

# North Mississippi Regional Park Plan



**CAC Meeting 01**  
March 13, 2025

## Native Acknowledgement

As part of Parks for All, the MPRB is exploring how to integrate acknowledgement of land and Indigenous peoples into our work, procedures and spaces represented in several strategies and this seed statement for continued development by staff, community, and leadership in the years to come. We collectively acknowledge that the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board system is located on the traditional, ancestral and contemporary lands of Indigenous people. This land holds great historical, spiritual and personal significance for its original stewards, the Native nations and peoples of this region, including the Dakota and Ojibwe people. We recognize that a statement like this needs to be dynamic and change as we continue to learn, understand, and heal our relationship with the Indigenous community. Therefore, these words are seeds that should grow and change with time.

***MPRB will work the CAC to create a project-specific Acknowledgement statement if the committee is interested***

# Agenda

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<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	<i>(35 minutes)</i>
<b>Project Overview &amp; Schedule</b>	<i>(20 minutes)</i>
<b>Comp Plan</b>	<i>(10 minutes)</i>
<b>MPRB 101</b>	<i>(10 minutes)</i>
<b>Funding</b>	<i>(10 minutes)</i>
<b>Binder Overview</b>	<i>(10 minutes)</i>
<b>Public Comment Time</b>	<i>(10 minutes)</i>
<b>Adjourn</b>	



# Goals

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Get to know each other

Confirm process and goals

Schedule Phase 01 CAC meetings

# INTRODUCTIONS

# Introductions // MPRB Staff



Siciid Ali



Adam Arvidson



Meahan Schneid



MaryLynn Pulscher  
(& Elmer the Elm Tree)



Jeannette Lutter-Gardella

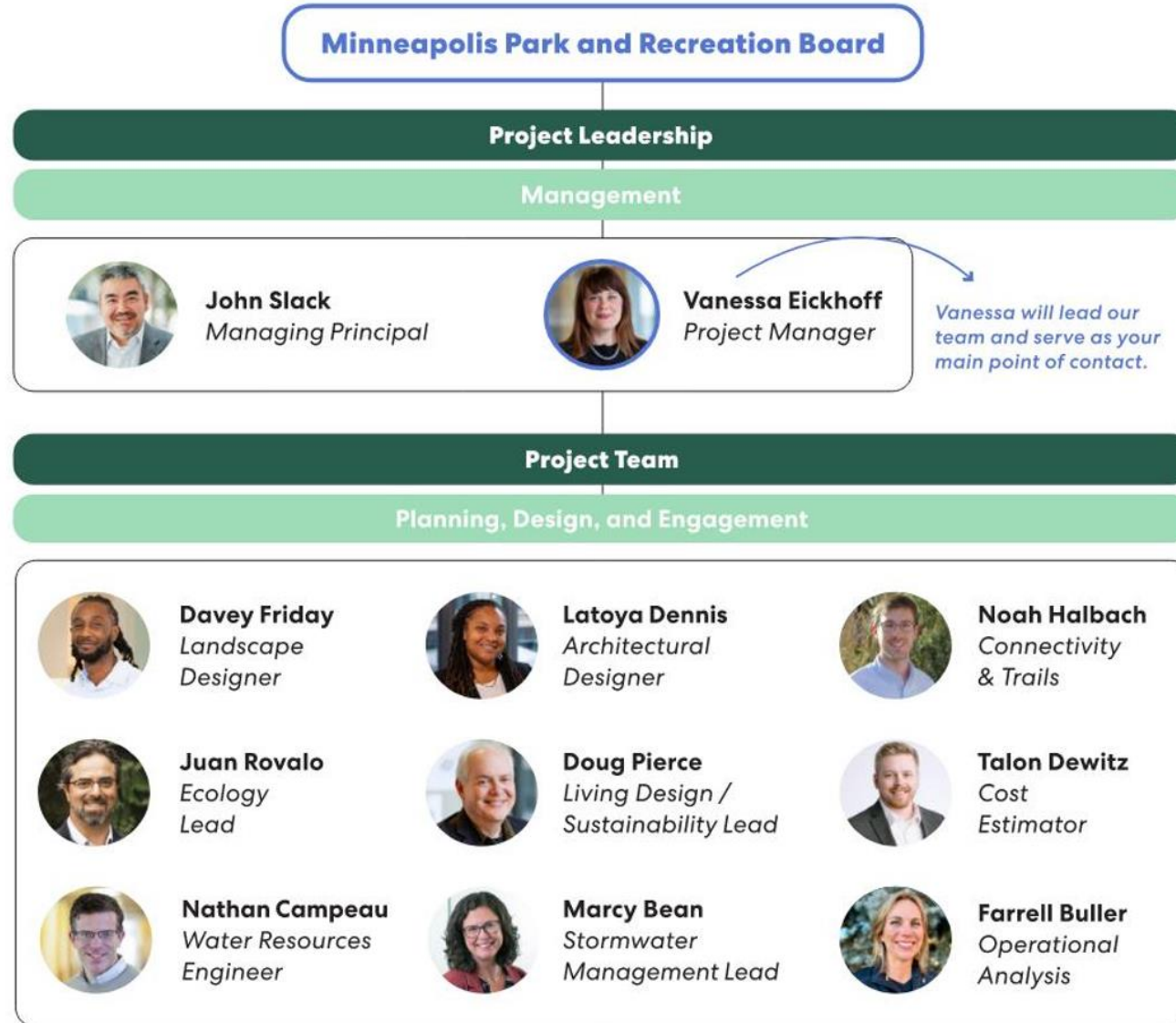
# Introductions // CAC Members

Jonathan Palmer (Chair)  
Adrienne Bernard  
Sherman Patterson Jr  
Mary Yang  
Susan Breedlove  
Devin Brown  
Louis Raymond  
Madeline Vang  
Richard Carlson  
Latoya Grier  
Alyson K Quinn  
Annika Johnson  
Marco Cruz Blanco  
Eulonda Mounger  
Marlena Okechukwu  
Katie Fitzpatrick  
Jessica M Miller  
Emilie Peck (Alternate)  
Anna Ruelle (Alternate)  
Nancy Abts (Alternate)  
Tobota Seyon (Alternate)

**Share how you are  
connected to the park  
or  
your interest in the  
larger park system**



# Introductions // Design Team



# PROJECT OVERVIEW & SCHEDULE

## Project Overview:

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is currently developing a **30-year community-driven park plan aimed at envisioning the future of North Mississippi Regional Park.**

MPRB staff will actively engage with the community to **co-create** this vision, fostering a profound sense of ownership and inclusivity throughout the planning process. The plan will comprehensively address the maintenance, operation, and enhancement of North Mississippi over the next 20 to 30 years.



