

RecQuest Overview

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The MPRB operates 47 year-round, neighborhood-based recreation centers, and leases two recreation centers to non-profit entities. Most facilities were built in the 1960s and 1970s and are nearing the end of their useful life. In addition, the centers are not keeping pace with changing demographics and recreation trends of Minneapolis. Therefore, the MPRB is embarking on a critical effort to develop a plan – RecQuest – for the next generation of recreation centers in Minneapolis. RecQuest will set the stage for the next 25-30 years of capital improvements for recreation centers, and is an opportunity to tailor recreation center facilities and programs to meet the current and projected recreation needs of communities across the city.

RecQuest will:

- Engage MPRB staff and the community in a collaborative process to inform how the MPRB can best serve current and projected park and recreation needs of communities through recreation center programs and facilities;
- Assess community recreation needs for recreation center programming and facilities;
- Provide a vision for the next generation of recreation center programs and facilities;
- Compile, create, analyze, and illustrate city-wide recreation center facility use and program data;
- Outline guiding principles for management and operations of recreation center facilities; and
- Articulate a 25-30 year investment strategy for recreation centers.

Considering changes in demographics across the city and the fact that RecQuest will set the vision for the next generation of park users citywide, applying a racial equity lens to the planning process will ensure the needs of under-represented and underserved communities are included in the final plan. To augment the MPRB's work to build its capacity around racial equity, Voices for Racial Justice (VRJ) has been contracted to provide guidance and direction for a racial equity impact assessment (REIA) for RecQuest. The staff project team will work with VRJ toward the goal of ensuring that historically underrepresented communities, in particular communities of color, are authentically and actively engaged in project decision making.

RecQuest will take into account existing system plans and concurrent planning efforts (ADA Transition Plan, Service Area Master Plans, Closing the Gap: Investing in our Neighborhood Parks).

Anticipated Project Outcomes

The primary outcome will be a plan that provides a guiding vision and principles for operations, maintenance, programming, and capital improvements for neighborhood recreation centers that:

- Is data driven and responsive to targets of estimated recreation needs/trends as identified by reliable data sources.
- Is informed by a public input from a diverse range of viewpoints.
- Establishes strategic actions that are relevant, measurable and achievable.
- Is a deliberate and balanced approach to addressing current and future recreation needs of all communities in Minneapolis.
- Utilizes racial equity impact analysis to identify and address disparities.

The project supports the following elements of the MPRB Comprehensive Plan:

- Theme: Dynamic parks that shape city character
 - Goal: Parks shape an evolving city.
 - Goal: Park facility renewal and development respects history and focuses on sustainability, accessibility, flexibility, and beauty.
 - Goal: Focused land management supports current and future generations.
- Theme: Recreation that inspires personal growth, healthy lifestyles, and a sense of community
 - Goal: Parks provide a center for community living.

The charge of appointed CAC for RecQuest is to:

- Work collaboratively and provide input toward final project recommendations for approval by the Board of Commissioners.
- Become knowledgeable about the project and its scope and advise MPRB staff and consultants throughout the planning process.
- Contribute to broad community outreach and engagement by enhancing the project's interaction with a wide range of stakeholders.
- Understand and represent the needs of all community members.
- Apply equity principles in decision-making based on training provided by staff and project consultants.
- Report back to appointers or appointing bodies, as requested, on the plan process, information presented, and possible recommendations.
- Evaluate potential scenarios and deliver a preferred, actionable alternative for recreation centers and programs to the Board of Commissioners.

RecQuest Goal:

Develop and implement a comprehensive recreation center and program assessment and resulting plan to assure that facilities, programs and services align with community needs.

RecQuest Objectives:

The community and MPRB staff will engage in a collaborative process to inform how the MPRB can best serve current and projected park and recreation needs of communities through recreation center programs and facilities

- Assess community recreation needs for recreation center programming and facilities
- Provide a vision for the next generation of recreation center programs and facilities
- Compile, create, analyze, and illustrate city-wide recreation center facilities, use, and program data
- Outline guiding principles for management and operations of recreation center facilities
- Articulate a 25-30 year investment strategy for recreation centers

Using a Racial Equity Lens:

We are focusing our efforts on:

Policies, practices, and procedures that often work better for white people than for people of color, often unintentionally

The ways our institutions interact to produce a system that negatively impacts communities of color

Racial Equity Toolkit

Racial equity toolkits ask:

- Who benefits and who is burdened?
- How will this project increase or decrease racial equity?
- Are there potential unintended consequences? If so, what strategies can be implemented to mitigate potential negative impacts?