



Date of Original Board P+C: 1/20/2021

Date of Update Board P+C: 9/29/2021

Date of Most Recent Update: 8/31/2021

Please fill out this form if your project, program, or initiative includes community engagement beyond the “Inform” level. All Community Engagement Plans should be filed as Petitions and Communications with the MPRB Board of Commissioners and submitted to the MPRB Engagement Portal on SharePoint (A link to the Community Engagement Portal can be found at <https://minneapolisparcs.sharepoint.com/planning/SitePages/Home.aspx>.)

Staff Lead: Dan Elias

Department or Division: Planning Division

Project Name: Kenny Park Playground Improvements

Engagement Level: Consult

This plan serves as a guide for the community engagement process for Kenny Park Playground Improvements. The plan may be modified as circumstance warrants during project duration. Substantial modifications are to be communicated to stakeholders and the MPRB Board of Commissioners.

As required by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Community Engagement Policy, this project requires a Community Engagement Plan because the project falls under the Consult category of community engagement for which MPRB is required to obtain stakeholder feedback on project, initiative, or program analysis, alternatives, or decisions. This CE Plan was used with a GARE Racial Equity Tool Kit framework.

Key Stakeholders should be engaged in the creation of this plan. This is to be filled out before the CE Plan is submitted to the Board as a P+C. Please explain how they were engaged:

The local neighborhood organization (Kenny Neighborhood Association and Windom Community Council (Windom has no other neighborhood parks within in boundary)) was provided opportunity to comment on the Draft CE Plan prior to and concurrent with the plan’s submittal to the Board of Commissioners, and prior to initiation of community engagement activities.

1. Project Description

1a. Project Overview:

This project will design and construct a playground, mostly utilizing the existing containers, in Kenny Park. The old equipment is showing its age and funding is provided for new playground equipment and surfacing. Additional site features may be included such as benches, shade, and picnic tables. The project will also work to resolve turf and erosion issues around the playground caused by high use.

1b. MPRB Outcomes (*What goals, strategies, or values in the MPRB Comprehensive Plan does this project, program, or initiative relate to? What goal in the Racial Equity Action Plan does this relate to?*):

Comprehensive Plan Vision Theme 3: Dynamic parks that shape city character and meet diverse community needs

GOAL: Park facility renewal and development respects history and focuses on sustainability, accessibility, flexibility, and beauty

STRATEGY: Build or renew facilities to meet and exceed standards for accessibility

STRATEGY: Build quality facilities that can be adapted to new uses as community needs change

Comprehensive Plan Vision Theme 4: A safe place to play, recreate, contemplate, and celebrate

GOAL: Parks and safe and welcoming by design

STRATEGY: Design parks to meet or exceed safety standards, building codes, and CTPED principles

1c. Project Timeline:

- Design – Spring/Summer 2021
- Construction – Summer/Fall 2021 (efforts will be made to complete the playground project in advance of the 2021 school year start)

1d. Project Funding:

<u>Capital Sources</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
NPP20	\$306,495.00	N/A
Park Dedication	\$5,597.00	N/A

2. Project Data:

2a. What are the boundaries of the community engagement area? (For regional facilities include neighborhoods adjacent to the park and city/regional boundaries)

For this project, the Kenny and Windom neighborhood boundaries will be used as the community engagement area, specifically related to neighborhood organization engagement. Windom is included because Kenny Park is the closest MPRB-owned neighborhood park that does not require crossing under I-35W. Windom neighborhood does have a small park and recreation center called Windom South Park however, this property is owned by Minneapolis Public Schools and MPRB has a Use Agreement that allows the park and recreation center to function as an MPRB asset. However, the Windom South Park outdoor space is small and in need of an upgrade, though the park is not listed on the 6-Yr Capital Improvement Program. The more detailed engagement activities will focus on the two schools adjacent to Kenny Park and the Kenny Parent Foundation that has already completed significant engagement around playground improvements in Kenny Park.

Where “Kenny/Windom” is referenced in the tables below, data is gathered using the census tracts that include both neighborhoods and adjacent areas not within the neighborhood boundaries themselves.

