

North Mississippi Regional Park Plan



CAC Meeting 09
23 April 2026

Agenda

Welcome!

Concept Survey Results *(30 minutes)*

Final Concept Alignment *(70 minutes)*

Project Schedule & Upcoming CAC Meetings *(5 minutes)*

Public Comment Time *(10 minutes)*

Adjourn

Goal for the Meeting

***Reach consensus on park elements
to include in the final concept***

CONCEPT SURVEY RESULTS

SURVEY / OUTREACH

Total survey responses: 145

Open House attendees: 25+

Meetings / Outreach

Lind Bohanon Neighborhood Board

Webber Camden Neighborhood Organization Board

Victory / Shingle Creek Neighborhood Group - Public Event

Art Water Ecology Quarterly Meeting @ Kroening Nature Center

PAC

TAC

SURVEY RESPONSE SUMMARY

ZIP CODE	RESPONSES	NEIGHBORHOOD
55412	33	Camden /Webber-Camden
55411	16	North Minneapolis
55430	14	Brooklyn Center
55418	11	Northeast / Columbia Park
55407	5	Powderhorn
55422	5	Robbinsdale
55427	7	Golden Valley
55408	4	Uptown / Lyndale
55405	3	Near North / Bryn Mawr
55406	3	Longfellow
55413	3	Northeast
55404	2	Elliot Park / Phillips
55414	2	University / Dinkytown
55426	2	St Louis Park
55108	2	Como Park

ZIP CODE	RESPONSES	NEIGHBORHOOD
55401	1	North Loop
55409	1	Kingfield
55410	1	Linden Hills / Fulton
55416	1	St Louis Park
55417	1	Nokomis
55419	1	Tangletown / Kenny
55428	1	Brooklyn Center
55429	1	Brooklyn Center
55442	1	Plymouth
55443	1	Brooklyn Park
55303	1	Andover
55347	1	Eden Prairie
55369	1	Maple Grove
55104	1	Hamline / Midway
55107	1	West St Paul
55118	1	West St Paul
55128	1	St Paul
55130	1	St Paul

119 responded / 26 skipped

SURVEY RESPONSE SUMMARY

AGE RANGE	RESPONSES	% OF TOTAL
0-20	7	7.3%
21-30	20	20.8%
31-40	27	28.1%
41-50	23	24.0%
51-60	7	7.3%
21-70	8	8.3%
71-80	4	4.2%
80 and over	0	

98 responded / 47 skipped

IDENTITY	% OF TOTAL
Agender	0.96%
Female	65.38%
Genderqueer or genderfluid	2.88%
Male	29.81%
Two-spirit	2.88%
Transgender	0.96%
Additional gender category or questions/unsure	1.92%

104 responded / 41 skipped

SURVEY RESPONSE SUMMARY

IDENTITY	% OF TOTAL
American Indian or Alaskan Native	3.74%
Asian or Pacific Islander	2.80%
Black or African American	8.41%
Multiracial or Biracial	4.67%
White	78.50%
Another option not listed here	1.87%

107 responded / 38 skipped

HISPANIC, LATINO, SPANISH ORIGIN	% OF TOTAL
Yes	4.88%
No	95.12%

104 responded / 41 skipped

LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME	% OF TOTAL
English	96.19%
Hmong	0.00%
Somali	1.90%
Spanish	0.95%
Another option not listed here <i>(please specify)</i>	1.20%

105 responded / 40 skipped

NORTH MISSISSIPPI REGIONAL PARK PLAN

CONCEPT 01 - RADICAL WELCOME

This concept imagines the park as a lively place for play, gathering, and community life. It improves key activity areas with things like an updated playground and splash pad, new recreation options at Camden Boat Launch, and more indoor-outdoor space at the Kroening Nature Center. Big improvements—like new land bridges, better access on Lyndale, and a wider I-94 underpass—make it easier and safer to get to the park. A stronger trail network, new spots to reach the river, and added natural areas connect everything together, creating a welcoming park where people can gather, explore, and enjoy the riverfront.



