

North Mississippi Regional Park Plan



CAC Meeting 04
June 17th, 2025

Agenda

Welcome!

Project Schedule

Visioning Exercise

Public Comment Time

Adjourn

PROJECT OVERVIEW & SCHEDULE

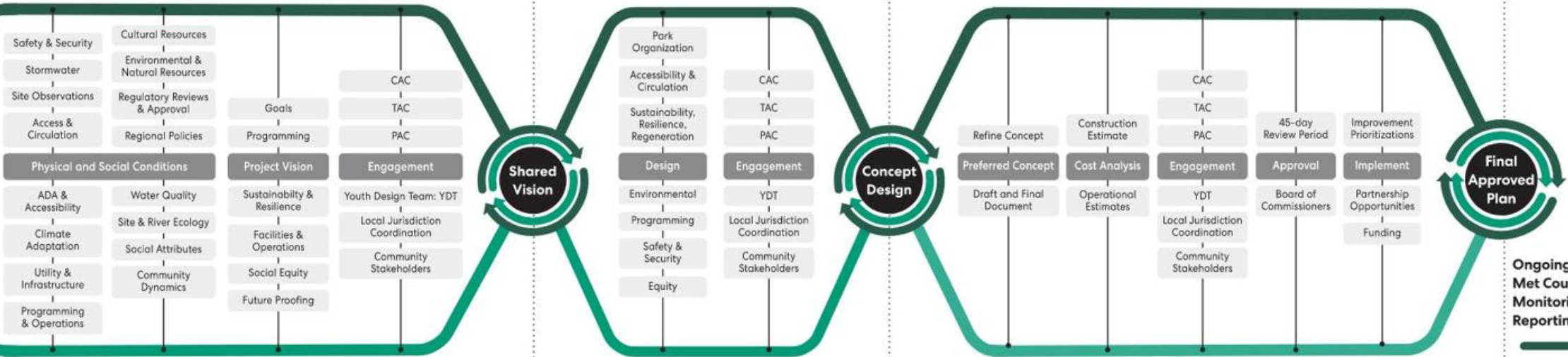
Project Schedule & Process

Discovery and Assessment

Park Planning and Design

Final Plan and Approval

MPRB and Stakeholders



Perkins&Will Team

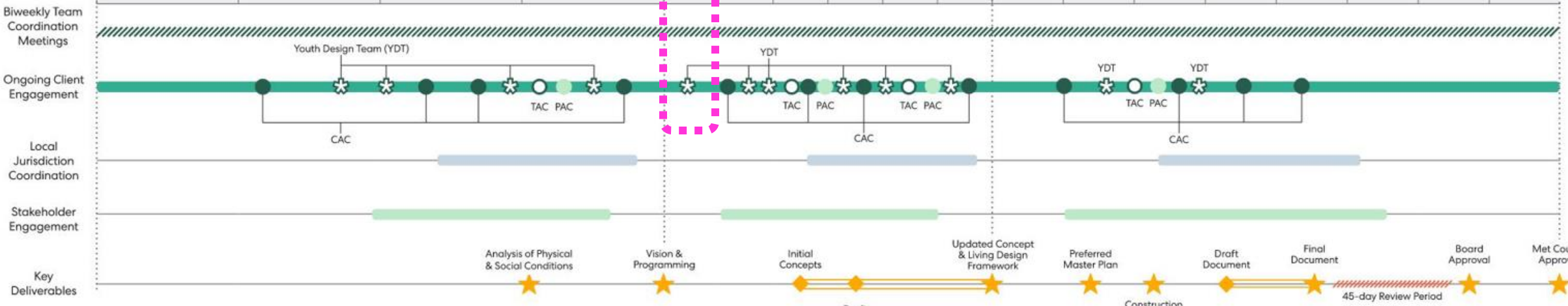
Ongoing Met Council Monitoring & Reporting

