



Public Engagement Plan
Thompson Oaks WQ Project
Physical Development - Water Resources

7/10/2019



1. Introduction

Public engagement is a critical aspect in ensuring that all Dakota County government services are performed efficiently, effectively and in a responsive manner. Dakota County strives to ensure that the proper level of public engagement is realized in all projects. To identify this proper level of engagement, the County utilizes a public engagement process tool that is standardized across the organization and results in consistent approaches and outcomes. If a project scores a 1-3 a public engagement plan must be created. The levels of engagement and what each entails in terms of description and specific examples can be seen in the table below.

Level	Description	Examples
Level 1 – Inform and Listen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain, educate or gather information. • Use when priorities and decisions are still being shaped. • Can explain the issue, while gathering information to understand and perspectives and ideas of citizens. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public meeting with information presentation and collection of comments. • Open houses. • A webpage with information about a project but also provides an email address for people to submit questions or comments.
Level 2 – Discuss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally involves two-way information exchange in which the public discusses a policy, issue, or research priority. • Discussion among and with different stakeholders is encouraged. • Can deepen knowledge by exploring and responding to ideas and concerns described by individual participants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public meeting with information presentation and collection of comments. • Open houses. • A webpage with information about a project but also provides an email address for people to submit questions or comments.
Level 3 – Involve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different perspectives are shared and parties can influence each other and develop consensus. • Allows the organization and participants to explore and work through issues together, understand each other's perspectives and values, and consistently address concerns. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public meeting with information presentation and collection of comments. • Open houses. • A webpage with information about a project but also provides an email address for people to submit questions or comments.

1. Introduction (cont.)

Project Description:

The project will improve water quality provide natural space public amenities in the former Thompson Oaks golf course adjacent the proposed River to River Greenway/Trail by:

1. Removal of contaminated sediment within a current wetland
2. Removal of solid waste and fill within a wetland destroyed in the 1980 (will be restored).
3. Construction of mechanical and bio-engineered stormwater treatment practices to improve water quality to the parcel and downstream to the lower Mississippi River.
4. Restore a historic creek that has been buried in storm sewer pipe for several decades.

Engagement Level:

1 - Inform and Listen

Based on the above engagement level score, this plan will utilize certain methods and tools to reach stakeholders based on the table from the previous page.



2. Public Engagement Objectives and Approaches

The purpose of this Public Engagement Plan is to serve as a means of process planning and engagement designing in order to achieve a desired level of public engagement. An important aspect in achieving this is identifying the key objectives and potential outcomes and then deciding which approaches are best suited to achieving those outcomes. The following lists the key objectives and approaches for this Public Engagement Plan.

Key Public Engagement Objectives:

Inform the public and share design concepts

Consider feedback from stakeholders

Inform the County Board from comments received

Keep project website and other project postings updated

Public Engagement Approaches:

Project Webpage(s)

Signage on-site

Social Media Postings

4. Key Questions to Ask

Once the methods of engagement have been identified the questions that need to be asked then need to be created. Questions that are asked in the public engagement process must address the major concerns and issues of the proposed project. Questions that do not necessarily lead discussions towards the end goals of learning about the major issues can result in a more disjointed discussion that lacks effectiveness which is why it is important that questions are well thought out and refined. Questions needs to be asked in such ways where they encourage participation and dialogue amongst those people asked to respond. They should also be asked in a way to solicit responses from a variety of groups rather than only a limited amount. Similar to the methods of engagement, certain types of questions can be more effective than others in garnering a response from certain groups of individuals.

Project Issues to Address with Questions:

Adjacent residents potentially impacted by construction noise, etc.

Coordination with City utilities department

Public Engagement Questions:

What aesthetic design elements or features are preferred?

What are the environmental concerns regarding the work?

5. Action Plan by Project Phases

Phase I	Design Phase	2019/2020
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Gather public input at the early project concept phase to improve the design and advise the Dakota County Board of Commissioners. This input has generally been provided through the River to River Greenway Master Plan process.

Phase II	Construction	2021
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Continue to engage the public during construction, particularly timeline and immediate engagement with surrounding property owners.

Phase III

6. Available Resources and Budget

County staff will work with its design consultant to ensure stakeholder and public comments are received and considered in the design phase.

Briefly discuss any increased project costs, project delays and additional staff/consultant resources required by this public engagement plan, if any.