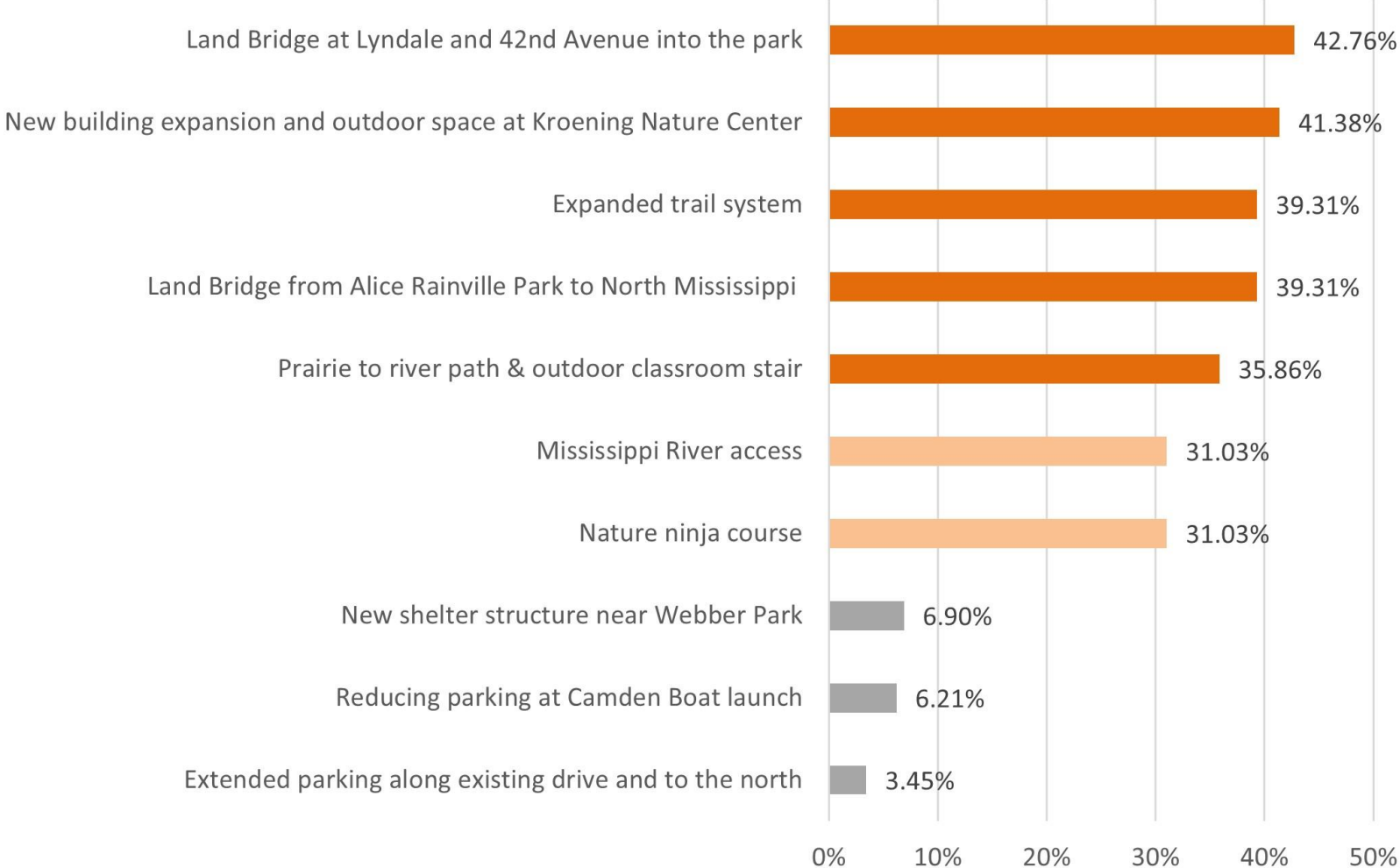
RADICAL WELCOME

List of elements includes in the concept:

- Extended parking along existing drive and to the north
- Reducing parking at Camden Boat launch
- New shelter structure near Webber Park
- New flexible lawn
- Skate park
- Hammock zones
- Extend planting along 49th Avenue connection
- Widened underpass connection under I-94
- Fishing overlook(s) at the river's edge
- Bike skills course
- Updated splash pad
- Kayak facilities
- Updated playground
- New island with walkway connection
- Nature ninja course
- Mississippi River access
- Prairie to river path & outdoor classroom stair
- Land Bridge from Alice Rainville Park to North Mississippi
- Expanded trail system
- New building expansion and outdoor space at Kroening Nature Center
- Land Bridge at Lyndale and 42nd Avenue into the park

RADICAL WELCOME

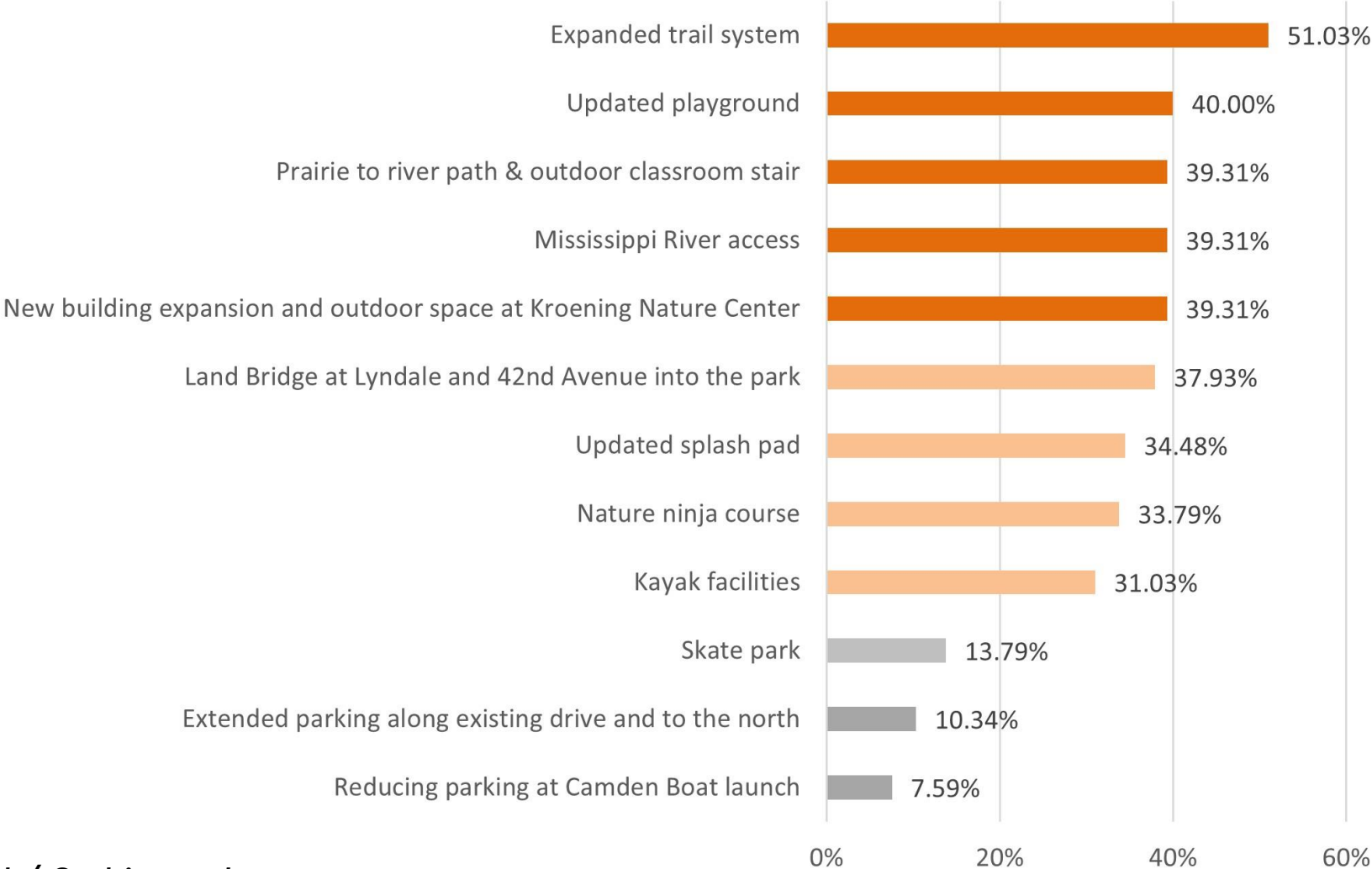
Pick your top five (5) favorite park features for this concept.



145 responded / 0 skipped

RADICAL WELCOME

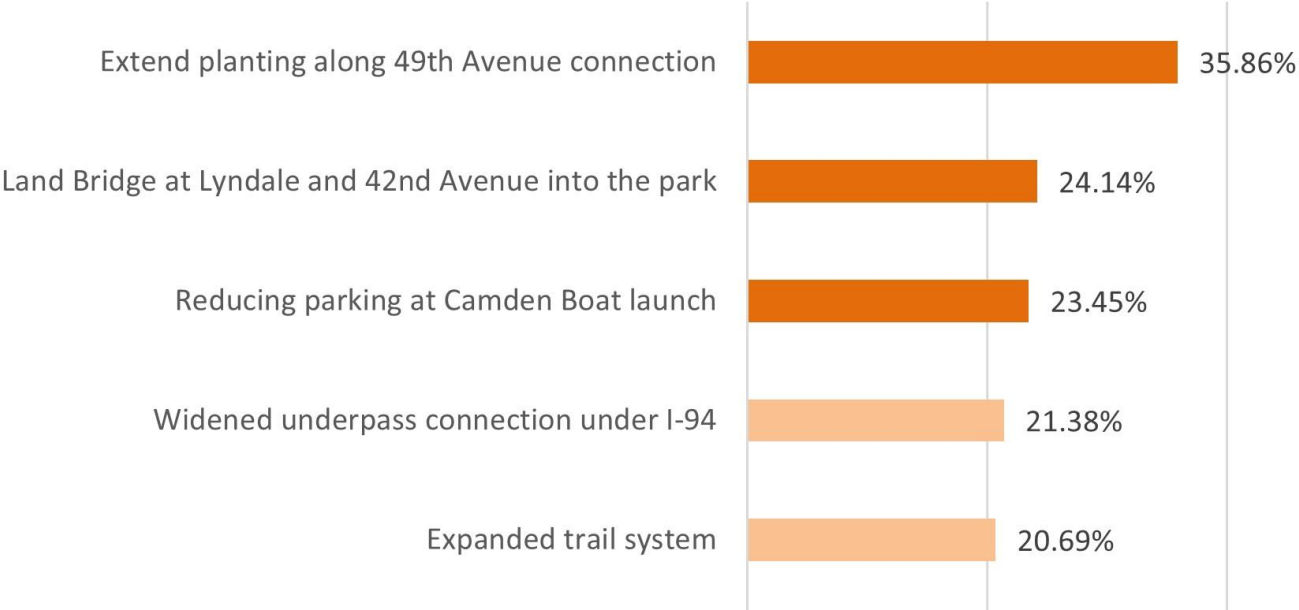
**We want to make a park for everyone -
what park features do you see people you know enjoying?**



145 responded / 0 skipped

RADICAL WELCOME

**What elements are you least excited about in this concept?
Please choose three (3).**



145 responded / 0 skipped

RADICAL WELCOME

What do you like about this concept?

- Improved Access and Connectivity
- Family-Friendly & Youth Amenities
- Nature Preservation & Restoration
- River Access & Water Recreation
- Diverse Activities / Something for Everyone

- Park Improvements and Modernization
- Increased Access to Nature for All (Equity)
- Community Connections & Inclusion

- Nature-based education
- Safety & Perception of safety
- Gathering Space & Social Use

RADICAL WELCOME

Do you have any concerns about this concept?

**Too Much
Development /
Over-programming**

**Habitat & Ecological
Impact on existing park**

**Cost & Budget
Concerns**

**Preserve Nature-Focused
Identity**

**Maintenance &
Upkeep**

Balance of Uses

Seasonality / winter usability

Safety Concerns

**Clear Access, Circulation
& Connectivity**

NORTH MISSISSIPPI REGIONAL PARK PLAN

CONCEPT 02 - WOVEN ECOLOGIES

This concept focuses on bringing the park's natural systems back to life. Restored prairies, forests, and creek areas create healthier habitats and a stronger connection to the Mississippi River. Trails and pathways follow these natural features, giving people new ways to explore—through boardwalks, shaded overlooks, and creekside routes. Activities are quieter and nature-focused, with small spaces for gathering, learning, and relaxing that help visitors slow down and connect with the landscape.



