



September 7, 2022:

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 (<https://minneapolisparcs.sharepoint.com/planning/SitePages/Home.aspx>.)

Staff Lead: Carol HejlStone

Department or Division: Planning

Project Name: Chickadee Park Improvements Project

Engagement Level: Partner

This plan serves as a guide for the community engagement process for the 28th Street 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 Partner 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. Please explain who was engaged:

MPRB staff – PAC team

City of Skate – Paul Forsline, Witt Siasoco

Whittier Alliance – Kaley Brown/Anna Schmitz

Phillips West Neighborhood Association – Hadiya Bakar

MnDOT – Christina Perfetti

1. **Project Description**

1a. Project Overview: To construct park improvements at the 28th St Tot Lot Site and develop a first-of-its-kind DIY skate park in partnership with City of Skate.

This park will now host an exciting new asset in the Minneapolis park system – the first public do it-yourself community led/build skate park. Called for in MPRB's adopted Skate Park Activity Plan, a DIY skate park will provide flexible space for trying out different skating techniques and creating or adapting new amenities. Shade structures and climbable boulders provide seating comfort and also separate the

skate area from a small play area in the NE corner, surrounded by native plantings and tree cover. The vertical soundwall of the future I-35W offramp will display public art images and help to bring eyes onto the park. In the creative spirit of the goals of the Skate Park Activity Plan, the art wall could also be used as a backdrop for projecting films during events, or for showcasing new and emerging artists' work. A new multi-use trail connection links 28th St E with the Midtown Greenway just to the south of the park, increasing bike access and supporting recreation activity in the space. With the functional reconfiguration of this space into a DIY skate park, a future change in the official park name may also be considered.

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

Goal 1: Foster Belonging and equity

- 1: Recognize parks as a unique venue to support the creative sector, emerging and established artists and cultural practitioners, and to celebrate the diversity of our city as anchoring institutions.
- 9: Continue to evolve and practice creative community engagement processes to be more inclusive and representative of diverse populations and recognize community members for their wisdom, insight, and feedback.
- 11: Cultivate long-term relationships with community members, leaders, artists, and community and cultural organizations to inform design, community engagement, and programming of parks.
- 19: Create and support activities and welcoming spaces for teens and young adults in the parks for both programmed and unprogrammed activities.
- 21: Empower community to design, create, maintain, program, and steward safe and welcoming parks.

Goal 3: Provide core services with care

- 7: Design, evolve, and maintain high quality athletic facilities including fields, diamonds, skateparks, ice rinks, courts, and tracks to support a range of multigenerational sports balancing tradition and emerging trends.

Goal 4: Work from our strengths and determine our role in partnerships

- 3: Leverage partnerships with businesses, sponsors, volunteers, agencies and nonprofits to fill financial and service gaps in facilities, programs and staffing.

5: Seek partnerships and sponsorships to support citywide volunteerism, events, projects, programs, and facilities and to increase MPRB’s ability to manage, program, design, and activate parks.

Goal 5: Expand focus on health equity

10: Provide affordable and desirable programs and activities that promote health and wellness, including but not limited to evidence-based physical activity programs, nature education and access, bicycle safety training for all ages, and pathways for participation in multiple sports, including skateboarding and other emerging recreational trends, and develop learn-to-swim programs to inspire water safety and comfort in diverse communities.

14: Encourage and support healthy play for all ages and abilities.

Goal 7: Connect through communications and technology

10: Focus communication strategies on connecting, dialoguing, and partnering with community rather than a focus on informing.

Goal 9: Operate a financially sustainable enterprise

9: Diversify funding streams to leverage existing funding with grants, site-specific revenue generations, sponsorship, and public/private partnerships through an equity lens.

1c. Project Timeline:

Summer/Fall 2022 – Community engagement

1d. Project Funding:

<u>Capital Sources</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
2021 CIP	\$200,000	

<u>Supplemental Sources</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
Site Restoration - MnDOT	tbd	2023 landscape contracts

City of Skate Donations	tbd	
Total:		

2. Project Data:

2a. What are the boundaries of the community engagement area? Whittier neighborhood. Whittier is bounded by Franklin Avenue to the north, Interstate 35W to the east, Lyndale Avenue South to the west and Lake Street to the south. These boundaries may be expanded to include skatepark-specific engagement opportunities.

