



Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board

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<https://mn.gov/caapb/>

Capitol Mall Design Framework (CMDf) – Approved 2024

The Capitol Mall Design Framework (CMDf) is a long-term vision for the future of Saint Paul's Capitol Mall led by the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (CAAPB). It is the result of a planning process completed in 2024, which engaged community partners, government agencies, and Minnesotans from across the state to reimagine a Mall that suits their needs. It follows and reinforces the broader planning recommendations of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan for the Minnesota State Capitol Area.



Human scale image of the Mall upon completion of the CMDf

Outreach

This comprehensive framework was developed through extensive public engagement that reached the community and stakeholders to get their feedback regarding the CMDf. Community engagement reached nearly 14,000 Minnesotans via the following methods:

- 20+ Stakeholders and Technical Advisory Taskforce (TAT) interviews/listening sessions
- 2 Keystone events
- 15 pop-up and smaller events with over 988 interactions
- 3 community surveys with 2,434 total responses in 5 languages
- 7,500 (est.) emails to stakeholder groups, community members, etc.
- 5,200+ unique website visitors

FY 2024-2025 Accomplishments

Completed the CMDf: CAAPB assessed opportunities and needs for the Capitol Mall and drafted a work plan, budget estimate, and RFP to update the Framework. The focus was on visitor experience, event and gathering spaces, safety and security, sustainable landscape design and plantings, and historical design integrity.

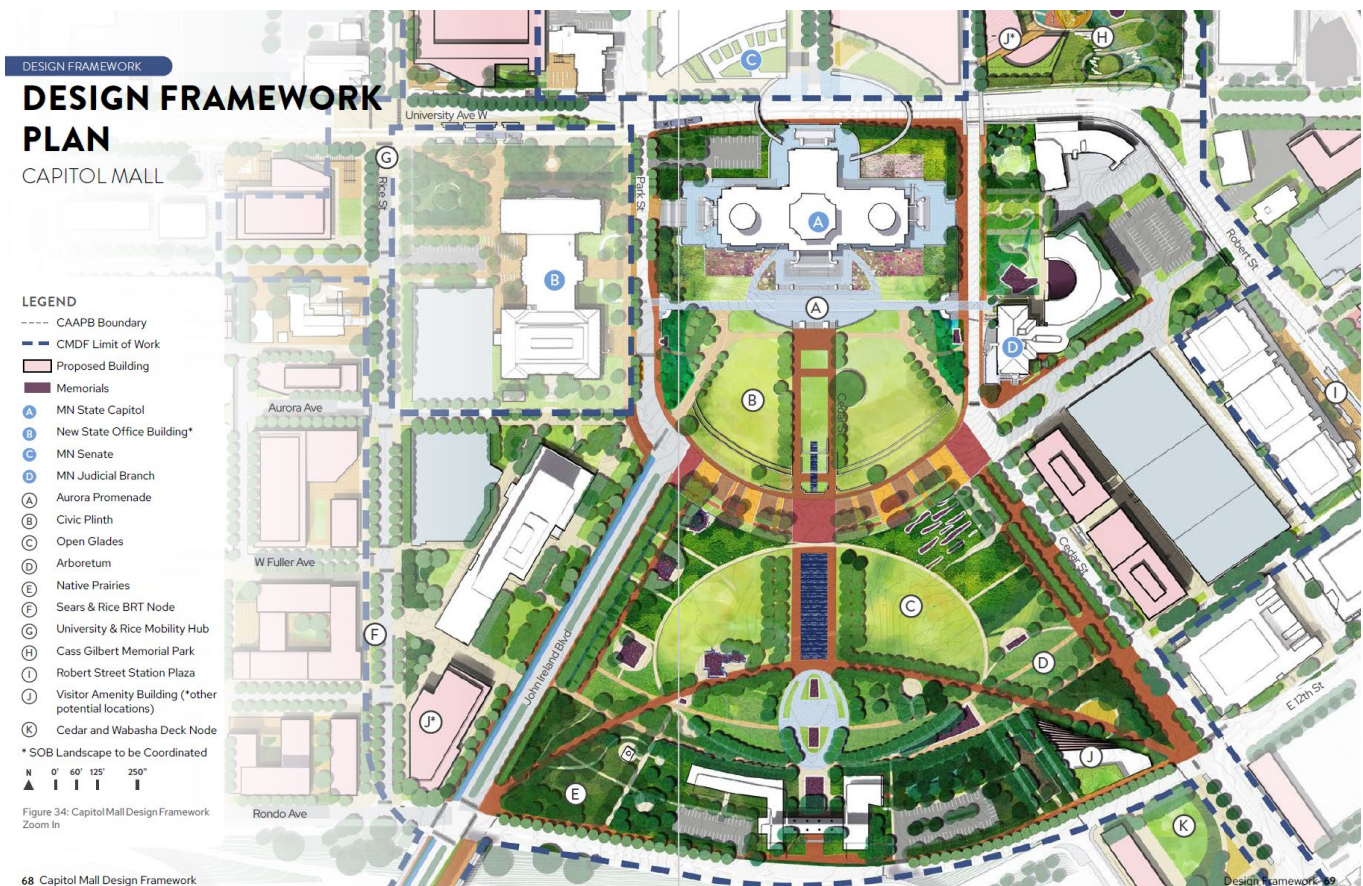
Completed the Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) for the Minnesota State Capitol Mall: The CLR effort evolved from the 2040 Comprehensive Plan for the MN State Capitol Area and was completed in parallel with the CMDf. It evaluates the existing conditions of the Minnesota State Capitol Mall and is used to inform future design decisions and maintenance requirements for the district.

Implementation of the Capitol Mall Design Framework: As part of Phase 1 of the CMDf, 171 trees were planted in the Upper and Lower Mall as well as Lot Q, and construction of the Tribal Flag Plaza in the Lower Mall began. The Tribal Flag Plaza displayed the eleven (11) Federally recognized Tribes in Minnesota. The Tribal Flag Plaza is the first part of the larger vision of the Commemorative Circle which links Commemorative Works in the Lower Mall.

Eight Bold Moves

Through the extensive engagement efforts mentioned above, the framework has pinpointed eight crucial bold moves necessary for near-term and long-term development:

1. Enhance Experience
2. Reinvigorate Nodes
3. Right-size the Roads
4. Sculpt Topography
5. Public Space Strategies
6. Celebrate Water
7. Planting Strategies
8. Cass Gilbert Park



For more information, visit the CAAPB's website: <https://mn.gov/caapb/planning/rfp-cmdf/>