

Historical Cultural Study Update

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

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May 4, 2023



Project scope and goals

- Understand how racism and racist practices shaped parks and trails and people of color's experiences, with the goal of building a more inclusive system moving forward
- Focus on race and racism
 - Black, indigenous, and people of color
 - Experiences, barriers, and stories
- Goals are to:
 - Educate
 - Build empathy

What we've done so far



- Working with Hess, Roise and Company, and Zan Associates
 - Hess Roise is leading the historical component of the project
 - Zan is leading the engagement work
 - Together they will produce an interactive, web-based engagement and education tool
- Held three workshops with the consultants and our regional park implementing agency partners to help guide the work and refine the scope

We have one-pagers to share!

2 versions:

- **"Internal"** - to be shared with agency and Met Council staff and leaders.
- **"External"** - we will share with advisory groups and focus group members.

exploring truths
A Historical-Cultural Study

The Metropolitan Council and park agencies want to create a more inclusive and welcoming Regional Parks and Trails System in the Metro Area.

By centering the stories and histories of Black, Indigenous, and people of color, this project aims to understand how racism and racist practices have impacted people's experiences today.

"History is living, moving and dynamic. It comes alive through stories and experiences shared by people today and tapping into memories and experiences from the past."

Project goals

Learn
About the history of racism and how racist practices have influenced communities' experiences in regional parks.

Listen
To Black, Indigenous, and people of color about their experiences with parks and trails in the Metro Area, the barriers they've experienced, and how to create a more welcoming and inclusive parks system.

Do something meaningful
With what's learned. The stories and historical context will aid Met Council and agency staff to create more equitable policies, programming, and planning.

Build empathy
To cultivate a culture that prioritizes inclusivity and equity in parks planning, programming and policies.



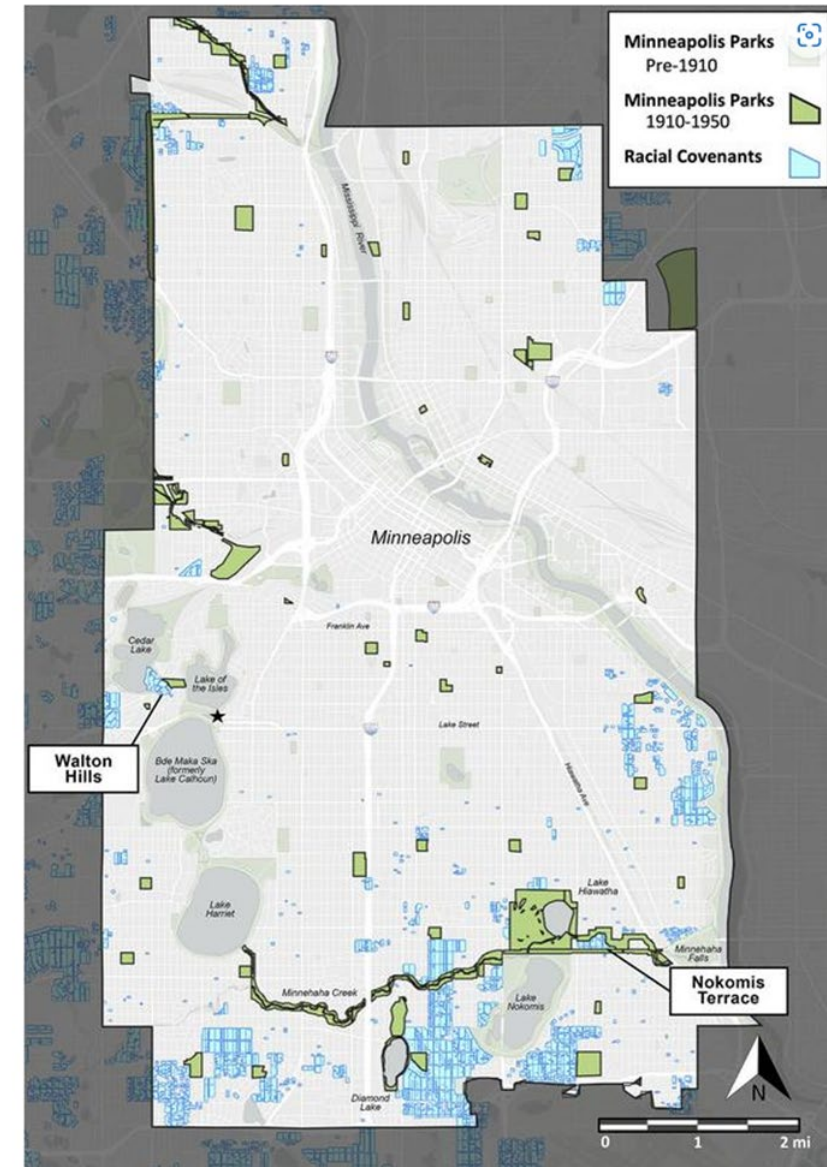
A tool to build empathy & to educate

▪Audiences:

- Internal – staff, directors, boards
- External – host on website publicly

▪Use:

- To build empathy and understanding
- Educate staff, new employees, boards
- To inform policies and programs



This map shows the proximity of properties with racial covenants and new parks added to the Minneapolis Park System from 1910 to 1955. Covenant data from Mapping Prejudice, cartography by Rebecca Walker

Engagement approach

Through focus groups, we will ask people about their experiences with

- How they use parks/trails
- Access and barriers
- Safety and belonging
- Parks programs
- Ideas to create more inclusive and welcoming parks system



Next steps



Discussion

- **Questions or reactions?**
- **Do you have ideas for organizations or individuals we should reach out to for engagement and story gathering?**
- **Who else might be interested in the teaching tool? Are there other ways to share it out?**



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