

North Mississippi Regional Park Plan



CAC Meeting 07
October 21, 2025

Agenda

Welcome!

Project Schedule & Outreach Update (5 minutes)

Group Formation (Siciid) - (5 minutes)

Shaping Concepts (60-80 min small group design work / 30 min report out)

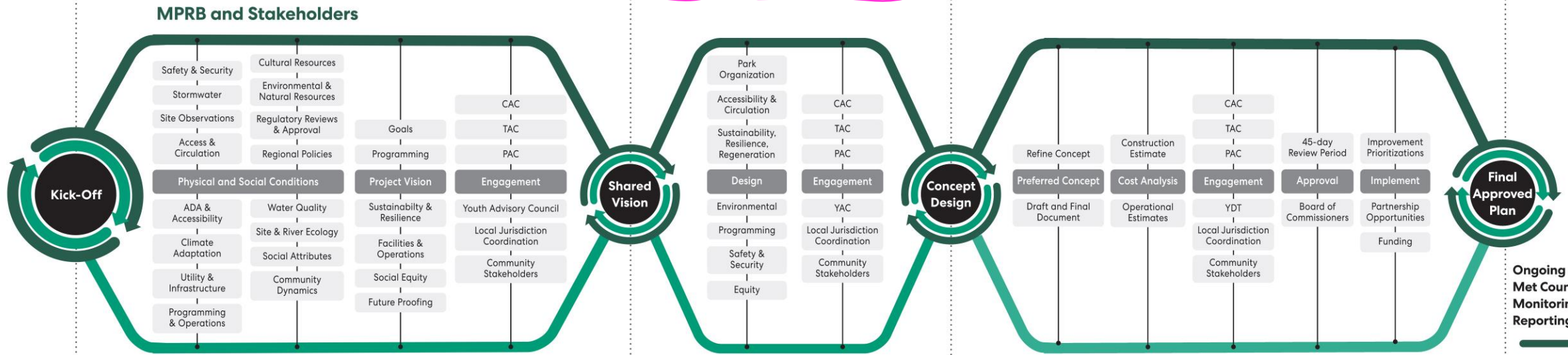
Next Steps (2 minutes)

Public Comment Time

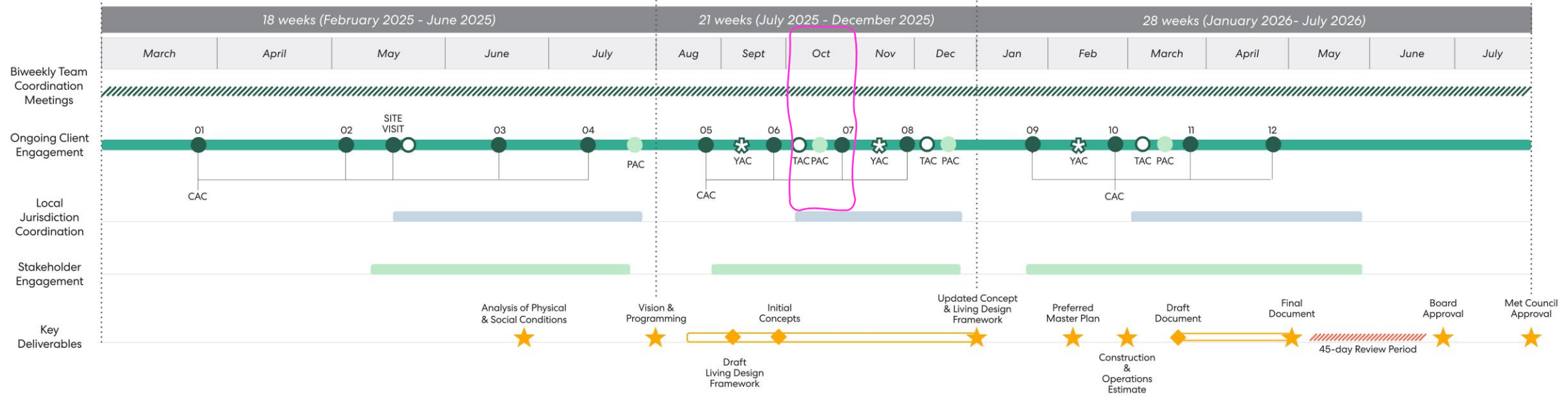
Adjourn

PROJECT UPDATES

Discovery and Assessment **Park Planning and Design** **Final Plan and Approval**



Perkins&Will Team



Ongoing Met Council Monitoring & Reporting

VISION STATEMENT & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

North Mississippi Regional Park Vision Statement

North Mississippi Regional Park will be a welcoming and inclusive place that links people to the Mississippi River through nature, culture, and community. The Park will offer safe, engaging spaces that promote health, celebrate local heritage, restore the environment, and connect people to each other.

