



TO: Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

FROM: Michael Schroeder, Assistant Superintendent, Planning

DATE: 7 May 2024

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ASSESSMENT PLAN FOR NORTH MISSISSIPPI REGIONAL PARK PLAN

BACKGROUND

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is currently developing a 30-year community-driven park plan aimed at envisioning the future of North Mississippi Regional Park. MPRB staff will actively engage with the community to co-create this vision, fostering a profound sense of ownership and inclusivity throughout the planning process. The plan will comprehensively address the maintenance, operation, and enhancement of North Mississippi over the next 20 to 30 years.

North Mississippi Regional Park runs between I-94 and the shoreline of the Mississippi River, from North 42nd Avenue to 53rd Avenue North. The park further extends to the west to include a portion of Webber Park and the 49th Avenue Corridor. Webber Park is administratively split between the neighborhood park called Webber Park, and North Mississippi Regional Park. The boundary line between these two parks runs between the natural swimming pool building and the tennis courts. The trail along Webber Parkway is included in North Mississippi's portion of the park and connects North Mississippi to the Grand Rounds Scenic Byway System through a connection with Victory Memorial Parkway. An additional connection to the Grand Rounds Byway can be found at the park's southern boundary, where there is a connection to the St. Anthony Parkway.

The community engagement assessment (Attachment A) establishes the engagement level for the project, while the community engagement plan (Attachment B) outlines background and practices for engaging the community in the project.

This discussion items supports the following goals and strategies in Parks for All, the MPRB Comprehensive Plan 2021-2036:

Goal:

01. Foster belonging and equity

Strategy:

1.5: Identify and remove barriers to park access as a way of fostering economic, psychological, social and cultural resilience for new and current park users.



02. Steward a continuum of nature and recreation

2.4: Create, interpret and program nature-based experiences, including but not limited to environmental education, community gardens, and bird watching, across the city, especially in parts of the city that don't have access to regional parks, to foster stewardship of nature, joy, and to introduce new users to the park system.

06. Strengthen ecological connections

6.12: Enhance connections to natural spaces in our park system through education, programming, interpretation, experiences, volunteerism and accessible facilities for a diverse and multi-generational audience.

Attachments:

1. Attachment A - Community Engagement Assessment
2. Attachment B - Community Engagement Plan

Jbr 5.7.2024.