs, social media, engagement events/pop-ups at Kroenig Nature Center	Online survey, in person survey at park events	Website, Gov deliveries, news articles
Non-park users	Connect with neighborhood groups to share through their networks	Focus group, online survey,	Website, Gov deliveries, news articles
Cultural communities	Community partners with focused constituents	Experiential event/conversation(s) at Kroenig Nature Center	Direct communication with partners
Seniors/elders and disability community	Community partners with focused constituents	Experiential event/conversation(s) at nearby locations, plus park-based programming for seniors, online survey	Direct communication with partners
Renters	Community partners with focused constituents	Experiential event/conversation(s) at nearby locations, online survey	Direct communication with partners
Youth	Youth Advisory Council and Teen Teams	Experiential event/conversation(s) at Kroenig Nature Center	Website, Gov deliveries, news articles

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

3b. Advisory Committees:

Technical Advisory Committee: This roster is a list of agencies and groups that are on the TAC
City of Minneapolis
Hennepin County
MN Department of Natural Resources
MN Historical Society
Mississippi Watershed Management Org. (MWMO)
National Park Service
Three Rivers Park District
MN Dept of Transportation

Shingle Creek Watershed District

Project Advisory Committee: This roster is a list of MPRB departments and divisions that are on the PAC
Community Connections and Violence Prevention
Design and Project Management
Forestry
Environmental Management
Asset Management
Communications
Police

3c. Will a Community Advisory Committee be required for this project, program, or initiative? Y/N

Yes.

3d. DRAFT CAC Charge: The North Mississippi Community Advisory Committee shall:

- become knowledgeable about the MPRB long-term park planning process,
- understand the history of the park land areas,
- understand and balance programming and recreation needs with natural space and preservation needs,
- understand the values and needs for the Minneapolis regional park system and regional community and the values and needs of the local community,
- to inform and listen to community about the project,
- help identify communities, organizations, user groups, populations and others that should be consulted in the engagement process,
- report back to appointers or appointing bodies, as requested, on the plan process, information presented, and possible recommendations,
- engage in working groups and subcommittees as needed,
- provide feedback on a draft plan,
- make recommendations about the project to the MPRB Board of Commissioners, and to abide by the CE Policy.

3e. CAC Composition Goals:	<i>Appointers and the CAC Selection Committee should appoint individuals that represent one or more of the identities/perspectives listed below to ensure diversity on the CAC. This is not an exhaustive or conclusive list, and categories should be based on self-identification, and not assumption.</i>
Racial/Ethnic Diversity	White, African America, Hmong, Lao, East African, SE Asian, Native American
Generational Diversity	Youth and seniors

Socioeconomic Diversity	Renters, below the poverty line, people experiencing homelessness, or individuals/organizations that assist people experiencing homelessness
Linguistic Diversity	ASL, people that speak a language other than English at home
Diversity of interests	Recreation, youth programming, climate resilience, safety and security, active transportation, food systems, geographical diversity
Gender Diversity	Diversity of gender identities
Other:	

3f. CAC Selection Committee Roster: <i>This roster of groups and individuals that are participating in the CAC appointment process for the project, program, or initiative</i>	
Neighborhood Organizations	
Cultural/Community organizations	
MPRB Staff	

MPRB staff will aim to have members on the selection committee that represent both the local community and the greater regional area. The selection committee will meet after the deadline for commissioners to appoint to the CAC.

3g. Community Advisory Committee:	
Committee Recommended Slate	Board Approved Slate
Board Individually Appointed CAC Members	
Commissioner	Appointee
Commissioner Forney (President)	
Commissioner Olsen (At large)	
Commissioner Rucker (At large)	
Commissioner Menz (D.1)	
Commissioner Thompson (D.2)	
Commissioner Alper (D.3)	
Commissioner Shaffer (D.4)	

Commissioner Musich (D.5)	
Commissioner Abene (D. 6)	

4. Analysis:

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

What is your vision for North Mississippi Regional Park?

What goals do you have in terms of programming along the river?

What is your favorite thing about the park?

What is your least favorite thing about the park?

How can we make sure that the park is accessible for everyone?

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

Staff will be in charge of ensuring that all voices are heard and represented during the park planning process. There will be numerous opportunities for members of the public to make their voices heard during the community engagement process.

4c. Identify one or more key project milestones when project evaluation will be performed *(i.e. Draft design review, draft policy review, project mid-point)*

Milestone 1: Completion of Vision and Discovery Phase

Milestone 2: Prior to presentation of Preferred Concepts to the CAC to initiate the recommendation process

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?

North Mississippi Regional Park