## Park Overview

The core of **North Mississippi Regional Park** encompasses 67 acres and features a mile of Mississippi River shoreline, Shingle Creek, floodplain forest, 20 acres of restored prairie, walking and biking trails, boat launch, picnic shelters, playground and wading pool, and the Carl Kroening Nature Center with an adjacent nature play space. *Park boundaries are quirky and include 49th Ave Greenway, portions of Webber Park, and exclude park land south of the 42nd Ave bridge which is now part of Above the Falls Park.*

### Kroening Nature Center Programming

MPRB Environmental Education staff provide nature-based, community-focused programs that provoke curiosity and wonder. Staff strive to provide immersive and transformative experiences that inspire people's love of nature, and a desire to take action to protect it. A sampling of our partners include Mpls Public Schools, National Park Service and Mississippi Park Connection, Latino Youth Development Collaborative, and Loppet/The Trailhead, with program support from Hennepin County Green Partners, Minneapolis Parks Foundation, and MN DNR's *No Child Left Inside*.



# Park Overview



## Site Amenities

- **Mississippi River**
  - Easy access shoreline
  - Paddle Share location
- **Shingle Creek**
- **Recreated Prairies**
- **Floodplain Forest**
- **Walking & Biking Trails**
- **Picnic Shelters**
- **Restrooms**
- **Splash pad/wading pool**
- **Playground**
- **Nature Box** (nature programs)
- **Nature Center**
  - Nature in the City exhibit
  - Outdoor gathering spaces
- **Nature Play Space**
- **Self-directed nature walks**
  - Playful plant signs (Lily)
  - bronze plaques
- **Boat launch(es)**
  - Parking for boat trailers
  - Kayak & canoes access
  - Paddle Share

## Nature Programming

- **Children**
  - Summer camps
    - Free lunch program
  - Water education
    - Macro-invertebrates
    - Fishing
    - Erosion (stream table)
- **Teens**
  - Youth employment/interns
  - Eagle Scout projects
  - Tree planting
  - HS Credit Recovery
- **Adults**
  - Willow weaving
  - Volunteer opportunities
  - Nature Art
- **Families**
  - Star Party
- **Intergenerational**
  - Black To Nature
  - River Float (August)

## Partners

- **Mpls Public Schools**
  - Jenny Lind, Green Central, Bethune, Las Estrellas, Cityview, Emerson
  - Summer school
  - MPS Cmty Ed 55+ & Access
- **Hennepin County Green Partners**
- **Early Childhood Family Education**
- **Wilderness Inquiry**
- **MN DNR**
- **National Park Service**
- **Mississippi Park Connection**
- **Metropolitan Parks & Open Space Commission**
  - Artist in residence
- **Loppet – The Trailhead**
- **Nawayee/Center School**
- **Latino Youth Development Collaborative**
- **Phyllis Wheatley Community Center**
- **Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO)**

# CAC

## What is Your Role?



- Become knowledgeable about the MPRB master planning process
- Understand the history of the park land and how it may inform future design and policy decisions
- Understand and balance the complexities between programming and recreation needs with natural space and preservation needs
- Understand the values and needs for the Minneapolis regional park system and its community and the values and needs of the local community
- Inform and listen to community about the project
- Help identify communities, organizations, user groups, populations and others that should be consulted in the engagement process
- Report back to appointers or appointing bodies, as requested, on the plan process, information presented, and possible recommendations
- Engage in working groups and subcommittees as needed
- Provide feedback on a draft plan
- Make recommendations about the project to the MPRB Board of Commissioners
- Bide by the CE Policy

# CAC

## What is Your Role?

**CAC Chair:** co-facilitate CAC process

**CAC Representative:** voting member of CAC and expected to attend all CAC meetings

**CAC Alternate:** would become a full CAC member if CAC member leaves or is removed; encouraged to attend and participate in all CAC meetings

**General Public:** invited to attend all CAC meetings and invited to participate in public conversations and activities at meetings

**MPRB Staff:** project management, co-facilitation of CAC, fields questions, leads community engagement, collects and stewards community input, park and process design

**Consultant Planning Team:** Working closely with MPRB staff on community engagement, park design and project management

# CAC Ground Rules

- **Speak from your own experience**
- **Step up, step back**  
*Be aware of how much you are speaking. If you feel you are speaking a lot, let others speak, and if you find yourself not talking, try to contribute some comments, ideas or suggestions.*
- **Respect all voices**  
*We will not demean, devalue, or “put down” people for their experience, lack of experience, or difference in interpretation of those experiences.*
- **Listen to understand, don’t just wait to speak**
- **Take care of yourself**
- **We’ll move on when we’re ready**
- **Come with an attitude of collaboration**
- **Everyone is responsible for using the ground rules and how they can be improved**

