

Impact Report 2013

The Minneapolis Parks Foundation (MPF) helps ensure the health of the Twin Cities by creating the Next Generation of Parks™ to enjoy today and for generations to come.

Unlike any other Minnesota non-profit or government agency, MPF specializes in parks and city building and involves the private sector in envisioning, shaping and funding the Next Generation of Parks™. Here are some of the ways we've made an impact in 2013.

Organizational Development

As part of strengthening our capacity and philanthropy in order to fulfill our mission, we:

- Expanded the Board from 20 to 26 members.
- Implemented a four-month strategic planning process and delivered a Board-approved Strategic Plan in November.
- Completed a three-year interim Capacity Building plan.

Parks Projects

RiverFirst Initiative

MPF is partnering with the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) and a collaborative network of government agencies and community organizations to transform 5.5 miles of the Upper Riverfront and create visionary regional parks that reconnect historically disconnected and underserved communities in North and Northeast Minneapolis. In our leadership role we:

- Initiated the first formal public-private fundraising partnership agreement with MPRB, paving the way to private sector leadership in RiverFirst.
- Co-developed and implemented the RiverFirst Initiative, a first-of-its-kind partnership between the private sector, MPRB and the City of Minneapolis to coordinate communications and stakeholder engagement.
- Managed the development of the RiverFirst Finance Strategy, a five-year comprehensive roadmap for joint public and private fundraising for RiverFirst Priority Projects.



Community member participating in Water Works schematic design process, September 2013, Mill City Museum.

Water Works – A RiverFirst Signature Project

MPF is co-leading and wholly funding the design phase for Water Works, a future year-round destination located on a Minneapolis Park Board-owned site within the Central Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park. The strategic location draws 1.8 million visitors a year to experience St. Anthony Falls and explore a concentration of built features, including the historic Stone Arch Bridge, Mill Ruins Park, the Mill City Museum and Lock and Dam. As project lead we:

- Launched and co-managed the schematic design process, including project goals and outcomes, design team selection process, community engagement and concept development oversight.
- Secured over \$200,000 in private funding for this phase; working with our Board of Directors to secure remaining \$200,000 by Q1 2014.
- The selected design team of SCAPE/Rogers Partners and James Lima is on track to deliver the proposed park design in early 2014.

Educational Programs

Next Generation of Parks™ Lecture Series

Begun in 2010, this inspirational series of free public events featuring global design stars and award winning parks. The series, hosted in partnership with the Walker Art Center and University of Minnesota College of Design, de-mystifies city building, design and the public realm and makes it accessible to the broad public. For the 2013 season, MPF:

- Hosted two of the world's top parks designers: Adrian Gueze of West 8 and Eelco Hooftman of GrossMax.
- Attracted more than 400 people to two events at the Walker Art Center.

SiteSeeing

SiteSeeing is an award winning educational initiative and interdisciplinary curriculum dedicated to cultivating the Next Generation of Parks™ stewards. This summer MPF:

- Worked with the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board to identify the Webber Park Recreation Plus school-age childcare program to participate in SiteSeeing.
- Engaged nearly a dozen North Minneapolis youth over eight weeks in the process of designing a new public space in their neighborhood, encompassing Bassett Creek and a shuttered elementary school.
- Retained and trained two graduate student-instructors from the Landscape Architecture program of the University of Minnesota College of Design.

Research Assistant in Practice

In 2012, MPF initiated our Research Assistant in Practice partnership with the University of Minnesota College of Design. Our 2013 focus was on parks-driven city building and included:

- Online publication of a six-part series of Next Generation of Parks™ global case studies.
- Research and mapping of future strategic future park locations in Minneapolis and potential parks-making partners.



Youngsters, including Thatius (pictured), enjoyed a hands-on design experience through our SiteSeeing curriculum, Summer 2013.

If you have questions or comments regarding our past or future work, please contact our Director of External Relations, Janette Law at Janette@MplsParksFoundation.org or 612.822.3407.