



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Project Title: Roberts Bird Sanctuary Improvements Project

MPRB Division: Planning

Project Manager: Tyler Pederson

As required by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Code of Ordinances, every construction or redevelopment project undertaken within the MPRB Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is to have a community engagement plan. The plan serves as a guide for the community engagement process through the multiple phases of planning and project development. The plan may be modified as circumstance warrants during the project. Substantial modifications are to be communicated to stakeholders and the MPRB Board of Commissioners.

Project Description

- *Roberts Bird Sanctuary lies within the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park.*
- *The sanctuary is home to many species of birds and other wildlife. One of the keys to the success of this project is to respect this wildlife and improve the sanctuary in a manner that enhances habitat.*
- *Much of the sanctuary infrastructure is in need of repair. The fence, the two entrances, and the boardwalk are outdated. Additional elements, yet to be determined, may also be constructed as a part of this project.*
- *The park has undergone some changes due to Met Council utility work along its length. This disruption was unavoidable and is now seen as an opportunity. Native trees and shrubs were planted in the summer of 2015 along the utility corridor.*
- *The key points of this project are to establish a set of achievable implementation projects, provide educational opportunities, and assure accessibility to the public.*

Project Funding Source(s)

<u>Capital Sources</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
Met Council SG-2014-044	300,000.00	
2012 Capital Levy Funds	45,000.00	

<u>Supplemental Sources</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
Balance of Unspent MCES Tree Removal Reimbursement	12,000.00	

Engagement Recommendation

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- Level of Engagement: **Consult**

	Inform	Consult	Collaborate	Partner
Engagement Goal:	<i>To provide stakeholders with factual, balanced, and timely information to help them understand the project.</i>	<i>To obtain stakeholder feedback on project analysis, alternatives, or decisions.</i>	<i>To work directly with stakeholders throughout the process to ensure that perspectives are consistently understood, considered, and reflected in project decisions.</i>	<i>To partner with stakeholders in each aspect of decision making in order to develop and implement collaborative project solutions.</i>
MPRB Promise to the Public:	<i>The MPRB will keep stakeholders informed.</i>	<i>The MPRB will keep stakeholders informed, listen to and acknowledge feedback, and work to ensure stakeholder feedback is reflected in alternatives developed.</i>	<i>The MPRB will work with stakeholders for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate recommendations to the maximum extent possible.</i>	<i>The MPRB and partner entity will be accountable to their roles as negotiated in the partnership and regularly evaluate overall success of the partnership.</i>

- This project will utilize a non-appointed Community Advisory Committee (CAC) to help guide the project and to ensure the implementation is in the best interests of the public. It is not anticipated that there will be any changes of use within the Sanctuary or any changes beyond improving access and facilities currently within the Sanctuary. This site will continue to be a sanctuary for birds.
- **Anticipated Project Outcomes:**
 - *The outcome of the project will be to provide universal access to areas of the Sanctuary, improve the fence to protect the Sanctuary, improve the entrances, and to explore options to enhance the bird habitat.*
 - *These outcomes are reflective of the MPRB Comprehensive Plan goal: Residents and visitors enjoy and understand the natural environment. This goal is achieved by implementing the strategy to encourage people to experience the natural environment by providing and maintaining, where feasible, trails and access points that serve people of all ranges of ability.*
 - *Improving the fence and exploring options that enhance bird habitat is supported by the MPRB Comprehensive Plan goal: People and the environment benefit from the expansion and protection of natural resources. The strategy of protecting natural resources recognized as significant city, regional, or national resources due to historical, ecological, or aesthetic value will ensure the Sanctuary’s success.*

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Stakeholder Roles and Responsibilities

All stakeholders are expected to work collaboratively and respectfully to create and refine design concepts and provide input toward final project recommendations for approval by the Board of Commissioners. Participants are expected to engage in the process in a manner that promotes respectful civil discourse and enhances mutual understanding of all stakeholder viewpoints. Any requests for public or project information should be directed to the project manager.

Identification of Project Stakeholders

- Commissioner Brad Bourn
- Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
- Minneapolis Audubon Society
- Friends of Roberts Bird Sanctuary
- Minnesota Ornithologists' Union
- East Harriet-Lyndale Farmstead Neighborhood Association
- Linden Hills Neighborhood Council
- Peace Garden gardeners' clubs
- Minnesota State Council on Disability
- Barton Open School
- Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Master Plan Community Advisory Committee

Project Advisory Committee

- Marcia Holmberg, Natural Resources
- Rachael Crabb, Water Resources
- James Field, Operations
- Craig Pinkalla, Forestry
- Tyler Pederson, Planning
- Sgt. Chad Berdahl, Park Police
- Sherry Brooks, Community Engagement

Outreach and Research Methods

- Project notification emails will be sent to the project stakeholders.
- Community meetings will take place at or near the Sanctuary.
- Comment cards will be available at community meetings and online.
- A survey will be conducted after the first community meeting to gather input from the public.
- Signs advertising the community meetings and the project will be installed at the sanctuary and at the nearby Lake Harriet Band Shell and Bread and Pickle restaurant.

Project Schedule

- During the fall of 2015, the project will identify sanctuary improvements through the community engagement process. Concept plan approval will be in the winter of 2015/16.
- The construction project is anticipated to be bid in spring of 2016.
- Construction of the approved improvements will commence between the summer of 2016 and the fall of 2016, being mindful of bird nesting and migration.

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Resources

- Staff time and consultant time will be required for this project to be a success. Also the time dedicated by the public volunteers will be vital in shaping a plan for the improvements.

Evaluation Summary

The project manager has analyzed the effectiveness of the engagement process from both stakeholder and organization points of view and provided a brief summary statement. The summary statement indicates how the process has advanced policy goals and will assist the Board and staff in evaluating and informing an ongoing community engagement process.

Summary Statement: Statement pending plan completion.