

Community Engagement Assessment

Please fill out this form if your project, program, or initiative includes community engagement. All Community Engagement Assessments should be filed as Petitions and Communications with the MPRB Board of Commissioners and submitted to the MPRB Engagement Portal on SharePoint.

Staff Lead: Crystal Passi

Division/Department: Planning

Level of Engagement: Inform

Project, Program, or Initiative Name: Central Gym Skatepark

Project Description (100 words recommended):

This project will focus on implementing improvements at Central Gym Park identified in the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) South Service Area Master Plan (SSAMP). In 2017 & 2018, the first phase of implementation of the SSAMP was completed that included playground, field, gathering area and basketball court improvements. The skatepark was not constructed at that time. The primary focus of this next phase of work at Central Gym Park will be to design and implement the skatepark and project funding includes a Hennepin Youth Activities Grant that must be spent on the skatepark. The area designated for the skatepark has been identified in the already approved concept plans and significant community engagement was done to determine general design elements for the skatepark. As such in this next phase of improvements the skatepark design will be refined with some community input, but will largely focus on more technical, operational and safety related components. To refine the skatepark design input will be gathered from stakeholders from skate community, Minneapolis Public Schools staff, students, and parents, MPRB recreation staff, neighbors, and park users from the Central area neighborhood.

Community engagement activities would occur in the spring and summer 2024, followed by design and bidding in winter 2025. It's anticipated that construction would begin in spring of 2025.

Review the criteria to determine the level of engagement that your program, project, or initiative falls under. Provide an explanation of how your project meets the criteria in the Justification section below.

Level of Engagement	Inform	Consult	Involve	Partner
Engagement Goal	To provide stakeholders with factual, accessible, balanced, and timely information to help them understand the project, program, or initiative.	To obtain stakeholder feedback on project, initiative, or program analysis, alternatives, or decisions.	To work directly with stakeholders throughout the process to ensure that perspectives are consistently understood, considered, and reflected in project, program, or initiative decisions.	To partner with stakeholders in each aspect of decision making in order to develop and implement collaborative project, program, or initiative solutions.
Criteria to Determine Level of Engagement (Which level of engagement best describes your project?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is a decision that should be based on technical, operational, or safety constraints only. This is a project, program, or initiative that does not result in a change in the type, location, or extent of the current facility or service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This project takes place in a park that has been master planned. This a new city-wide initiative or program. This is a new public policy or public policy update. The outcome is likely to change based on community input. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This project requires a CAC. This project does not have other policy guidance such as an existing master plan or public policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This program, project, or initiative is being developed in partnership with another agency or organization.
MPRB Promise	MPRB will keep you informed.	MPRB will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge feedback, work to integrate stakeholder feedback into the alternatives, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with stakeholders for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and to incorporate recommendations to the extent possible.	The MPRB and partner entity will be accountable to their roles as negotiated in the partnership and regularly evaluate overall success of the partnership.
Examples of project types	Repaving a parking lot, cutting down a tree, beach or swimming pool closures, ADA improvements, rehab	Approved master plan design implementation, city or service area wide program development, public policy development, Participatory Project Scoping	Master plans, any process that includes a formal public body making recommendations.	Jointly owned and/or operated facilities, co-creation, public/private partnership, community led projects.

This engagement grid was adapted from the IAP2 International Federation 2014 Public Participation Spectrum.

Justification (100 words recommended): *Please explain how your project meets the criteria in the Engagement Grid on pg. 2. Provide a justification for each criterion corresponding to the Level of Engagement that will guide your project.*

The proposed improvements fall under the criteria of **Inform** because a concept plan for the skatepark has already been approved by the Board in 2016 and again in 2018. The skatepark design decisions will be heavily focused on more technical, operation and safety concerns, but community input will be gathered from park users and students, staff and families from the Green Central School. Engagement will also look at MPRB recreational staff needs regarding future programming, maintenance, and operations of the skatepark.

For projects, programs, or initiatives that fall under the Inform category of engagement: what are your planned methods for informing the public? (i.e. posting on a project website, GovDelivery email blast, flyer onsite, multi-lingual and/or graphic information) *You do not need to answer this question if you are completing a CE Plan.*

Posting on a project website, GovDelivery emails, onsite signage/info boards and multi-lingual and/or graphic information, social media, Green Central school newsletter updates or emails, and local newspaper advertisements, mailed postcards, online surveys, Community Neighborhood Association (Central Area Neighborhood Development Organization or CANDO) email updates, attending planned events or community meetings in the park or nearby, hosting a design workshop with the students of Green Central, meet with PTO, and hosting an in-person open house. Additionally, on-site signage at Recreation Center and park will direct community on where to comment, provide opportunities to give feedback directly (dot-boards/survey/comment box) and share concept plans. Postcards will be sent to nearby residents highlighting the project. An online survey may also be utilized to gather feedback.