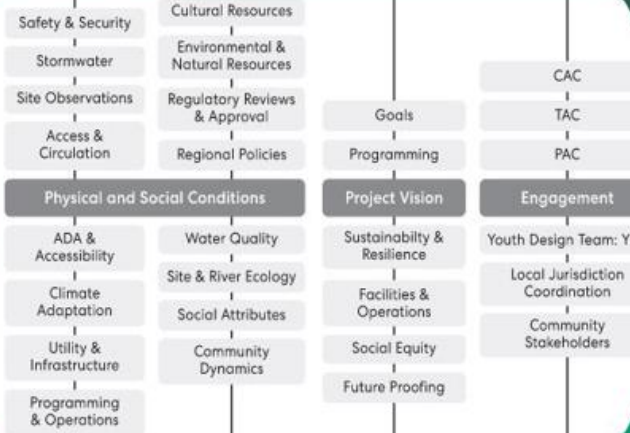
# Project Schedule & Process

## Discovery and Assessment

## Park Planning and Design

## Final Plan and Approval

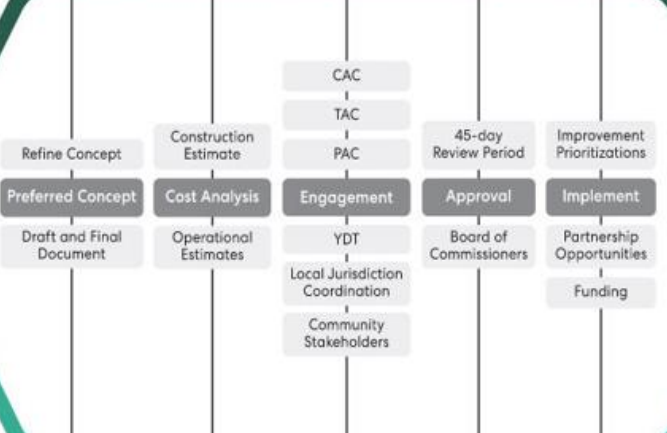
### MPRB and Stakeholders



### Shared Vision



### Concept Design



### Final Approved Plan

Ongoing Met Council Monitoring & Reporting

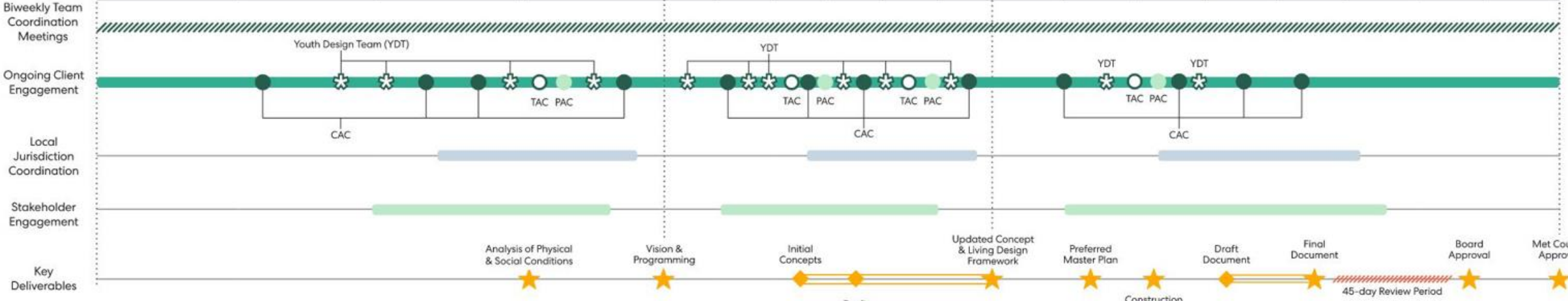
### Perkins&Will Team

18 weeks (February 2025 - May 2025)

21 weeks (June 2025 - November 2025)

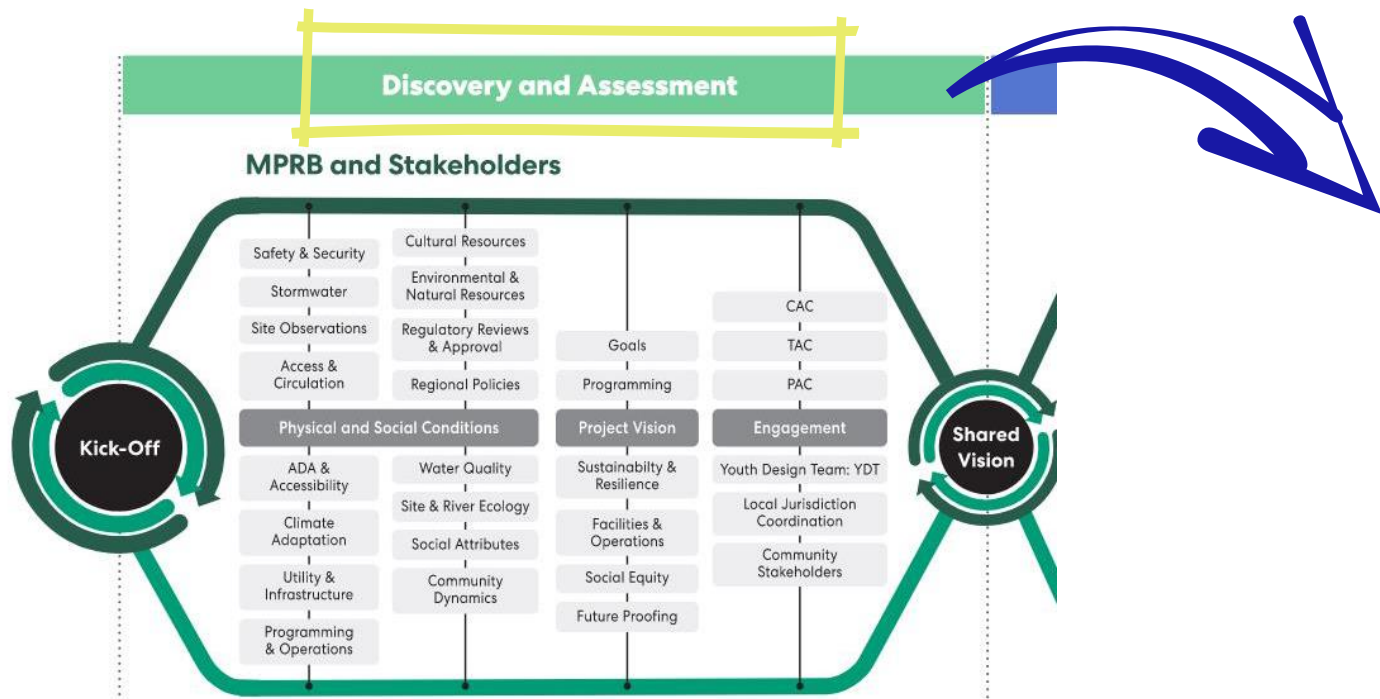
28 weeks (December 2025 - July 2026)

