



## Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Parks for All 2021 Comprehensive Plan

### Virtual Park Summit—Spanish and English Office Hours

6/19/2020

4:00-5:00pm

**MPRB Staff Present:** Francisca Pass, Carrie Christensen, Adam Arvidson, Madeline Hudek, Alyssa Gilmore

**CAC Present:** Mary McKelvey

**Public Present:** 3 members of the public joined the conversation

Mary McKelvey (Comprehensive Plan CAC Member) was the first to join the office hours, so staff did not start their presentation because Mary is already familiar with the Comprehensive Plan and the Virtual Park Summit. Mary had a question about what would happen to the Virtual Park Summit website following the closing of the Summit at 6pm on Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>.

(Project Staff) The Virtual Park Summit collection will be available in an archive format on the Project Page, but there won't be a formal spot (survey or comment board) where people can respond. These specific channels will be closing but people will still be able to reach out to Carrie directly. Hope to have a report out for the Commissioners at the July 1<sup>st</sup> board meeting so they can learn what came out of the Summit. Next big push for engagement will be for the public comment period once the draft plan is available for review.

(Project Staff) The site as it looks now will go from the 14 tile view (that contain the policy ideas and other project information) to 1 tile which gives a summary of the next steps. The link for the Virtual Park Summit website will still work, but the content will be available in a different format than it was available for, for the duration of the Summit.

(CAC Member) Had additional outreach suggestions related to Southwest Journal and other local news sources. Thought it would be nice to have an advertisement in the Southwest Journal since there are currently three projects that affect that area ([Southwest Service Area Master Plan](#), [Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail Master Plan](#), and the [Comprehensive Plan](#))

(Project Staff) Previously, have taken out advertisements in some of the neighborhood newspapers. For the public comment period, plan to do this with cultural media outlets (Spanish, Somali, Hmong). Will take out advertisements in other local news sources as the project budget allows. In addition to this, something MPRB is thinking about as an organization is how to create unified Park board advertisements, don't currently have it budgeted in the organization to do this regularly. Can help provide the layout/mockup and information needed if this is something the CAC member is interested in perusing. Doesn't need to just be about the Virtual Park Summit, can provide information about the process/project overall.

(CAC Member) This is why I wanted to now about what the site would send up looking like before doing the donation to the paper with the informative element. Concern about if this would be equitable.

(Project Staff) Part of the process is that project staff are still willing to go to organizations and do presentations, willing to have these conversations with folks, want people to continue to feel heard and be involved. Appreciate the equity concern, but also think about it within the context

of the CAC charge. Appointed on the CAC because you know your community, and it's important to work within that community utilizing those avenues you know about. If you have the energy to do this, it's a positive. We have the ability to do our own advertising in about a month or two with the release of the draft plan; but agree with you that the timing with Southwest and Minnehaha is right.

Two more people joined the call. Project Staff shared the screen with the presentation in English, while other staff presented the information in Spanish. After a quick overview of the Virtual Park Summit and the Timeline, staff asked everyone what brought them to the table and what they were interested in discussing that evening.

(Public) Here to have her voice heard. Wondering about playgrounds, not a lot of parks for children who have disabilities, or not sure where they are located, wondering if there could be a specifically dedicated playground that was accessible for all ages/abilities.

(Project Staff) Shared some policy ideas around this question of accessibility for all abilities (Ex. from the Multigenerational Workgroup E7: Embed accessibility as a fundamental aspect of the design of our spaces). Need to think also about the communications piece because these spaces do exist in the system, just need to make sure people know where they are (Ex. E6). Any other additional ideas that you want to make sure are captured in the policy ideas?

(Public) Job opportunities for teens that are paid and fulltime

(Project Staff) Looked again at Multigenerational Workgroup policy ideas. Explained that the Multigenerational Workgroup was focused on thinking about creating parks for all ages and abilities; parks that accommodate various age groups, and aging in place, and how parks really accommodate all walks of life. Examples of policy ideas related to youth employment and programs are E1: Implement youth programs that support deliberate career pathways towards full-time employment and provide livable wages and E2: Expand youth employment to a wider array of job opportunities across the MPRB organization. In previous, MPRB has been somewhat limited in terms of what job opportunities are available for youth. Example right now, this is the first time that Youthline will be helping with childcare. Would like to continue to see programs adapting, pushing new and exciting directions to provide youth with different kinds of experiences.

(Public) Work for Teen Teamworks and Rec+ in Northeast Minneapolis. Feel like there needs to be more programs all the time, like seeing that in the policy ideas.

(Project Staff) Additionally something that we've seen come up a lot is the idea of supporting community led programming. Thinking about how we can build up our programs and skillsets by engaging community more around programs that occur in parks. Still building out this ability.

(Public) A lot of the time, youth in the city are minorities that would like to work, but because of their immigration status (whether they are in the process of gaining legal status or are undocumented) this is a barrier to them working. Many youth are volunteering when they would like to be working. It would be nice to see support here, maybe could provide some kind of stipend? Gift cards for meals? Make it easier to fund inclusive approaches/opportunities for immigrants who are undocumented to help them, and their families prosper.

(CAC Member; *in chat*) Asked a question about the differences between the youth programs current in the parks and their different goals, there was confusion about the overlap and the agreement MPRB and MPS have with middle school aged sports.

