



Date of Board P+C: September 25, 2025
Date of Board Approval (for CAC's only):
Date of Most Recent Update: September 11, 2025

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: Shane Stenzel and Kristina Anderson

Department or Division: Visitor Services/Deputy

Project Name: Gateway Park Improvements (enhancements for programming)

Engagement Level: Consult, Involve, or Partner *(See Engagement Assessment attached)*

This plan serves as a guide for the community engagement process for the Gateway Park Improvements (enhancements for programming). 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:

Gateway Park visitors and park neighbors.

1. Project Description

1a. Project Overview:

Investment in infrastructure to support programs and activations within the park.

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

(Foster belonging and equity) Goal 1, Strategy 4

1c. Project Timeline:

Concept design/public engagement Summer/Fall 2025

Park improvements Winter/Spring 2025/2026

Programming/Activation to begin Spring 2026

1d. Project Funding:

<u>Capital Sources</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
Park Dedication	\$350,000	Spring 2026

<u>Supplemental Sources</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Expiration</u>
Total:		

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.)*

Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association

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.)*

Within 2000 feet of the park:

19,013 total population

69% White, 11% Black, 10% Asian, 4% Hispanic/Latino, 1% American Indian/Alaskan-Native, 4% 2 or more races, 1% other

The largest age-group population 25-29 years of age

1,571 under the age of 18

4,456 over the age of 55

13% identify as disabled

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 purpose of community research is to collect data that will best inform specific project decisions or strategic direction and support the policy goals of effective community engagement. Research completed in advance of and during project development may include review of previously completed directives or mandates, activity plans, master plans, community studies, industry trends and historical and demographic data. MPRB staff is responsible for determining the research data necessary to support and document decision-making for a project and building off prior community engaged planning, policy, and design.*

The Downtown Service Area long-range plan provides guidance related to this park. The activations and associated infrastructure are anticipated to align with and build upon the direction of this previous work.

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

Engagement with park users/patrons as not all who use the park are residents.

3. Community Engagement:

3a. Identify Project Stakeholders

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, projects, programs, and initiatives.*
- 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>
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Neighborhood groups	Through on-site presence and through DMNA	Community Open House and presentation to the neighborhood association (DMNA Land-use Committee)	Project website, e-blast, site celebration

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

3b. Advisory Committees: N/a

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

Project Advisory Committee: This roster is a list of MPRB departments and divisions that are on the PAC
Planning
Park Police
Asset Management
CCVP
Visitor Services

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

If yes, complete 3d-3g. If no, please delete 3d-3g from the CE Plan.

No.

4. Analysis:

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

What kinds of activations would you like to see in the park?

Collect feedback on suggested program and associated infrastructure ideas.

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

Activating and programming a space that currently doesn't have any programs/events

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)*

Fall 2025 – draft design review

Spring 2026 – project completion

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?