Feb March April May June July Aug Sept Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb March April May June July



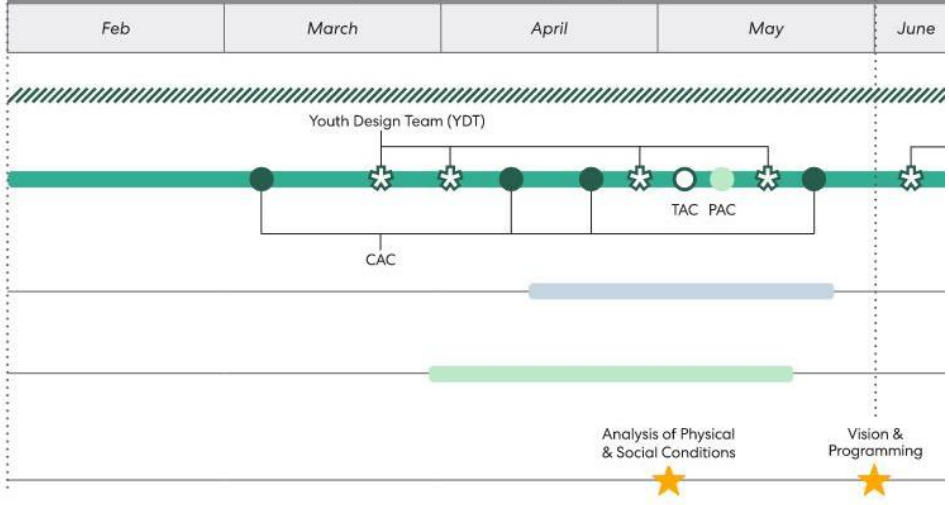
# Engagement Timeline

MAY 2024	JUNE 2024	JULY 2024	AUGUST 2024
<b>Public Engagement Comment Boards up in Kroening Nature Center (all Summer)</b>			
<b>Public survey open (all Summer)</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hall Elementary School</li><li>• Bird Watching</li><li>• Open Doors MPLS</li><li>• Lind-Bohanon Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bird Watching</li><li>• Nature Art</li><li>• Family Funday</li><li>• Pop up Park</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Webber BBQ</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Youth Cohort Outings (4)</li></ul>



**Perkins&Will Team**

18 weeks (February 2025 - May 2025)



# Focus

Understand what is on there and how the park is used

Identify opportunities

Identify connections to community

Share vision for to move forward

# Proposed CAC Engagement

**What days / times work best for you?**

## DISCOVERY & ASSESSMENT

- March MPRB CAC #01 Meeting
- April MPRB CAC #02 Meeting
- April MPRB CAC #03 Site Tour
- May MPRB CAC #04 Meeting

## BIG IDEAS (Park Planning)

- July MPRB CAC #05 Meeting
- Aug MPRB CAC #06 Meeting
- Sept MPRB CAC #07 Meeting
- Nov MPRB CAC #08 Meeting

## FINAL PLAN & APPROVAL

- Jan 2026 MPRB CAC #09 Meeting
- Feb 2026 MPRB CAC #10 Meeting
- March 2026 MPRB CAC #11 Meeting
- April 2026 MPRB CAC #12 Meeting

# Proposed CAC Engagement – Discovery & Assessment Phase

## 2025

## Holidays & Observances

### DISCOVERY & ASSESSMENT

- March**      **MPRB CAC #01 Meeting**
- April**      **MPRB CAC #02 Meeting**
- April**      **MPRB CAC #03 Site Tour**
- May**        **MPRB CAC #04 Meeting**
- June**       **BioBlitz/Field Day in the Park**

**January**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

**February**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

**March**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

**April**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

**May**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**June**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

- Jan 01    New Year's Day
- Jan 20    Martin Luther King Day
- Jan 29    Chinese New Year
- Feb 14    Valentine's Day
- Feb 17    President's Day
- Mar 01    Ramadan begins
- Mar 05    Ash Wednesday
- Mar 17    St. Patrick's Day
- Mar 20    March equinox (GMT)
- Apr 01    April Fool's Day
- Apr 13    Passover
- Apr 20    Easter
- Apr 22    Earth Day
- Apr 23    Admin Assistants Day
- May 05    Cinco de Mayo
- May 11    Mother's Day
- May 26    Memorial Day

MPRB Board Meetings  
(Full Board or Committee of the Whole)

## Upcoming Programming Opportunities

### Nature Tots

Select Saturdays 10:30-11:30 am

Imaginative play activities for kids ages 2 - 6 with an adult. Different themes each month.



Spring dates:

March 1 – Weather Wonders

April 5 – Wiggling Worms

May 3 - Amazing Amphibians



### Nature In Focus



Select Saturdays 1-2:30 pm

Join a Kroening naturalist for an opportunity to go in-depth on a particular topic and learn more about the natural world. Each program includes natural history information, hands-on discovery, and an outdoor component.

Ages 18+

Saturday March 22 *Owls*

Saturday April 26 *Water Quality*

Saturday May 24 *Macroinvertebrates*

### Bird Watching at the Heron Rookery

Join a naturalist at Marshall Terrace Park to learn about Great Blue Herons and observe their fascinating behavior, including courtship displays and nest-building. Binoculars and a spotting scope will be available for participants to use.

