

# East Phillips Open Spaces Planning Project

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

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## THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR VISION

### CELEBRATING COMMUNITY AND CULTURE: THE CEDAR FIELD/EAST PHILLIPS OPEN SPACES PLAN KICK-OFF PARTY

(photos and narrative excerpts by MPRB Community Connections & Violence Prevention staff)



This summer, MPRB hosted the East Phillips Open Spaces Kick-off event, creating an open dialog between the Park Board, community partners, and community members in one of Minneapolis' most diverse and historically underrepresented neighborhoods.

Conversations during an East Phillips Improvement Coalition youth park event revealed their vision for a community park focused on safety, programming and support. Inspired by their ideas, the Park Board set out to create an event that reflected their vision and embraced the neighborhood's culture. After several hours of community building at Cedar Field, the event transitioned with a lively march to East Phillips Park. The events held at each park featured a vibrant mix of cultural welcome, games, activities, community engagement, bingo, and even a dunk tank!

Indian Tacos, sambusas, and popcicles, and drinks were served throughout the afternoon. Safety was a priority, with support from Minneapolis Police, Park Police, and community volunteers led by the American Indian Movement. The positive atmosphere allowed officers to interact and play games with the youth.

We extend our gratitude to our community partners: the Little Earth Residents Association, NACDI, Midtown Greenway Coalition, Pow Wow Grounds, Hufan Restaurant, the Little Earth Drummers, Little Earth Protectors, East Phillips Improvement Coalition, and the American Indian Movement. Your support was essential to the success of this event. Lastly, a heartfelt thank you to the youth whose vision inspired this celebration.



## NEXT STEPS IN DESIGN & WHAT WE'VE HEARD

### COMING SOON! Cedar Avenue Field Park designs options

We have wrapped up our engagement for Cedar Field and are now in process of creating some design options to share publicly in October. Stay tuned for additional ways to weigh in!

We are still engaging residents about the design of East Phillips Park and plan to wrap up engagement in the next month or two before coming out with initial designs in January 2025.

### INITIAL THEMES THAT WE HAVE HEARD ABOUT CEDAR AVENUE FIELD PARK

#### Safety

- Safety for everyone in the park!!
  - Consider ways for people to be sheltered from gun fire, like berms, low fence
  - Incorporate safety in the design, such as visibility through the playground and shrubs so people cannot be in certain areas
  - Narrow entrances so cars cannot drive into the park
  - More lighting
  - More programming to deter negative behaviors

#### Culture / Social Connections

- Indigenize the park
- Sculptures or statues that represents the community's culture and history- Educational signage in Dakota, Lakota, Ojibwe
- Represent the community through local artists and Indigenous artwork, sculptures, etc.
  - Add engraving in concrete of language or art
  - Murals, artistic fencing
  - Medicine garden
  - Indigenous plants and trees, such as cedar, sage, sweetgrass, raspberry bushes, bee hives
  - Provide a performance stage for dancers, drummers, pow wows
- Rename the park so it better represents the Little Earth community
- Consider co-management or change in ownership with Little Earth
- Provide space for more social activities
  - Covered picnic shelter
  - More shade
  - More grills and seating

#### Park Equipment

- Add a splash pad (or pool)
  - Summers are getting hotter, nowhere for our kids to stay cool)
  - Provide active and passive water feature (for kids and adults)
  - Add color
- Improve the Playground
  - Needs an upgrade
  - Design for all abilities, sensory features
  - Add more swings (for older kids, too)
  - Greater visibility to help with safety
  - works well to separate young and older kids, young kids can get hurt easily
  - Add more things to climb on
- Improve the basketball court
  - Used all the time
  - Make full court
  - Provide adjustable rim for all ages and heights
- Add a building at the park for indoor programming
  - nothing for youth to do in the winter, adding an indoor space would solve this
- Add a skatepark
- Add restrooms
- Add a zip line
- Add a bike course area
- plug-ins for charging
- Add compost bins