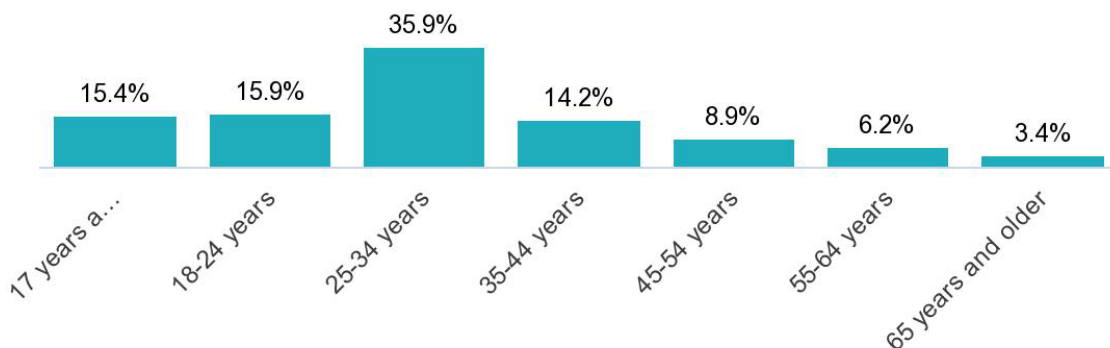
2b. What are the demographics of the community engagement area?

Whittier neighborhood, population by sex

Sex (2015-2019)		
Male	7,640	54.1%
Female	6,475	45.9%

Whittier Neighborhood, population by age group

2015-2019



Whittier neighborhood, population by race/ethnicity

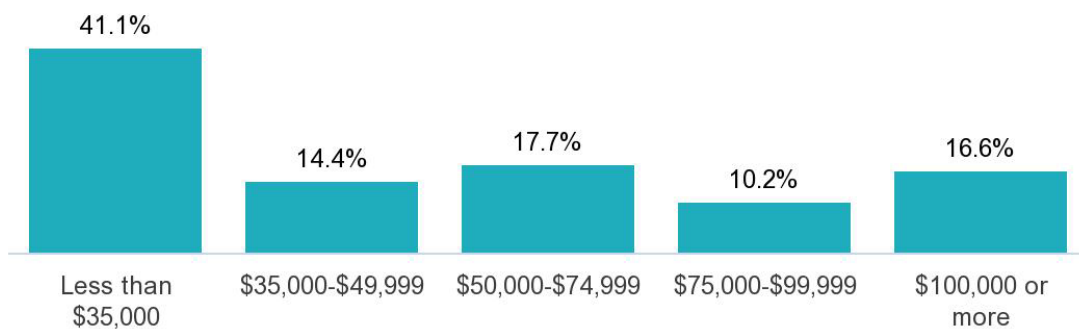
SHOW MARGIN OF ERROR

Race & Ethnicity (2015-2019)		
White	7,921	56.1%
Of Color	5,339	37.8%
Black or African American alone	2,612	18.5%
American Indian and Alaskan Native alone	suppressed	
Asian or Pacific Islander alone	533	3.8%
Other alone	suppressed	
Two or more races alone	692	4.9%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	2,256	16.0%

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Whittier Neighborhood, households by income (2019 dollars)

2015-2019



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, activity plans, 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.

MnDOT Art on Highway Policy: <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/policy/operations/oe007.html>

Hennepin County Midtown Safety Design Study: <https://www.hennepin.us/-/media/hennepinus/residents/transportation/midtown-community-works/midtown-safety-design-study.pdf>

MPRB Skate Park Activity Plan

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

City of Skate will engage directly with skatepark users to develop the layout and type of features to be included in the skatepark.

