



**Date of Board P+C: 9/6/2023**

**Date of Most Recent Update:**

*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 (<https://minneapolisparcs.sharepoint.com/planning/SitePages/Home.aspx>.)*

**Staff Lead:** Carrie Christensen

**Department or Division:** Strategic Planning

**Project Name:** Ground Rounds Missing Link

**Engagement Level:** Consult (See Engagement Assessment attached)

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This plan serves as a guide for the community engagement process for the Ground Rounds Missing Link. 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. Please explain who was engaged:**  
East of the River Park Master Plan Community Advisory Committee

## **1. Project Description**

### **1a. Project Overview:**

To fill a 140-year trail gap in the Grand Rounds of Minneapolis as informed by an updated 2019 master plan document as approved by MPRB and the Metropolitan Council, drawing largely on community engagement, feedback, and analysis work through interagency coordination. The project will entail confirmation of a final route, land acquisition, and trail design and implementation. The execution of this plan will require extensive multi-jurisdictional coordination since most of the trail routes are along City and County Right-of-Way or property owned by other entities. This project serves a vital purpose filling a significant and long-standing gap through residential and industrial areas with an active workforce center.

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

Goal 1: Foster Belonging and Equity

Strategy 11: Cultivate long-term relationships with community members, leaders, artists, and community and cultural organizations to inform design, community engagement, and programming of parks.

Goal 3: Provide core services with care

Strategy 12: Increase park staff, safety, programming, operations and design capacity to meet increased demands of park system expansion, including new park acquisition, development, new facilities, increased programs, increased events and to support the implementation of the comprehensive plan.

Goal 4: Work from our strengths and determine our role in partnerships

Strategy 8: Create system-wide connections to and through parks for pedestrians, cyclists, and transit riders based on master plans and in collaboration with agency partners.

**1c. Project Timeline:**

2024: Pre-planning and design

2025: Design, land acquisition, and engineering

2026: Design, land acquisition, engineering, and construction

2027: Design, land acquisition, engineering, and construction

2028: Design, land acquisition, engineering, and construction

**1d. Project Funding:**

<u>Capital Sources</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
Parks and Trails CIP Allocation 2024-2027	\$5.5 million	Variable: 2025-2028
State Bonding	\$5.5 million	2029