2b. What are the demographics of the community engagement area? (Please refer to percentages of the population when possible and note the sources of the data.)

Total Population:

Kenny	Windom	City
3,745	5,212	416,021

Race by Percentage of the Population:

Race	Kenny	Windom	City
White	85.7%	73.9%	63.8%
Black or African American	NOT ENOUGH DATA	12.4%	19.4%
American Indian and Alaska Native	NOT ENOUGH DATA	NOT ENOUGH DATA	1.4%
Asian	NOT ENOUGH DATA	NOT ENOUGH DATA	6.1%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	NOT ENOUGH DATA	NOT ENOUGH DATA	0%
Some other race	NOT ENOUGH DATA	NOT ENOUGH DATA	4.7%
Two or more races	NOT ENOUGH DATA	NOT ENOUGH DATA	4.6%

Median Age:

Kenny/Window	City
37.2	32.1

Median Household Income:

Kenny/Window	City
\$111,293.00	\$58,993

Percentage of the Population That Speaks A Language Other than English at Home:

Kenny/Window	City
14%	22.3%

Percentage of the Population with a Disability:

Kenny/Window	City
7.6%	11.2%

Analysis:

The Kenny and Window neighborhoods tend to be generally whiter, older, wealthier. These neighborhoods have lower populations that speak languages other than English in the home and have less people with disabilities.

2c. List any key findings or excerpts from relevant plans or policies that are informing this project, program or initiative, especially if community was engaged in the policy or plan:

The project will be primarily guided by the adopted Southwest Service Area Master Plan which calls for the playground in Kenny Park to remain in its current location. The master plan specifically notes that, “play areas will be somewhat expanded when improved.” Additionally, the master plan notes, “next to the play areas are a small grass area and a popular gaga pit. These areas are heavily used, as evidenced by erosion in the turf which becomes quite muddy after it rains. School staff, parents, and neighbors have all expressed interest in a refresh of this area to manage drainage and erosion concerns. A well-used half basketball court sits at the south end of the play area.”

2d. What are the data gaps? What additional research needs to be done to understand the project stakeholders and project scope?

The proximity of two schools, one an elementary school and one a middle school will offer ample opportunities to engage the local youth around the design of the new playground. The existing work of the Kenny Parent Foundation will be key to the improvements project as well. Engagement with the neighborhood organizations, the schools and the parent foundation is expected to be sufficient for a project of this type and scale.

3. Community Engagement:

The MPRB supports the use of a variety of techniques to interact with and obtain information from stakeholders. Outreach and research tools and methods can be applied for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to the following:

- a. Evaluate success and measure community impact of existing programs, services or facilities.
- b. Gain stakeholder insight and perspective regarding development of a new program, service or facility.
- c. Proactively identify or explore park and recreation trends or ideas.
- d. Determine essential services to be provided for a community or park area.
- e. Query stakeholders when proposing or revising policy.
- f. Resolve persistent conflicts or problems.
- g. Educate or inform the public on proposed changes, initiatives and projects.
- h. Reflect on projects, programs and initiatives after adoption by the Board or report on how community input has been integrated.
- i. Learn the history of local context and community.

Project Stakeholder <i>(students, ethnic communities, neighborhood groups, community leaders)</i>	Outreach: How will you reach out to the stakeholder? <i>(i.e. go to parks, neighborhood listserv, engage with cultural media)</i>	Engagement: How will they participate? <i>(i. e. online survey, focus group, community open house, intercept survey)</i>	Reflecting Back: How will stakeholder groups be reflected back to about the project progress or outcomes? <i>(Posted on project website, ribbon cutting, e-blast, site visit, celebration)</i>
Kenny Neighborhood Association and Windom Community Council	Direct e-mail to organizations.	On-line survey. Possible direct engagement at standing neighborhood meeting.	Project website. GovDelivery. Direct e-mail to organizations.
Nearby residents	Signage on-site in project area and nearby. E-mails coordinated with neighborhood groups. GovDelivery notices.	On-line survey.	Project website. GovDelivery.
Anthony Middle and Kenny Elementary School	Signage on-site in project area and nearby. Direct engagement with youth through MPS contacts.	Virtual discussion. On-line survey.	Project website. GovDelivery. Direct email to contacts.
Kenny Parent Foundation	Direct engagement with foundation leadership.	Virtual discussion. On-line survey.	Project website. GovDelivery. Direct email to contacts.

