

Community Engagement



Why is it important to engage the community?

The City of Minneapolis defines the primary purpose of community engagement as the empowerment of people to influence government decisions that shape their city and their lives. Community engagement refers to the many ways in which the City connects with its residents and communities in the development and implementation of policies, programs, and services. It is the process of working collaboratively with the community to address issues affecting their lives. Furthermore, engagement acknowledges the right of residents to have a say and to get involved in the business of government. The City recognizes that the community is a valuable source of expertise to influence government decisions that improve the quality and delivery of public services.

Core Principles of Community Engagement*

Right to be involved – Public participation is based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process.

Contribution will be thoughtfully considered – Public participation includes the promise that the public's contribution will be thoughtfully considered.

Recognize the needs of all – Public participation promotes sustainable decisions by recognizing and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision-makers.

Seek out involvement – Public participation seeks out and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision.

Participants design participation – Public participation seeks input from participants in designing how they participate.

Adequate information – Public participation provides participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way.

Known effect of participation – Public participation communicates to participants how their input affected the decision.

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