PHASE 1 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

During Phase 1 of community engagement for the Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail Master Plan, there were a number of methods employed in order to gather community input on issues and opportunities that exist along the trail and creek today. The following is a summary of the events and methods for gathering community input, as well as summaries of the feedback gathered.
PROJECT WEBSITE

The project website, administered by MPRB, serves as the main point of information for the project. The web survey, community events, Social Pinpoint website, and CAC meeting minutes and agendas can all be found at the project website. A postcard mailer, as well as business cards, were distributed throughout Phase 1 to direct people to the project website.

Link to Project Website: https://www.minneapolisparks.org/minnehahacreek

WEB SURVEY

A web survey was launched during the spring of 2018 and remained open until November 1st, 2018. The intention of this survey was to gather broad community feedback on ideas, concerns, and missing activities and programs along Minnehaha Creek. The survey was linked on the project website and advertised through a postcard mailer.

Web Survey Summary of Results

During the survey period, 252 people participated by completing the web survey. The web survey platform (Survey Monkey) allows for demographic information to be collected. This information provided the project team guidance on where to focus engagement efforts during Phase 1. During Phase 2, further efforts will be taken to gather diverse feedback. The following is a summary of answers collected through the web survey. Items with an asterisk are the most frequent answers given.

WHAT IDEAS DO YOU HAVE FOR MINNEHAHA PARKWAY REGIONAL TRAIL?

- Improve intersection treatments for safe crossings (bump outs, signage, signals)
- Add signals for bicyclists at intersections
- Add art along the trail
- Add more water fountains
- Keep natural features
- Add pickleball courts
- Add wayfinding/interpretation along the trail
- Address erosion/flooding along the trail
- Add more benches/seating
- Add nature play areas
- Replace turf with native plants
- Improve tennis courts
- Add off-leash dog parks
- Add kayak/canoe launches at major intersections

WHAT CONCERNS DO YOU HAVE ABOUT MINNEHAHA PARKWAY REGIONAL TRAIL?

- Need more lighting along the trail
- Safety for bikes/peds at intersections
- Erosion (especially of natural trails)
- Invasive species (buckthorn, ragweed)
- Signage for kayak launches, wayfinding to other nearby parks/destinations
- Separation for modes (bikes/peds/other)
- Water quality/chemical use on nearby lawns
- Loss of natural features
- Access/entrance points to trail (need more)
- Diversity of park/trail users is low (mostly white users)
- Trail surface maintenance
- Flooding along the trail
- Traffic (calming)

WEB SURVEY PARTICIPATION

252 people participated in the web survey

WEB SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

The majority of participants are between the ages of 30-49 years old
60% of survey participants identify as male
87% of survey participants indicate that they own their home
Informal trails that aren’t maintained today (and should be?)

Need for more mountain bike trails

Privacy for nearby residents from trail users

Need for water fountains, hand pumps along the trail

Tennis court maintenance

WHAT ACTIVITIES OR PROGRAMS ARE MISSING FROM MINNEHAHA PARKWAY REGIONAL TRAIL?

Separate bikers and walkers

Natural surface biking/mountain biking

Bike parks

Canoe/kayak launches

Better maintenance of downed trees in the creek (for kayak/canoeing)

Paddle-share program

Pickleball and fitness areas

Seating/benches

Education/interpretation/history

Art

Cross-country ski trails / snowshoeing

Native plants/pollinator gardens

Connections to public transportation

Signage/wayfinding/education re: directions and yielding, distance markers

Picnic areas

Lawn games / shuffleboard

Nature play areas

Dog parks

Fishing piers

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Over the spring, summer and fall of 2018, MPRB engaged with community members at a variety of community events. Maps of Minnehaha Creek were displayed by project area segment, and people were encouraged to mark places where a) things are working, b) where they have concerns, and c) where they have ideas. MPRB staff also answered questions about the project and informed people about upcoming events. Some of the events attended were in coordination with other concurrent projects, such as the Southwest Service Area Master Plan.

