



Date of Board P+C: September 18, 2024

Date of Board Approval (for CAC's only):

Date of Most Recent Update:

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 (A link to the Community Engagement Portal can be found at <https://minneapolisparcs.sharepoint.com/planning/SitePages/Home.aspx>.)

Staff Lead: Carol HejlStone

Department or Division: Planning Department, Design and Project Management Division

Project Name: Todd Park Improvements Project

Engagement Level: Consult (See Engagement Assessment attached)

This plan serves as a guide for the community engagement process for the Todd Park 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. This is to be filled out before the CE Plan is submitted to the Board as a P+C. Please explain how they were engaged:

This plan was developed in collaboration with community stakeholder and MPRB staff input. Community stakeholders include Hale Page Diamond Lake Community Association, Pearl Improvement and Recreation Council, sports league participants and other groups near Todd Park. These stakeholder groups were consulted in the process of developing this plan, which is a living document. Community feedback was used to shape the engagement process and plan.

1. Project Description

1a. Project Overview:

Todd Park Improvements initially focused on the playground updates required for bringing the playground up to usable condition and current ADA requirements. The playground improvements were completed in the summer of 2025. As the playground was being completed, an opportunity to partner with MPS for diamond sports field improvements for youth girls fast pitch softball arose. As additional MPRB CIP funding for park site improvements will come available in 2027, staff determined a holistic effort to engage with community around the partnership and additional site improvements was warranted. All anticipated improvements are consistent with the approved master plan for Todd Park.

1b. MPRB Outcomes (*What goals, strategies, or values in the MPRB Comprehensive Plan does this project, program, or initiative relate to? What goal in the Racial Equity Action Plan does this relate to?*):

Goal 1: Foster belonging and equity

19: Create and support activities and welcoming spaces for teens and young adults in the parks for both programmed and unprogrammed activities.

Goal 3: Provide core services with care

11: Design and implement parks that are welcoming, climate resilient, ecologically healthy, playful, beautiful, and safe as they age.

Goal 4: Work from our strengths and

13: Collaborate with other agencies and organizations to share best practices in parks and recreation, governance, engagement and public service.

1c. Project Timeline:

Community Engagement will move forward starting in fall 2024 and continue following completion of the playground improvements in 2025.

1d. Project Funding:

<u>Capital Sources</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
2023 CIP	\$355,000.00	

2027 CIP	\$896,000.00	
Park Dedication	\$1,614.00	

<u>Supplemental Sources</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
MPS	TBD	
PIRC	TBD	
Total:	\$1,254,228.00	

2. Project Data:

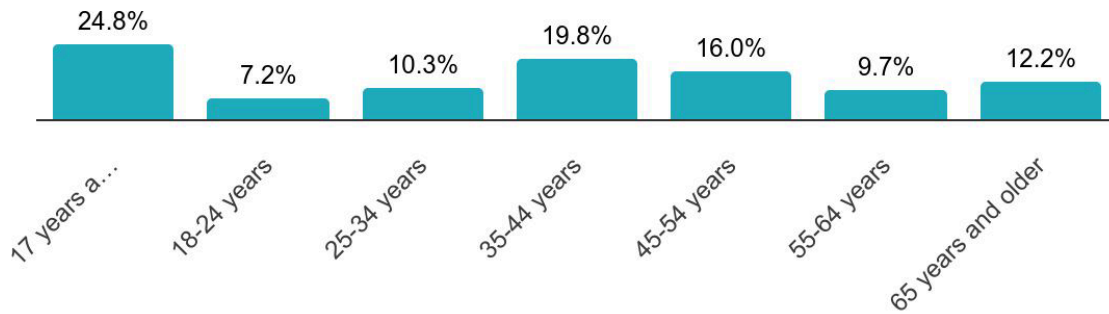
2a. What are the boundaries of the community engagement area? The Hale Page Diamond Lake Community Association is the overall community we are engaging, but our inclusive engagement will listen and include voices from park users outside the neighborhood as well, particularly around diamond sports improvements.

