

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: Colleen O'Dell

Division/Department: Strategic Planning

Level of Engagement: Involve

Project, Program, or Initiative Name: Soo Line Garden – MPRB Response to Environmental Conditions

Project Description (100 words recommended):

This project will evaluate and address contaminated soils at the Soo Line site, in cooperation with the MN Pollution Control Agency. Project staff will seek Hennepin County ERF funding for the project. After voluntary clean-up activities are completed, staff will work with gardeners, community members, Braun Intertec, and Aune Fernandez Landscape Architecture to engage stakeholders, create a concept design for garden replacement at the site, and construct the plan. Concept design will be done in a manner which prioritizes the natural, organic character of the site and its use as a community garden and public park space, with exploration of access to the Midtown Greenway.

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.*

Having tended garden beds on the site for decades, [Soo Line Community Garden](#) members are keenly interested in co-creating the new garden space with MPRB and playing a key role in design and operations decisions. Cyclists, pedestrians, and members of the disability community are also interested in neighborhood access to the adjacent Midtown Greenway at this location. In addition, the remediation of the site must be conducted in coordination with the MN Pollution Control Agency and meet their clean-up requirements. The site is currently owned by MPRB but operated by Soo Line Gardens as a “legacy garden” which existed before MPRB’s adoption of the [Community Garden Policy](#), a part of its [Urban Agriculture Activity Plan](#). Stakeholders will be involved to provide input, ideas, and feedback on all aspects of the project which are not dictated by remediation, stormwater, and other regulatory requirements. In addition, community engagement on the project previously conducted by Hennepin County will be assessed and considered.

For projects, programs, or initiatives that fall under the Inform category of engagement: what are your planned methods for informing the public? (i.e. posting on a project website, GovDelivery email blast, flyer onsite, multi-lingual and/or graphic information) *You do not need to answer this question if you are completing a CE Plan.*

n/a.