



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Project Title: Lake Calhoun (Bde Maka Ska) and Lake Harriet Trail and Access Improvements, Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park

MPRB Division: Planning

Project Manager: Daniel Elias

As required by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) 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 duration of the project. Substantial modifications are to be communicated to stakeholders and the MPRB Board of Commissioners.

Project Description

The project includes the design/construction project for Lakes Calhoun (Bde Maka Ska) and Lake Harriet within the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park as guided by the in-process Lake Calhoun and Lake Harriet Master Plan. All funding for this project comes from the Metropolitan Council (Met Council) Regional Parks and Trails Fund and must be expensed to the project by June 30, 2017 (\$700,000) or June 30, 2018 (\$3 million). The project is:

- *Trail and Access Improvements around Lake Calhoun and Harriet.* Met Council Grant Contract #SG-2014-043 states that the MPRB will complete trail, shoreline, water access, picnic, sail boat facility, and concession improvement projects.

Related Concurrent Projects with Dedicated Community Engagement Plans:

- *Lake Calhoun and Lake Harriet Master Plan:*
 - This is in the final stages of the MPRB and Met Council approval process.
 - The dedicated Community Engagement Plan for this project is included by reference and available upon request.
- *Lake Calhoun/Cloud Man Village Public Art project:*
 - Concurrent with the Trail and Access Improvements project, the Lake Calhoun/Bde Maka Ska/Cloud Man Village public art project will proceed, utilizing the same Met Council Grant funds.

Community Engagement Plan

- A separate Community Engagement Plan will be created for this element of the project.
- *Calhoun Refectory Concept Study (Tin Fish):*
 - This project is in the initial stages and will have a dedicated Community Engagement Plan.

The Trail and Access Improvements project will use the same staff, Project Advisory Committee, and Technical Advisory Committees as did the in-process Master Plan project. Since a **non-appointed** Community Advisory Committee (CAC) will be utilized, the in-process Master Plan CAC will be consulted, but not retained for the Trail and Access Improvements project. A separate consultant will be hired for project implementation.

Project Funding Source(s)

<u>Capital Sources</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
Met Council: Parks and Trails 2015 (SG-2014-043)	\$700,000 (\$200,000 for planning and \$500,000 for planning and implementation)	July 1, 2017
Met Council: Parks and Trails 2016	\$3,039,000 for implementation (note: funds had not yet been allocated by the 2015/2016 Mn. Legislature at the time of this CE Plan)	July 1, 2018

Engagement Recommendation

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>

Community Engagement Plan

<p>MPRB Promise to the Public:</p>	<p><i>The MPRB will keep stakeholders informed.</i></p>	<p><i>The MPRB will keep stakeholders informed, listen to and acknowledge feedback, and work to ensure stakeholder feedback is reflected in alternatives developed.</i></p>	<p><i>The MPRB will work with stakeholders for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate recommendations to the maximum extent possible.</i></p>	<p><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></p>
---	---	---	---	--

This level of engagement is proposed because the planned trail and access improvements were identified as a high priority, short-term project by the Appointed CAC working on the in-process Lake Calhoun and Lake Harriet Master Plan. Because a majority of these improvements address accessibility, trail access and the replacement of deficient pedestrian and bicycle trails, design work must meet standard requirements. For this reason and engagement level of consult is recommended.

A **non-appointed** CAC is recommended, based on the MPRB’s Community Engagement Policy, because the project will not result in a change of use for the park and because THE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT REPLACES AN EXISTING AND WELL-USED AMENITY.