Thursday April 10

10am-11:30am (# 17688)

or 12:30-2 pm (#17689)

18+, \$9/person

## Kroening Nature Center

4900 North Mississippi Court  
Minneapolis, 55430

### Directions

**Via 94 West:** Take the 49th Ave. N./53rd Ave. N. exit. Turn right into the nature center parking lot.

**Via 94 East:** Take the 53rd Ave. N./49th Ave. N. exit. Continue south on Lyndale until 49th Ave. N, then turn left. Continue across the bridge and into the nature center lot.



### Adventure Hub

Borrow outdoor exploration activities and materials for FREE at the front desk! Materials may include:

- Binoculars
- Magnifying lens
- Plant and animal identification guides
- Butterfly and macroinvertebrate nets



Materials are available for same day checkout and return and must stay within park boundaries. A collateral item will be held onto during equipment use. Get outside for a fun outdoor adventure!

# Spring Programs

## Kroening Nature Center

North Mississippi Regional Park



Register at  
[minneapolisparcs.org/nature](http://minneapolisparcs.org/nature)  
or call 612-370-4844

### Hours

Mon - Sun	Closed
Tues-Fri	9:00 am–4:30 pm
Saturday	10:00 am–4:00 pm



**Minneapolis**  
Park & Recreation Board

## Upcoming Programming Opportunities

### Monthly Bird-Watching Series: Feathered Fridays

Friday March 14, April 11, May 2, and May 30  
9-10:30am | \$9/person | Ages 18+  
Activities #15601, #15602, #15603, #15604

Learn distinguishing characteristics of birds in the park while strolling through the park with a naturalist. All experience levels welcome, binoculars available.

### March

**Nature Tots: Weather Wonders** · Saturday March 1, 10:30-11:30 am | Free | Ages 2-6 with an adult | Activity #15439 | Ever wonder why we have weather? Where does it come from? Explore air, wind, clouds, and rain through games and activities to determine the wonders of weather. This is an adult/child interactive program.

**Black to Nature - Wood Burned Backyard Birdhouses** · Tuesdays and Thursdays March 4-13, and March 18-27, 10 am – 12pm | Free for residents | Ages 55+ | Activity #17229 and #17230 | Learn the basics of wood burning and birding, tapping into your love of nature and creative skills. The class will be led by Teneka Graves, a multi-disciplinary artist out of Saint Paul Minnesota. This event is open to all and holds space for all who identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or people of color.

**Family Funday: Who Lives Here?** · Saturday March 8, 10:30 am–12 pm | Free | All Ages | Activity #15447 | What animals live in and around our park? Join a naturalist to look for clues like homes, tracks, and other signs of our animal neighbors then meet one of our education animals up close.

**Homeschool Day: Trees in Winter** · Thursday March 13, 12:30-2:30 pm | Free for residents | Ages 5-12 | Activity #15469 | Explore tree adaptations and learn to identify trees using a dichotomous key by comparing the different features such as bark, buds, and branching. Then, walk through the park to practice your identification skills and learn how to tap a tree.

**Nature Art: Critter Creations** · Saturday, March 15, 1:30-2:30 pm | Free | All Ages | Activity #13219 | Have you ever noticed a pinecone that looked just like an owl? Or a burr that looked just like a mouse? Combine found and natural objects to make delightful creatures for decoration or play.

**Nature in Focus: Owls** · Saturday March 22, 1-2:30 pm | \$9/person | Ages 18+ | Activity #15714 | Learn about some of the owl species native to Minnesota and the adaptations that allow them to be successful hunters. Compare owl skulls and feathers to those of other raptors, learn about owl biology, and go on a walk to find evidence of owls' prey species.

### April

**Nature Tots: Wiggling Worms** · Saturday April 5, 10:30-11:30am | Free | Ages 2-6 with an adult | Activity #15437 | Discover what there is to do down in the dirt! Go for a worm hunt outside to see what's keeping worms so busy. Then investigate worms up close while using a magnifying glass to find out how they are able to move through the hard earth.

**Birdwatching at the Heron Rookery** · Thursday April 10, 10-11:30am, 12:30-2pm | \$9/person | Ages 18+ | Activity #17688, #17689 | Join a naturalist at Marshall Terrace Park to learn about Great Blue Herons and observe their fascinating behavior. Binoculars and a spotting scope will be available for use.

**Homeschool Day: Water Quality** · Thursday April 10, 12:30-2:30pm | Free for residents | Ages 5-12 | Activity #15468 | Learn the importance of water quality and how it affects life in and around the Mississippi River. Take water samples to determine the health of the river and help keep the Mississippi clean and healthy by going on a trash collecting mission along the river.

**Family Funday: Finding Our Way** · Saturday April 12, 10:30am-12pm | Free | All Ages | #15448 | How do birds know where to go when they migrate? How do pollinators find nectar? Explore how different animals navigate in their environments and find your own way through a simple challenge course.

**Nature Art: Art on the Landscape: Rocks and Mud** · Saturday April 19, 1:30-2:30pm | Free | All Ages | Activity #13217 | Sculpt and create with the nature around you! Collect rocks, sand, soil, and mud. Then sculpt them to create an art installation outside.

**Nature in Focus: Water Quality** · Saturday April 26, 1-2:30 pm | \$9/person | Ages 18+ | Activity #15717 | How do we know if our waterways are healthy for animals and humans? Learn about human impacts on local water quality, explore data on water quality trends in Minneapolis parks, and head outside to test water in the park.

### May

**Nature Tots: Amazing Amphibians** · Saturday May 3, 10:30-11:30pm | Free | Ages 2-6 with an adult | Activity # 15440 | In the water or the woods, hopping on the ground, burrowing underneath it, or singing in a chorus. Find out how toads, frogs and salamanders are keeping busy this summer! Meet a live toad and salamander, then watch them eat a tasty treat. Visit the wetland to look for signs of amphibians.

**Spring Tree ID** · Saturday May 3, 10:30am-12pm | \$9/person | 18+ | Activity #17687 | Learn to identify trees before the leaves fully emerge using clues such as buds, flowers, bark, and phenology, then go on a walk with a naturalist and practice your ID skills.

