

State of Minnesota

Capital Investment Committee Hearing  
Camp Katharine Parsons

March 17, 2022



**Phyllis Wheatley  
Community Center**

# PWCC Vision, Mission and Values

*working draft January 2022*

2

- **PHYLLIS WHEATLEY COMMUNITY CENTER** was founded in 1924 as a Settlement House.
- **VISION:**
  - We envision a vibrant, intergenerational community where everyone has opportunity and access to essential resources.
- **MISSION:**
  - To create pathways for individuals to discover their strengths and take control of their futures.
- **VALUES:**
  - **Grounded in TRUST.** We believe a safe, supportive environment builds the trust people need to create a better future.
  - **Committed to DISCOVERY.** We believe in offering people ways to discover their strengths and explore new opportunities.
  - **Built on SUCCESS.** Our history serves as a successful road map for those seeking to improve their lives and their community.
  - **Focused on INCLUSION.** As a Black legacy organization, we are equipped to remove barriers for our increasing diverse community.



# Key PWCC Programs and Educational Entities

3

HOPE Youth

HOPE Women

HOPE Men

Parenting  
Academy

School Success

Family  
Engagement  
Resource Center

DigitalTechWorks™  
Academy

Mary T. Wellcome

COVID-19  
Community  
Coordinating Site

Camp Katharine  
Parsons

Camp Katharine Parson was gifted to Phyllis Wheatley Community Center by Katherine Parsons in 1956. It is 106-acre Camp located in Watertown, MN in Carver County



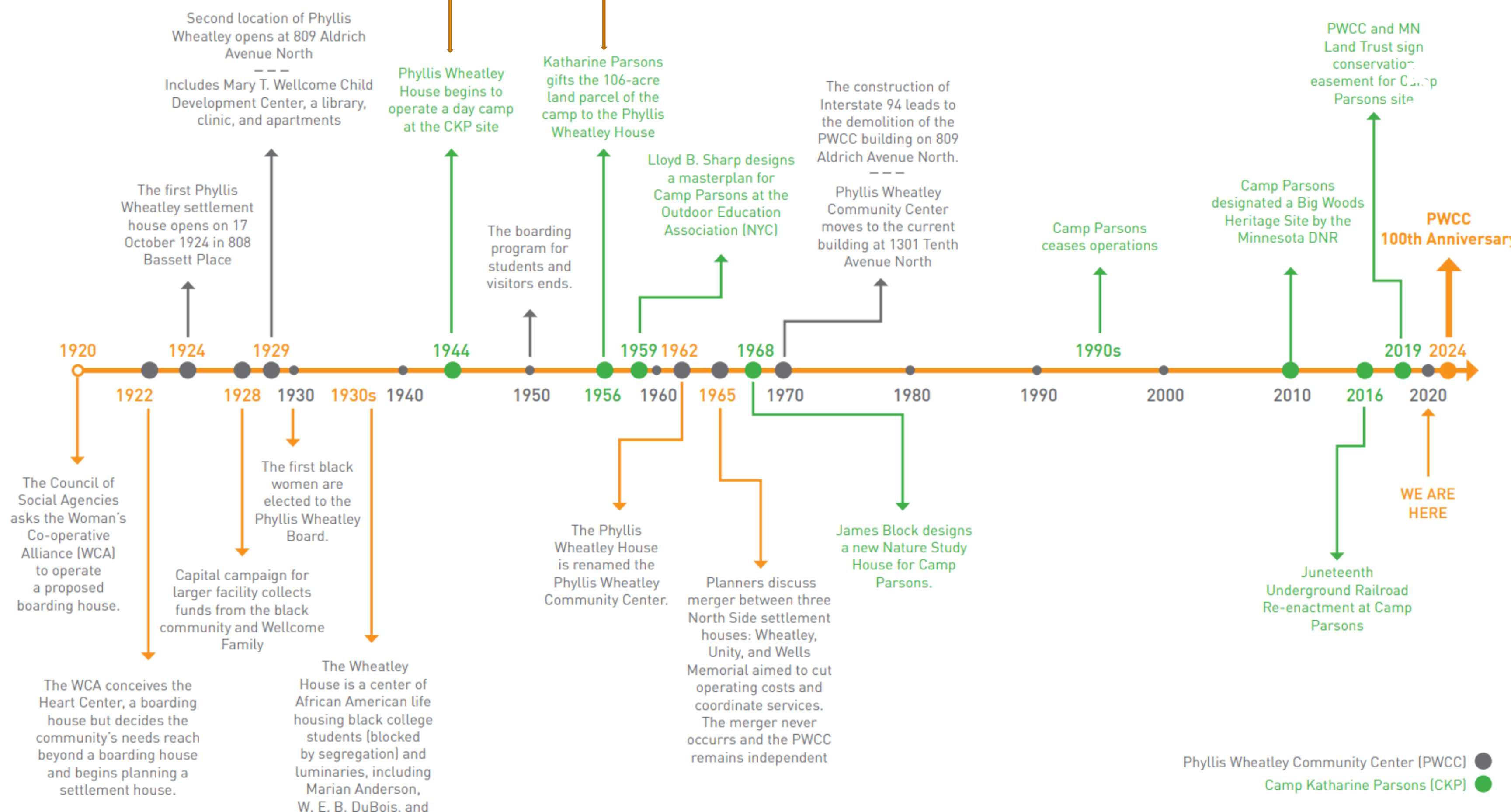
### Request:

\$4 million in state funds to design, rehabilitate, and construct new sustainable infrastructure and buildings.

*We anticipate the total capital costs to be in the range of \$4.5 to 5.5 million. Any amount above the State's allocation will come from our private match raised from philanthropic donations and earned revenue.*



# Timeline PWCC & Camp Parsons



# Project Description

- Rehabilitate and enhance the existing ~5600sf of interior space and new program space.
- Improve current energy standards and indoor air quality requirements.
- Design and construct an additional building ~1500sf to house accessible toilet/shower facilities and additional storage space.
- Bring existing electrical, septic, and well/water utilities back online and supplement with renewable energy infrastructure.

## Restoration Partners

SNOW  
KREILICH  
ARCHITECTS

## COEN+PARTNERS



## Programming Partners



**CARVER COUNTY** MINNESOTA

**Kamau Kambui Circle For Cultural Learning (KKCCL). The Underground Railroad Experience**



# Project Rationale

7

- Camp Katharine Parsons serves a critical function of healing and education for urban youth and adults to have formative experiences in nature.
  - Critical to human development; harder for populations that lack the means of accessing locations outside of the city.
  - Current site contains the main infrastructure to provide an incredible asset to Minneapolis communities; particularly, North Mpls.

# Project Timeline





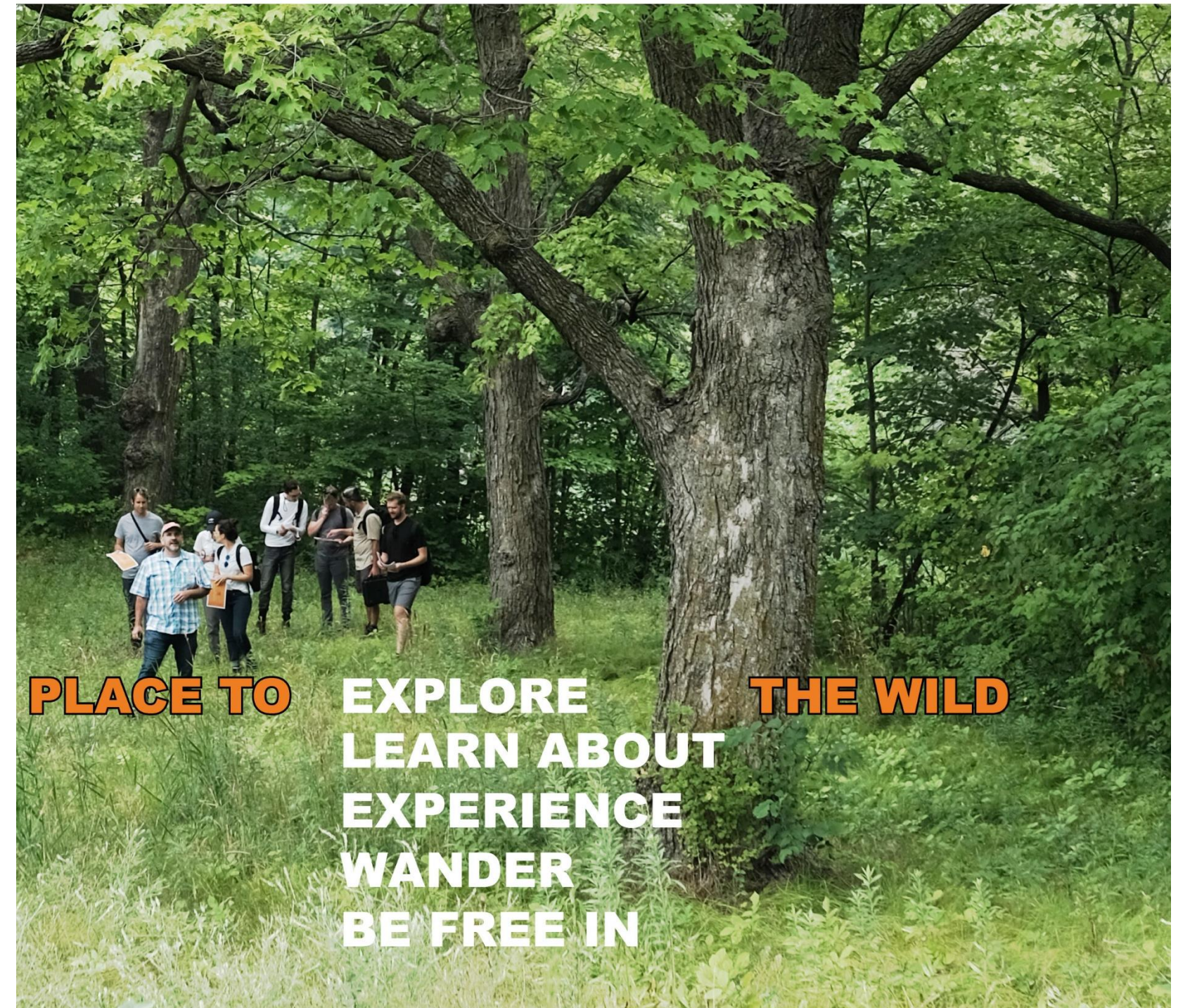
**What is Camp Parsons today?**

**What should it be?**

Oak Lake

Camp Katherine Parsons

24



**PLACE TO** EXPLORE **THE WILD**  
LEARN ABOUT  
EXPERIENCE  
WANDER  
BE FREE IN



## Key Learning Zones

### HOME BASE

Much of the activity is concentrated in the home base. All existing and restored buildings, power sources, and large clearings. Because it is safest and most densely occupied, Home Base is where swimming lessons, aquatic sports, and water play take place.

### BIO BELT

The largest zone is designated as the Bio Belt: an area that encompasses several different plant and animal communities where students can traverse the trails to reach remote outdoor "classrooms". There they will discuss samples collected along the way and learn about local flora and fauna.

### BACK WOODS

The Back Woods are unreachable by foot during the summer months, and serve an important example of undisturbed wilderness for the rest of the camp. During the winter months, students can snowshoe here to learn how to read animal tracks and build snow shelters.

### CAMP GROUND

The zone right next to Home Base is the Camp Ground. This is where students learn basic camp setup, fire making, leave no trace principles, and can try sleeping overnight outdoors while still being close to safety. There is a water pump in this zone.

### STAR ISLAND

Connected by two separate boardwalks and far away from the bustle and lights of Home Base, Star Island is the perfect location to learn bring students to learn about astronomy. The observation point on the island's NW corner looks over the lake and up to the sky. The proximity to the water means fireflies, too.

## Site Strategy





## Key Learning Zones

### HOME BASE

Much of the activity is concentrated in the home base. All existing and restored buildings, power sources, and large clearings. Because it is safest and most densely occupied, Home Base is where swimming lessons, aquatic sports, and water play take place.

- Restored buildings
- New docks
- Car/bus drop-off
- Canoe + kayak launch
- Most site disturbance contained here
- Group campfire area



## Key Learning Zones

### CAMP GROUND

The zone right next to Home Base is the Camp Ground. This is where students learn basic camp setup, fire making, leave no trace principles, and can try sleeping overnight outdoors while still being close to safety. There is a water pump in this zone.

- Traditional campground layout
- Privacy between camp sites
- Water pump restored
- Minimal clearing for campsites
- Fire rings at each





## Key Learning Zones

### STAR ISLAND

Connected by two separate boardwalks and far away from the bustle and lights of Home Base, Star Island is the perfect location to learn bring students to learn about astronomy. The observation point on the island's NW corner looks over the lake and up to the sky. The proximity to the water means fireflies, too.

- Minimal disturbance on trail system
- Clearing for stargazing
- Telescope or binoculars
- Stargazing laying mound
- Firefly capture



## Key Learning Zones

### BIO BELT

The largest zone is designated as the Bio Belt: an area that encompasses several different plant and animal communities where students can traverse the trails to reach remote outdoor "classrooms". There they will discuss samples collected along the way and learn about local flora and fauna.

- Meandering trail system
- Waterfront paths
- Various plant/animal communities accessed
- Path system overlaps with entry road
- 4 outdoor "classrooms" for learning





# Key Learning Zones

## BACK WOODS

The Back Woods are unreachable by foot during the summer months, and serve an important example of undisturbed wilderness for the rest of the camp. During the winter months, students can snowshoe here to learn how to read animal tracks and build snow shelters.

- No formal trail system
- Little to no disturbance during summer months
- Kayak/canoe access point
- Left for future planning/development at camp





