

## Minneapolis Parks Foundation (MPF)

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### ***Is MPF different from the Park Board?***

Yes, although we do work closely with them. The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) was established by Minneapolis park founders decades ago. It is a governmental agency funded by tax dollars. MPF is privately funded, which gives us flexibility to pursue ideas and activities the MPRB can't. MPRB has the responsibility to maintain the parks and provide programs, both vital tasks. **MPF helps enhance and shape the next generation of parks.**

#### ***What does MPF do?***

MPF works on shaping the Minneapolis next generation of parks. We do this in a number of ways. We **create partnerships** with other organizations, including the MPRB, Walker Art Center, University of Minnesota, Trust for Public Land, and others. We **convene and catalyze**: our Next Generation of Parks initiative has brought speakers from throughout the world to share their ideas and experience with Minneapolis citizens. We are **the leading private sector voice** in shaping the next generation of Minneapolis parks and open spaces. We also work on projects that address the changing demographic, economic, and climate needs facing us today.

#### ***What have you accomplished?***

*Minne the Lake Creature*—“[,” a sculpture by Cameron Gainer also known as “Minne the Lake Creature,” demonstrates the significant role public art can and needs to play in our parks, uniting all ages and races with her whimsy and mystery.

*Next Generation of Parks Speaker Series*—This series has drawn hundreds of residents to hear and converse about cutting-edge parks in other parts of the world.

*Downtown Children’s Play Area*—MPF has helped to raise private funds for this playground in an area whose demographics have changed dramatically.

#### ***What are you doing now?***

We are completing a strategic plan that has honed our focus and mission *to enhance the quality of life for the greater Minneapolis community as the private sector advocate for the next generation of parks and open spaces*. As we continue the ***Next Generation of Parks*** speaker series, we are also at work on **the first design project of that initiative**: a competition, in partnership with MPRB, which addresses the Upper Riverfront of the Mississippi, from the Stone Arch Bridge to the Minneapolis northern city limits.

#### ***Why should I give to MPF when my taxes support the Park Board?***

Our organization’s role in the parks “ecosystem” is **completely distinct** from that of MPRB, which has the responsibility for maintenance, capital improvements, and recreational activities for the entire parks system. MPF recognizes that if we want to remain a leader in parks planning and design, our tax dollars are insufficient to accomplish that alone. MPF aims to create a **broad base of support from private citizens** who understand the need for the private sector to partner with the public sector in order to achieve greatness, and who believe that our city must constantly be considering the evolving needs and preferences of our changing demographics in order **to shape the next generation of Minneapolis parks and open spaces**.