

North Commons Park Phase I Improvements

Updated 2/23

Parks are critical for providing activities and safe places, and in changing the lives of our city's youth. The need for a safe place for north side youth to gather, recreate and be surrounded by caring adults has never been greater. The North Commons Park Phase 1 Improvement project is a historic opportunity to serve youth and community.

North Commons Park is a vibrant, vital, activated space within Minneapolis' north side.

- In 2022, seven North Minneapolis Recreation Centers offered 506 programs totaling 15,253 program hours, serving 26,102 enrolled participants and 22,610 drop-in program participants
 - North Commons recreation center offered 69 programs totaling 1,910 program hours 1,714 participants, and 4,447 drop-in program participants
 - Approximately 60% of program participants were youth aged 17 and under
 - Program topics ranged from sports to skill building to life skills and more

2021 and prior – Planning for North Commons improvements

- 2017: the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) begins a community-engaged process to create new park plans for every park in North Minneapolis.
- 2019: the resulting North Service Area Master Plan, including a plan for North Commons Park, is adopted by Commissioners.
- 2020: State of Minnesota awards MPRB \$5.125 million in state bonding (of a \$11.3 million request) for the North Commons Park project, to go along with \$1.54 million of NPP20 funding allocated by MPRB. (Local community collaborator Seeds to Harvest worked with MPRB to secure 2020 State bond funding.) These dollars will support the implementation of the North Commons Park Phase 1 Improvements.

2022 and forward - North Commons Park Phase 1 Improvements underway:

- Feb 2022: Commissioners approve contract with FIHÀN Design+Architecture as the design consultant lead
- Mar-Dec 2022: Community engagement continues for the project program and scoping
- Jan 2023: Four concept options are released to the public, kicking off a new round of community engagement
- April/May 2023: Preferred Concept goes to Board of Commissioners for review and approval
- Summer 2023-Summer 2024: Detailed project design and construction plans
- Summer/Fall 2024: Construction bidding and award
- Fall 2024: Construction begins



Minneapolis
Park & Recreation Board