



Date of Board P+C: July 10, 2024

Date of Board Approval (for CAC's only): na

Date of Most Recent Update: October 29, 2024

*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:** Jennifer Ringold

**Department or Division:** Deputy Superintendent's Office

**Project Name:** Cannabis and THC Policies Project

**Engagement Level:** Consult

---

This plan serves as a guide for the community engagement process for *the Cannabis and THC Policies Project*. 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 (MPRB) Community Engagement Policy, this project requires a Community Engagement Plan because the project falls under the *consult* 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:**  
Commissioners, Visitor Services, Park Police

## 1. **Project Description**

**1a. Project Overview:** The State of Minnesota has passed new Cannabis Legislation ([Chapter 63, H.F. 100](#)) during the 2023 legislative session. Per State Law smoking and vaping of Cannabis or THC products is allow on public property, but can be prohibited by local jurisdictions. State law also establishes that the use of THC in edibles and beverages can be regulated by local entities. The project seeks to updates the current Tobacco Policy to include Cannabis and to develop policy to regulate the sale of THC edibles and beverages.

**1b. MPRB Outcomes** There were no comprehensive plan goals or strategies that speak directly to regulating smoke from tobacco or cannabis in the park system. However, the act of engaging in public input on the policy change fits well with Goal 7, Strategy 14 Clearly communicate the reasons behind safety, operational, partnership, technical and budgetary decisions. Regulation of sale of THC edibles and beverages is somewhat related to Goal 9, Strategy 6 Diversify funding streams to leverage existing funding with grants, site-specific revenue generations, sponsorship, and public/private partnerships through an equity lens. However, the intent is not to maximize funding streams but to ensure standards and policies are in place if this funding stream is added.

**1c. Project Timeline:**

July 2024 – Study Item

REVISED – November 2024 – January 2025 ~~August – October 2024~~ – Public Comment Period for draft policies

REVISED – February 2025 ~~October/November 2024~~ – Compile public comments, update policies

REVISED – March 2025 ~~November 2024~~ – Public Hearing for draft policies

REVISED – March 2025 ~~December 2024~~ – Present draft policies to Board of Commissioners for consideration

**1d. Project Funding:**

<u>Capital Sources</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
NA		

<u>Supplemental Sources</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
NA		
Total:		

**2. Project Data:**

**2a. What are the boundaries of the community engagement area?** These policies will apply to all parks within the Minneapolis park and recreation system.

**2b. What are the demographics of the community engagement area?**

**Race & Ethnicity:**

White	60.1%
Of Color	36.9%
Black or African American alone	18.2%
American Indian and Alaskan Native alone	1.0%
Asian or Pacific Islander alone	5.6%
Other alone	0.5%
Two or more races alone	4.7%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	9.8%

**Age:**

Under 5 years	6.0%
5-9 years	5.7%
10-14 years	5.2%
15-17 years	2.8%
18-24 years	13.2%
25-34 years	21.7%
35-44 years	14.6%
45-54 years	10.5%
55-64 years	10.1%
65-74 years	6.6%
75-84 years	2.5%

85 years and older

1.1%

**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:** Not aware of any existing public facing plans or policies that address cannabis use for the MPRB. The MPRB does have human resources policies related to the use of tobacco and cannabis. Research for the project includes a review of actions taken by other park agencies, cities and/or counties in Minnesota regarding cannabis. The existing MPRB tobacco policy was originally crafted based on public demand.

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

Data gaps:

- Opinion of park visitors on the impacts and preferences for vaping and smoking of cannabis or THC products in public parks.
- Amount of smoking or vaping of cannabis currently occurring within the park and recreation system.
- Opinion of park visitors on the impacts and preference for allowing the sale of THC edibles and beverages to events and concessions.

### **3. Community Engagement:**

#### **3a. Identify Project Stakeholders**

<b>Project Stakeholder</b> <i>(students, ethnic communities, neighborhood groups, community leaders)</i>	<b>Outreach: How will you reach out to the stakeholder?</b> <i>(i.e. go to parks, neighborhood listserv, engage with cultural media)</i>	<b>Engagement: How will they participate?</b> <i>(i. e. online survey, focus group, community open house, intercept survey)</i>	<b>Reflecting Back: How will stakeholder groups be reflected back to about the project progress or outcomes?</b> <i>(Posted on project website, ribbon cutting, e-blast, site visit, celebration)</i>
Park patrons (Adults)	GovDelivery, StarTribune Notices	Individuals will provide comment on draft policies and have an opportunity to speak during a public hearing.	Project website, GovDelivery
Park patrons (Youth)	GovDelivery, StarTribune Notices	Individuals will provide comment on draft policies and have an opportunity to speak during a public hearing.	Project website, GovDelivery

Park neighbors	GovDelivery, StarTribune Notices	Individuals will provide comment on draft policies and have an opportunity to speak during a public hearing.	Project website, GovDelivery
Park concessions	GovDelivery, StarTribune Notices, email to existing concessionaires	Individuals will provide comment on draft policies and have an opportunity to speak during a public hearing.	Project website, GovDelivery
Park permitholders	GovDelivery, StarTribune Notices, email to existing permit holders	Individuals will provide comment on draft policies and have an opportunity to speak during a public hearing.	Project website, GovDelivery

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

- 1) The website will be updated with a project page to share the changes to each policy.
- 2) A GovDelivery email blast will be sent regarding the changes to each policy and inviting public comment.
- 3) A GovDelivery email blast will be sent to advertise a public hearing for the draft policies.
- 4) Information will be shared in permit applications if changes are in place for THC edibles.
- 5) Information will be posted in parks using icons and other methods that are legible across multiple languages.

**3b. Advisory Committees:**

<b>Technical Advisory Committee:</b> This roster is a list of agencies and groups that are on the TAC
na

<b>Project Advisory Committee:</b> This roster is a list of MPRB departments and divisions that are on the PAC
Deputy's Office
Visitor Services
Recreation
Park Police

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

*If yes, complete 3d-3g. If no, please delete 3d-3g from the CE Plan.*

**3d. CAC Charge:**

<b>3e. CAC Composition Goals:</b>	<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	
Generational Diversity	
Socioeconomic Diversity	
Linguistic Diversity	
Diversity of interests	
Gender Diversity	
Other:	

<b>3f. CAC Selection Committee Roster:</b> <i>This roster of groups and individuals that are participating in the CAC appointment process for the project, program, or initiative</i>

<b>3g. Community Advisory Committee:</b>	
<b>Committee Recommended Slate</b>	<b>Board Approved Slate</b>
<b>Board Individually Appointed CAC Members</b>	
<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Appointee</b>



**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?**