The following are all of the events and dates where community input was collected:

- 4/12 Collaborative Open House (Nokomis Recreation Center)
- 4/17 Collaborative Open House (Lynnhurst Recreation Center)
- 6/10 Open Streets (Lyndale Ave)
- 6/21 Kenny Neighborhood Ice Cream Social
- 6/30 Field, Regina, Northrop Neighborhood Gathering Annual Celebration
- 7/4 Tangletown 4th of July Celebration
- 7/10 Ice Cream Social at Pershing Park
- 7/18 Morris and Keewaydin Summer Festival
- 7/23 Ice Cream Social at Windom South
- 7/26 Picnic in the Park (Pearl Park)
- 8/1 Lynnhurst Festival
- 8/16 MIA Design Night
- 8/23 Open Streets (Nicollet Ave)
- 9/8 Fulton Fall Festival
- 9/9 Nokomis Block Party
- 9/12 Pop-Up Bike Park (34th Ave)
- 9/18 Pop-Up Bike Park (Nokomis)
- 9/23 Open Streets (50th & France)
- 9/26 Pop-Up Bike Park (Lynnhurst Park)
- 9/29 Morris Fall Festival
- 10/14 Experience the Creek (Minnehaha Creek)
- 10/26 Armitage Fall Festival

COMMUNITY EVENT PARTICIPATION

527 comments were collected over 23 separate events
**Community Event Summary of Results**

In total, hundreds of comments were collected over the course of 23 events. All of the comments have been recorded on the Social Pinpoint web map, and tagged with the name and date of the event where the comment was collected.

The following is a summary of common general comments gathered during Community Events:

**WHAT WORKS WELL TODAY?**

» Winter plowing of trails  
» Trail experience where bikes and peds are separated  
» New intersection design at Lake Harriet  
» Paths that run under bridges (allowing for uninterrupted trail experience)  
» Trail experiences that are naturalistic (winding trail in Segment 2, for example) and separated from the roadway  
» Existing natural surface trails

**WHAT CONCERNS DO YOU HAVE?**

» Speed of traffic along parkway  
» Erosion, flooding, and related trail damage along the creek  
» Pavement quality, maintenance along trails  
» Tennis court maintenance  
» Intersection at 50th Street  
» Crosswalk safety  
» Fallen trees along the creek and trails  
» Lack of drinking fountains and restrooms  
» Intersection at Cedar Avenue  
» Sight lines at intersections (i.e. Bloomington Ave)  
» Trail width, tight radii, steep grade and combination of bicyclists and pedestrians in certain areas  
» Intersection at 28th Avenue  
» Invasive species (buckthorn)  
» Excessive mowing/lawn chemical use by property owners along the creek

**WHAT IDEAS DO YOU HAVE?**

» Add more benches, places to sit along the trails  
» Widen curb cuts at intersection crossings  
» Add more access points from the surrounding neighborhoods to the trail  
» Add canoe racks, paddle share  
» Add bike pumps/fix-it stations along the trail  
» Add more unpaved (natural surface) trails  
» Better wayfinding, mileage markers along the trail  
» Identify native plantings  
» On-road/off-road bike parks  
» Add tot-lot in Segment 2 or 3  
» Continue trails in Segment 1 to Edina  
» Re-purpose tennis courts  
» Cross-country ski trails  
» Add more kayak launches  
» Add more music, art along the trail  
» Add more programming for seniors in the park  
» Establish clear trail etiquette for shared trails

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Example of map board used at community events to gather feedback
SOCIAL PINPOINT

Social Pinpoint is a web-based map platform. Participants can visit the website and drag icons onto a map to mark places that fall under six categories.

After dragging a marker onto the map, participants are asked to provide a comment to elaborate further. Participants can also attach an image that demonstrates their idea. The comments provided are cumulative, and users can see what others have already commented, and indicate if they ‘like’ or ‘dislike’ previous comments.

While the Social Pinpoint website is closed as of November 1st, the website is available to view all of the comments left.

