



Date of Board P&C:

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: Andy Schilling

Division/Department: Design and Project Management

Level of Engagement: Consult

Project, Program, or Initiative Name: Bike Skills Park at S 34th Ave and Minnehaha Creek - Minnehaha Creek Segment 4 Tennis Courts Transformation

Project Description (100 words recommended):

In winter/spring 2024, a bank of tennis courts that were in poor condition near East 47th Street and South 34th Avenue along Minnehaha Creek were removed to start the project of transforming these courts into a bike skills park, as guided by the Board adopted Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail long-term plan. This project continues the transformation of this area into a bike skills park. The project will include staff and community engagement to develop a bike skills parks design that will then be constructed to complete the implementation of this new park amenity.

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.

This project is included in the long-term plan for Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail. Community and staff feedback gathered throughout the project will help to inform the outcome. Updates on the project will be shared at key project milestones along the way.

Community Engagement Plan

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: Andy Schilling

Department or Division: Design and Project Management

Project Name: Bike Skills Park at S 34th Ave and Minnehaha Creek - Minnehaha Creek Segment 4 Tennis Courts Transformation

Engagement Level: Consult

This plan serves as a guide for the community engagement process for the Minnehaha Creek Segment 4 Tennis Courts Transformation – Bikes Skills Park at S 34th Ave. 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 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:
This is to be filled out before the CE Plan is submitted to the Board as a P+C.

1. Project Description

1a. Project Overview:

In winter/spring 2024, a bank of tennis courts that were in poor condition near East 47th Street and South 34th Avenue along Minnehaha Creek were removed to start the project of transforming these courts into a bike skills park, as guided by the Board adopted Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail long-term plan. This project continues the transformation of this area into a bike skills park. The project will include staff and community engagement to develop a bike skills parks design that will then be constructed to complete the implementation of this new park amenity.

1b. MPRB Outcomes:

- **Goal 1, Strategy 21:** Empower community to design, create, maintain, program, and steward safe and welcoming parks.
- **Goal 3, Strategy 7:** Design, evolve, and maintain high quality athletic facilities including fields, diamonds, skateparks, ice rinks, courts, and tracks to support a range of multigenerational sports balancing tradition and emerging trends.
- **Goal 3, Strategy 11:** Design and implement parks that are welcoming, climate resilient, ecologically healthy, playful, beautiful and safe as they age.

1c. Project Timeline:

Winter 2025 – Spring 2025

- Community Engagement and design development

Summer 2025 – Fall 2025

- Design and construction documents

Fall 2025 – Spring 2026

- Construction

1d. Project Funding:

<u>Capital Sources</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
Park Dedication	\$264,341.00	n/a

<u>Supplemental Sources</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
Metropolitan Council Competitive Equity Grant Program	\$40,000.00	6/30/2027
Total:	\$304,341.00	

2. Project Data:

2a. What are the boundaries of the community engagement area?

Ericsson neighborhood and City of Minneapolis

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

Total Population

Minneapolis	Ericsson neighborhood
426,877	3,780

Age by Percentage of the Population

Age	Minneapolis	Ericsson neighborhood
Under 18 years	19.1%	16.0%
Over 18 years	80.9%	84.0%

Race by Percentage of the Population

Race	Minneapolis	Ericsson neighborhood
American Indian and Alaska Native	3.1%	1.2%
Asian	6.7%	3.4%
Black or African American	21.6%	5.5%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.2%	0.3%
White	69.6%	89.8%
Some other race	7.3%	2.9%
Two or more races	7.8%	3.2%

Percentage of the Population that Speaks a Language Other than English at Home

Minneapolis	Ericsson neighborhood
21.0%	14.4%

Population with a Disability

Minneapolis	Ericsson neighborhood
11.2%	7.9%

Source: 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate

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.

Metropolitan Council 2021 Regional Parks and Trails Visitor Study

- Youth (people aged 12-24) are an under-represented population in regional park and trail visitation. (page 3 in [Visitor Demographics section](#))

Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail Master Plan

The Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail long term plan was developed over the course of multiple years and rounds of community engagement. The feedback in the plan reflects input from both local and regional audiences. Below are a few excerpts related to the bike skills parks in the plan.