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



Next Steps

August CAC Meeting – Focus on Design Ideas

September CAC Meeting – Design team will present concepts

VISIONING

Themes for Visioning

Exercise 01 – Scale up / Dive In Questions

85 minutes for question response / 10 minutes for review and discussion

Exercise 02 – Postcard from the Future

20 minutes question response / for review and discussion

Visioning

Themes Developed in Data Jam

Wayfinding & Signage

- What is in the park
- Multilingual
- Access to the park

Ensure Representation in Engagement

- Accurate representation of neighborhoods
- Demographics of current park users

Upkeep & Maintenance

- Litter and cleanliness
- Wading pool not available
- Paved trails in poor condition

Outdoor Programming Areas

How to access and use the River

- paddleshare

Marketing

- Define park identity
- More education on what is available in the park

Connection

- Outside to inside
- Direction connection from Lyndale

Safety

- Lighting and visibility
- Unlit tunnels
- Internal Connections

Do Something Different

- Bring people to the park
- Create a draw

Nature Park or a Park in Nature

Story (History) of the Park

- What is the emerging story
- Other voices not in the engagement
- Comparison to other parts of the park
- Real name of Shingle Creek
- Native interpretation / original stewards of the land
- History that shows bridging the gap
- Focus on missing voices in the story
- Early park development left out many people in conversation
- Activities, names of plants, incorporate more into the park to inform on history of the land and neighborhood

Themes

Themes consolidated for Visioning

Story identity, history, interpretation

Navigation wayfinding, signage, multi-lingual

Voices representation, demographics, diversity

Linkage accessibility, circulation, connections, outside to inside

Natural Environment park in nature, nature in park

Activate create a draw, do something different, programming

Comfort safety, lighting, visibility

Visioning – Exercise 01

85 minutes

Instructions

Provide a written response to each of the "Scale Up" and "Dive In" questions. Please consider your personal views and broader views of representative communities when you provide a response.

Definition of “Scale up” questions

A question that asks how a successful idea, design, or solution can be expanded, replicated, or implemented more broadly—such as across different locations, communities, or systems—while maintaining its effectiveness and integrity.

Example Question: if you feel safe in the park what does that allow you to do?To build, expansion, grow

Definition of “Dive in” questions

A inquiry that encourages deep exploration into a specific aspect of an issue, idea, or experience—focusing on understanding the why, how, or underlying mechanisms behind it. It’s designed to go beneath the surface, prompting reflection, uncovering root causes, or surfacing deeper insights

Example Question: What specific things make you feel comfortable in the park.....Detail, focus, emphasis

Theme: Story *(identity, history, interpretation)*

6 minutes

Scale Up Questions:

- If the cultural, natural, social history of the park was better expressed, how would this change how you use the park?
- How can the park “stories” make the park more usable and welcoming?
- If the park was able to better reflect the culture and values of its community, how would this change the current design?
- If the park identity was more closely tied to the needs of the community, how would this change how the park is programmed and used?

Theme: Story *(identity, history, interpretation)*

6 minutes

Dive In Questions:

- What do you think is the park's primary purpose and goal? Is it focused on conservation, recreation, historical preservation, or a combination of these?
- What is the historical significance of this park? What key events, people, or movements are associated with its past? How has this history shaped the park's present form and purpose?
- Are there aspects of the park's design or characteristics that could be improved? What changes would enhance the visitor experience and better serve the community?
- What stories are embedded in the park's landscape and features?
- How does the park reflect the culture and values of its community? How does the park serve the needs of its community?
- What are the key elements of the park's design, and how do they contribute to its overall identity?
- How does the park's infrastructure support its intended uses and activities? Are there adequate facilities like trails, playgrounds, seating areas, and restrooms?

Theme: Navigation *(wayfinding, signage, multi-lingual)*

6 minutes

Scale Up Questions:

- If there was improved wayfinding and signage within the park, how would it allow you to use the park differently?
- If there were more interpretive elements (signage, displays, etc.) focused on ecology, plants, and wildlife within the park, would it change how you use the park?
- If there were resources available to help visitors plan a trip to the park, do you think more people would utilize the park?

Theme: Navigation *(wayfinding, signage, multi-lingual)*

6 minutes

Dive In Questions:

- Is the park layout intuitive and easy to navigate? Do visitors find it easy to orient themselves and navigate the park?
- Are there specific areas where visitors have trouble navigating?
- Is there adequate and reliable signage throughout the park, including directional signs and information about park features?

