

Four Sisters Farm

Celebrating culture and building community through urban agriculture in East Philips

Hennepin County is working with the Native American Community Development Institute (NACDI) to transform three adjacent vacant lots owned by the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA) near the Midtown Greenway into an urban farm and community gathering place.

NACDI will operate the Four Sisters Farm on the site to provide access to fresh healthy foods and serve as a learning environment for indigenous farming, medicine, and lifeways.

Project partners are working with LHB Landscape Architecture and Planning studio to develop a site design for the project that celebrates the community's cultural assets.

Project partners' shared goals

- Support community safety
- Restore health and well-being in the surrounding neighborhood and Urban Indian community
- Improve access and a sense of welcoming to the Midtown Corridor

Location and community

The project site is located along East 29th Street between Bloomington and 18th avenues south near the Midtown Greenway in the East Philips neighborhood of South Minneapolis. Neighbors have roots from around the world, as well as Little Earth—a housing complex uniting Native Americans from 39 tribes. Eighty-seven percent of nearby residents are people of color and 73% speak a language other than English at home.

Community engagement

Community members are invited to share ideas and participate in every phase of project planning and implementation. An initial project kick-off event is planned for **October 12th, 3-6 p.m. at the project site**. Further community engagement will take place through fall 2020 and winter 2021 to plan other activities, uses, and programming for the site.

Contacts

Hennepin County Midtown Community Works

Crystal Myslajek
Program coordinator
crystal.myslajek@hennepin.us

Native American Community Development Institute

Mel Anderson
Four Sisters Farmer's Market Manager
manderson@nacdi.org

Partners

- Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority
- Hennepin County Midtown Community Works
- Native American Community Development Institute

Website

hennepin.us/Midtown



Timeline

- Site design and engagement: Fall/winter 2020
- Construction and implementation: Spring 2021

Partners

Native American Community Development Institute (NACDI)

NACDI promotes innovative community development strategies that strengthen the overall sustainability and well-being of American Indian people and communities. NACDI will operate the Four Sisters Farm and will plant, tend, harvest, distribute, market, and preserve food produced on the site and continue to develop community bonds.

Hennepin County Midtown Community Works (MCW)

Hennepin County's Midtown Community Works program brought partners together to build the Midtown Greenway trail, and to improve economic conditions in the Midtown Corridor. MCW is now focused on completing final improvements to the Midtown Corridor, including implementation of the Four Sisters Farm.

Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA)

HCRRA is a local government unit that is part of Hennepin County with a mission to preserve abandoned railroad corridors for future transportation uses. HCRRA owns 46 miles of corridors, including the Midtown Corridor. Recreational trails have been constructed on many of these corridors as an interim use. The sites that will be used for Four Sisters Farm are owned by HCRRA.