**Homeschool Days: Macroinvertebrates** · Thursday May 8, 12:30-2:30pm | Free for residents | Ages 5-12 | Activity #15472 | Rivers and wetlands are home to a diversity of amazing but rarely seen small creatures. Explore the wetland or river with nets and search for aquatic invertebrates, then use careful observation to identify them.

**Family Fundays: Spring Blooms** · Saturday May 10, 10:30am-12pm | Free | All Ages | #15450 | April showers bring May flowers! Go for a walk to see which plants and trees are blooming and bring in some flowers to look at under a microscope.

**Nature Art: Sunprints** · Saturday May 17, 1:30-2:30pm | Free | All Ages | Activity #15444 | Use the sun to make a picture! We'll gather leaves, flowers and other fun shapes to make silhouettes on paper treated to change color in the sun. If there is no sun, we'll use paint to create a similar art effect.

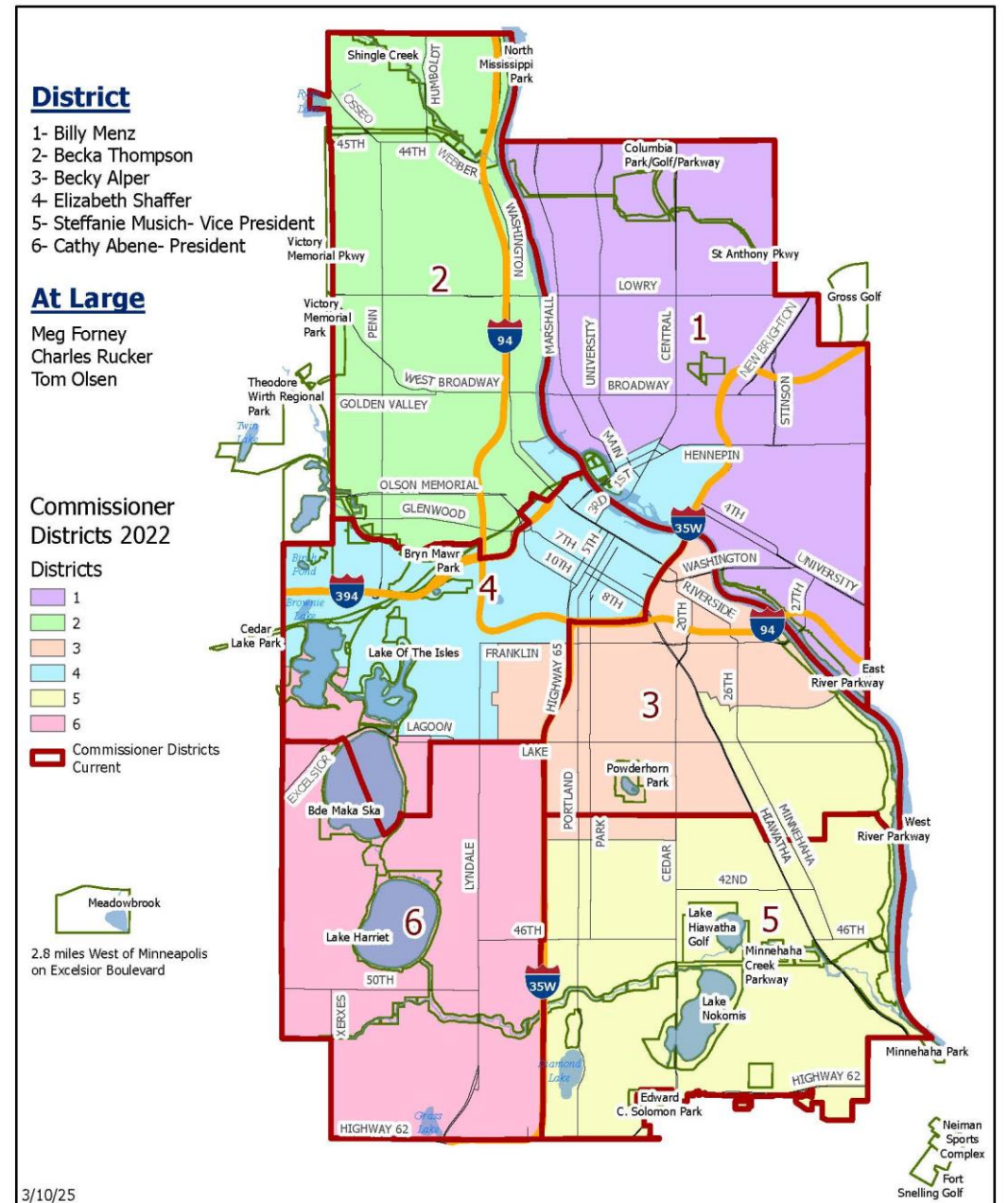
**Nature in Focus: Macroinvertebrates** · Saturday May 24, 1-2:30 pm | \$9/person | Ages 18+ | Activity #15718 | There's a wild world of critters living in our waterways! Collect samples from one of our wetland areas to bring back and study under a microscope, then learn about the complex food webs that support aquatic life in our rivers, lakes, and ponds.