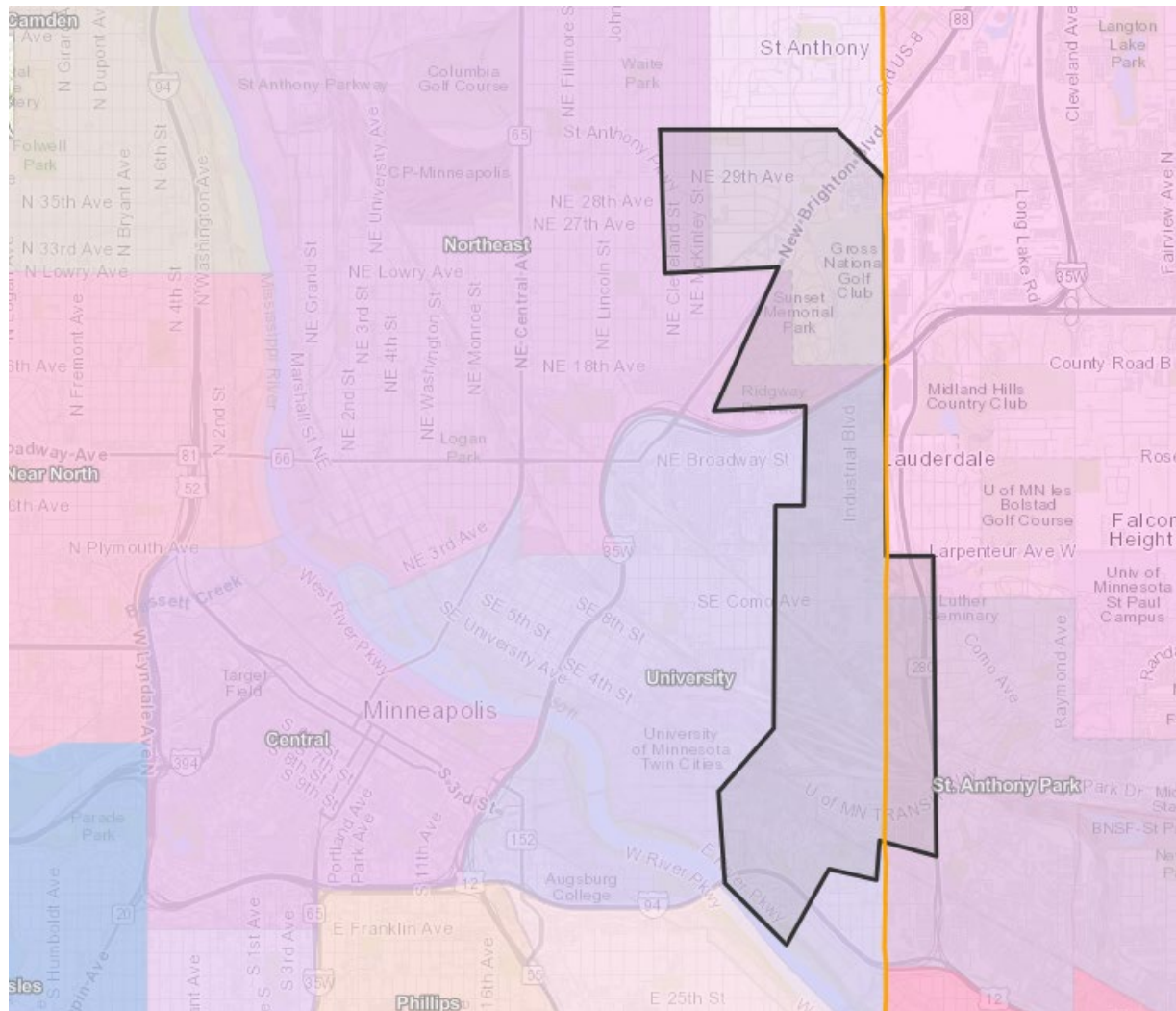
<u>Supplemental Sources</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
Total:	\$11 million	2029

## 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.)*

Since this project will serve a regional audience, the engagement area includes the region with a specific focus on the neighborhoods adjacent to the Grand Rounds of Minneapolis that stretches from East River Road and Franklin Avenue in SE Minneapolis to Stinson Parkway and St Anthony Parkway in NE Minneapolis. The neighborhoods that are influenced include Northeast Park, Mid-City Industrial, Southeast Como, Prospect Park, University of Minnesota Neighborhood, St. Anthony Park (St. Paul), and the City of St. Anthony Village. The following demographics include regional and neighborhood-based data. The neighborhood specific boundary is represented in the map below.

**2b. What are the demographics of the community engagement area?** Source: MN Compass



Demographic Characteristic	GRML Adjacent Neighborhood Area	Twin Cities Region
<b>Age</b>	57% between ages 18-34	24% between ages of 18-34
	12% under 18	24% under 18
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	16% identifies as Asian or Pacific Islander alone	8% identifies as Asian or Pacific Islander alone
	30% identifies as BIPOC or multi-racial	26% identifies as BIPOC or multi-racial
<b>Language</b>	23% speaks a language other than English	16% speaks a language other than English
<b>Income</b>	28% of people below the poverty line	9% of people below the poverty line
<b>Transportation</b>	32% walked, biked, worked at home	18% walked, biked, worked at home
	13% uses public transportation to get to work	4% uses public transportation to get to work
	19% doesn't own a car	7% doesn't own a car

**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:**

[2019 GRML Master Plan](#) -- This Master Plan was created after it was determined that the GRML Plan from 2009 needed an update in order to meet Metropolitan Council requirements for approval. The current plan is considered a regional linking trail per the Metropolitan Council's requirements and includes a proposed trail route with potential alternative pathways for certain portions. It also outlines intersection considerations, suggested trailside amenities, and estimated costs.

