

Phase 1 Community Engagement Part 2

Cedar Lake & Lake of the Isles Master Plan

The Cedar Lake & Lake of the Isles Master Plan (Cedar-Isles) will create a vision for the lakes and their surrounding parkland for the next 20+ years. During Phase 1 of community engagement, the Cedar-Isles Master Plan employed a number of methods to gather community input on the vision and opportunities that exist around the lakes today.

This report is a compliment to the [Phase 1 Community Engagement Summary Report](#) and provides a summary of work from the second round of Community Collaborators whose work took place from May through September of 2021. To view videos and additional photos from both rounds of the Community Collaborator engagement, visit: bit.ly/cedar-isles

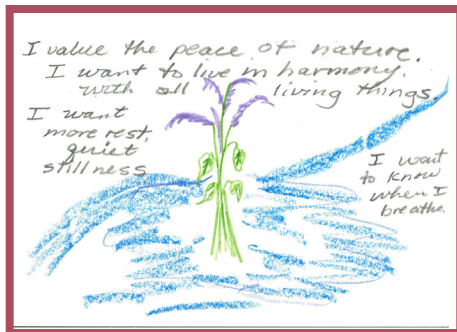
Community Collaborators

To broaden the voices heard through engagement efforts, project staff sought Community Collaborator services from businesses, institutions, nonprofits, and cultural organizations to design and implement an engagement project that helped MPRB build relationships and gather community feedback. The Community Collaborator initiative is a paid opportunity for groups across the region to convene their own conversations about parks and recreation to inform the design and priorities for the Master Plan. A selection committee (made up of MPRB staff and CAC members) evaluated proposals looking for collaborators with existing relationships with identified underrepresented communities; and creative, innovative ways to engagement community through digital and/or socially distanced platforms.

Anna Haglin



NibiWalk



The Witness Project



Excerpt from The Journey to Be Born Again by Manling Chen



Minneapolis
Park & Recreation Board

Anna Haglin, artist

Anna Haglin engaged a group of people with disabilities and caretakers, who participate in a program based outside Minneapolis, in an art class at Cedar Lake South Beach. The goals were to provide people with disabilities who live out of the project area a creative outlet; understand what their needs might be in a public, outdoor space; and exhibit creative ideas.

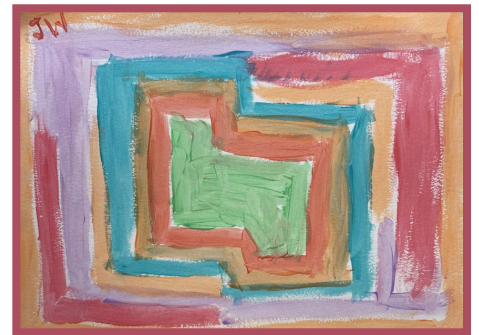
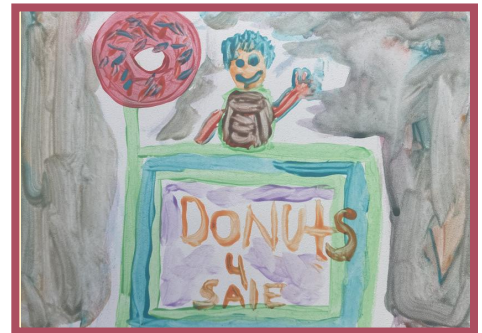
During the class, participants learned how to create paint and could make some themselves, could make a painting, and had a conversation about their thoughts and ideas for the park. None of the participants had been to the project area before or knew that it existed.

Themes From Participants

- » No affordable food options within a few blocks of the park
- » Fruit trees could provide affordable food in the park
- » Not as interested in visiting lakes with polluted water
- » Challenging to get to the park alone
- » Accessibility to the park; arts and culture; and diversity and inclusion could be improved

Who the Project Engaged

- » People with disabilities and caretakers
- » People who lived outside of the Cedar Lake-Lake of the Isles project area



Images above are some of the art pieces created by participants

The Witness Project

The Witness Project, based in North Minneapolis, worked with writers from their program to develop a literary documentary of essays and poems about Theodore Wirth Park, Cedar Lake, and/or Lake of the Isles. The document provides input from the program's community and was used to start a community conversation about the future of the parks.

To develop the literary documentary, documentarians spent at least a few hours in the parks during the spring and summer of 2021 before writing their piece. The document was then put together and discussed at a community conversation in September.

Themes From the Literary Documentary

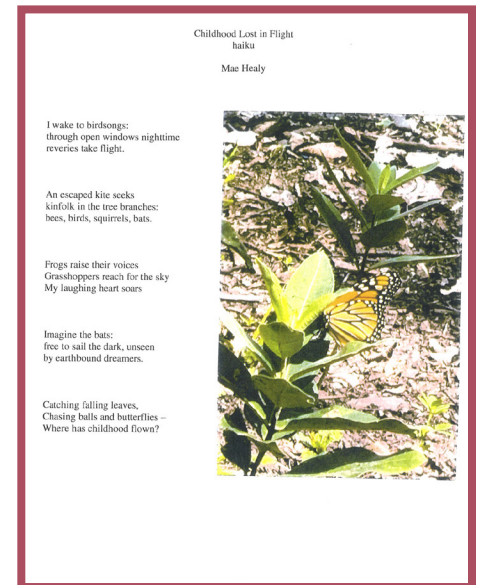
- » Indigenous names and connections to land are important
- » Forced removal of Indigenous people and the use of racial covenants are parts of the history in the development of Minneapolis and the park system.
- » Concerns for safety
- » The area has seen many landscape and name changes primarily through a European American lens
- » There's a lack of diversity in park users
- » Being in nature is important
- » Parks can be a place for new discoveries and finding calm
- » Parks should have a variety of activities for all people to enjoy
- » A variety of different animals, insects, and landscapes can be found and enjoyed in the parks
- » This plan is an opportunity to create welcoming spaces for everyone through names, landscape, and amenities.

Who the Project Engaged

- » Historically silenced voices
- » Northside writers



Cover of the literary documentary featuring artwork by Robin Getsug



Childhood Lost in Flight: haiku by Mae Healy