3. Community Engagement:

3a. Identify Project Stakeholders

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, projects, programs, and initiatives.*
- 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>
Whittier Alliance	Email, neighborhood meetings	Open house, survey, regular community meeting	Posted on project website, celebration

Phillips West Neighborhood Association	Email, neighborhood meetings	Open house, survey, regular community meeting	Posted on project website, celebration
Minneapolis Institute of Art	Email, in person	Open house	
Minneapolis College of Art and Design	Email, in person	Open house	
Midtown Greenway Coalition	Email, in person	Open house	celebration
Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority	Email	meetings	

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

3b. Advisory Committees:

Technical Advisory Committee: This roster is a list of agencies and groups that are on the TAC
City of Skate – Witt and Paul
MnDOT – Aaron Tag, Christina Perfetti site restoration, land acquisition, sound wall considerations
City of Minneapolis – Paul Miller & others as needed

Project Advisory Committee: This roster is a list of MPRB departments and divisions that are on the PAC
Forestry – Craig Pinkalla
Asset Management – Bryan Massich trades manager, Chris Des Roches park project & systems mgr
MPRB PD – Sgt. Chad Berdahl precinct 5, Sgt. Brian Woodfill precinct 1
Kait Ryan – MPRB gardening staff mgr.
Becca Gross – Community Gardens
Siicid Ali – Plan Champion

3c. Will a Community Advisory Committee be required for this project, program, or initiative? Y/N

No. We will partner with City of Skate, outlined via mutually created project level MOU.

4. Analysis:

4a. What questions will you be asking community to respond to in your outreach and engagement?

Site as a whole:

What types of play elements would you like to see in this space? (imaginative, adventure-style, nature-based, traditional, etc.)

Are there specific color schemes or material themes you would like to see?

MPRB is considering adding public art to the soundwall or elsewhere in the park. Are there specific types of public art that you prefer? Mural, sculpture, mosaic, artful play elements,

What features would make this park space enjoyable and safe to visit?

How does this space currently make you feel, and how would you like to feel when you visit this space?

Do you have any concerns about this project you would like MPRB to know about?

MPRB has limited funds available. If this project needs to be phased, which improvements would you like to see constructed first?

Skate specific:

What type of skate features would you like to see added to the MPRB skateboard system?

What is missing from the current MPRB skateboard spaces?

What types of street and transition skate features would you like to use?

What skate elements would complement south and southwest areas of the MPRB system?

4b. How will your community engagement outreach, engagement, and methods make MPRB a more equitable system?

This project has been ranked as the #1 equity priority as part of the MPRB CIP for multiple years while being used for a construction staging area for the MnDOT I-35W project. Its completion will transform an eyesore into a vibrant park space. This skatepark is being designed in partnership with City of Skate by skaters, for skaters.

4c. Identify one or more key project milestones when project evaluation will be performed (*i.e. Draft design review, draft policy review, project mid-point*)

Concept plan review, 60% design review, 90% design review

5. Evaluation Summary: *To be completed at one or more project milestones as identified in 4c.*

5a. Who was engaged during the process? *Whittier residents were engaged through a number of in-person opportunities at Whittier Park, Whittier Rec Center and at community meetings. City of Skate led skater-specific outreach by delivering project posters to local skate shops and a social media post.*

5b. How did the engagement inform the project outcome? Community engagement shaped design of the playground, planting palette, and skate features.

5c. Please describe any new or innovative engagement methods used during the process: MPRB staff partnered with the Whittier Neighborhood to provide a program at the nearby Spark'd Studio for youth to learn graffiti art skills and develop a mural for the sound wall.

5d. What recommendations do you have for future engagement around this topic, park, or area?

Have MPRB staff set expectations and lead any additional engagement with the skate community.

5e. What, if any, were the unintended outcomes of your CE Plan? Per direction from City of Skate representatives, the project has shifted from DIY to become community-led design, with the intent for MPRB to fund, and lead construction of, the skatepark through a traditional public bidding process with a contractor.

5g. Were there any barriers to successful implementation of your CE Plan? The shift in project delivery approach.

5h. Were you adequately resourced, including staff support, expertise, and funding? The project lacks adequate funding to construct the skatepark as designed by City of Skate.

5i. If applicable, how can this project, program, or initiative, or MPRB continue to partner and deepen relationships with underrepresented communities? Working with local residents to add more artwork to the sound wall mural. Continue to work with skate community to identify an appropriate budget and deliver a skate park at the site.