2b. What are the demographics of the community engagement area? *(Please refer to percentages of the population when possible and note the sources of the data.)*

The demographic information for the Diamond Lake neighborhood indicates the neighborhood is largely comprised of single-family homes, with many residents living in the area for more than one year. Persons identified themselves as primarily white and English speaking, with a variety of other ethnicities and languages represented. A majority of people living in this neighborhood have income above the poverty level and have access to one or more cars. The community has access to rapid service bus transit, with one stop being located at the northeast corner of Todd Park.

Diamond Lake Neighborhood, population by age group

2018-2022



LOCATION PROFILES

Diamond Lake neighborhood, population by race/ethnicity

SHOW MARGIN OF ERROR

Race & Ethnicity (2018-2022)		
White	4,699	81.2%
Of Color	suppressed	
Black or African American alone	520	9.0%
American Indian and Alaskan Native alone	suppressed	
Asian or Pacific Islander alone	suppressed	
Other alone	suppressed	
Two or more races alone	suppressed	
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	241	4.2%

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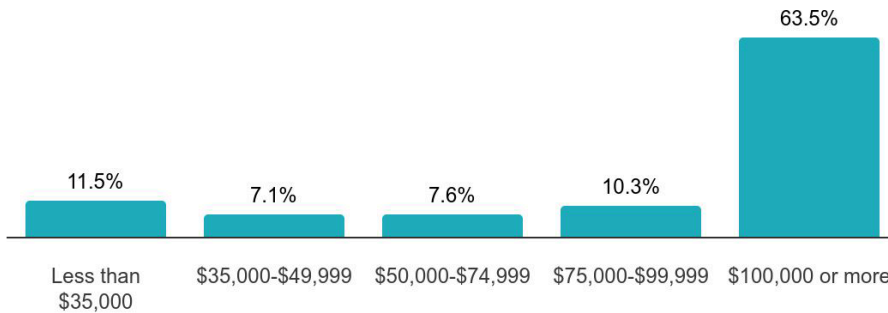
Diamond Lake neighborhood, population by language

[SHOW MARGIN OF ERROR](#)

Language spoken (2018-2022)		
Population (5 years and older)	5,379	100.0%
English only	4,871	90.6%
Language other than English	suppressed	
Speaks English less than "very well"	113	2.1%

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Diamond Lake Neighborhood, households by income (2022 dollars) 2018-2022



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, 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.*

Extensive outreach was done during the South Service Area Parks Plan engagement process, which was approved on September 28, 2016 by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) of Commissioners. Recommendations specific to Todd Park include the existing play areas to remain in essentially the same location, the change from tennis to full court basketball, a storage building with restroom, and a premiere girls' softball diamond. The design envisions Todd Park to remain primarily a sports venue with improved active recreational experiences and improved storage.

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

The data gaps include accurate information about subsurface soil conditions. An ALTA (Property) survey was conducted to advise MPRB of property ownership and property lines. A Phase 1 ESA and a soil geotechnical review were conducted to provide more information about the site conditions and sub-surface features.

3. Community Engagement:

The MPRB supports the use of a variety of techniques to interact with and obtain information from stakeholders. Outreach and research tools and methods can be applied for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to the following:

- a. Evaluate success and measure community impact of existing programs, services or facilities.
- b. Gain stakeholder insight and perspective regarding development of a new program, service or facility.
- c. Proactively identify or explore park and recreation trends or ideas.
- d. Determine essential services to be provided for a community or park area.
- e. Query stakeholders when proposing or revising policy.
- f. Resolve persistent conflicts or problems.
- g. Educate or inform the public on proposed changes, initiatives and projects.
- h. Reflect on projects, programs and initiatives after adoption by the Board or report on how community input has been integrated.
- i. Learn the history of local context and community.