If needed, describe the outreach, engagement, or reflection methods you will use that are referenced above:

3a. Advisory Committees:

Technical Advisory Committee: This roster is a list of agencies and groups that are on the TAC
N/A

Project Advisory Committee: This roster is a list of MPRB departments and divisions that are invited to be on the PAC
Planning Division
Asset Management Department
Environmental Management Department
Athletics, Aquatics, and Ice Department
Information Technology Department
Communications Department
Park Police Department
Forestry Department

3b. Will a Community Advisory Committee be required for this project, program, or initiative?

No

4. Analysis:

4a. What questions will you be asking community to respond to in your outreach and engagement?

- What types of play structures are the most exciting?
- How can the new playground enhance your school day?
- What else is needed around the playground area.

4b. How will your community engagement outreach, engagement, and methods make MPRB a more equitable system?

This project’s outreach will specifically work to engage youth that utilize the playground every day.

For Windom neighborhood, Kenny Park is the closest MPRB-owned neighborhood park without crossing I-35W. Engaging this neighborhood organization along with Kenny is an important aspect of creating an equitable system.

The design will work to be inclusive and universal where possible with a focus on providing a broad range of structures for a wide range of ages and abilities.

5. Evaluation Summary: *To be completed at one or more project milestones, and at the completion of the project, program, or initiative.*

5a. Identify one or more key project milestones when project evaluation will be performed

At the conclusion of concept design, prior to board approval of concept designs

5a. Who was engaged during the process? See attached data from survey.

5b. How did the engagement inform the project outcome? Results from the online survey informed the creation of multiple playground concepts focusing on age appropriate play and the high use intensity due to the adjacent school. These options were reviewed internally by Recreation and Asset Management staff for appropriateness for the on-site programming provided at this site.

5c. How did the project and engagement fulfill a goal or strategy in the MPRB Comprehensive Plan?

Using the Theme and Goal below as a guide, the project will develop a new playground centered around accessibility and flexibility for a wide range of users.

Theme 3: Dynamic parks that shape city character and meet diverse community needs.

Goal: Park facility renewal and development respects history and focuses on sustainability, accessibility, flexibility and beauty.

5d. Please describe any new or innovative engagement methods used during the process:

Due to COVID and timing (design during winter of 2020/21), engagement was not as innovative as I would have liked. This project relied on on-line engagement as it was moved up in the CIP during COVID because it was believed that engagement would be moderately successful if held on-line only. There were multiple stakeholder groups meeting already relating to this park and engaging those groups was key to the success of the project.

5e. What recommendations do you have for future engagement around this topic, park, or area?

Efforts to engage the school and students themselves through their teachers and their workplan would have led to a more engage youth population.

5f. What, if any, were the unintended outcomes of your CE Plan?

Engagement focused on those with computer/internet access and those already plugged into the process.

5g. Were there any barriers to successful implementation of your CE Plan?

The schedule and pandemic were the greatest factors affecting engagement for this project.

5h. Were you adequately resourced, including staff support, expertise, and funding?