Trail Design Route Considerations (pg. 276-277):

- Feasible
- Vision founded on interagency coordination
- MPRB Parkway typology wherever possible
- Connect the river to St. Anthony Parkway
- Consider the importance of industry to the city
- Mitigate environmental justice challenges in industrial areas and corridors near freeways
- Be an asset to the neighborhoods through which it passes
- Be a safe route for all users
- Have regional trail connections to public transportation

[East of the River Parks Master Plan](#) -- The GRML is inextricably intertwined with the neighborhood facilities in the ERPMP project area as well as other current and planned regional trail connections.

[St. Anthony Parkway Regional Master Plan](#)

[2009 GRML Master Plan](#)

[Southeast Como Improvement Association Small Area Plan](#)

[St. Anthony Village 2040 Comprehensive Plan](#)

[Lauderdale 2040 Comprehensive Plan](#)

[St. Anthony Park Comprehensive Plan Final Draft](#)

[Mississippi Gorge Regional Park Master Plan](#)

[2000 Bikeways Report](#)

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

What is the confirmed final route? What is the final design plan? Where will land need to be acquired in order to complete the route?

**3. Community Engagement:**

**3a. Identify Project Stakeholders**

<b>Project Stakeholder</b> <i>(students, ethnic communities, neighborhood groups, community leaders)</i>	<b>Outreach: How will you reach out to the stakeholder?</b> <i>(i.e. go to parks, neighborhood listserv, engage with cultural media)</i>	<b>Engagement: How will they participate?</b> <i>(i. e. online survey, focus group, community open house, intercept survey)</i>	<b>Reflecting Back: How will stakeholder groups be reflected back to about the project progress or outcomes?</b> <i>(Posted on project website, ribbon cutting, e-blast, site visit, celebration)</i>
Neighborhood Orgs; Northeast Park Neighborhood Association (NEPNA), Southeast Como Improvement Association, Prospect Park Association (PPA), St. Anthony Park Community Council (SAPCC), City of St. Anthony Village resident groups	At key project miles stones, presentations to resident boards and share out news alerts with neighborhood newspapers and social media. Partner with other agencies when possible on overlapping projects and engagement	Input on design and share informational opportunities. Provide online and in person feedback opportunities.	Share final designs on website and at project sites when possible. Host community celebrations as the project phases are completed.

Residents along GMRL proposed route; Minneapolis and St. Anthony Village	Signage in area, check-ins at project milestones, presentations to resident boards and share out news alerts with neighborhood newspapers and social media. Partner with other agencies when possible on overlapping projects and engagement	Input on design and share informational opportunities. Provide online and in person feedback opportunities.	Share final designs on website and at project sites when possible. Host community celebrations as the project phases are completed.
Regional Park Users	Project website, news releases, and signage on route with multilingual outreach	Input on design and share informational opportunities. Provide online and in person feedback opportunities.	Share final designs on website and at project sites when possible. Host community celebrations as the project phases are completed.
New or Potential Park Users	Project website, news releases, signage, and multilingual outreach	Input on design and share informational opportunities. Provide online and in person feedback opportunities.	Share final designs on website and at project sites when possible. Host community celebrations as the project phases are completed.
Local Businesses	Reach out to local business associations via email and website and meetings. Partner with other agencies when possible on overlapping projects and engagement	Input on design and share informational opportunities. Provide online and in person feedback opportunities.	Share final designs on website and at project sites when possible. Host community celebrations as the project phases are completed.
Partner Agencies: City of St Anthony Village, MnDOT, City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County	Develop a Technical Advisory Committee	Share draft designs for feedback at key project milestones.	Share final designs on website and at project sites when possible. Host community celebrations as the

