



# Playing for Life



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## Our Mission

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board shall permanently preserve, protect, maintain, improve, and enhance its natural resources, parkland, and recreational opportunities for current and future generations.

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board exists to provide places and recreation opportunities for all people to gather, celebrate, contemplate, and engage in activities that promote health, well-being, community, and environment.



### Superintendent

Jayne Miller, January 2018

Mary Merrill, February – December 2018

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### Accessible Information

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### 2018 Commissioners

Chris Meyer, District 1

Kale Severson, District 2

Jono Cowgill, District 4

Steffanie Musich, District 5

Meg Forney, At Large

Londel French, At Large

LaTrisha Vetaw, At Large

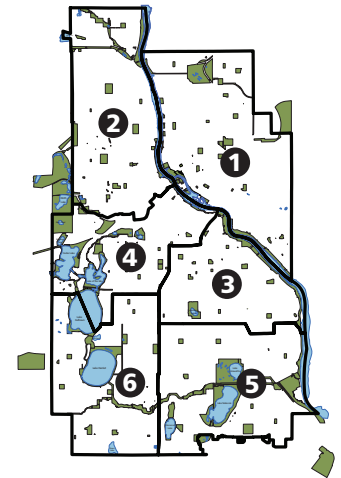
### President

Brad Bourn, District 6

### Vice President

AK Hassan, District 3

### Minneapolis Commissioner Districts



Front (l-r): Meg Forney, LaTrisha Vetaw, Steffanie Musich

Back: Kale Severson, Londel French, Jono Cowgill, Chris Meyer, Brad Bourn, AK Hassan

### In Memoriam: Annie Young & Walter Dziejczak

In 2018, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board commemorated the life and accomplishments of Commissioner Annie Young, 75, who served as an At-Large Commissioner representing the entire city from 1990-2017; and Commissioner Walter Dziejczak, 85, who served as District 1 Commissioner representing Northeast and Southeast Minneapolis from 1998-2009. Their passion, commitment and contributions as commissioners resulted in a better park system for everyone, and will benefit residents and park visitors for generations to come.



## A Note From Superintendent Emeritus Mary Merrill

We're playing for life in Minneapolis Parks! It's a motto I've lived by across a long, fulfilling career working for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. I grew up in Minneapolis Parks, worked to make our parks better for decades and will continue to enjoy and cherish these essential spaces for the rest of my life.

I'm proud of all we accomplished since I stepped into the Interim Superintendent role in February. Once again, we were named the #1 park system in the country by The Trust for Public Land and recognized as a finalist for the National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management by the National Recreation and Park Association.

There were a lot of ribbon-cuttings this year! The Northeast Recreation Center opened in March. The modern, energy efficient building has been bustling with activities for youth, adults and seniors since Day 1. Phillips Aquatics Center opened in April. Our first-ever year-round indoor aquatics facility offers swimming lessons for all experience levels and cultural backgrounds. The Trailhead opened in July. It's operated by the Loppet Foundation and serves as an outdoor adventure hub where a new generation of diverse outdoor recreation enthusiasts is developing.

A new agreement with Graco allowed us to move forward on developing a new riverfront park next to Hall's Island, which was re-created and restored to its former glory this year, 52 years after it was destroyed. We moved closer to establishing exciting park developments along the Upper Riverfront. Work is underway on improvements at Sheridan Memorial Park and Water Works at Mill Ruins Park, while plans for the new 26th Avenue North Overlook and a new regional park in the Upper Harbor Terminal Redevelopment continue to move forward.

The 20-Year Neighborhood Park Plan began to bear fruit with a major project complete at Central Gym and another underway at Peavey Park, along with rehabilitation projects and increased maintenance happening at parks and recreation centers across the city. See page 3 for details.

Teen Teamworks, Youthline and Rec Plus, three programs I've watched grow with immense pride during my many years at the MPRB, continue to have an amazing impact on youth in this city. I am pleased to have earned support from both the Mayor and the Board of Estimate and Taxation for our 2019 Budget, which includes a down payment for more investment in Minneapolis youth.