To support the vision statement these **guiding principles** for the North Mississippi Regional Park were developed:

Design for Radical Welcome

Create vibrant experiences through diverse programs, activities, events, and amenities that draw people into the park.

Connect People & Place

Strengthening physical and visual connections to knit park access into surrounding neighborhoods and regional networks.

Foster Safety & Comfort: Provide inclusive, safe, and comfortable spaces where everyone feels a sense of belonging and security.

Celebrate Culture and Story

Celebrate the history, stories, and cultural richness of the Mississippi River and surrounding communities.

Center Equity & Belonging

Ensure the park evolves with the needs of diverse communities and promotes access for all.

Identity

Foster a strong sense of place by highlighting the park's unique identity, landscapes and community connections.

Elevate Health and Wellness

Support physical, mental, and emotional well-being through outdoor recreation, nature to access, and inclusive programming.

Build Resilience

Design for long-term environmental health and climate adaptability through sustainable practices and recreation.

Nurture Healthy Ecosystems

Protect, restore, and enhance habitats, water quality, and biodiversity.

PARK FRAMEWORKS

Frameworks are flexible guides that help organize ideas, compare options, and make decisions. They create a shared language so the design team, community, and partners stay aligned with the project's goals.

Frameworks also work together. Each brings a different perspective, and when they overlap, they form a complete picture—balancing priorities and shaping the final design concept into a unified vision.

CONCEPT FORMATION

GROUP ACTIVITY – SHAPING CONCEPTS

Individual Framework Ranking (10 minutes)

- Each participant will review the elements of their assigned framework and rank each as Low, Medium, or High priority.

Team Priority Mapping (10 minutes)

- Participants will place dots on high-priority items on a shared team board to visualize key collective values.

Collaborative Concept Development (60 minutes)

- Using the ranked priorities as a guide, each group will sketch a concept plan that integrates their top ideas and builds consensus among team members.

Group Presentations (30 minutes)

- Each group will present their concept plan and rationale to the larger CAC, sharing how priorities and consensus shaped their design



Intertwined River Ecologies

The *Intertwined River Ecologies* approach highlights the park as a mosaic of floodplain, prairie, woodland, and creek systems braided together with community life. Restored riparian edges, biodiverse habitats, and resilient stormwater features strengthen ecological health while telling the story of water as both system and resource. Cultural narratives—Dakota and Ojibwe heritage, industrial legacies, and present-day community life—are layered into gathering spaces, trails, and interpretive features, ensuring people see themselves reflected in the landscape. By weaving ecology, culture, and community, the park becomes a resilient refuge where natural systems and human connections flourish together.



Connected River

The *Connected River* approach emphasizes making the Mississippi accessible, visible, and central to neighborhood life. Enhanced gateways, safe crossings, and continuous trail loops stitch the park to surrounding communities, while unified signage and interpretation guide visitors from streets to shoreline. New overlooks, docks, and water access points transform the river from backdrop to centerpiece, offering safe and engaging opportunities to touch, explore, and learn. By prioritizing physical connections and interpretive clarity, this approach ensures the river is central to both movement and meaning within the park.

Activated Landscape

The *Activated Landscapes* approach expands the mission of the Kroening Nature Center by turning the entire park into a living classroom. Outdoor education hubs and flexible gathering spaces support programs that reach into neighborhoods, while culturally diverse demonstration gardens connect ecological resilience with community heritage. Multilingual interpretation and inclusive design make the landscape accessible to all, fostering belonging through both cultural relevance and ecological engagement. This approach animates the park with year-round activity, ensuring it is alive with programs, stories, and shared stewardship.



PUBLIC COMMENT TIME

QUESTIONS / COMMENTS

10 Minutes