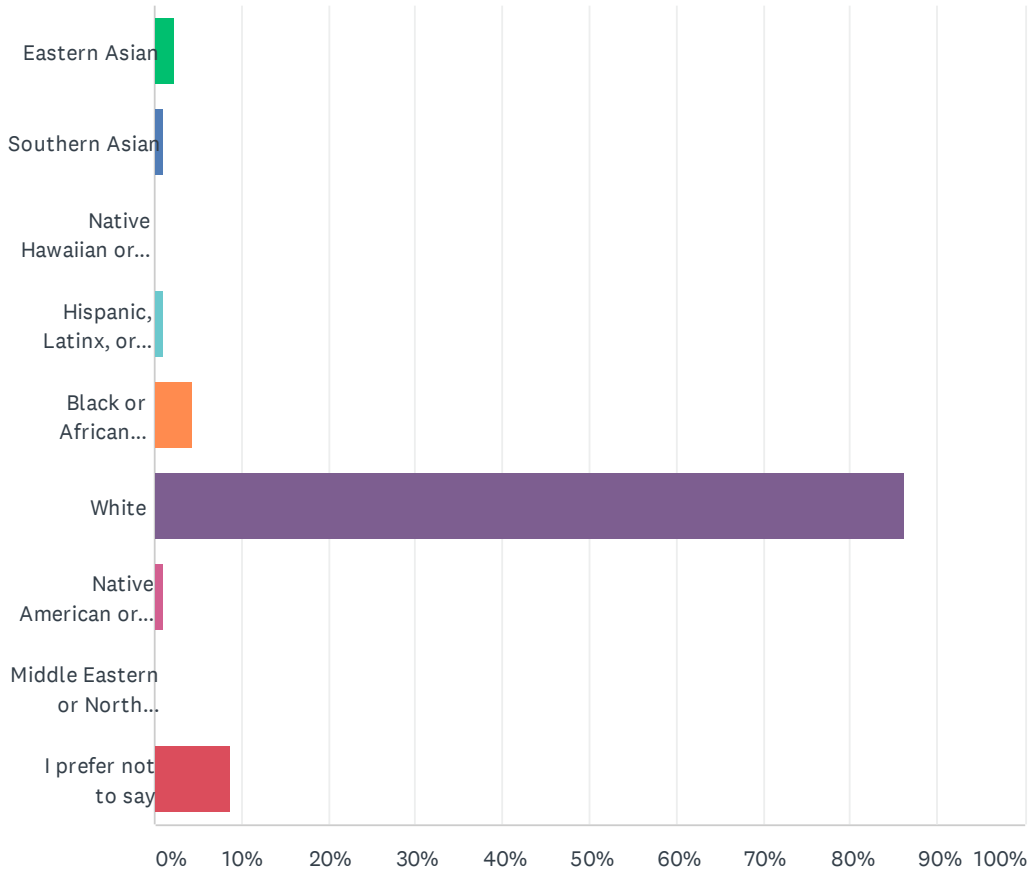
Yes

5i. If applicable, how can this project, program, or initiative, or MPRB continue to partner and deepen relationships with underrepresented communities?

N/A

Q9 I identify my ethnicity as (select all that apply)

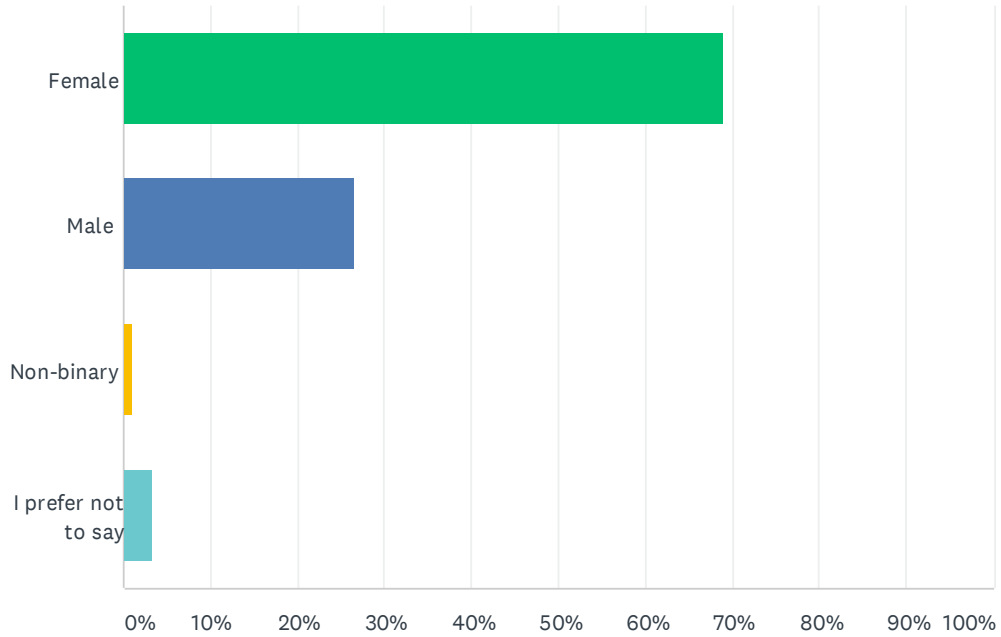
Answered: 181 Skipped: 9



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Eastern Asian	2.21%	4
Southern Asian	1.10%	2
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.00%	0
Hispanic, Latinx, or Spanish	1.10%	2
Black or African American	4.42%	8
White	86.19%	156
Native American or Alaska Native	1.10%	2
Middle Eastern or North African	0.00%	0
I prefer not to say	8.84%	16
Total Respondents: 181		