Link to Social Pinpoint: bit.ly/MinnehahaCreekMap

Social Pinpoint Summary of Results

The Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail Social Pinpoint website was open from May 17th until November 1st, 2018. Over this period of time, a total of 375 comments were received via the website, which was advertised through a post card and on the MPRB project web page. There were 593 unique users who visited the web page (users could return to the page as often as they liked). On average, participants spent a little over 22 minutes per visit, leaving and reviewing comments.

The Social Pinpoint website is closed for comment, but the website is still available for anyone to review the comments that have been posted. In addition to the 375 comments received through the website, the project team has also uploaded all comments received through community engagement events to this page (these comments are noted with the date and event).

The following is a summary of comments gathered through Social Pinpoint. The comments have been categorized based on four common themes that were identified:

» Trail Quality
» Roadways
» Natural Resources
» Programs/Facilities

Social Pinpoint Markers

» This works well
» I have an idea
» I have a concern
» Difficult intersection or crossing
» Future creek access
» Favorite memory

SOCIAL PINPOINT PARTICIPATION

327 comments were collected over 593 unique users. On average, participants spent a little over 22 minutes per visit to the website.
TRAIL QUALITY (from Social Pinpoint)

- Separate trails for bikes and pedestrians throughout
- Clarity needed to determine who has the right-of-way at intersections (bikes, cars, pedestrians)
- More trail underpasses are suggested, as well as allowing bikes to use existing trail underpasses
- Trail surface, maintenance, slope and width are all concerns noted throughout.

Summary of comments related to trail quality, gathered from Social Pinpoint
ROADWAYS (from Social Pinpoint)

- Bump-outs, leading pedestrian intervals, separate crossing signals for bikes and pedestrians are all common suggestions at nearly every intersection.
- Right-of-way at intersections is an issue.
- Larger curb ramps and waiting areas for bicyclists and pedestrians are needed at key intersection crossings.
- Improving lines of sight, for both trail users and for vehicle drivers, is very important.

Summary of comments related to roadways, gathered from Social Pinpoint.
NATURAL RESOURCES (from Social Pinpoint)

- Concern about invasive species, especially buckthorn, along the Creek
- Concern about water pollution, especially from nearby lawn chemicals and runoff
- Flooding and areas of erosion are observed along the creek; people seem most concerned about how this affects trail use
- Many suggestions for native, pollinator plants in open areas, along the creek edges
**PROGRAMS/FACILITIES (from Social Pinpoint)**

- Improved path lighting throughout the trail is frequently suggested
- Drinking fountains are requested throughout the Creek, especially near the Bunny (half-way point along the trail)
- Many requests for more programs / facilities for young park users (tot-lots in Segment 2 and 3, bike parks/bike skills parks)
- Natural surface trails are suggested throughout, especially in Segment 1
- ADA accessibility is a concern throughout
CAC MEETINGS

The CAC, or the Community Advisory Committee, is comprised of 16 community members committed to providing guidance and support for the Master Plan. During Phase 1, there were three CAC meetings. All CAC meeting agendas, minutes, and presentations can be found on the project website.

Segment Exercise Summary of Results

During CAC Meeting #3, an exercise was facilitated to gather input from the CAC to identify areas of focus for further design study. The CAC was asked specifically to:

a) Identify unique characteristics about each segment,
b) Identify areas of focus for more detailed design, and
c) Provide ideas for design concepts within each focus area.

The following are summary diagrams transcribed from the exercise.
SEGMENT CONCEPT FRAMEWORK IDENTIFICATION

a) What is unique about this segment?
Describe the characteristics of this segment.
(write your ideas below)

- Needs wayfinding: how do you follow the creek?
- Paved
- No Trail
- No Parkway
- Feels like neighborhood (as-is)
- Doesn’t attract other users

b) Identify areas of focus. Within this segment, where should we get more detailed with future designs?
(circle or mark on the map)

c) Within these focus areas, what are your ideas for the future?
(write ideas below or on the map)

50th:
- Trail congestion
- Road crossing

Morgan-Penn:
- Connect to water/water access
- Enhanced planting
- Formal path
- Seating

General ideas for whole segment:
- More capacity to slow/treat water
- Consider paved trail; 10’ asphalt is not solution to connectivity
- Formalize natural path

Work with Edina for trail connection south
Add water access here
Art
Crossing at Penn is needed
Kids/teens use this area a lot
Do we need (4) courts?