- [Page 4-7](#): A top comment in early community engagement for new ideas was to add a bike park or bike skills park.
- [Page 5-8](#): “A temporary bike park installed on tennis courts near Segment 4 was well-received, and a bike skills park is a new activity now included in the Master Plan”
- [Page 5-10](#): “Recreation Recommendations: Because Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail offers an unparalleled natural setting for an urban trail, the recreational activities that it supports are meant to complement the landscape. This master plan moves away from structured field and court-based recreation (although tennis courts remain in places where they are clearly well-used), and toward activities that are flexible, benefit from the corridor’s unique setting, and accomplish multiple functions, like providing flood storage or pollinator benefits. Recreation | a. Recommended activities include (but are not limited to):
 - o Trail use (walking, running, biking, skating, etc.) » Sledding, cross-country skiing, and ice skating
 - o Paddling and tubing Minnehaha Creek
 - o Fishing
 - o Field sports in multi-use field spaces
 - o Tennis and pickleball
 - o Birding and wildlife watching
 - o Nature play and adventure play
 - o Bouldering and other nature-based active recreation
 - o Hammocking
 - o Picnicking
 - o Mountain biking (skills parks and single-track)
- [Page 5-30](#): “Segment 4 currently has several underutilized tennis courts that are in poor condition. In order to diversify recreation offerings here, the westernmost court is proposed to be removed and converted to an open pollinator play lawn, the courts at 32nd are slated to be repaired, and the courts at 34th are proposed to be converted into a bike skills park.”

Other Bike Skills Parks in MPRB Parks

There are a few other bike skills parks that have been built in the MPRB park system in other parts of the city. The type, compliment of elements, skill level, among other factors, can help to inform what is built at this location.

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

There's presently a temporary bike skills park on some tennis courts in poor condition near Lake Nokomis Community Center. It would be helpful to understand how many people are using the temporary course, if there are certain elements that are liked/disliked, who is using the temporary course/best way to reach out to engage on this project.

3. Community Engagement:

3a. Identify Project Stakeholders

Project Stakeholder <i>(students, ethnic</i>	Outreach: How will you reach out to the	Engagement: How will they participate? <i>(i. e.</i>	Reflecting Back: How will stakeholder
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<i>communities, neighborhood groups, community leaders)</i>	stakeholder? <i>(i.e. go to parks, neighborhood listserv, engage with cultural media)</i>	<i>online survey, focus group, community open house, intercept survey)</i>	groups be reflected back to about the project progress or outcomes? <i>(Posted on project website, ribbon cutting, e-blast, site visit, celebration)</i>
Youth	On-site signage, talk with people on site, reach out to MPRB staff and organizations that program the space for youth	- Surveys – online and/or intercept - Focus group - Open house - Community events	Project website, GovDelivery, direct email to people who program the space for youth
Regional park/trail users – new and existing	On-site signage, social media, neighborhood newsletter	- Surveys – online and/or intercept - Open house - Community events	Project website and GovDelivery
Surrounding community and residents	On-site signage, social media, neighborhood newsletter	- Surveys – online and/or intercept - Open house - Community events	Project website and GovDelivery
Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail users – new and existing	On-site signage, social media	- Surveys – online and/or intercept - Open house - Community events	Project website and GovDelivery
Temporary bike skills park users and programmers	On-site signage, talk with people on site, reach out to MPRB staff and organizations that program the space	- Surveys – online and/or intercept - Focus group - Open house - Community events	Project website, GovDelivery, direct email to people who program the space
Minneapolis Bike Parks	Direct email	- Surveys – online and/or intercept - Focus group or meetings with organization reps - Open house - Community events	Direct email, project website and GovDelivery
Standish-Ericsson neighborhood association	Direct email	- Surveys – online and/or intercept - Neighborhood meeting - Open house - Community events	Direct email, project website and GovDelivery

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
N/A

Project Advisory Committee: This roster is a list of MPRB departments and divisions that are on the PAC
Asset Management
Communications and Marketing
Environmental Management
Forestry
Park Police
Recreation Centers and Programs
Strategic Planning

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

No

4. Analysis:

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

- What types of things would you like to do at a bike skills park? (Ex: practice learning how to ride a bike, learn some new beginning skills, learn some new intermediate skills)
- What works well at the temporary bike skills park near Lake Nokomis Community Center? Would you like to see any of those features at this permanent location?
- What could be improved at the temporary bike skills park near Lake Nokomis Community Center? What would you like to see differently at this permanent location?
- Are there other bike skills parks that we should look at for inspiration? What do you like about them?
- What kind of surfacing would you like to bike on?
 - o Pavement like a tennis court
 - o Natural surface like dirt and small rocks
- What kind of an experience would you like to have?
 - o As natural as possible
 - o A mix of soft and hard surface (paved) trails
 - o As many hard surfaces (paved) as possible
- How would you rate your skill level in biking?
 - o Beginner
 - o Intermediate

- Expert
- Other

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

While there are a few bike skills parks in the MPRB system, there aren't any permanent ones in this part of the city yet. Engagement and implementation of this project will help to raise awareness about Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail and create a new destination for people to enjoy within the regional park and trail system. Outreach will be to a variety of audiences, some who may use the area already as well as potentially new regional trail users. Reaching out to youth as part of this project could contribute to increasing the portion of youth regional users, which according to the Met. Council's 2021 Visitor Study are an underrepresented population.

4c. Identify one or more key project milestones when project evaluation will be performed

Draft design review

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?