

# City Public Realm Framework Plan and MPRB Downtown Service Area Master Plan

## Project Description

The Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board (MPRB) and the City of Minneapolis are beginning a planning process to develop a Downtown Public Realm Framework and MPRB Downtown Service Area Master Plan. Both projects will consider downtown initiatives including the Super Bowl and other large event planning, projected growth trends in downtown, activation and programming of public and private spaces in downtown, and planned large scale investments in RiverFirst, the Central Mississippi Riverfront Master Plan as well as urban public realm improvements on Nicollet Mall, Downtown Commons, and others.

These documents will inform planning, development and management of public resources and assets in downtown Minneapolis while clarifying opportunities for private investment and coordination. The MPRB's plan will focus on the downtown park system building on existing parks and trails, while the City's will focus on the urban network of streets, urban plazas and spaces. It is envisioned that the documents will be related but separate, and each will be approved through our respective elected bodies. There are two guiding bodies to inform the development of the plans and process, these are the Steering Committee (also functioning as the Community Advisory Committee for the MPRB plan) and the Technical Advisory Committee.

A **Public Realm Framework Plan** is a thematic plan led by CPED is a guiding policy document for the management of the pedestrian experience in key areas of the city. It is focused on guiding the enhancement of priority streets and public spaces. The purpose of a Public Realm Framework strategy is to provide unified guidance to inform and coordinate the work of public and private entities that shape the public realm within a certain geographic area. A Public Realm Framework includes an inventory of existing policies, practices, and elements in the public realm. The Downtown Public Realm Framework will be the first plan of its kind to be adopted by the City. It is intended to inform and guide outcomes in capital planning, site plan review, and public/private partnership toward the coordinated enhancement of the public realm.

The **Downtown Service Area Master Plan** will be led by the MPRB. The MPRB is embarking on an ambitious and critical effort to master plan every service area within Minneapolis—and all the park assets that lie within them. These master plans will guide system-wide capital improvements, management, and operations of public parks. In downtown, this will include envisioning and identifying new park and recreation opportunities. The project approach will be comprehensive and multi-faceted—examining demographics, recreation needs, condition of current assets, best practices in urban park and recreation, and existing service gaps. The final plan will set the vision for future park and recreation development in the downtown area, and establish a new, urban model for service delivery, maintenance, funding, and operation of parks in downtown Minneapolis.

## **Steering Committee/Community Advisory Committee Charge:**

### **Composition:**

The Steering Committee/Community Advisory Committee shall be comprised of appointments from the following:

- Park Board President Wielinski
- Commissioners: Tabb, Olson, Forney, Erwin and Young
- Minneapolis Mayor Betsy Hodges
- Council Members: Goodman, Frey, Yang, and Warsame
- The Chair of the Minneapolis Schools Board of Education
- North Loop Neighborhood Association
- Citizens for Loring Park
- Elliot Park Neighborhood Inc.
- Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association
- East Downtown Council
- Downtown Council
- Downtown Improvement District
- Warehouse Business Association

The Steering Committee/Community Advisory Committee shall for both plans:

- Become knowledgeable about the project and its scope and advise staff and consultants throughout the planning process.
- Contribute to broad community engagement by acting as primary contact for the steering committee's represented communities, and by enhancing the project's interaction with a wide range of stakeholders.
- Assist with ongoing communication of technical plan elements to the general public.

For the MPRB's Downtown Service Area Master Plan the Steering Committee/Community Advisory Committee shall:

- Make recommendations to the MPRB Commissioners on service area-wide vision, goals, and principles.
- Make recommendations to the MPRB Commissioners in support of individual park master plans created through community-driven processes.

For the City's Public Realm Framework Plan the Steering Committee/Community Advisory Committee shall:

- Provide input on the plan and plan activities, act as sounding board for concepts and offer preliminary feedback on plan concepts in preparation for broader engagement activities and final draft development

- Represent values of their representative organization offering perspective and engaging in dialog on how the plan can both serve and function to guide the enhancement of the public realm.
- Offer guidance, expertise and suggestions throughout the planning process responding to content provided
- Review and suggest priorities, facilitate and participate in discussion maximizing dialog and conversation around themes and values discovered through the planning process

**Technical Advisory Committee Charge:**

**Composition:**

The Technical Advisory Committee shall be comprised of appointments from the following:

- Public Works
- Downtown Council
- Downtown Improvement District
- Hennepin County
- Minneapolis Arts Commission
- Minneapolis Ped Advisory Committee
- Minneapolis Bike Advisory Committee
- Met Transit
- Minnesota Sports Facility Authority
- Convention Center
- Meet Minneapolis
- National Park Service
- Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities
- Minneapolis Public Health Advisory Committee
- Ballpark Authority
- Heritage Preservation Commission
- Downtown Skyway Advisory Committee
- Tree Advisory Commission
- Youth Coordinating Board
- Greening Downtown Conservancy
- Parks Foundation
- Minneapolis Riverfront Partnership
- Council Member Policy Aides-Goodman, Frey, Yang, and Warsame
- City of Minneapolis Finance
- City Attorney's Office

- CPED-Long Range Planning, Development Services, and Economic Development and Policy

The Technical Advisory Committee shall for both plans:

- Become knowledgeable about the project and its scope.
- Advise staff and the Steering Committee throughout the planning process on technical considerations, challenges and issues associated with themes, values, design impacts and implementation strategies.
- Represent the policies and interests of their appointed public agencies. Bring technical knowledge and expertise in their field, share best practices and innovative strategies.
- The TAC will advise City staff and the Steering Committee on methods for implementing the recommended policy direction.
- TAC members are representing the work of their departments as well as their own technical knowledge. As with the Steering Committee, they must also consider:
  - City-wide policies/values
  - The satisfaction of multiple needs
  - Most importantly - feasibility of plan implementation
- The Technical Advisory Committee shall for both plans: Provide technical analysis and review, comments and recommendations on draft plan documents, programs, studies and issues.
- Provide technical feedback on the impact and implications of plan concepts in preparation for broader engagement activities and final draft development
- Engage the TAC in meaningful discussion around feasibility, challenges and opportunities
- Advise and reference appropriate zoning, regulatory, and ordinances relevant to the plan
- Identify funding partnerships and opportunities for dedicated revenue supporting the public realm

**Process:**

The City’s Downtown Public Realm Framework Plan will follow the standard City Approval Process for thematic plans and MPRB’s Downtown Service Area Master Plan will follow their standard process as outlined below:

