

## Major Park Direction – Numbers 1 - 3

### *1. DO NOT PROCEED WITH PARK DEVELOPMENT at this time* (CAC Charge: Park design, park process)

- 1A. Developing a park at this time will advance the adjacent development and cause displacement or other negative impacts to vulnerable Northside residents.
- 1B. It is premature to develop a park until more anti-displacement measures are in place
- 1C. Prior to proceeding with park development, MPRB should conduct discussions with Dakota community leaders and members to offer the land back or leadership to determine the outcome of the project.
- 1D. Prior to proceeding with park development, MPRB should restart the park process to allow for Northside community leadership.

### *2. PROCEED WITH CLEANING UP THE INDUSTRIAL SITE, RESTORING THE LAND, AND MINIMAL CIRCULATION COMMITMENTS but do not proceed with further park amenities* (CAC Charge: Goals, Principles, Park Design)

- 2A. MPRB should proceed with land transaction and obtain the land from the City.
- 2B. Maximize site clean-up and removal of industrial structures.
- 2C. Focus on environmental healing by restoring the land with vegetation, stormwater management, and contaminated soil treatment.
- 2D. Provide minimal circulation such as a riverfront trail, and necessary safety measures such as railings along the existing river wall.

### *3. BUILD JUST ENOUGH PARK to allow the site to safely function as a public place and support deliberate programming and staffing. Beyond basic improvements, focus on site clean-up and environmental restoration.* (CAC Charge: Goals, Principles, Park Design)

- 3A. Maximize site clean-up and removal of industrial structures that take up significant space
- 3B. Focus on environmental healing: restore the land with vegetation, stormwater management, contaminated soil treatment, renewable materials selection, and strategies to mitigate climate change.
- 3C. Provide necessary infrastructure to support engagement at the park, as well as staffing and programming. Physical improvements should include staff space, storage, basic circulation, flexible accessible (paved) area, flexible green space, restrooms, site furnishings, public shelter, vegetation, and infrastructure for lights, water, parking, etc. Focus on support for community members, support use by large families, people with disabilities, provide a shuttle to supplement transportation options.
- 3D. Physical improvements should be adequate and flexible enough to support commonly requested experiences such as picnicking, outdoor classes, informal events such as family gatherings, markets, performances, and other local events, individual use, and outdoor play.

- 3E. Design to minimize conflict with the adjacent venue – deter queuing in the park, avoid placing park uses nearby that will conflict with potential noise and crowds.
- 3F. With dedicated budget, embed art and expression into the park to support Northside artists and create a strong sense of ownership and belonging by Northside community members.
- 3G. Continue work with Dakota community members to respectfully acknowledge the land, respect treaty rights, create places for access, gathering, and harvesting, and support education, language, and Indigenous land management and cultural practices.

### *Park Detail Recommendations*

4. *SLOW DOWN park development and allow for park to evolve once more is known about adjacent development and how Northside community members are connecting with the park. It is premature to create a full concept plan until there is increased confidence that the park will serve American Descendants of Slavery (ADOS), Dakota, and Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) residents.* (CAC Charge: Goals, Principles, Park Design)
  - 4A. Slow the full build out of a physical park until residents feel there is a larger strategy in place to prevent displacement of North and Northeast residents.
  - 4B. Slow the full build out of a physical park until transportation barriers can be addressed at each stage of park implementation.
  - 4C. Do not create a full concept so that the park future is undetermined and not a basis for speculative development investment.
  - 4D. The program model generally reflects desired experiences at the park, however the details of how these experiences can be delivered in the park cannot be determined until the adjacent development, in particular, but not exclusive to the venue, is better understood. In addition, physical park features are not enough to shape experiences; providing basic spaces will allow community members to engage more with the park, allow MPRB to build and test staffing, programming, and support for community members. The ten program experiences include connecting with the river, holding a large event, holding small gatherings and events, enjoying food through growing, harvesting, buying, and picnicking, relaxing in nature, learning and education, visitor support such as shelter and restrooms, intergenerational play areas, movement and exercise, and winter activities.
  - 4E. Park should be developed with the Just Green Enough or Slow Park development approach with a focus on local community needs. (Definition: For the purposes of this project “just green enough” is a space that serves the surrounding community first and foremost and seeks to reduce the risks of displacement or lack of ownership by current Northside residents. A park that is “just green enough” is not intended to mean either disinvestment in a community or a low-quality park or a low amount of green, vegetated space. Beginning with more basic improvements is also known as the Slow Park movement and is an evolving strategy to combat gentrification resulting from green space development. Slowing the rate of change, particularly if combined with efforts to build local connections, can help

avoid cultural gentrification. When creating a new park, starting with just enough features to support local use, allows the park users to help shape more of the space after they've gotten to know it. Future park development could be deferred unless community members feel improvements will not add to the risk of gentrification.)