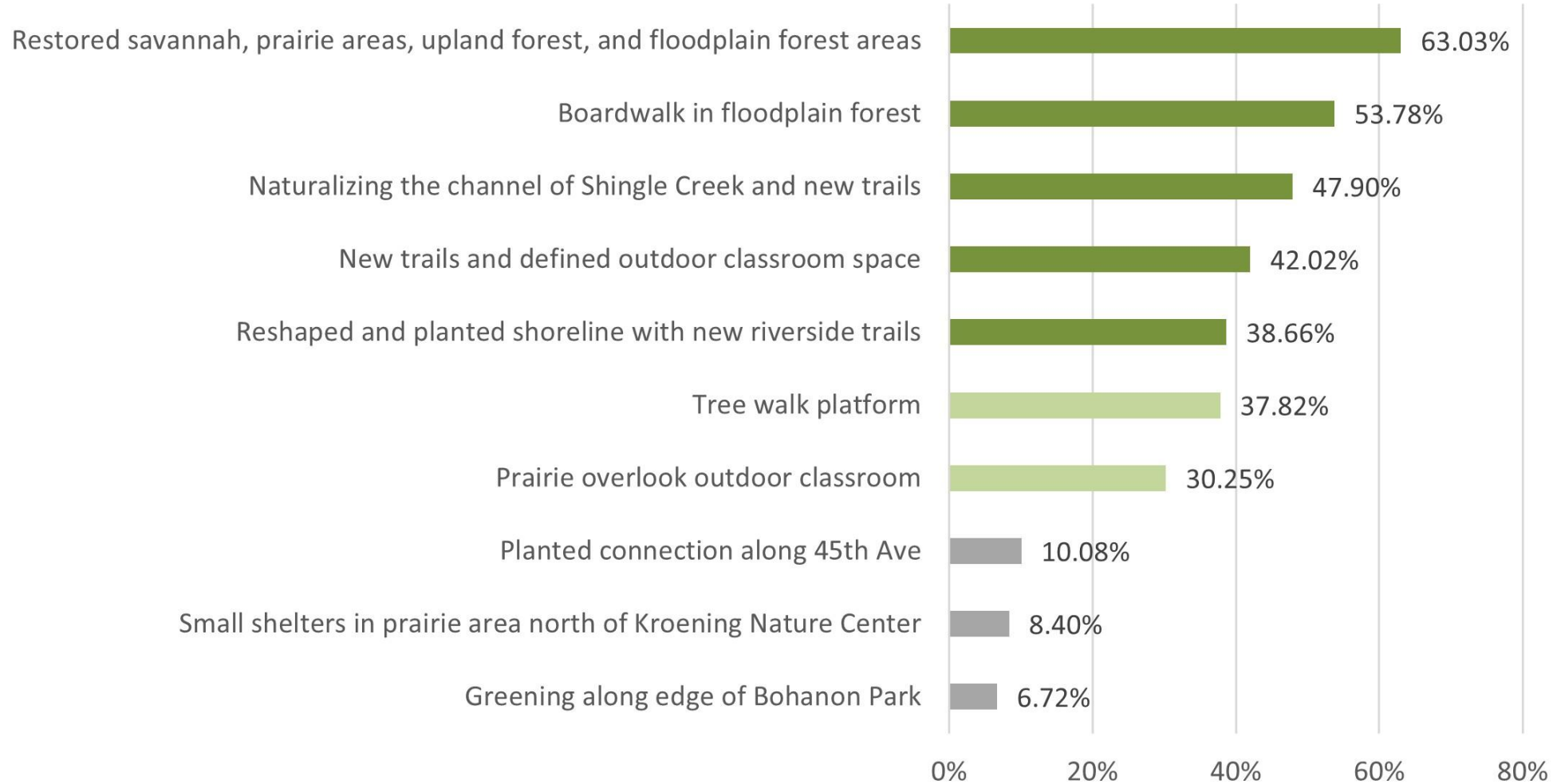
WOVEN ECOLOGIES

List of elements includes in the concept:

- Reshaped and planted shoreline with new riverside trails
- Greening along edge of Bohanon Park
- Restored savannah, prairie areas, upland forest, and floodplain forest areas
- Cultural demonstration garden
- Naturalizing the channel of Shingle Creek and new trails
- Creekside seating
- Planted connection along 45th Ave
- Improved fishing access at the Mississippi River
- Improved riverside seating
- Boardwalk in floodplain forest
- Consolidated trail under I-94 underpass
- New trails and defined outdoor classroom space
- Small shelters in prairie area north of Kroening Nature Center
- Tree walk platform
- Prairie overlook outdoor classroom
- River terrace stairs
- Bird blinds

WOVEN ECOLOGIES

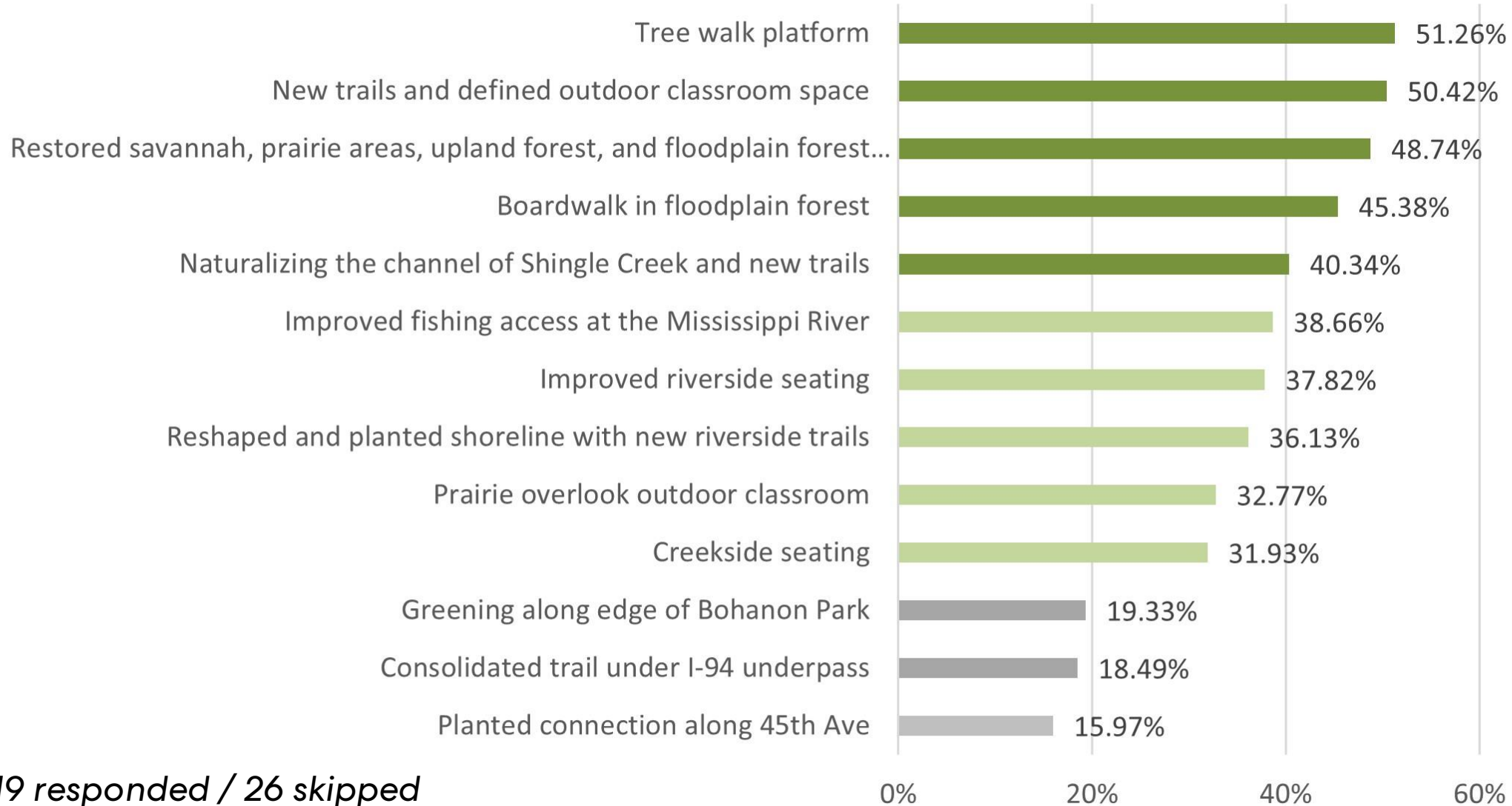
Pick your top five (5) favorite park features for this concept.



119 responded / 26 skipped

WOVEN ECOLOGIES

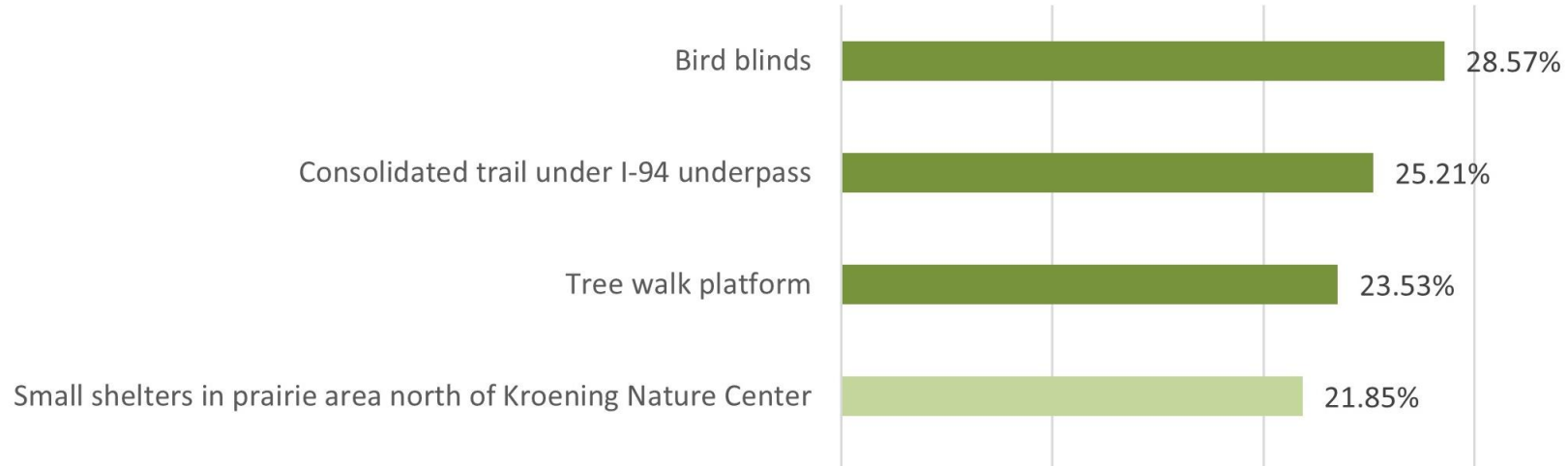
***We want to make a park for everyone -
what park features do you see people you know enjoying?***



119 responded / 26 skipped

WOVEN ECOLOGIES

**What elements are you least excited about in this concept?
Please choose three (3).**



119 responded / 26 skipped

WOVEN ECOLOGIES

What do you like about this concept?

- Ecology & Habitat Restoration
- Connection to Nature / Natural Experience
- Access to River & Water Features

- Nature-Based Education & Outdoor Classrooms
- Trails, Boardwalks & Passive Unique
- Nature Features / Destinations
- Balancing Access with Conservation

- Family-Friendly & Inclusive Access to Nature
- Sustainability & Long-Term Benefits
- Cultural & Community Connections to Nature

WOVEN ECOLOGIES

Do you have any concerns about this concept?

