

**Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board**  
**Native American Parks Council**  
Background and Formation  
Summer 2024

As part of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Indigenous Acknowledgement Action Plan that launched in 2023, the early stages of the process included consulting with local Indigenous leaders, Native Nations, and community groups. The action plan was initiated 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. It was suggested by several local Indigenous groups and individuals that this work needs to be Native-led, including recommendations from the Metro Urban Indian Directors, the Urban Indian Affairs Council, and a group of regional THPOs that convened to discuss MPRB’s work. In response to that recommendation, MPRB has established a council of Native leaders to review the work and advise MPRB staff and commissioners on the Indigenous Acknowledgement Action Plan ([link here](#)). The council will work with staff to set priorities, review drafts, suggest how the work can connect out into the community, and provide feedback into the Indigenous Acknowledgement Action Plan.

The council was formed by an open call to local, Tribal, and regional Indigenous leaders, with an open application. Over 50 individuals were reached out to by email to share the invitation to the council, with a strong emphasis on Dakota representation since Minneapolis parks fall on traditional and contemporary Dakota land. People that were included on the initial invite were also encouraged to share the invitation with other community members and local Indigenous leaders, including youth and elders. It was noted in the initial invitation that all council members will receive an honorarium for their participation and meet quarterly for up to two years.

The following roster includes those individuals who have agreed to serve on the council.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Tribal Affiliation</b>
Marlena Myles	Enrolled citizen of the Spirit Lake Dakota Nation, also Mohegan & Muscogee descendent
Mishaila Bowman	Sisseton Wahpeton Dakota
Wakinyan LaPointe	Lakota citizen of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe
Jewell Arcoren	Dakota and Lakota
Sydney Dixon Beane	Flandreau Santee Sioux enrolled Tribal member, Dakota elder

Dana Thompson	Direct descendant of the Mdewakanton Dakota and Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate
Kate Beane	Citizen of the Flandreau Santee Sioux tribe
Juanita Espinosa	Spirit Lake Nation
Mattie Harper DeCarlo	Citizen of the Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe -- Minnesota Chippewa Tribe
Samantha Odegard	Upper Sioux Community
Maggie Lorenz	Enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Ojibwe and descends from Spirit Lake Dakota Nation
Cheyenne StJohn	Lower Sioux Indian Community
Rita K Walaszek Arndt	White Earth Nation
Cyndy Milda	Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
Shelley Buck	Enrolled member of the Prairie Island Indian Community

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board is deeply grateful to the councilmembers for their service.