Q10 I identify my gender as...

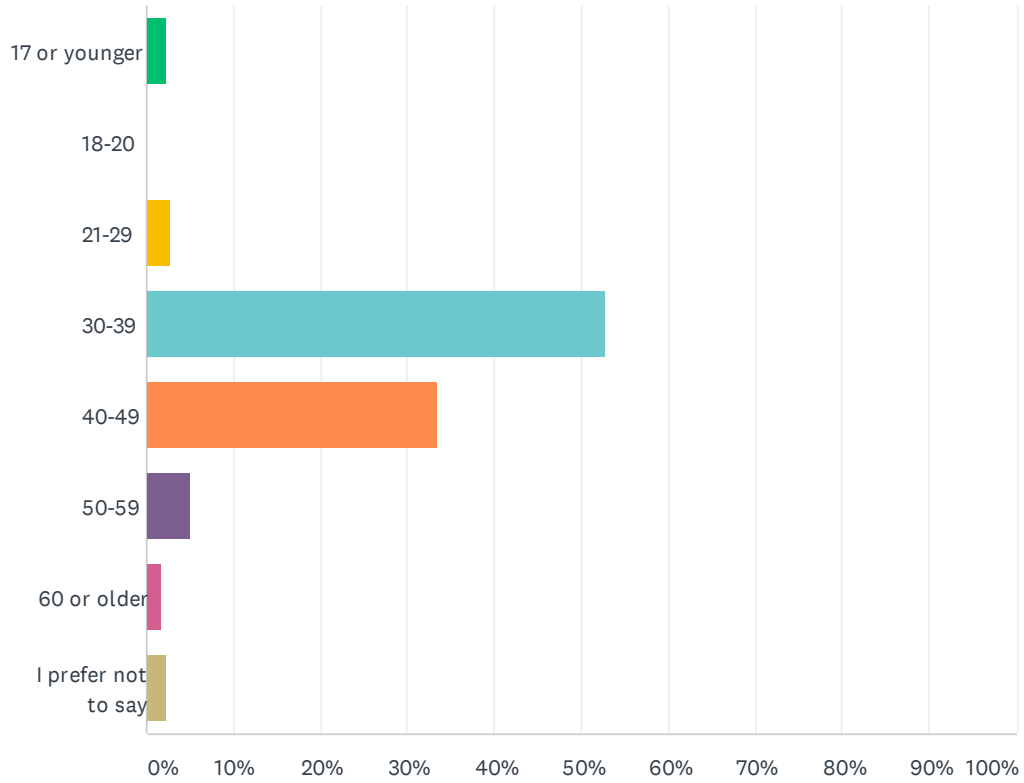
Answered: 181 Skipped: 9



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Female	69.06%	125
Male	26.52%	48
Non-binary	1.10%	2
I prefer not to say	3.31%	6
TOTAL		181

Q11 What is your age?