The Minneapolis Arbor Day Celebration featured a full band of arborists perched high up in a tree serenading Elmer the Elm Tree on its 40th birthday, one of many memorable moments this year. Our Forestry staff continues to work tirelessly to regenerate our urban forest amid a steady increase in Emerald Ash Borer population. I'm grateful for all our Environmental Stewardship staff, who performed cutting-edge invasive species research and management at parks across our system.

It was a bittersweet year. We lost two genuine Minneapolis characters with huge civic legacies with the passing of former Commissioners Annie Young and Walt Dziedzic. Annie passed away in January, shortly after completing her record seventh term in office. We recognized her incredible impact by renaming Lower Riverside Park in her honor on St. Patrick's Day. Walt left us in November, and in December we began a process to identify an appropriate park or facility to name after him.

It's been an honor to serve as Interim Superintendent!

As the year ends, I'm excited to help transition to our next Superintendent, Al Bangoura, who I'm confident will do great things as the MPRB's 13th Superintendent in 135 years. Although I'm retiring, you'll still find me out enjoying our city's great parks, playing for life!

*Mary Merrill*  
Mary Merrill



Al Bangoura

- 1883**  
Year MPRB established
- 20.3 million**  
Estimated regional park visits
- 6 million**  
Estimated neighborhood park visits
- 180**  
Parks
  - 161 neighborhood parks
  - 19 regional parks and trails
- 6,811**  
Acres of parkland and water
- 600,000**  
Estimated number of trees
  - 200,000 boulevard trees
  - 400,000 park trees
- 49**  
Recreation centers
  - 47 operated by MPRB
  - 2 operated by non-profit organizations
- 29**  
Computer labs open to the public
- 6**  
Skate parks
- 118**  
Play areas
- 65**  
Pools
  - 1 natural swimming pool
  - 2 water parks
  - 62 wading pools
- 12**  
Authorized beaches
- 10**  
Fishing piers
- 5**  
Boat launches
- 7**  
Canoe launches
- 380**  
Sailboat buoys
- 510**  
Canoe/kayak racks
- 5**  
Outdoor performance stages
- 55**  
Miles of parkways
- 102**  
Miles of Grand Rounds trails
  - 51 miles walking; 51 miles biking trails
- 7**  
Dog off-leash recreation areas
- 12**  
Gardens
- 2**  
Bird sanctuaries
- 15**  
Golf facilities
  - 7 golf courses
  - 3 golf driving ranges
  - 3 disc golf courses
  - 2 footgolf course
- 1**  
Winter recreation area
- 2**  
Indoor ice arenas
- 49**  
Outdoor ice rinks
- 398**  
Multipurpose sports fields

fast facts



## 2018 NPP20 Highlights

### Capital investments

- 10** Parks with NPP20-funded capital projects completed or underway
- 39** Additional parks with NPP20 capital funding allocations through 2024

### Rehabilitation

- 144** Rehabilitation projects completed or underway
- 11** Parks with LED light fixture upgrades
- 38** Play areas with equipment replacements

### Increased maintenance

- 14,500** Additional hours – building maintenance
- 6,300** Additional hours – gardening
- 10** Average days – mowing cycle

### NPP20 equity ranking criteria

- Areas of concentrated poverty and racially concentrated areas of poverty (per U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey)
- Population density
- Youth population
- Neighborhood safety
- Park assets: conditions, age
- Ratio of past 15-year investments to the replacement cost of major park assets

## Building momentum

Thanks to the 20-Year Neighborhood Park Plan (NPP20), MPRB is transforming the city’s neighborhood park system with three categories of improvements: capital investments, rehabilitation and increased maintenance across 160 parks. NPP20 also helps address racial and economic equity, by prioritizing projects in parks and neighborhoods where they’re most needed. In 2018, NPP20 funding included \$6,523,500 for capital investments, \$3,976,500 for rehabilitation, and \$3.1 million for NPP20 operations and increased maintenance.

## Capital Investments

Major projects to build, replace or reconstruct old and outdated park facilities—such as athletic fields, play areas, sport courts and pools—are prioritized in parks using NPP20 equity criteria (see sidebar). They are also guided by master plans, which have been approved or are scheduled for approval in 2019 for every neighborhood park in the city (see page 9).

**Highlights** included the opening of the **Phillips Aquatics Center**, MPRB’s first year-round public indoor swimming facility; a new basketball court complex at **Peavey Park**, with construction underway on a play area, athletic field, lighting, central path and more; a major overhaul that brought new play areas, an updated and expanded community gathering area, new basketball court, paths and walkways to **Central Gym Park** (and a skatepark’s in the works). Additional projects are underway at **Currie Park** and **Phelps Park**, with construction planned in 2019; and planning began on projects at **Folwell**, **Lovell Square**, **Perkins Hill**, **Farview** and **Cleveland** parks in North Minneapolis.

## Rehabilitation

These projects repair, restore or replace park facilities and amenities and may be implemented on their own or in conjunction with capital investment projects. The focus is on assets that are most in need of repair or replacement, based on system-wide inventories and assessments.

**Highlights** included HVAC system upgrades and overhauls; asbestos abatement and repair; replacement of floors, ceilings, failed pipes and other aging and obsolete building components; exterior repairs; restroom and lighting upgrades; and installation of security cameras and keyless door lock installations at recreation centers (**Matthews**, **Fuller**, **Painter**), community centers (**Phillips**, **Kenwood**), and a park building (**Bossen Field Park**). Meanwhile, **Whittier**, **Longfellow** and **Brackett** recreation centers saw roof replacement projects, and **Gateway Park’s** 1967 plaza fountain was overhauled, with plans for a full season of operation in 2019. Segments of deteriorated concrete sidewalks were replaced at **20 parks** where pavement conditions were ranked as “fair” or “poor,” and 11 parks had accessibility improvements in parking lots and on paths leading to their recreation centers.

## Increased maintenance

If capital investments and rehabilitation projects are two legs on the NPP20 stool, increased maintenance is the critical third leg, helping to ensure that neighborhood parks play a vital role in their communities. Designated NPP20-funded staff positions allow the MPRB to meet industry-standard best-practice operations and conduct more frequent inspections and preventive maintenance. Over time, increased maintenance can reduce the need for costlier replacements and save money throughout the neighborhood park system.

**Highlights** included hiring seven parkkeepers as full-time staff after completion of a yearlong training program; programs developed to inspect, repair, procure and install replacement parts at play areas; and routes and procedures set to reduce the mowing cycle to 10 days.



## Highlights from an ongoing journey

MPRB continues its charge to build racial equity and create positive impacts for members of diverse communities: employees, park users, and residents throughout Minneapolis. Guiding this work is a Racial Equity Action Plan (see sidebar) updated every two years in response to changes, innovations, fresh perspectives and experiences that result from this ongoing journey.

## Support from strong foundations

To advance racial equity throughout the park system, it's essential for MPRB to sustain an internal culture that values racial equity. Several connected frameworks support this ongoing effort.

- **2018-2019 Racial Equity 101 training.** Continued training featured a day-and-a-half session designed to expand staff's personal knowledge and help create a shared understanding of terminology such as implicit bias and individual, institutional and structural racism. The training is required for all certified and appointed staff.
- **Racial equity internal influencers.** Introduced in 2017, this program supported a connected team of 72 employees across the organization. By delving together into explorations on how racism affects individuals and entire communities, the influencers have built mutual support networks to help advance racial equity within the organization and in the communities MPRB serves.
- **Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE).** MPRB continued its membership in this national organization, which works with local cohorts to change the norm of what is expected and possible from government agencies. As part of local GARE introductory and implementation cohorts, MPRB staff and government-agency peers collaborated on employing results-based accountability, using community indicators as well as a racial equity lens.

## Strategic actions in the park system

To create more equitable conditions for everyone who uses the parks or does business with MPRB, the organization changed or updated various policies, practices and programs as part of its Racial Equity Action Plan (see [minneapolisparcs.org/racial-equity](http://minneapolisparcs.org/racial-equity)). Highlights below are from the 2017-2018 plan, which has been updated for 2019-2020.