SEGMENT 1
MINNEHAHA PARKWAY REGIONAL TRAIL
MASTER PLAN

Address trail congestion and road crossing
SEGMENT CONCEPT FRAMEWORK IDENTIFICATION

a) What is unique about this segment?
Describe the characteristics of this segment.
(write your ideas below)
- Heavily wooded
- Deep gorge
- Narrow
- Lots of bridges
- Lots of school use and transportation to/from schools
- Not many built recreation amenities
- Road on the far sides of park area with trails in the middle of the park area

b) Identify areas of focus. Within this segment, where should we get more detailed with future designs?
(circle or mark on the map)
- Area 1: Transportation
  Bike
  Pedestrians
  Car
- Area 2: Focus on walking trails
  Separation from bikes
- Area 3: Better activation of the space
  Art
  Skatepark
  Skills
  Currently un-inviting
  Should have lighting

c) Within these focus areas, what are your ideas for the future?
(write ideas below or on the map)
- Area 1: Focus on transportation (bike, ped, car)
- Area 2: Combined trail issues here
- Area 3: Activate this space for families
a) What is unique about this segment? Describe the characteristics of this segment. (write your ideas below)
- Wide, with terrain
- Good trails, opportunities
- North vs. South access/character
- Intersections: angled
- Active in winter

b) Identify areas of focus. Within this segment, where should we get more detailed with future designs? (circle or mark on the map)

- Wide, with terrain
- Good trails, opportunities
- North vs. South access/character
- Intersections: angled
- Active in winter

- Consistency
- Swap out art
- Tot lot
- Trails
- Restrooms
- Neighborhood connections: signage/public transportation
- Bike park

Re-designed intersections (idea: similar to Lake Harriet separated intersection), address mode separation, crowded curbs

- Family picnic area (flat) + art

Add: public art, bench

Add art

Add restrooms, bike park, water access

Widen bike/ped path, address traffic calming

Formalize sledding

Kid/toddler play areas

Connect trails here?

Draw families, create a beautiful attraction

Add: public art, bench

Add trails here?
**Segment 4 Exercise Results**

**SEGMENT CONCEPT FRAMEWORK IDENTIFICATION**

**a) What is unique about this segment?**
Describe the characteristics of this segment.
*(write your ideas below)*
- Split: roadway and creek exist in separate corridors
- Location between two regional parks (signage is not clear between the two parks)
- Bike park?
- Areas that are relatively flat
- Developments are adding to the area

**b) Identify areas of focus. Within this segment, where should we get more detailed with future designs?**
*(circle or mark on the map)*
- Split; roadway and creek exist in separate corridors
- Location between two regional parks (signage is not clear between the two parks)
- Bike park?
- Areas that are relatively flat
- Developments are adding to the area

**c) Within these focus areas, what are your ideas for the future?**
*(write ideas below or on the map)*
- Comprehensive plan to manage urban canopy
- Paddleshare should start in Lake Hiawatha (not on the creek)
- Use flat areas, existing tennis courts for:
  - Kickball
  - Informal uses
  - Bike parks
  - Art

Next year, trail will go underneath 28th Ave

Gateway to Minnehaha Parkway RT

Place for kayak/Canoe rental begin

Place for kayak/Canoe rental end

Connect 46th Street Station to the park

New development = more bike/ped connections

Gateway, wayfinding, awkward intersection, challenges, confusion

Urban arboretum: art integration, trees, native, unique

Re-think uses at flat areas

LAKE NOKOMIS PARK

COMMERCIAL AREA

LONGFELLOW GARDENS COMMERCIAL AREA

COMMERCIAL AREA

MINNEHAHA REGIONAL PARK

SEA SALT EATERY

MINNEHAHA FALLS

JOHN H. STEVENS HOUSE MUSEUM

MINNEHAHA DEPOT

LAKE HIAWATHA PARK

PROPOSED CANOE LAUNCH

HIAWATHA GOLF COURSE

LAKE NOKOMIS SEGMENT 4

SENEGAL END

SEGMENT 4

MINNEHAHA PARKWAY REGIONAL TRAIL MASTER PLAN

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community
**PROJECT SCHEDULE**

The diagram below outlines the roles and responsibilities for the project team and the CAC at each meeting.

### COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Project Team Responsibility</th>
<th>CAC Responsibility</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| 1 | Kick-off | Project Team Responsibility:  
Scope + Schedule Confirmation  
Project Start-up  
General Visioning | CAC Responsibility:  
Familiarize with project and scope  
Develop working group process |
| 2 | Discovery + Assessment | Project Team Responsibility:  
Collect Background Data  
Summarize and Present Background Data  
Develop Corridor Mapping  
Research & Understand Regional and Site Context | CAC Responsibility:  
Review background data  
Develop questions, additional topics of exploration |
| 3 | Vision | Project Team Responsibility:  
Analyze and present feedback from community engagement  
Follow-up with further exploration topics / background data questions  
Develop process for creating a corridor-wide vision, developing guiding principles and identifying segment concept framework | CAC Responsibility:  
Continue to develop questions, explore data  
Review community engagement feedback  
Begin to develop vision, guiding principles  
Identify focus areas within the project area, identify issues/opportunities |
| 4 | Master Planning | Project Team Responsibility:  
Interpret and re-present vision, guiding principles, segment concept framework  
Develop concepts, framework plans  
Present, listen, revise, review, and re-present concepts and framework plans (iterative process)  
Facilitate community workshop  
Develop Draft Master Plan Document | CAC Responsibility:  
Participate in iterative process  
Provide guidance to develop preferred concepts, framework plans  
Review materials and provide recommendations, comments, feedback  
Communicate priorities  
Share project development |
| 5 | Approvals | Project Team Responsibility:  
Present Draft Master Plan to Metropolitan Council  
Review, revise, re-present Draft Master Plan to Metropolitan Council  
Adoption and Delivery of Final Master Plan  
Finalize Master Plan Document | CAC Responsibility:  
Share project development |

Roles and responsibilities per CAC meetings

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**Nov. 2018**

Design charette (workshop) with Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB), City of Minneapolis, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) and the project consultants to develop concepts for focus areas.

**Dec. 2018**

MPRB Project Advisory Committee Meeting (PAC)

**Jan. 2019**

CAC Meeting #4 to preview concepts as developed by the project team

**Feb. 2019**

Community meetings to gather feedback on concepts
CHARETTE FRAMEWORK

The diagram below synthesizes the focus areas identified through the CAC Segment Exercise, and serves as a framework to guide site concept and planning work to be developed over the next few months (December/January). The Charette Framework describes each segment and the main objectives to address through focus area site design and intersection studies.

**Framework Key**

Segment-wide diagram(s) (200 scale, 1+ for each segment):
- Future creek access points
- Future trail alignment
- Future trail re-meander

Focus Area Concept Site Design (20-60scale, 10 Focus Areas Total):
- Concepts for trail & creek re-alignments
- BMP/stormwater infrastructure
- Creek access points
- Lighting, benches, kiosks, amenities
- Surfaces treatments, plant community/pollinator "sweet spot" areas
- Conceptual/illustrative site plan design level of detail

Focus Area Concept Site Design (20 scale, 1-2 concepts):
- Concepts for trail & creek re-alignments

Focus Area Concept Site Design (40 scale, 1-2 concepts):
- Concepts for trail & creek re-alignments

Focus Area Concept Site Design (60 scale, 1-2 concepts):
- Concepts for trail & creek re-alignments

Intersection Studies (10-scale, 7 Study Areas, 1-2 concepts for each study area):
- Address mode separation at crossing
- Address safety, sight lines, crosswalk design, curb ramps, waiting areas, signals
- Detailed, CAD-level drawing (G of Mpls planimetrics as base)