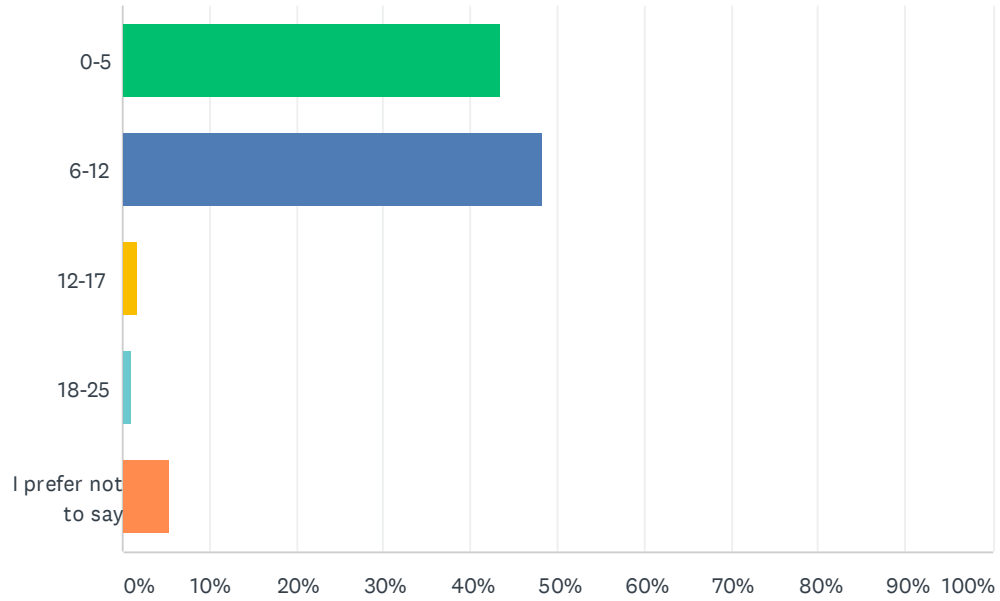
Answered: 182 Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
17 or younger	2.20% 4
18-20	0.00% 0
21-29	2.75% 5
30-39	52.75% 96
40-49	33.52% 61
50-59	4.95% 9
60 or older	1.65% 3
I prefer not to say	2.20% 4
TOTAL	182

Q12 What is the age of the playground user(s) in your household?

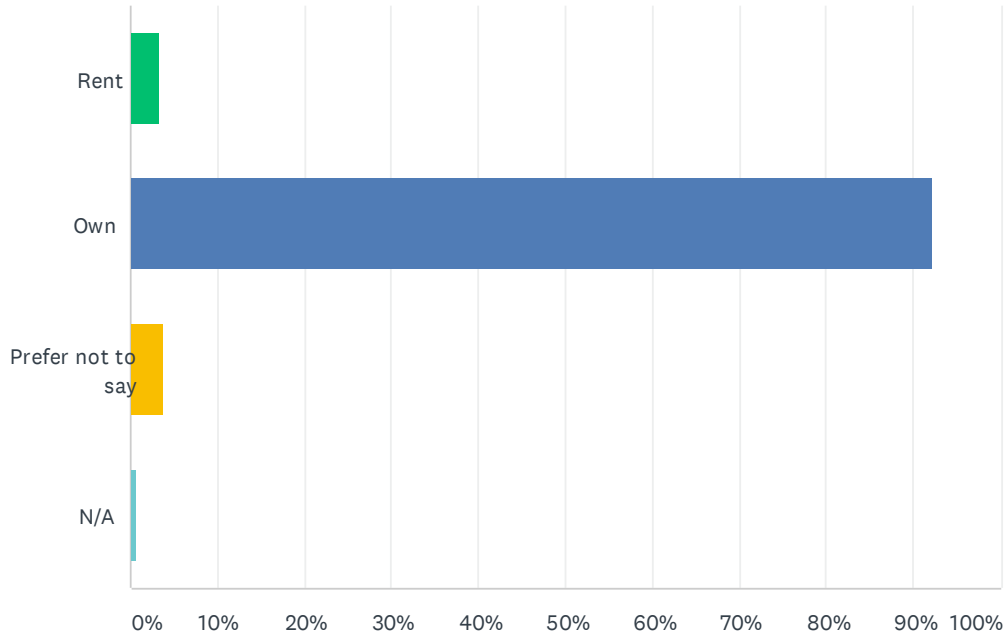
Answered: 184 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
0-5	43.48% 80
6-12	48.37% 89
12-17	1.63% 3
18-25	1.09% 2
I prefer not to say	5.43% 10
TOTAL	184

Q14 Do you rent or own your home?

Answered: 183 Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Rent	3.28%	6
Own	92.35%	169
Prefer not to say	3.83%	7
N/A	0.55%	1
TOTAL		183