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>
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Hale Page Diamond Lake Community Association	Email and virtual meetings.	Newsletters, Website, Neighborhood Communication Resources (website, email, etc...), Online Survey.	E-blast, park sign, website updates, and a grand opening celebration (if COVID permits).
Sports league participants	Pop-up engagements, project park signage	Online survey, and alternative virtual methods of meeting are being explored. Flyers may be emailed to participants.	E-blast, park sign, website updates, and a grand opening celebration (if COVID permits). E-blast, park sign, website updates, and a grand opening celebration.
Pearl Improvements and Recreation Council PIRC	Email and in-person meetings	Email and in-person meetings	Project webpage, email

If needed, describe the outreach, engagement, or reflection methods you will use that are referenced above:

3a. Advisory Committees:

Project Advisory Committee: This roster is a list of MPRB departments and divisions that are on the PAC
<u>Project Advisory Team</u>
Staff will convene a PAC of MPRB staff. The PAC will provide technical insight into the existing conditions within the park and assist with understanding community needs and program needs, to help prioritize the proposed site improvements associated with the project. The PAC will include members from the following departments:
MPRB Recreation Division (Recreation Service Area Mgr.) – Ann Heath, Eric Cherland
MPRB Environmental Stewardship Division (Forestry, Asset Management, Environmental Management, and Gardeners Departments) – Craig Pinkalla, James ‘Brink’ Field, Eric Cherland
MPRB Community Outreach and Access -
MPRB Park Police – Jim Huber
MPRB Marketing and Communications – Julie Caniglia
MPRB Planning Staff – Siciid Ali

3b. Will a Community Advisory Committee be required for this project, program, or initiative?

Not at this time, as the project is being guided by an approved master plan.

If yes, complete the following section.

CAC Charge:

- To make recommendations about the project to the MPRB Board of Commissioners
- To reach out to the community about the project
- To abide by the CE Policy

CAC Composition Goals:	Appointers and the CAC Selection Committee should appoint individuals that represent one or more of the identities/perspectives listed below to ensure diversity on the CAC. This is not an exhaustive or conclusive list, and categories should be based on self-identification, and not assumption.
Racial/Ethnic Diversity	
Generational Diversity	
Socioeconomic Diversity	
Linguistic Diversity	
Diversity of interests	
Gender Diversity	
Other:	

CAC Selection Committee Roster: <i>This roster of groups and individuals that are participating in the CAC appointment process for the project, program, or initiative</i>

Community Advisory Committee:	
Committee Recommended Slate	Board Approved Slate

5a. Identify one or more key project milestones when project evaluation will be performed (i.e. Draft design review, draft policy review, project mid-point) At concept plan approval we will perform a project evaluation.

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.)

We engaged with neighboring residents to the park, youth utilizing the revitalized playground, MPRB and club spots league participants, and the general neighborhood. A wide variety of age, gender, socio-economic, and racial groups have been represented through the variety of engagement opportunities both in-person and online.

5b. How did the engagement inform the project outcome? (i.e. public tabulation and amendments following a public comment period)

Feedback from the public directly influenced design of the playground and revitalization of the sport court area along with improvements to the ball diamonds and natural areas.

5c. How did the project and engagement fulfill a goal or strategy in the MPRB Comprehensive Plan?

5d. Please describe any new or innovative engagement methods used during the process:

Hosting engagement for additional site improvements at a playground opening celebration was big draw that gathered lots of participation.

5e. What recommendations do you have for future engagement around this topic, park, or area? Aligning park capital funding to all be available at one time rather than separated by a few years.

5f. What, if any, were the unintended outcomes of your CE Plan?

NA

5g. Were there any barriers to successful implementation of your CE Plan?

No

5h. Were you adequately resourced, including staff support, expertise, and funding?

Yes

5i. If applicable, how can this project, program, or initiative, or MPRB continue to partner and deepen relationships with underrepresented communities?

By actively and intentionally listening to all project stakeholders equally and limiting reactionary responses to singular loud voices.