	with reps from these agencies		project phases are completed.
Renters	Reach out to housing management companies for rental units along the route. Door knocking at public housing or other affordable housing developments. Partner with other agencies when possible on overlapping projects and engagement	Share draft designs for feedback at key project milestones both online and in person.	Share final designs on website and at project sites when possible. Host community celebrations as the project phases are completed.
Students	Share information at UofM events, student clubs, and classes.	Share draft designs for feedback at key project milestones. Collaborate with classes and student groups on designs.	Share final designs on website and at project sites when possible. Host community celebrations as the project phases are completed.
Bike/Pedestrian/Transit Advocates	Attend pedestrian and bicycle advisory committees for City and County. Partner with other agencies when possible on overlapping projects and engagement.	Share draft designs for feedback at key project milestones.	Share final designs on website and at project sites when possible. Host community celebrations as the project phases are completed.

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

Partner with other agencies on projects that fall on their geographies. For example, work with Hennepin County along Hennepin Avenue and 27<sup>th</sup> Ave SE. Work with the City of Minneapolis along Industrial and the City of SAV along St Anthony Parkway. Continue the following collaborations:

**University of Minnesota:** MPRB and the UofM have been coordinating a land swap that includes portions of the GRML routes along 27th south of Como Avenue in the SE Como neighborhood and 29th at the Transitway in the Prospect Park neighborhood.

**Hennepin County:** Initial conversation about building off-street trail as part of Hennepin Avenue roadway project

**City of Minneapolis:** The City of Minneapolis Transportation Planning group has been supportive of co-development of an off-street shared use trail on Industrial Blvd and has also expressed initial support for the trail along the City-owned segments of 27th Ave SE.

**St Anthony Village:** Interagency coordination and community engagement needed for on-street and off-street trail segments on St Anthony Parkway between Stinson and Broadway.

**Mississippi Watershed Management Organization:** They have been important partners in the Towerside Innovation District thinking through stacked functions of parkland, trail, stormwater, and habitat.

**Neighborhoods and Community Members:** SE Como, Mid City Industrial, and Prospect Park neighborhood were all involved in the Grand Rounds Missing Link master planning process in 2019. Prospect Park, as well, as the adjacent Towerside Innovation District, have been champions of the GRML route passing through the Towerside District. Members of the SE Como neighborhood have requested terms for the bonding allocation that focus on acquisition and development of the trail north of the RR, which aligns with MPRB's priorities.

### 3b. Advisory Committees:

<b>Technical Advisory Committee:</b> This roster is a list of agencies and groups that are on the TAC
Hennepin County
Railroad
City of Minneapolis
City of St. Anthony Village
MnDOT

<b>Project Advisory Committee:</b> This roster is a list of MPRB departments and divisions that are on the PAC
Police
Design
CCVP
Asset Management
Environmental Stewardship

### 3c. Will a Community Advisory Committee be required for this project, program, or initiative? Y/N

NO

### 4. Analysis:

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



Design elements based on plan, preference of routes. Continued input on all three routes – continue to explore opportunities on all routes north of the railroad and work to mitigate community concerns for any of the routes. Use cost estimates to drive feasible alternatives too.

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

The Grand Rounds Missing Link represents a park gap in Minneapolis that has underserved both residents in surrounding neighborhoods as well as users of the regional system.

**4c. Identify one or more key project milestones when project evaluation will be performed** *(i.e. Draft design review, draft policy review, project mid-point)*

Each year or at key project or funding milestones, a summary of engagement will be analyzed throughout the project timeline to ensure that goals are being met.

**5. Evaluation Summary:** *To be completed at one or more project milestones as identified in 4c.*

**5a. Who was engaged during the process?** *(i.e. demographic info from online survey participants, the CAC, and community engagement whenever possible. Refer back to Section 2 in the CE Plan and how your engagement reflects the diversity of the community in the engagement area.)*

**5b. How did the engagement inform the project outcome?** *(i.e. public tabulation and amendments following a public comment period)*

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

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

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

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

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

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