The non-appointed CAC for Lake Calhoun and Harriet Trail and Access Improvements in the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park will be formed by meeting attendees and participants engaged at existing community events. We will reach out to the following groups to form the non-appointed CAC:

- Appointed CAC for the in-process Lake Calhoun and Harriet Master Plan
- 1st Tier Neighborhood Organization – Attend Monthly Meetings:
 - Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association
 - Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhood Association
 - West Calhoun Neighborhood Council
 - Linden Hills Neighborhood Council
 - Fulton Neighborhood Association
 - Lynnhurst Neighborhood Association
 - East Harriet Farmstead Neighborhood Association
 - ECCO (East Calhoun Community Organization)
 - East Isles Residents Association
- Minneapolis Bicycle Advisory Committee
- Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- General Park Visitors
- Trail Users
- CAC for Calhoun Refectory Study project
- Advisory Group for Lake Calhoun/Bde Maka Ska/Cloud Man Village Public Art project
- Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities (MACPD)
- Midtown Greenway Association

Community Engagement Plan

Lake Calhoun (Bde Maka Ska) and Lake Harriet Trail and Access Improvements, Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park
Page 4

- Tamales and Bicicletas
- Nice Ride
- Major Taylors Bicycling Club of Minnesota
- Slow Roll Twin Cities
- Twin Cities Marathon Attendees
- Minneapolis Bike Tour Attendees
- Linden Hills History Subcommittee
- 2nd Tier Neighborhood Organization – Provide Information for Monthly Meetings:
 - Calhoun Area Residents Action Group (CARAG)
 - Kingfield Neighborhood Association
 - Tangletown Neighborhood Association
 - Windom Community Council
 - Kenny Neighborhood Association
 - Armatage Neighborhood Association
 - Kenwood Isles Area Association
 - Bryn Mawr Neighborhood Association
 - Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association
- Participants in the in-process Lake Calhoun and Lake Harriet Master Plan and other appropriate .gov mailing lists

Anticipated Project Outcomes:

- The project will improve Lake Calhoun and Harriet in the following ways:
 - Overall pedestrian/bicycle trail and access improvements
 - Improve bicycle and pedestrian circulation at NE Calhoun (Tin Fish Area and along W. Lake Street) and SE Harriet (Minnehaha Creek and Lake Harriet intersection)
- The project supports the following elements of the MPRB Comprehensive Plan:
 - Theme: Urban forests, natural areas, and waters that endure and captivate
 - Goal: Residents and visitors enjoy and understand the natural environment.
 - Strategy: provide and maintain trails and access points that serve people of all ranges of ability.
 - Theme: Dynamic parks that shape city character
 - Goal: Parks shape an evolving city.
 - Strategy: Provide a well-maintained, safe, and continuous trail system.
 - Goal: Park facility renewal and development
 - Strategy: Build or renew facilities to meet or exceed standards for accessibility.
 - Theme: A safe place to play
 - Goal: Parks are safe and welcoming by design.
 - Strategy: Design parks to meet or exceed safety standards, building codes, and CPTED principles

Community Engagement Plan

Lake Calhoun (Bde Maka Ska) and Lake Harriet Trail and Access Improvements, Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park

Page 5

Stakeholder Roles and Responsibilities

All stakeholders are expected to work collaboratively to identify issues and opportunities, 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

In addition to the stakeholder groups listed above, the Implementation process will seek to engage the following groups and users:

- Visitors (local, regional, etc.) of all ages, abilities, and diverse cultural backgrounds
- Trail users (multi-lingual) – bicyclists, pedestrians, joggers, dog-walkers, roller-bladers and skiers
- Concessionaires on park property (Tin Fish, Bread and Pickle, Wheel Fun Rentals)
- Calhoun Sailing School participants (children; parents dropping them off; emergency shelter; restrooms)
- Local residents including homeowners and renters within the 1st and 2nd tier neighborhoods adjacent to the park
- Race and Walk organizers
- Lyndale garden visitors
- MPRB staff – police, forestry, maintenance, environmental operations, recreation, special events

Technical Advisors

This project will convene a standing technical advisory committee to include the following agencies:

- Minneapolis Public Works
- Hennepin County

Additionally, this project will establish ad-hoc agency/user working groups on certain topics likely to affect the implementation project and engage these groups through an Open House. The involved agencies will include (but not necessarily be limited to):