- **Recreational programming.** MPRB committed to equity-based program priorities (see sidebar) that include access to equitable athletics and equitable school-age educational programs, building on its 2017 introduction of equitable funding systems for recreation center operations and programming.
- **Park/event permits and field reservations.** Customers can meet with a translator and customer service staff to apply for permits; new kiosks at East Phillips, Elliot and Stewart parks display daily schedules for athletic fields and other facilities.
- **Community engagement policy and plans.** Staff worked to update MPRB's community engagement policy, with changes rolling out in 2019 that include a process to determine who benefits from or is burdened by MPRB projects and initiatives; use of racial equity in appointing community advisory committee (CAC) members; and introductory training on MPRB and racial equity for CAC members and stakeholders.
- **Canoe/kayak rack space and sailboat buoy assignments.** MPRB implemented a new, more equitable lottery system for residents to claim opportunities to select rack or buoy locations on lakeshores (see page 15).
- **Language-access plan.** A dedicated workgroup conducted preliminary research and identified the need for a consultant to develop a Language Access Plan for the organization, with funding approved for the plan's development in 2019.
- **Jobs and hiring.** All hiring managers received ongoing training on implicit bias, equitable hiring practices and racially equitable workplaces; MPRB's job descriptions now include racial equity as a core competency or expectation.

## Racial Equity Action Plan: 5 focus areas

- Organizational culture
- Community engagement
- Workforce
- Contracts and procurement
- Park programs and services

## 2018 workforce highlights

- 24.5% of full-time MPRB employees are people of color (see p.16)
- 20.7% of certified/appointed staff attended Racial Equity 101 training (100% planned for 2019)

## Recreation programming priorities

- Active older adults
- Youth development
- Access to equitable athletics
- Equitable school-age educational programs

## Service Delivery Highlights Equity-based criteria in park improvements

- Fully implemented for NPP20 capital projects and regional parks projects
- Utilized as a factor in rehabilitation project selection

## Expanded catering options

With a racial equity lens applied to the catering process, customers' choice continues to grow

- 42 caterers to choose from (up from 4 in 2016, 27 in 2017)

## Budget Development

In 2018, development of the 2019 budget required all requests and impacts to be accompanied by an equity assessment

- 40% of requests and impacts indicated an impact on equity



**Goal:** *Sound management techniques provide healthy, diverse and sustainable natural resources*

**No Kidding.** In July, approximately 60 goats – females (does) and their young (kids) – feasted on a banquet of invasive species, including buckthorn, honeysuckle and Oriental bittersweet at Theodore Wirth Regional Park. This was the second year of an effort to test non-chemical methods of controlling invasive vegetation in Minneapolis parks.



**Protect the Lakes.** Aquatic invasive species inspectors performed 7,535 watercraft inspections as part of an effort to prevent Minneapolis' lakes from being overrun by invasive species.



**Disappointing Discovery.** On Sept. 30, two zebra mussels were discovered on a sailboat as it was being removed from Bde Maka Ska for the season. No additional zebra mussels were found in an extensive follow-up search along the lake's

north shoreline, but it's likely Bde Maka Ska contains a reproducing adult zebra mussel population because the specimens found were juveniles that appeared to be alive upon discovery.

**New Harvester at Harriet.** It was a fitting year for a new aquatic plant harvester to make its debut at Lake Harriet, where heavy aquatic plant growth sprung up over the summer.

**Controlling Carp.** The large carp population at Lake Nokomis was tracked and studied as part of a three-year project to improve water quality at the lake. Information gleaned from the project in 2018 will be applied to develop strategies to manage carp and implement long-term practices to improve water quality at Nokomis.



**TLC for Cemetery Trees.** Forestry crews performed tree care at Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery, the oldest cemetery in Minneapolis. In 2003, it hosted the Minneapolis Arbor Day Celebration, in which 150 trees were planted – one for each of its 150 years. Now 15 years later, arborists pruned healthy trees and removed dead and declining trees to lay groundwork for replacement plantings next spring.

**Goal:** *Healthy boulevard trees connect all city residents to their park system*

**Phasing out Ash.** Forestry staff planted more than 8,500 trees to maintain Minneapolis' urban forest as ash trees are removed before they succumb to the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infestation. In year five of an eight-year plan to diversify Minneapolis' canopy while dealing with the EAB, about 2,000 trees were planted in parks and 6,500 went into boulevards along Minneapolis streets. Oak and coffee trees, nearly 1,000 of each in various cultivars and species, were the most-planted categories; plane trees were a close third.

