

City of Saint Paul + Saint Paul Public Schools

Increasing Coordination of Shared Resource Use

Overview of Initiative, 2018-2020

Snapshot

The City of Saint Paul (City) and the Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS) serve a growing capital city of more than 300,000 residents and 37,000 students. Each agency's team manages a portfolio of land, facilities and programs to serve the needs of schools, neighborhoods and community partners. At a policy maker level, site level and program level, the City and SPPS have long collaborated, but in 2018 staff began a new form of sharing resources to provide park facilities and experiences more efficiently. The results are informing capital planning and program management for both agencies that is more equitable and more reflective of the community served.

Solution

The City and SPPS initiated an initial process to identify mutual goals between the agencies, opportunities and pitfalls relating to the sharing of facilities. With goals articulated and background defined, the partners embarked on an analytics phase of work, bringing together for the first time all of the City and SPPS data relating to community demography and characteristics, land and facilities, programs, usage and school enrollment. Along with SPPS, City staff worked with consultants at Visible City to examine:

- Existing scheduling and facility sharing;
- Demographic, market, transportation and other dynamics citywide;
- Each agency's fields, gyms, community rooms and other spaces in fine grain;
- Pinch points in usage and underutilized assets;
- Potential for progress toward systemwide scheduling of shared facilities and programs;
- Management needs and opportunities for coordination;
- Equitable distribution of individual facilities (fields, buildings, features, programs) in use and programming; and
- Individual capital improvements that unlock potential for further sharing of facilities by the City and SPPS.

Results

Beyond what was possible previously, leadership of the City and SPPS are able to build on their common mission by planning and executing sharing of facilities to serve a broad array of youth, adult and community events and programs. By building custom tools to provide high-volume and real-time analytics specific to Saint Paul's community, the City and SPPS have identified and begun implementing steps toward a more equitable, efficient and transparent coordination of shared facilities.

Going forward, the City and SPPS have an opportunity to continue measuring progress, using a data-driven strategy for capital and program planning and maintenance, and moving toward shared registration and scheduling infrastructure.

###