- Minneapolis Public Works (traffic & biking)
- Hennepin County Transportation
- SW Corridor Bike Facility Assessment representative
- Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee (and Engineering subcommittee)
- Minneapolis Bicycle Advisory Committee (and Engineering subcommittee)
- Tamales and Bicicletas

Community Engagement Plan

Lake Calhoun (Bde Maka Ska) and Lake Harriet Trail and Access Improvements, Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park

Page 6

- Nice Ride
- Major Taylors Bicycling Club of Minnesota
- Slow Roll Twin Cities
- Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities (MACPD)
- Tin Fish
- Wheel Fun
- Calhoun Sailing School
- emergency responders (fire and rescue)
- MPRB lifeguards
- Calhoun Sailing Club
- MPRB Water Quality Resources staff
- West Lake Multi-modal Study staff
- Bread and Pickl
- MPRB event planning
- Harriet Sailing Club
- **Warning Lights – Event traffic control vendor**

Project Advisory Committee

- Planning staff will convene a Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) consisting of MPRB staff, including representatives from maintenance and operations, environmental stewardship including water quality resources, events and enterprise, recreation including aquatics, community outreach, park police, and forestry.
- Three meetings are planned to gather feedback and assess opportunities, review concept plan, and review construction drawings.

Outreach and Research Methods

1. Community Meetings

Two public meetings are planned

Because of the extensive in-process Master Plan Community Engagement process which included at least twelve CAC meetings and five open houses, two public meetings will be held for the Trail and Access Improvements.

- Public Meeting/Open House #1: Present and discuss the inventory, analysis, and concepts for the Trail and Access Improvements project.
- Public Meeting/Open House #2: Present and discuss the final plan for the Trail and Access Improvements.

Community Engagement Plan

Lake Calhoun (Bde Maka Ska) and Lake Harriet Trail and Access Improvements, Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park

Page 7

2. Use of other studies to inform the process.

- In-process Lake Calhoun and Lake Harriet Master Plan
- West Lake Multimodal Transportation Study
- 2015 MPRB Trail and Signage Standards
- Met Council's 2014 report: "Regional Park Use among Select Communities of Color" Demographically, the participants were:
 - 30% African immigrant
 - 29% Asian immigrant or Asian American
 - 26% Hispanic/Latino
 - 11% African American
 - 4% were Caucasian
 - less than 1% were Native American and multi-racial
- University of Minnesota's 2013 Off-Street Trail Counts
- Met Council annual visitor counts
- 2012 Charette for North Calhoun and South Lake of the Isles

3. On-line Survey

- A general on-line survey will be created as needed to solicit general feedback from the public regarding the proposed Trail and Access Improvement project.

4. Project Web Page

5. News Releases

6. Social Media

Project Schedule

The project draws from a funding source with an end date (funding expires July 1, 2018).

- Trail and Access Improvements project initiation and consultant selection: July-September 2016
- Community Meetings: October & December 2017
- Master Plan MPRB Board approval, public comment, and Met Council approval: July-Nov 2016
- Design Development and construction document preparation: Nov 2016-Feb 2017
- Bidding: Feb 2017
- Construction: May-Nov 2017

Community Engagement Plan

Lake Calhoun (Bde Maka Ska) and Lake Harriet Trail and Access Improvements, Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park

Page 8

Resources

A portion of the funding dedicated to staff time and consultant fees will be used for public engagement. In addition, the project budget includes costs of mailings and other notifications.

Evaluation Summary

Following project completion, the project manager will analyze the effectiveness of the engagement process from both stakeholder and organization points of view and will provide a brief summary statement. The summary statement will indicate how the process advances policy goals, and will assist the Board and staff in evaluating and informing an ongoing community engagement process.

Community Engagement Plan

Lake Calhoun (Bde Maka Ska) and Lake Harriet Trail and Access Improvements, Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park
Page 9

\\PBPLAN01\Divisional\Planning\Parks\Chain of Lakes - R3\PROJECTS\2017 Calhoun Harriet Trail and Access Improvements\Community Engagement\Community Engagement Plan\20160719_Calhoun&Harriet_Trail&AccessImprovements_CEP.docx