5. *MAXIMIZE COMMUNITY OPTIONS AND CONTROL over park development by investing only in basic, flexible, and generally reversible park improvements.* (CAC Charge: Park process)

- 5A. Redefine engagement from MPRB led institutional engagement to more collaborative working partnerships while building and operating the park.
- 5B. Approach park construction and funding so that the first phase of park improvements is continuation of engagement rather than an end. MPRB should set up more supportive opportunities for community members to help create the park details and build the park as a more collaborative and iterative approach to community involvement.
- 5C. Park should be flexible and adaptable, allowing for evolution once it is used and known by the public. First phase improvements should be easily reversible and include mechanisms that push MPRB to return to engagement and future park development.
- 5D. Allow for future removal of the river wall and restoration of an ecological edge.
- 5E. Report back to community members. Provide public information about implementation process and operations process using Green Zone and Promise Zone goals and report back to the Northern Green Zone Task Force.
- 5F. Communicate promises for future actions into the park as a public accountability measure. For example, hire local artists to incorporate language around continuation of engagement and further park improvements directly into site murals, etc.
- 5G. Name the park something that is meaningful to both North Minneapolis residents and Dakota people. Conduct a name exploration process that engages the Northside community members and Dakota people; explore a name in the Dakota language.
- 5H. Revisit full park concept design after community members can experiment in initial park spaces. If the goals of a Northside park that benefits ADOS, Dakota, and BIPOC residents are not being met, modify park design and/or operations.

6. *INVEST IN THE NORTHSIDE PEOPLE when building the park. Prioritize American Descendants of Slavery (ADOS), Dakota, and Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) people when building working relationships and capacity.* (CAC Charge: Job creation, anti-displacement, community benefits)

- 6A. Maximize investment in the North Minneapolis community during the implementation process by hiring Northside businesses and organizations and providing opportunities to build skills. Embed people and organizations into the park construction in a way that increases accountability.

- 6B. Maximize construction investment in ADOS, Dakota, and BIPOC community businesses and organizations. Prioritize hiring people in North Minneapolis but also support business development in a wider area. Find opportunities to create cradle to career pathways through a variety of tools including mentorship and capacity building opportunities.

7. *PROGRAM AND STAFF the park to support and connect Northside residents and to build ownership in the park. Prioritize American Descendants of Slavery (ADOS), Dakota, and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) people when building working relationships and capacity.* (CAC Charge: Job creation, anti-displacement, community benefits)

- 7A. Program and operate the park to intentionally create ownership and connections with ADOS, Dakota, and BIPOC (emphasis on Black and Indigenous) residents as important as the physical park development.
- 7B. Activate the park with appropriate and supportive programming. Do not focus on programming that requires significant capital and equipment in order to enjoy park amenities and provide equipment for check out when needed. Do not overly focus on consumption where purchasing something is the primary event or people feel out of place if they are not buying. When there are opportunities to purchase food or materials at the park, provide enterprise opportunities to Northside and Black, Indigenous, and BIPOC partners.
- 7C. Use employment as a tool to activate and care for the park, invest in the community, and teach skills related to the river, ecological areas, green infrastructure, and recreation. Invite ADOS, Dakota, and BIPOC resident leadership and staffing; avoid leading with primarily white agencies and organizations.
- 7D. Link water access, which is a sport typically dominated by white users, with the ability to provide significant programming to ensure ADOS, Dakota, and BIPOC use. Provide a way to control access to this amenity should MPRB be unable to maintain programming in the future.
- 7E. Emphasize positive park activation through programming and employment and partnerships as a security mechanism, rather than policing.
- 7F. Manage some public parking specifically for park users, actively manage to deter development and venue users from using dedicated park parking.

8. *ADDRESS LARGER ISSUES at MPRB that may be outside of the immediate UHT boundary, but impact work at this park and elsewhere in the system.* (CAC Charge: Park process)

- 9A. MPRB, as an agency, should explore the larger question of reparations to Black/ American Descendants of Slavery. While this exploration needs to extend beyond the scope and boundaries of this project, the need for discussion and action impacts all park projects.

- 9B. MPRB, as an agency, should explore the larger question of reparations and possibilities of giving land back to Dakota and Indigenous people. While this exploration needs to extend beyond the scope and boundaries of this project, the need for discussion and action impacts all park projects.
- 9C. Align park construction with the ability to program and staff the park to ensure that park unfolds as desired. Capital planning and design should include operations and programming as part of the process, not something that is determined after a park is built.
- 9D. Align park construction with larger forces in the area, such as development, transportation, anti-displacement measures etc. Recognize that investment in amenities that people want, may not be beneficial to community members who are vulnerable to displacement or other negative impacts of change, depending on the context and timing.

*For the purposes of discussion, the definitions below are in the MPRB Comprehensive Plan draft that is currently posted for public comment*

MPRB Comprehensive Plan Draft Definition of Gentrification: Refers to the modification of a neighborhood, typically due to an increase in “desirability”. This change often brings increased property values, new and different businesses to the area, and may be signaled by storefront renovations, public works projects, or neighborhood “rebranding”. However, the increased wealth and economic gains are not experienced equally by all residents. New residents are more likely to benefit while existing residents are disproportionately burdened with increased property taxes, and prices of food and necessities.

MPRB Comprehensive Plan Draft Definition of Displacement: Refers to the forced relocation of a household FROM a neighborhood for reasons beyond their control. Large-scale displacement across a neighborhood can change the community demographically, economically, physically, and socially.