# **MPRB 101:**

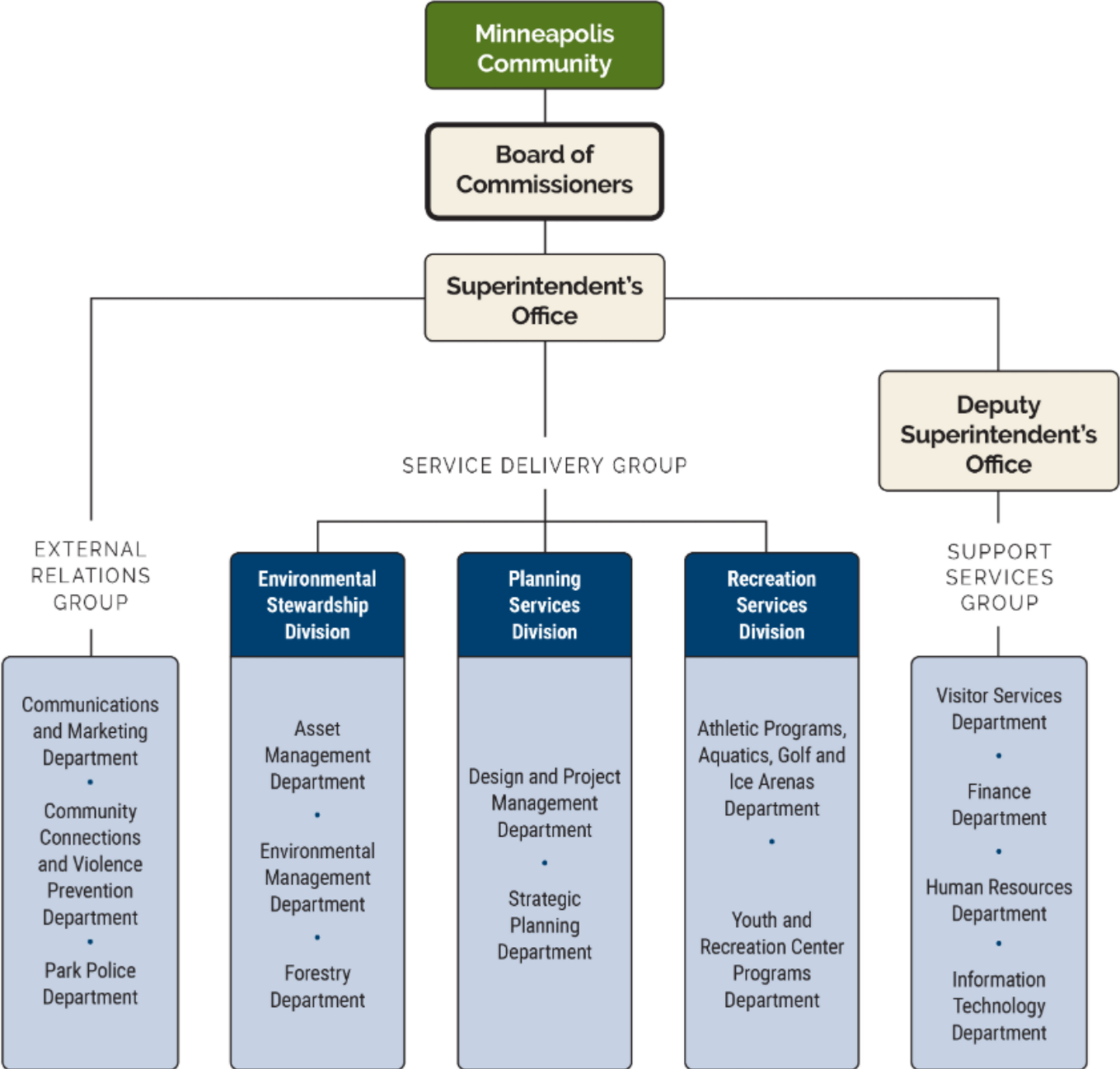
Jurisdiction, organization  
and funding basics

# What you should know about the: Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

- MPRB is an independent government agency
- Founded in 1883 by act of the Minnesota Legislature
- 7000+ acres of parks in 5 cities
- 185 park properties, 49 recreation centers
- Neighborhood and regional (state funded) parks
- 9 directly elected commissioners
- Direct taxing authority



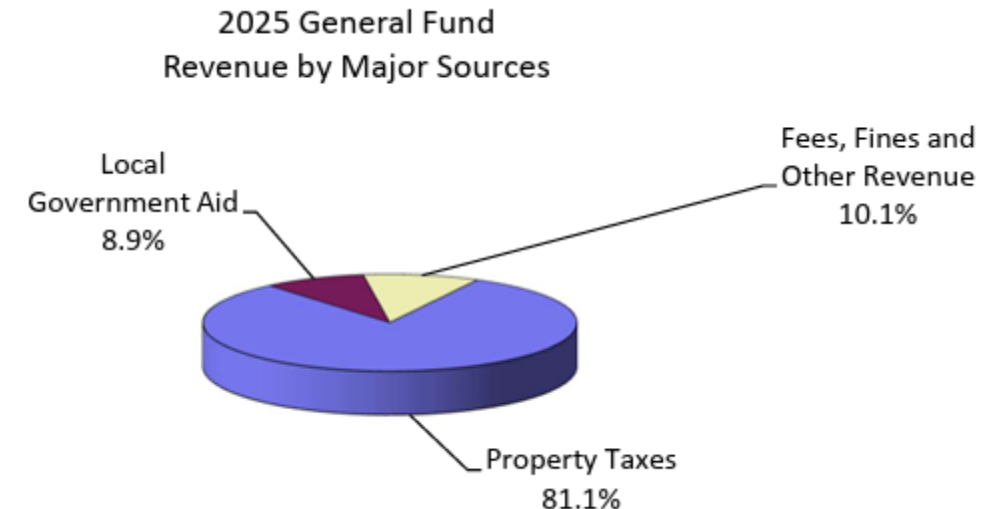
# The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board



## Overview: MPRB Funding

Detailed financial information  
is at [minneapolisparks.org](https://minneapolisparks.org)  
(search for “budget”)

- **MPRB is funded through a variety of sources:**
  - Property taxes in Minneapolis (17.8% of taxes collected)
  - State and regional funds: bonding, lottery, and Legacy amendment
  - Park dedication fees
  - Outside grants and donations
  - 20-Year Neighborhood Parks Plan (NPP20) agreement with City
- **Annual budgeting** process looks at general operating AND **capital expenditures** (physical park improvements)



# Overview:

## MPRB Funding

**North Mississippi is a Regional Park, so it is supported by the state and Metropolitan Council. MPRB uses a system of data-driven equity metrics to prioritize investment in parks.**

### ***Parks and Trails Legacy Funding***

- Source: 2008 Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment (state sales tax)
- MPRB receives approx. \$5-6 million per year
- This planning effort is funded with \$400,000 from this source
- Implementation dollars in future years totals \$4.64 million from this source

### ***Bonding***

- State of Minnesota bonds biannually for regional parks, Met Council matches with its own bonds
- Extremely volatile in recent years, causing challenges with MPRB's investment decision-making

### ***Lottery Operations and Maintenance***

- State source from the MN Lottery
- Reimbursements to MPRB for the actual cost of maintenance and rehabilitation
- Statute requires the state fund 40% of the maintenance/operations cost of the regional park and trail system, but current annual amounts are around 10% (and have never been higher than 20%). The funding gap is borne by Minneapolis taxpayers.