**Lack of Family-Friendly /
Kid-Oriented Amenities**

**Limited Destination
Appeal / Not
Exciting Enough**

**Access &
Connectivity
Issues**

**Tree Walk Platform
Concerns**

**Balancing Ecology with
Recreation / Programming**

**Flooding,
Erosion &
Durability Risks**

**Impacts on
Existing Habitat /
Overdevelopment**

**Maintenance &
Long-Term Upkeep**

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Do these concepts improve your access to the park?

	% OF TOTAL
Yes – Pedestrian access	72.17%
Yes – Bicycle access	61.74%
Yes – Driving Access	40.00%
No	6.96%

115 responded / 30 skipped

It would be great to have bus access, better bus routes to access the park and a stop right by the nature center would be ideal.

We walk or bike through the park daily. Access points at 49th and 53rd are dangerous due to vehicle traffic.

Which concept improves your access to the park the best?

	% OF TOTAL
Radical Welcome	48.70%
Woven Ecologies	51.30%

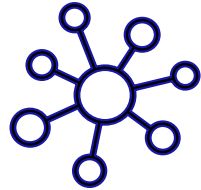
115 responded / 30 skipped

GENERAL QUESTIONS

What is missing in these concepts?



Hybrid approach
(blend ecology + activation)



Access, connectivity
& safety



Family & youth-focused
programming



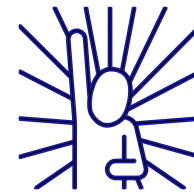
Ecological restoration &
wildlife support



Practical improvements
over large interventions



Equity, inclusion &
accessibility



Thoughtful activation &
experiential elements



Long-term stewardship
& maintenance

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Are there any other suggestions or comments you would like to make?

<p>Connectivity & access improvements (trails, bridges, regional links)</p>	<p>Nature-based education (nature preschool, outdoor classrooms, school partnerships)</p>	<p>Support for ecological restoration & habitat protection</p>	<p>Hybrid design approach (combine both concepts / balance priorities)</p>	<p>River and nature experience enhancements (overlooks, viewing areas, discovery spaces)</p>
<p>Basic amenities & usability (bathrooms, signage, picnic areas, trail clarity)</p>	<p>Safety, maintenance & long-term stewardship</p>	<p>Balance between preservation and increased access /development</p>	<p>Family, play & recreation spaces (kids, Kroening area, active programming)</p>	<p>General support, appreciation</p>

60 responded / 85 skipped

OPEN HOUSE COMMENTS (Summary)

- I really like the connection to Upper Harbor Terminal, bridge to island, and land bridge over 94. Increasing connectivity will make this park thrive!
- Like amenities that connect us to nature vs non-nature experience. +kayak launch -skateboarding +prairie path -big playground equipment
- Love more outdoor seating for picnics. Maybe hammocks posts rather than wood?
- Island with walkway is awesome
- Happy to hear that the plan will include a trail connecting N. Mississippi to Upper Harbor
- Love the picnic / multi-purpose lawn! Plus the walking island is a great idea
- Excited about pedestrian underpass improvements. Make the grade accessing Webber Park less challenging
- Better Ped-access across 94 on 49th overpass. Love the greening
- Do not like the hammock concept. No shade. Looks costly to maintain
- I would have loved a nature ninja course as a kid, that's sick
- Improve Ped/Bike access on 53rd in conjunction with 252/94 project
- I love the land bridge idea! I always felt bridges should be utilized more!
- Yes to the land bridge! Maybe with native plants?
- Nature has so much to offer. We are nature. We need connection, not objects, not highly built structures.
- I love the focus on nature here! I love boardwalk and anything walking related concepts.
- I love this concept and think it's important to have for our urban youth. What would sustainability look like?
- Like enhancing (but not over doing) connections between river and natural areas to community. Create experiences over man-made objects
- If this is a mixed used trail, make it wide 12' or more to accommodate mixed modes. Lighting? Consider moderate grades.
- Really like the prioritization of restoration & sustainability. Would love to see some Concept 1 activities incorporated into this with a less intrusive appearance (brown, natural wood, focus on enhancing the park's nature beauty).
- I love the ecological restoration and focus on nature. This plan does a good job of displaying the beauty of our nature.
- Mpls is unique with how many waterfront parks we have. Keeping it more natural supports an escape in a city.
- Love Concept 2! Extremely under-appreciated natural resource. Unique opportunity to welcome community to nature.
- More artwork (nature and environmental themes) needed
- Better signage to NM Reg Park needed from surrounding neighborhoods and I-94
- More sensible road design needed to, through, around park and surrounding areas
- Keep open some shore for launching larger groups
- More neighborhood connectors (arrows indicating 47th Street connection) great idea to connect Rainville Park and NM Reg Park - need path or cover
- Canopy picnic shelter as close to Webber Pool as possible.
- I like the island walkway
- Really need a picnic shelter w/canopy!
- Love the Landbridge
- I like the land bridge. I-94 really cuts off the neighborhood from the park so it should improve access
- I like the idea of the new island to view the Heron Rookery

OPEN HOUSE COMMENTS (Summary)

