

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.

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' shared goals

- Support community safety
- Restore health and well-being in the surrounding neighborhood and urban Native American community
- Improve access and a sense of welcoming to the Midtown Greenway

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

The project team gathered community input at an initial project kick-off event October 12, 2020, at the project site, with social distancing and masks required. Additionally, community members provided feedback in an online survey, available in English, Spanish and Somali. A summary of findings is available on the [Midtown Community Works program website](#).

Community members are invited to continue to share ideas and participate in project planning and implementation. Email project contacts for more information.

Contacts

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Partners

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

Website

hennepin.us/Midtown

Timeline

Improvements already underway in 2021. Improvements will include tree plantings, water installation, walkways, raised beds, and hardscape upgrades for better site circulation, and public art. See [site concept](#) for more details.

- Site design: Fall 2020-Spring 2021
- Site improvements: Summer 2021 – Spring 2022
- Programming and farming activities: 2022

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.