Theme: Voices *(representation, demographics, diversity)*

6 minutes

Scale Up Questions:

- If more diverse voices are heard in this process, what kind of ideas or recommendations could we receive?
- If more diverse representation was included at public meetings, how would this change how the park is used?
- If more diverse voices are heard in this process, would more a more diverse population utilize the park?

Theme: Voices *(representation, demographics, diversity)*

6 minutes

Dive In Questions:

- Does the park play a role in promoting social equity and community well-being? How does it foster connections between people and nature, or between members of the community? Where have you seen this done successfully?
- Is the park inclusive and accessible to everyone?
- Who are the key voices that are missing in the park engagement efforts? How should their feedback be collected and used to improve the park?
- How do we ensure the park is inclusive and culturally relevant to the diverse community it serves?
- What demographics should be prioritized when considering future design recommendations and programming?

Theme: Linkage *(accessibility, circulation, connections, outside to inside)*

6 minutes

Scale Up Questions:

- If entry corridors (streets with sidewalks or bike lanes leading up to the park) were improved, do you think more people from adjacent neighborhoods would use the park?
- If the access to the park was improved, how would this change how you use and access the park?

Theme: Linkage *(accessibility, circulation, connections, outside to inside)*

6 minutes

Dive In Questions:

- Are the park paths, entrances, and facilities accessible to all visitors, including those with disabilities?
- Are there any physical barriers that make it difficult to access the park or its facilities?
- How easily can people reach the park by different modes of transportation?
- What are the primary access points to the park? Are these clearly marked and easy to find?
- How well is the park connected to the surrounding community and other trails or park systems?

Theme: Natural Environment *(park in nature, nature in park)*

6 minutes

Scale Up Questions:

- If additional steps are taken to improve overall condition of natural areas (or add additional natural areas) within the park, how would that change how you use the park?
- If there were more opportunities for visitors to learn about the park's natural environment, do you think more people would come to the park?

Theme: Natural Environment *(park in nature, nature in park)*

6 minutes

Dive In Questions:

- Are the park's natural amenities sufficient to meet the needs of diverse users?
- Is the park visually appealing and well-kept?
- What plant and animal species are present in the park, and what is their overall condition?
- How does the park contribute to the overall connectivity and health of the surrounding ecosystem?
- How is the park designed to be resilient to extreme weather events or climate change impacts?
- Should this planning process look at expanding the park boundaries (to the south towards Upper Harbor Terminal site)?

Theme: Activate *(create a draw, do something different, programming)*

6 minutes

Scale Up Questions:

- If additional programming is added to the park, will it change how you use the park?
- With additional park programming, would it make the park feel more welcoming, contribute to a sense of community ownership, and more accessible?
- What types of programming would need to be added for you to explore more of the park?

Theme: Activate *(create a draw, do something different, programming)*

6 minutes

Dive In Questions:

- What programs, activities are missing in the current park? Should additional programming focus on specific age groups or abilities? What is the target audience for this park's programming?
- Does the park design and programming reflect the culture and interests of the surrounding community?
- Are there other key partnerships we should consider to enhance programming and activities in the park?
- Where in the park will new programming activities be located?
- How will programming encourage active participation and interaction among park users? How will park users be informed about programming activities?
- How can programming leverage existing park features and amenities?

Theme: Comfort *(safety, lighting, visibility)*

6 minutes

Scale Up Questions:

- If you feel safe in the park, what then does that allow you to do?
- Enhanced visibility in the park would increase your opportunities for what?
- What would improved lighting allow you to do and experience in the park?
- If pedestrian underpasses were improved, do you think this would change the perception of safety in the park?

Theme: Comfort *(safety, lighting, visibility)*

6 minutes

Dive In Questions:

- Do visitors feel safe using the park's facilities and amenities?
- What additional improvements/features in the park would make you feel safe/safer?
- Are there areas where improved lighting would enhance your park experience?
- Are there areas in the park where improved visibility would improve the way you use the park?
- Are there any areas within the park that are considered more dangerous or high-risk?

