

# DEVELOPING THE PIONEER PARK MASTER PLAN

## RESILIENT COMMUNITIES PROJECT

### About the Partner

The City of Little Canada is located in Ramsey County, roughly 5 miles north of downtown Saint Paul. The City has an area of approximately 4.5 square miles and a population of approximately 10,500 residents.



Little Canada's close proximity to major employment centers, its easy access to the transportation system, its abundance of natural features, and its small-town character are qualities that make it a highly desirable community.

### Project Description

The City of Little Canada is looking for unique and innovative ways to engage the community regarding planning for Pioneer Park, one of the City's premier parks. The City is in the process of developing a master plan for Pioneer Park to guide future park design, infrastructure, programming, and facilities and needs to identify new engagement strategies, given the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the completion of the Pioneer Park master plan in 2020, the City will be able to make funding decisions, update its capital improvement plan, and identify future design options for the park. It is important for elected officials to make long-term decisions and provide direction to City staff on the future of the park based on a firm understanding of what the community and stakeholders want and are willing to fund.

The City is looking for assistance with the planning process for Pioneer Park, with the goal of providing a vision for the future of the park, conducting an in-depth community engagement process, establishing objectives and strategies that support what the community would like the park to be, and generating park design options with associated costs and proposed implementation phases.

Students will be working in conjunction with City staff in multiple departments (Parks & Recreation, Community Development, Finance, and Administration), a consulting firm, stakeholders, public officials, and youth within the community.

Students will engage with residents and stakeholders, collect and analyze data, provide design concepts, and present information in a format that can be easily understood and distributed to the public, City officials, and staff.

## Key Issues, Questions, and Ideas to Explore

1. What unique and innovative community engagement strategies can the City employ virtually or otherwise, to receive feedback from the public, especially given the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic which requires physical distancing?
2. What specific strategies can be used to engage youth in the park planning process, particularly when schools are closed and youth programming is suspended due to the pandemic?
3. What national and local park trends should the City be aware of and integrate into its planning process?
4. Provide some potential park design concepts and visuals that can be incorporated into a visual preference survey or other engagement activities.
5. What are some potential local, state, and national funding sources that can be used for park enhancement projects?
6. After conducting the community engagement and analyzing the results, what priority outcomes and recommendations should be made to decision-making bodies and the City Council and staff?

## How Student Work Will Be Used to Build Community Resilience

- By helping to ensure that Pioneer Park reflects the needs and wishes of the community for the foreseeable future.

## Potential Community Partners or Stakeholders

- Community and neighborhood groups
- Youth, including local schools
- City staff and officials
- Outside user groups (i.e. softball, baseball, and soccer leagues, tournament directors, and the Little Canada Recreation Association)

## Existing Plans & Reports

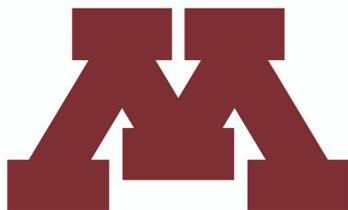
- Park System Master Plan

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