



Upcoming MPRB Board Presentations

Informational presentation to MPRB Board of Commissioners about 2025 Indigenous Action Plan work

At the upcoming MPRB Board of Commissioners meeting Wednesday, July 16th, Indigenous Parks Liaison Carrie Day Aspinwall and MPRB staffer Emma Pachuta will present to commissioners about the Indigenous Action Plan work completed in 2025 and what's coming up later this year.

Approval of Cedar Avenue Field Park design

Also at the July 16 board meeting, staff will be bringing the "Indigenized" design for Cedar Avenue Field Park forward for approval by the MPRB Board of Commissioners. There will be a time certain public hearing on this topic at 6:30pm.

MPRB staff worked in partnership with the East Phillips Indigenous community and stakeholders to complete the design. There is funding to begin Phase 1 improvements in 2026 or 2027 following park plan approval.

You can **stream the board meeting live on Wednesday, July 16** to watch the Indigenous Action Plan presentation or Cedar Field Park design approval at:

<https://www.youtube.com/@MinneapolisParks/streams>



Photo of park design, which includes a Pow Wow event lawn, arbor, an Elder's garden, a new multi-purpose building, and incorporation of Indigenous art/language.



Photos from 2024 Owamni Falling Water Festival

MPRB support of Owámniyomni Okhódayapi

The MPRB continued its support of Owámniyomni Okhódayapi, a Dakota-led non-profit focused on restoration of federally owned lands surrounding the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock, when it's Administration and Finance Committee advanced an Exclusive Rights Agreement for consideration by the full Board of Commissioners on May 21, 2025.

As a part of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020, Congress is allowing the disposition of lands surrounding lands no longer needed for navigation of the country's rivers, including the lock at Upper St. Anthony Falls on the Mississippi River in Minneapolis. Owámniyomni Okhódayapi has been leading negotiating with the US Army Corps of Engineers since 2022 on behalf of the City of Minneapolis and the Park Board, successfully achieving a lease with the Corps of Engineers and now, with the support of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Owámniyomni Okhódayapi will soon become the City's designee to receive the lands at the Upper St. Anthony Falls lock. Owámniyomni Okhódayapi is in the process of developing plans that will restore the site to a native landscape with a vision of creating a gathering place for Dakota and other peoples and a place to educate the public on Dakota culture, language, and history. Work on the site will likely begin in 2026 and the site will be open for sharing Owámniyomni Okhódayapi's vision in 2028.

(outline written by Michael Schroeder, MPRB Assistant Superintendent in Planning)

Thank for joining!

American Indian Naming Roundtable Next Steps

Thanks to Native American Parks Council members who participated in the American Indian Naming Roundtable discussion on May 20 hosted by Wakan Tipi Awanyankapi in partnership with MPRB, Met Council and City of St. Paul.

Based on the feedback received about the event, partners are planning to turn this into a conversation series, hosting at least one more community conversation in 2025. Share your feedback about what you'd like to see at future conversations here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/P8G3KSN>

Upcoming MPRB Events

Save the Date: Owámni Falling Water Festival, Saturday October 18, 2025