(Project Staff; *in chat*) Answered this question. Here are the links that were provided in the chat to help answer this question

Rec Plus: [https://www.minneapolisparks.org/activities\\_events/youth\\_programs/school-age\\_childcare/](https://www.minneapolisparks.org/activities_events/youth_programs/school-age_childcare/)

Teen Teamworks:

[https://www.minneapolisparks.org/activities\\_events/youth\\_programs/teen\\_programs/teen\\_teamworks/](https://www.minneapolisparks.org/activities_events/youth_programs/teen_programs/teen_teamworks/)

Youth Coordinating Board: <https://www.ycb.org/aboutycb>

More on other youth program offerings:

[https://www.minneapolisparks.org/activities\\_events/youth\\_programs/](https://www.minneapolisparks.org/activities_events/youth_programs/)

(Public) Joined the meeting because he has been a participant in the park system since he was young and wanted to hear more about planning for the future.

(Project Staff) Quickly provided an overview for what the goals of the Virtual Park Summit were and what the next steps will be. Emphasized that we are currently in a brainstorm space with policy ideas. Asked if he had any specific topics he wanted to talk about related to the future of parks, and what staff should focus on.

(Public) Has been a volunteer for the past four years at Whittier Park. One thing he's noticed is that not all parks have volunteer opportunities, or at least not opportunities that he's aware of. Would like to see additional volunteer opportunities for people like high school students who otherwise might not have much to do over the summer.

(Project Staff) Asked what kind of volunteer work he typically does and thanked him for his care and keeping of our park system.

(Public) Volunteers helping out with summer camps

(Project Staff) There are specific policy ideas around supporting volunteering (there was a volunteering topical forum that created policy ideas—Ex. H63: Foster multigenerational and mentorship volunteer opportunities. However, there is a gap about providing volunteer opportunities that have to do with high school age students. Maybe has to do with mentorship but maybe just want something to do, will continue to look at this language, will continue to think about how to frame out plugging in and giving back to the system.

An additional member of the public joined the call. Project staff asked her what brought her to the space, if there are any particular topics she is interested in discussing that she is particularly passionate around.

(Public) She is a teacher in the Minneapolis school system. Concern is about families she teaches, they want to know how safe it is to go to the parks with their children, how to safely do this. Lot of questions about programs and if it is safe to participate, etc.

(Project Staff) Asked for clarity, is this specifically related to COVID or more broadly related to public safety overall?

(Public) COVID specific

(Project Staff) Walked her through where on the website the COVID updates are (<https://www.minneapolisarks.org/coronavirus-covid-19-information/>). Constantly updating this site with the most up to date information on what is going on in parks. Right now the messaging is generally around honoring social distancing. MPRB has started to open some recreation centers for Rec Plus, but we are still being very careful about things re-opening and our abilities to stick within the CDC guidelines.

(Public) Is it a rule that everyone has to have a mask on?

(Project Staff) There's no rule for masks outside, but if you go INSIDE you will need to wear a mask, so wearing masks outside is good practice.

(Project Staff) On the MPRB COVID page, there is an FAQ that provides more information about outdoor recreation guidelines (it will direct you to the DNR website that outlines the DNR's outdoor recreation guidelines)

(Project Staff) Currently having ongoing conversations about this, the Board of Commissioners is having conversations about this; some pools are planned to eventually be re-opened, parks are allowing people to seek refuge in park land, etc.

(Public) When the pools open will there be reduced numbers of people? Taking people's temperatures before they use the pool?

(Project Staff) Yes, the idea is to limit the number of users at the pools. However, there won't be a dedicated staff person who will be turning people away or checking temperatures. It's really difficult to control how many people are coming to the sites. The Park Ambassadors will be doing their best to observe how busy the parks are, reminding people to practice social distancing, etc. The guidelines around opening haven't come out yet, right now just have the idea that they will be opening eventually. There are still communications that are coming out, getting new information every other day.

(Project Staff) Pulled up the board meeting presentation from Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. Planned that wading pools and splash pads will be at 25% capacity. A variety of locations across the city will be open (only about 20 splash pads total will be open). Some beaches are planned to have lifeguards.

(Project Staff) Once again, it's really difficult to control how many people are in a public park space, there is no formal stay at home order anymore, there are only social distancing GUIDELINES which aren't strictly enforceable.

(Public) Specifically worried about the families she works with, want them to be safe, want them to be healthy and be able to go outside, important part of health (mental and physical) especially in summer. Lacking programs this year.

(CAC member) Know that there are some special programs planned, like Fun on the Run, can we send her that information as well as the COVID information in Spanish?

(Project Staff, *in chat*)

[https://www.minneapolisarks.org/activities\\_events/youth\\_programs/fun-on-the-run/](https://www.minneapolisarks.org/activities_events/youth_programs/fun-on-the-run/)

Other resources in Spanish about parks and COVID:

<https://www.nrpa.org/contentassets/991084e170d241c29d4ca93ee3b04bbe/covid19-public-trails-hi-res-web-espanol.jpg>



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<https://www.nrpa.org/contentassets/991084e170d241c29d4ca93ee3b04bbe/covid19-urban-parks-hires-web-espanol.jpg>

A video about COVID:

<https://youtu.be/EsxeTipCqBo>

### **THANKS AND NEXT STEPS**

Francisca Pass closed out the meeting with thanks and outlined the next steps for the project in Spanish.