- Remove or shrink FWY footprint, noise, and pollution! It's possible.
- Love the underpass
- Path to Park connection (arrow along 47th Ave N)
- Like the idea of planting extension along 49th to connect to River
- Make the bridges over I-94 more aesthetic!
- Keep play areas natural
- Love the basketball court; Need trees around it
- Love the Land Bridges x 2
- Landbridge actually exposes us to more air and noise pollution
- Bridges with plantings area great but park over FWY is harmful
- Please create spaces for nature-based childcare/ preschool: 1000 SF classrooms that connect to outdoor play areas, Partnerships?
- Fenced area between the buildings should contain a children's garden
- Serve young children here to create a legacy of connection and protection of this space and natural area
- Love it (Land Bridge) - super ambitious
- Like the skate park
- A new path here would be great (arrow pointing at 47th Ave N)
- A new path would be great here (arrow pointing to 51st Ave N)
- The presence of I-94 is an environmental travesty! It would not be allowed to be built today. Make MNDOT reduce size of I-94!
- Reduce the freeway traffic noise by making MNDOT shrink I-94: protect wildlife (birds and bird songs) and humans?
- Maybe a new path here up to Lyndale?!
- I like the improved water access with Shingle Creek at Webber Park do more with the creek
- Great idea to naturalize the creek
- More carbon-sequestering trees and plantings more wildflower areas throughout
- I think this idea is cool but people would use it less than the other (underpass)
- I really like the focus on restoring nature throughout the park. I love that I don't have to leave Minneapolis to experience the comfort of nature
- Beautify roadway from Bohanon Park to NMR Park (placemaking connection)
- PLEASE demand MDOT reduce size of overbuilt I-94 and turnover land to this park
- Need several I-94 underpasses (nice wide ones) below I-94 at various locations
- We enjoy / like what has been done at Graco Park
- Please work on MNDOT to SHRINK the size of the grossly overbuilt I-94!
- Can you work with Three Rivers Parks District to coordinate improvements with the BC portion
- Connection needed between Rainville Park and the North Mississippi Regional Park - wide ped underpass
- Love the boardwalk
- The proposed design of Webber Park looks much better than current open grass lawns

TAC COMMENTS / COORDINATION

- Support for looking at Camden Boat launch area
- Great connections into Regional systems

<p>MNDOT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shared bike/bed improvements for I-94 bridge crossings to the park. ▪ Planning to add lighting to I-94 under passes ▪ Evaluated revised entry to park at 49th Ave N for improved visual connection ▪ Coordinating on easements for fishing piers ▪ Coordinating on dark sky compliant lighting adjacent to park 	<p>Three Rivers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Providing info on adjacent projects 	<p>MWMO Watershed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stormwater and water quality related elements 	<p>Shingle Creek Watershed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stormwater and water quality related elements 	<p>MN DNR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coordinating on fishing access at park w grant funding ▪ Mussel habitat work in the Mississippi River ▪ Permitting comments for some elements may be required
<p>City of Minneapolis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shared pedestrian improvements being studied at 45th Ave N crossing into park 	<p>NPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water access and recreation ▪ Permitting comments for some elements may be required 	<p>Hennepin County</p>	<p>Brooklyn Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Providing info on adjacent projects ▪ Support connections 	<p>Friends of the Mississippi River</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support for looking at Camden Boat launch area

PAC COMMENTS / COORDINATION

Safety & Security

- Look at options to close parking lots when park is closed. This could address issues of vandalism and dumping.
- Include lighting and cameras
- Include location signage for EMS / police to locate people in park
- Camden Boat launch focus is needed

Maintenance & Access

- Any paths that cut through the existing prairie areas are problematic - causes issue with invasive species and issue with burning.
- Nature ninja location in concept is in a high value plant area; consider moving
- Webber pool fence and regeneration basin needs to be addressed
- Review ADA compliance at front entrances

Coordination

- Future tree planting locations coordinated with locations of prairie, mowing locations, etc

Improvements to existing conditions

- Existing stormwater infrastructure in north parking lot needs to be considered
- Playground and splashpad infrastructure needs upgrades
- Trail and Bridge conditions need to be addressed
- Lighting
- Signage
- General maintenance of buildings

Trails

- Consider path widths for maintenance access and pull for areas to reduce maintenance vehicle / bike/ ped conflicts
- Connection south to Upper Harbor Park

Access & Parking

- Programming will help with the safety of park. Increased activity will require more parking with high level of activity.

**FINAL
CONCEPT ALIGNMENT**

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 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.

General Park Needs

These are elements that will be incorporated in the park plan:

- Updated lighting throughout park (*bird safe, LED, night sky friendly*)
- Updated security throughout park (*access control, camera, signage*)
- Updated signage throughout park (*trails, park entry locations*)
- Repaved or replaced trails
- Maintenance at Natural Swimming Pool
- Maintenance of Kroening Nature Center Building
- Improvements to internal park roads
- Splash Pad repairs
- Center nature education and experience

NOTE:

The CAC does not need to vote on these items

ACTIVATION

MOST SUPPORTED ELEMENTS FROM SURVEY (30% AND HIGHER)

ALL OTHER ELEMENTS

PLAN ELEMENTS RELATED TO ACTIVATION

New shelter structure near Webber Park

New flexible lawn

Skate park

Hammock zones

Fishing overlook(s) at the river's edge

Bike skills course

Updated splash pad

Kayak facilities

Updated playground

New island with walkway connection

Nature ninja course

Mississippi River access

Prairie to river path & outdoor classroom stair

Land Bridge from Alice Rainville Park to North Mississippi

New building expansion and outdoor space at Kroening Nature Center

Land Bridge at Lyndale and 42nd Avenue into the park

Cultural demonstration garden

Creekside seating

Improved fishing access at the Mississippi River

Improved riverside seating

Boardwalk in floodplain forest

New trails and defined outdoor classroom space

Small shelters in prairie area north of Kroening Nature Center

Tree walk platform

Prairie overlook outdoor classroom

River terrace stairs

Bird blinds

ECOLOGY

MOST SUPPORTED ELEMENTS FROM SURVEY (30% AND HIGHER)

ALL OTHER ELEMENTS

PLAN ELEMENTS RELATED TO ECOLOGY

Reducing parking at Camden Boat launch

Extend planting along 49th Avenue connection

New island with walkway connection

Reshaped and planted shoreline with new riverside trails

Greening along edge of Bohanon Park

Restored savannah, prairie areas, upland forest, and floodplain forest areas

Naturalizing the channel of Shingle Creek and new trails

Planted connection along 45th Ave

CIRCULATION

MOST SUPPORTED ELEMENTS FROM SURVEY (30% AND HIGHER)

