

MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



Shaping the future of Minnetonka's PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

The city's parks plan helps guide development.

Minnetonka's parks, open spaces and trails are more than just amenities. They give the community its unique character.

The city has nearly 300 acres of parkland with a diverse mix of active recreational features and more than 1,000 acres of natural open spaces.

"Each year, we make more progress restoring native landscapes, modernizing our recreational facilities, inspecting and replacing aging play equipment and planning for the future," said Matt Kumka, Minnetonka's parks and trails project manager.

The city's Parks, Open Space and Trails Plan approved by the city council in 2022, guides the work to preserve Minnetonka's parks and open spaces. This

year that includes completing a master plan for Big Willow Community Park; developing a park plan, including a skate park, at Glen Lake Park; and planning for the creation of a new park, Cullen Nature Preserve. All this alongside the seasonal maintenance and restoration work underway across the system.

Tying it all together is Minnetonka's multimodal trail network. It's something Kumka describes as connected tissue, linking parks to neighborhoods, schools and business districts.

"We work to make sure the parks and trails are used by as many people as possible while protecting what makes our parks so valuable to the community," he said.



“ We are fortunate to have an engaged network of sports organizations and nonprofits that use our parks, and a strong volunteer community to assist with restoration work and help create spaces that make these special places for everyone. ”

Matt Kumka, park and trail project manager

Learn more and provide park planning feedback

at [MinnetonkaMatters.com](https://www.minnetonkamatters.com)  **Minnetonka Matters**

Apply to fill Ward 2 council vacancy

Ward 2 residents can apply to fill the council seat left vacant by Rebecca Schack's election for mayor.

In January, the city council directed staff to fill the vacancy via appointment process for the remainder of the term through December 2027.

Applicants must reside in Minnetonka Ward 2, be 21 or older and eligible to vote in Minnesota. Applications are due Wednesday, Feb. 4.

Learn more and apply at [minnetonkamn.gov/ward2](https://www.minnetonkamn.gov/ward2) or in person at city hall, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.

2026 STATE OF THE CITY

Woven into the fabric of Minnetonka is a strong network of local nonprofit organizations that provide support - like housing and food assistance - where city services can't always reach.

"Nonprofits provide a vital safety net to our residents," said Mayor Rebecca Schack. "They care for our residents and are instrumental in building a safe and healthy community."

A panel of long-standing nonprofits serving Minnetonka residents will share about their work at the annual State of the City address Feb. 25. The community is invited to learn more about how the city partners with organizations to support residents in need.

Attendees will also have a chance to meet new Mayor Rebecca Schack and enjoy a sampling of Minnetonka pizza restaurants' top pies.

**Wednesday, Feb. 25
4-4:30 p.m. Social Hour
4:30-5:30 p.m. Program
Minnetonka
Community Center
14600 Minnetonka Blvd.**

Music, sustainability, art

Laursen Piano Service keeps old pianos out of landfills

Laursen Piano Service specializes in piano tuning and moving and has serviced the Twin Cities for more than 50 years.

But what makes this Minnetonka business truly special is how it blends craftsmanship with sustainability to support community music programs and minimize waste.

"What we do is unique," said co-owner Michael Moeller. "We bring every [unwanted] piano back to our Minnetonka shop for evaluation, making a deliberate effort to keep them out of landfills."

The team repairs and rehomes what they can, such as to a local elementary school. When an instrument cannot be saved, they repurpose materials for parts and training, or they get creative and turn pianos into one-of-a-kind art pieces.

"When a family heirloom piano is no longer functional but holds sentimental value, we can transform its parts into a meaningful art piece for the family to cherish—a win-win that reduces waste while preserving memories," Moeller said.

Laursen Piano Service received a 2025 Sustainable Minnetonka's Business Special Recognition Award for waste reduction.



Residents, share one sustainability action you're proud of, big or small!

Sustainable Minnetonka Awards honor Minnetonka residents, businesses and students who take action to protect the environment. Whether it's installing solar panels, reusing building materials or planting native landscaping - tell us about one sustainable action you've taken at home. Submit an application for the 2026 awards at minnetonkamn.gov/sustainability-awards.



PLAY BALL!

Gather your friends, your bats and your gloves – registration for adult softball opens in February.

The city offers a Wednesday night co-rec league, as well as three men’s doubleheader leagues. League play starts in April. All games played at Big Willow Park.

REGISTRATION OPENS

Feb. 2	Returning teams
Feb. 9	New teams

More information: minnetonkamn.gov/softball



Managing buckthorn WORKSHOP

Are you planning to control invasive buckthorn shrubs on your property or have you already started? This workshop is for you!

Natural Resources staff will review the benefits of proper buckthorn control, describe effective strategies and introduce opportunities for technical assistance or funding to help achieve your goals.

6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 10

Register at minnetonkamn.gov/NRevents

Advance registration is required

If you're unable to attend in person, explore our buckthorn learning module at bit.ly/battling_buckthorn.



Share your story of belonging

High school and middle school students living or attending school in Minnetonka are invited to enter the Minnetonka Essay Contest. The contest will prompt students to think about how belonging and inclusion has impacted them.

Students will be judged in two categories: grades 6-9 and grades 10-12. Essays will be reviewed by a panel of members from the DEI commission, senior advisory board and the city council. Winners will be recognized in the Minnetonka Memo and at a spring council meeting.

Submit your essay by April 13. Go to minnetonkamn.gov/essaycontest for rules and information.



City of Minnetonka Calendar

- 1 Kids' Fest, 11 a.m.
- 2 City Council and Economic Development Authority, 6 p.m.
- 4 Park Board, 6 p.m.
- 5 Planning Commission, 6 p.m.
- 9 City Council Study Session, 6 p.m.
- 10 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission, 6 p.m.
- 12 Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
- 16 Presidents Day Holiday, city offices closed
- 19 Planning Commission, 6 p.m.
- 23 City Council and Economic Development Authority, 6 p.m.

Most city meetings will begin at 6 p.m. in 2026. Visit minnetonkamn.gov/participate to learn how to also take part remotely. Watch meetings live and on-demand at minnetonkamn.gov/tv.

For up-to-date information, visit minnetonkamn.gov/calendar or call 952-939-8200.



CITY OF
MINNETONKA

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Council

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Kimberly Wilburn 952-222-8142

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Ward 1: Patsy Foster-Bolton 952-491-0407

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Ward 2: Vacant

Ward 3: Paula Ramaley 952-222-0105

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Ward 4: Kissy Coakley 952-486-9670

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WINTER in Minnetonka

Make the most of the coolest season of the year.

Kids' Fest

Sunday, Feb. 1

11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.,

Minnetonka Community Center

Free Event!

Sauna in the Parks

Wednesdays, Friday-Sunday

Registration required.

minnetonkamn.gov/saunaintheparks



Outdoor Ice Skating

Warming houses and rinks open

Weather permitting through mid-February

minnetonkamn.gov/outdoorrinks

Cross Country Ski

Open daily at Glen Lake Golf Course

Weather permitting through March 15

Season and daily passes available

