



### **Community Engagement Goals**

**Goal 1**: Increase awareness and visitation of Dakota County parks and greenways by current and potential new users, with a focus on groups underrepresented in regional park visitation.

**Goal 2:** Build an inclusive, welcoming Dakota County Parks identity.

**Goal 3:** Increase overall engagement with Dakota County Parks and Greenways.

### **Audiences of Focus**

Goal was to connect with current and new users, focusing on groups underrepresented in regional park visitation.

Audiences of focus included:

Dakota County and Regional Residents
African American Communities
Latinx Communities
Somali & East African Communities
Southeast Asian Communities
South Asian Indian Communities
American Indian/Indigenous Communities\*
Low-income households
People with disabilities
Youth
Older adults



## Community Engagement Approach

- Met with community organizations and leaders first to identify the best way to involve their communities and partner together on engagement whenever possible.
- Focused on gathering feedback and building relationships with partners and community members.
- Goal was to build a foundation for relationship-building and future partnership

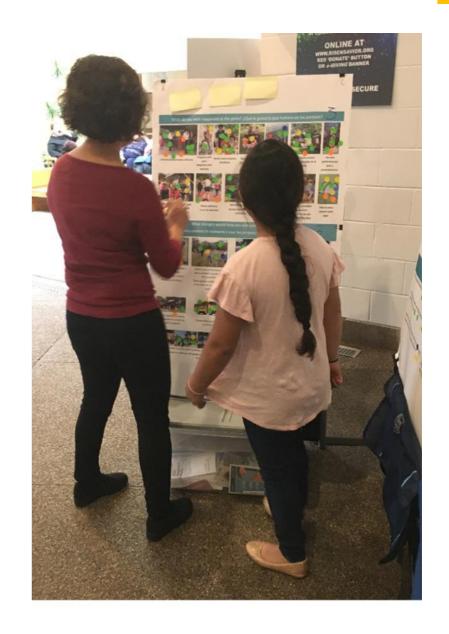




## Community Engagement Activity Summary

- 6 dialogue groups
- 41 stakeholder meetings
- 7 interviews
- Bilingual English/Spanish pop-up surveys at 25 activities with a total of 424 respondents
- A bilingual English/Spanish online survey with 710 responses

# Findings Summary Engagement



1. Culturally Appropriate & Welcoming Parks



2. Opportunities for community members to be involved in decision making



# 3. Ensure parks are accessible for all



# 4. Engage Families & Youth



5. Leverage Dakota County Parks to build community social connection



### Partnership is Everything!

#### Collaborative programs

- Skiing
- Archery
- Walks
- Hikes
- Canoeing
- Snowshoeing
- Picnics
- Family nights
- Retreats
- Zumba classes

#### Collaborative events

- Fiesta de los vecinos de Arbor Vista 2019
- Día de familias en el parque 2019
- Fiesta en la Nieve 2020 & 2022
- Somali Independence Day 2021
- Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration 2022
- Family Movie Night in the Park 2022
- Supporting Juneteenth events 2020 & 2021
- Monthly walks with Caminatas Domingueras 2022





### **Next Steps**



- Reconvene and share with partners
- Discuss highest priorities, any missing elements or changes needed
- Discuss approach for ongoing engagement, as desired by partners (forming an advisory work group or other method)
- Finalize Marketing, Awareness and Promotion implementation plan based on partner feedback and develop proposed strategy for approaching any items that fall outside the plan scope.
- Reconvene and share with partners and plan collaborative efforts moving forward.



# Questions & Discussion

- Was there anything new or that you've heard before?
- Was there anything that resonates or does not align with what you have heard or experienced?
- Thoughts, reflections, feedback or suggestions on this work moving forward?