ALL OTHER ELEMENTS

PLAN ELEMENTS RELATED TO CIRCULATION

Widened underpass connection under I-94

New island with walkway connection

Mississippi River access

Prairie to river path & outdoor classroom stair

Land Bridge from Alice Rainville Park to North Mississippi

Expanded trail system

Land Bridge at Lyndale and 42nd Avenue into the park

Reshaped and planted shoreline with new riverside trails

Naturalizing the channel of Shingle Creek and new trails

Boardwalk in floodplain forest

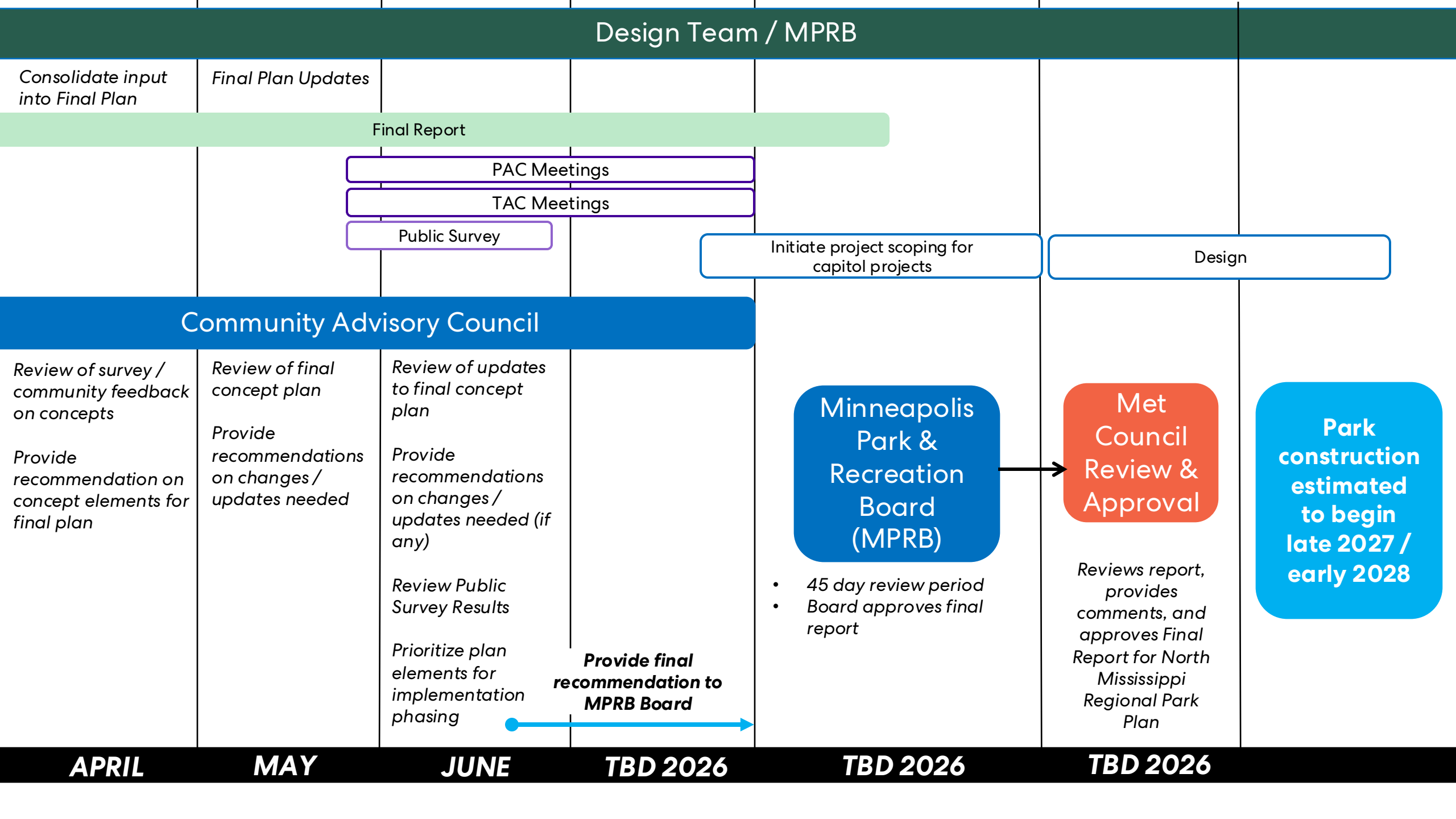
Consolidated trail under I-94 underpass

New trails and defined outdoor classroom space

River terrace stairs

Extended parking along existing drive and to the north

CAC MEETING SCHEDULE



Design Team / MPRB

Consolidate input into Final Plan

Final Plan Updates

Final Report

PAC Meetings

TAC Meetings

Public Survey

Initiate project scoping for capitol projects

Design

Community Advisory Council

Review of survey / community feedback on concepts

Review of final concept plan

Review of updates to final concept plan

Provide recommendation on concept elements for final plan

Provide recommendations on changes / updates needed

Provide recommendations on changes / updates needed (if any)

Review Public Survey Results

Prioritize plan elements for implementation phasing

Provide final recommendation to MPRB Board

Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB)

- 45 day review period
- Board approves final report

Met Council Review & Approval

Reviews report, provides comments, and approves Final Report for North Mississippi Regional Park Plan

Park construction estimated to begin late 2027 / early 2028

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

TBD 2026

TBD 2026

TBD 2026

Next Steps

May CAC Meeting - Consolidated Concept

- May 28th (Thursday)

June CAC Meeting – Concept updates & Implementation Phasing

- June 23rd (Tuesday) or June 25th (Thursday)

July+ CAC Meeting – If needed to reach CAC Recommendation

PUBLIC COMMENT TIME

QUESTIONS / COMMENTS

10 Minutes