

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: Lynnhurst Park Playground Improvements

Project Description (100 words recommended):

The Lynnhurst Park Playground Improvements project will focus on replacing the playground equipment at the end of its useful life and in need of replacement. Like other consult level engagement projects, the project will include staff and community engagement to identify, prioritize, and develop playground equipment and surfacing improvements to be implemented.

There are baseline improvements that have been identified by MPRB staff to ensure ADA accessibility updates including switching play area surfacing from sand to engineered wood fiber mulch (EWF) and accessible paths to playground equipment with accessible transfer features. Another consideration for the playground equipment selection is to identify desirable equipment that can also be able to be moved to a future playground footprint in Lynnhurst park once other facilities move as identified in the Southwest Service Area Parks Plan.

There is a small amount of parkland dedication funds available, and a play feature will be identified to expand the play offerings to youth beyond the 2-12 year ages that playgrounds typically focus on.

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.

Input will be gathered from community and project stakeholders to develop and refine play area designs. MPRB will work closely with project partners on design for implementation.

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: Lynnhurst Park Playground Improvements

Engagement Level: Consult

This plan serves as a guide for the community engagement process for the Lynnhurst Park Playground Improvements 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 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:

*MPRB Staff – Asset Management, Recreation, Operations, Planning, and ADA administrator
Lynnhurst Park Neighborhood Association (LYNAS)*

1. Project Description

1a. Project Overview:

The 2020 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) has funding to playground area improvements for Lynnhurst Park. The project will include staff and community engagement to develop new playground equipment to replace existing equipment at the end of its useful life.

There are baseline improvements that have been identified by MPRB staff to ensure ADA accessibility updates including switching play area surfacing from sand to engineered wood fiber mulch (EWF) and accessible paths to playground equipment with accessible transfer features. Another consideration for the playground equipment selection is to identify desirable equipment that can also be able to be moved to a future playground footprint in Lynnhurst park once other facilities move as identified in the Southwest Service Area Parks Plan.

There is a small amount of parkland dedication funds available, and a play feature will be identified to expand the play offerings to youth beyond the 2-12 year ages that playgrounds typically focus on.

1b. MPRB Outcomes:

- **Goal 3, Strategy 11:** Design and implement parks that are welcoming, climate resilient, ecologically healthy, playful, beautiful and safe as they age.
- **Goal 5, Strategy 11:** Encourage and support healthy play for all ages and abilities.

1c. Project Timeline:

Winter 2025 - Spring 2025

- Community Engagement and concept plan development

Summer 2025

- Procurement of play equipment and construction contract award

Fall 2025 – Spring 2026

- Construction

1d. Project Funding:

<u>Capital Sources</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
NPP20	\$306,495.00	n/a
Parkland Dedication	\$15,477.00	n/a

2. Project Data:

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

Lynnhurst neighborhood in the City of Minneapolis

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

Total Population

<u>Minneapolis</u>	<u>Lynnhurst neighborhood</u>
426,877	5,691

Age by Percentage of the Population

Age	Minneapolis	Lynnhurst neighborhood
Under 18 years	19.1%	25.6%
Over 18 years	80.9%	74.4%

Race by Percentage of the Population

Race	Minneapolis	Lynnhurst neighborhood
American Indian and Alaska Native	3.1%	N/A
Asian	6.7%	1.7%
Black or African American	21.6%	N/A
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.2%	N/A
White	69.6%	86.0%
Some other race	7.3%	N/A
Two or more races	7.8%	5.3%

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

Minneapolis	Lynnhurst neighborhood
21.0%	N/A

Population with a Disability

Minneapolis	Lynnhurst neighborhood
11.2%	8.4%

Source: MNCompass.org

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.*

Southwest Service Area Parks Plan

The Southwest Service Area Master plan (adopted in 2020) was developed over the course of multiple rounds of community engagement. The feedback in the plan reflects input from both local audiences. The park plan for Lynnhurst Park was developed in parallel with the Minnehaha Creek Regional Trail Plan development. According to the park plan, most all park facilities move to a new location including the

playground. However, the funding available for this work focuses only on the playground; there is not enough funding available at this time to construct a playground where it is located in the long range park plan. The new playground equipment will be located in the existing playground containers; however, part of their selection criteria is to identify desirable equipment that is able to be moved within their useful life.

- [Chapter 4 – Park Concept Plans – Lynnhurst Park \(document pages 188-195\)](#)
 - o Location and History
 - o Existing Conditions
 - o Proposed Plans
 - o Community input table – Initial Concepts – Preferred Concept
 - o Cost Estimate
- [Chapter 6 – Implementation \(document Pages 358-367\)](#)

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

Additional research will be needed to understand what considerations should be made to select play equipment that could be moved during their useful life.

3. Community Engagement:

3a. Identify Project Stakeholders

Project Stakeholder <i>(students, ethnic communities, neighborhood groups, community leaders)</i>	Outreach: How will you reach out to the stakeholder? <i>(i.e. go to parks, neighborhood listserv, engage with cultural media)</i>	Engagement: How will they participate? <i>(i. e. online survey, focus group, community open house, intercept survey)</i>	Reflecting Back: How will stakeholder groups be reflected back to about the project progress or outcomes? <i>(Posted on project website, ribbon cutting, e-blast, site visit, celebration)</i>
Surrounding community and residents	On-site signage, social media, neighborhood newsletter	- Survey – online - Open house - Community event - Signage at Rec Center and at playground	Project website and GovDelivery
Lynnhurst neighborhood association	Direct email, phone	- Survey – online - Neighborhood meeting - Open house - Community events	Direct email, project website and GovDelivery
<i>Cross communication with nearby MPS elementary school – Burroughs Elementary</i>	Direct email	- Share information on open house and survey	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
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?

- How do you like to use the playground?
- Are there certain existing playground equipment features that are more popular than others?
- What features would like to see in new playground equipment?
- Would you open to refurbishing certain pieces of the existing equipment?
- What color scheme would you like to see with the new play equipment?
- Do you live in the neighborhood?

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

ADA upgrades will be embedded in the playground improvements. There will be multiple ways to provide input during community engagement including in-person and online.

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

Preferred concept plan – June 2025

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?