Exercise 01

10 minutes

CAC members pin up responses to the wall under the related theme banner on the wall

Take a few minutes to look at the responses

Visioning – Exercise 02

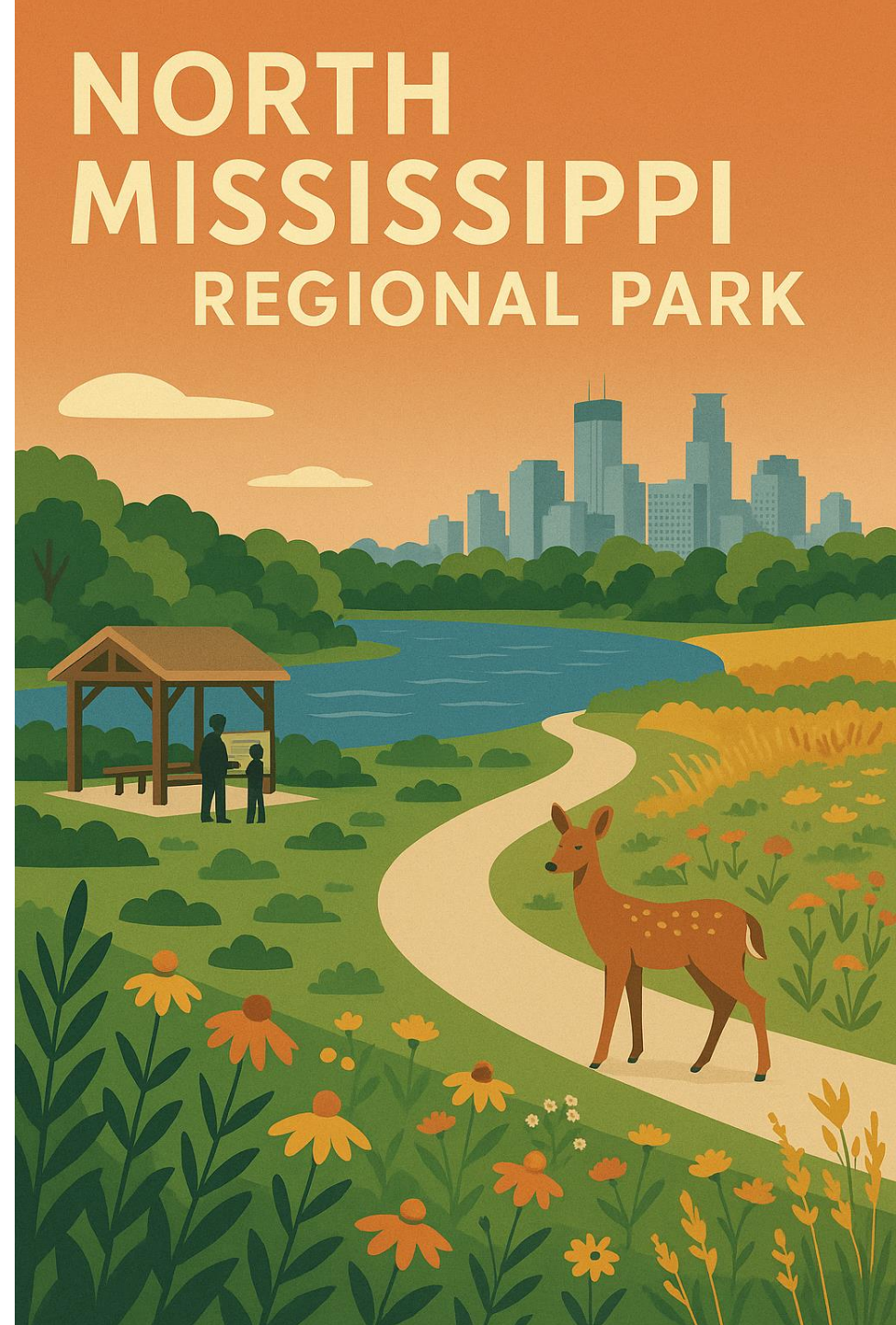
20 minutes

Postcard from the future

Instructions

Provide a written response to identify what your future vision for the park is, and what the future park might look like and include.

Please consider your personal views and broader views of representative communities when you provide a response.



PUBLIC COMMENT TIME

QUESTIONS / COMMENTS

10 Minutes