# **Parks for All**

*The MPRB Comprehensive Plan  
2021 - 2036*

# Mission

## Why MPRB exists

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board permanently preserves, protects, maintains, improves, and enhances its natural resources, parkland, and recreational opportunities for current and future generations of our region including people, plants, and wildlife.

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board dismantles historic inequities in the provision of park and recreation opportunities for all people to gather, celebrate, contemplate, and engage in activities that promote health, well-being, community, and the environment.

In our next ten years, we envision a park system that navigates the balance of equity, ecology, and recreation in new ways through a focus on the following goals:

**Goal 1: Foster belonging and equity**

**Goal 2: Steward a continuum of nature and recreation**

**Goal 3: Provide core services with care**

**Goal 4: Work from our strengths and determine our role in partnerships**

**Goal 5: Expand focus on health equity**

**Goal 6: Strengthen ecological connections**

**Goal 7: Connect through communications and technology**

**Goal 8: Cultivate a thriving workforce**

**Goal 9: Operate a financially sustainable enterprise**

# Project alignment with Comp Plan

## Goal 1: Foster belonging and equity

### STRATEGIES

05

**Identify and remove barriers** to park access as a way of fostering economic, psychological, social and cultural resilience for new and current park users.

## Goal 2: Steward a continuum of nature and recreation

### STRATEGIES

04

**Create, interpret and program** nature-based experiences, including but not limited to environmental education, community gardens, and bird watching, across the city, especially in parts of the city that don't have access to regional parks, to foster stewardship of nature, joy, and to introduce new users to the park system.

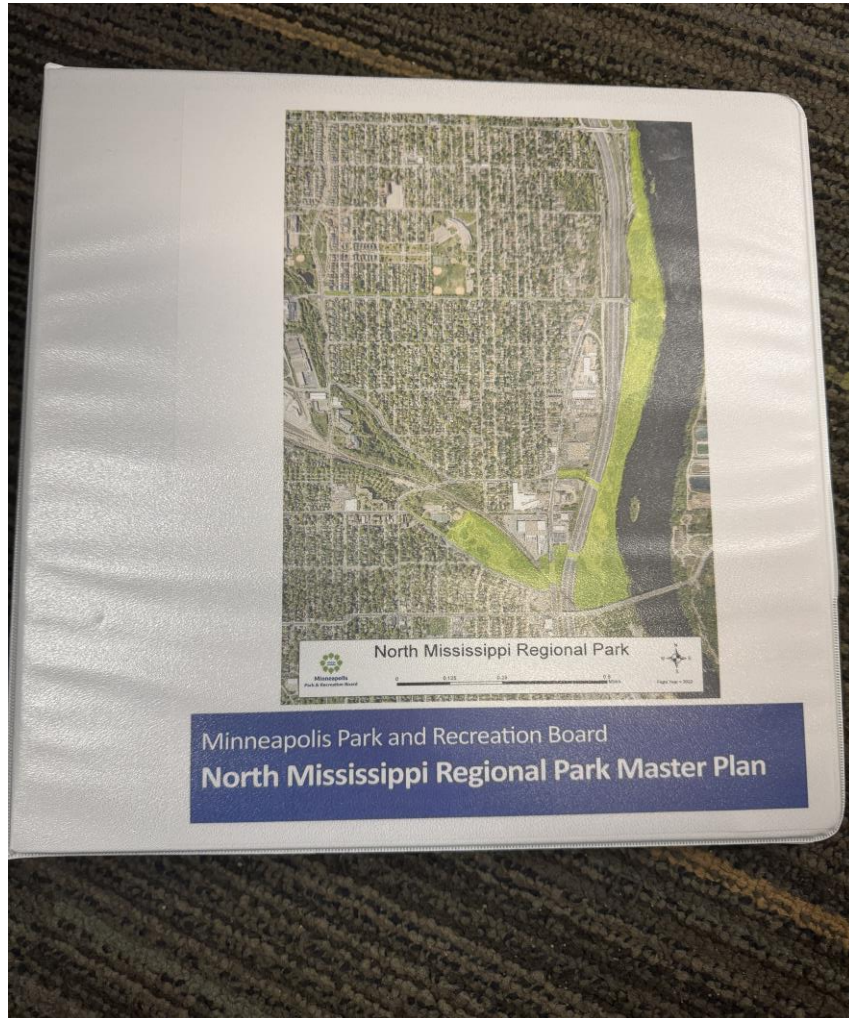
## Goal 6: Strengthen ecological connections

### STRATEGIES

12

**Enhance connections** to natural spaces in our park system through education, programming, interpretation, experiences, volunteerism and accessible facilities for a diverse and multi-generational audience.

# BINDER OVERVIEW



## **What is in your binder:**

- *2020 Commissioner Plans – Districts 1 through 6*
- *MPRB Organization Information*
- *MPRB Mission and Parks for All Overview*
- *Budget and Financial Overview*
- *North Mississippi Aerial with project boundary*
- *Carl W. Kroening Nature Center Overview*
- *History of North Mississippi Regional Park*
- *Three Rivers Map – North Mississippi Regional Park*
- *Community Engagement Plan*

# **PUBLIC COMMENT TIME**

*QUESTIONS / COMMENTS*