

Parks and Power

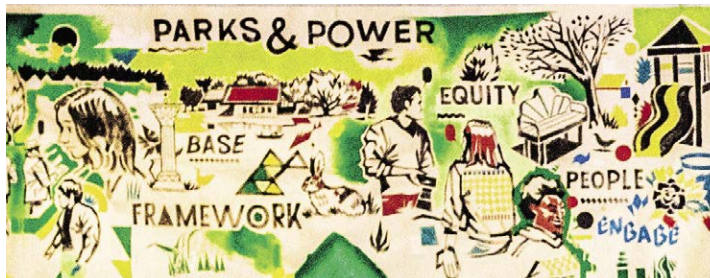
Happening at Hope this spring



“The purpose of Parks and Power is not only to win campaigns, but to empower those on the margins. We aim to build up peoples’ belief that, as individuals and together with their community, they have the power to transform their lives and the material conditions around them.”

—Peaches, Parks and Power Organizer

“Grassroots organizing for racial, gender, and economic equity in Minneapolis parks”



Why parks?

Like all of Hope's work, our parks focus grew out of asking questions and listening to Phillips residents identify what was needed to make our community a safe and healthy place to live and grow. Twenty years ago, that meant organizing and bringing community voices to the Minneapolis Parks Board to advocate and win resources for Peavey Park, right in our neighborhood. These early organizing strategies for Peavey—base building, power

Local organizing builds collective power and influences public policy to advance racial equity.

analysis, direct action, all contextualized in a racial justice framework—led to the development of Parks and Power, an organizing campaign that is still active and growing today.

In 2023, we are especially thrilled to have gained new multi-year funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to support Parks and Power as they continue the work to ensure racial equity is embedded in all Minneapolis Parks Board policies and practices. Hope is one of only 14 organizations to have won this grant nationally, and we are eager to join others across the

country in the emergent, generational work of creating public green spaces that offer safety and healing.

After the disruption of the last few years, the Parks and Power team is fully staffed and energized to welcome voices old and new. At an Open House in February, more than 50 people of all ages and backgrounds came together in the Hope Commons to speak about the issues affecting them: the need to address trees infested with Emerald Ash Borer beetles, unhoused neighbors and encampments, the Indigenous Land Back movement, community safety, and participatory budgeting. Through

the lens of these issues, the work will continue to listen to community voices, support leadership development, and challenge the Minneapolis Parks Board to advance policy changes rooted in and accountable to racial equity.

To learn more about organizing for racial justice through Parks and Power and add your voice to the conversation, sign up for their newsletter on the Hope website or reach out to Carmen (cbustamante@hope-community.org), Peaches (phastings@hope-community.org), or Roxxanne (robrien@hope-community.org).



Did you know? The Minneapolis Parks system, while nationally celebrated, has a history of racist policies and inequitable distribution of resources. By leveraging property taxes as key funding, the Parks Board has systemically ensured that only neighborhoods who can afford them have well-resourced, safe parks. As we aim to ensure that racial equity is centered in current and future Park Board policy, we are disrupting this pattern of disinvestment and harm.



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