**Goal:** *People and the environment benefit from the expansion and protection of natural resources*

**Loring Pond.** In January, workers removed dead cattails from Loring Pond and targeted herbicide treatments helped curtail regrowth over the summer. The MPRB has worked since 2012 to control cattails at Loring but, as with many aggressive invasive species, complete eradication of narrow-leaved and hybrid cattail is not possible. Future options for increasing native plant diversity and controlling cattail dominance in Loring Pond are being evaluated.



**Determined Duckweed.** A non-chemical duckweed removal experiment removed more than 25 tons of duckweed off the surface of Loring Pond in July. Unfortunately, just one week later the duckweed had almost completely replaced itself.

**Nicollet Island, Naturally.** A three-phase plan to restore natural areas on Nicollet Island began in the fall. The project encompasses 5.8 acres of land on the northeast side of the island and 1.3 acres of land on its west side. The project was spearheaded by Friends of the Mississippi River, with the MPRB, Mississippi Watershed Management Organization and Nicollet Island East Bank Neighborhood Association all partnering to move it forward.



**Natural Areas Management Plan.** Environmental Management staff began a project that will assess and develop management recommendations for the MPRB's natural areas, which comprise undeveloped spaces like native forests and prairies. Field assessment started in Mississippi Gorge Regional Park in early summer.

**Goal:** *Residents and visitors enjoy and understand the natural environment*

**Festival de la Monarca.** A love of monarchs and a gorgeous, sunshine-filled day brought an estimated 10,000 people to Lake Nokomis to celebrate monarch butterflies as they begin their 2,300-mile migration from Minnesota to Mexico. The 10th annual bilingual event featured six musical performances, 10 artists, 30 exhibitors, 13 food trucks and more than 800 people who engaged in small group learning at the Monarch Lab. About 75 monarchs were tagged and released during the event.



**Pollination Appreciation.** Intermittent rain showers didn't deter bee enthusiasts from coming out for the annual Pollinator Party at Lyndale Park Gardens. Attendees enjoyed live music, costumed stilters, honey, art-making activities, thousands of honeybees (showcased in observation hives), and wild bees – including a close-up look at the rusty patched bumble bee (*Bombus affinis*), which is on the Endangered Species List.



**Rubber Ducky.** A giant rubber duck emblazoned with the message "Please do not feed the ducks!" launched at Lake Harriet to help raise awareness about the harmful effects of feeding waterfowl at the lake.

**Getting Outdoors at Powderhorn.** National Get Outdoors Day was celebrated at Powderhorn Park in June with free rock climbing, goat yoga, canoeing, archery, Zumba, yoga, fishing, camp games and more! Friends and neighbors gathered for a fun-filled evening that also featured a live bluegrass band and concessions.



**Elmer Turns 40.** Forestry mascot Elmer the Elm Tree celebrated its 40th birthday during the Minneapolis Arbor Day Celebration at Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. At the end of the party, Elmer was serenaded with an extra-special rendition of "Happy Birthday" played by a group of arborists perched high up in a tree! Elmer's legacy of four decades of forestry outreach and education was marked with increased visits to community events throughout the year.

**Award-Winning Arbor Day.** About 1,000 people joined in the annual Minneapolis Arbor Day Celebration at Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. Volunteers helped plant 150 new trees and celebrated Elmer the Elm Tree's 40th birthday in a giant party with live music, food, beer, forestry education and outreach, tree-themed games, bonfires, bucket truck rides and tree climbing. The Society of Municipal Arborists presented its Legacy Project of the Year Award to the MPRB Forestry Department for the event!

**Goal:** *Knowledgeable stewards and partners generously support the system's natural resources*

**Wild Weather Delays Earth Day.** The 24th annual Earth Day Cleanup was postponed for several weeks after an unusual mid-April blizzard. The largest annual community service project in Minneapolis successfully took place in May at 34 clean-up sites throughout the city. Since 2008, more than 18,000 residents have removed more than 150,000 pounds of garbage to help keep Minneapolis looking great.

**Eurasian Watermilfoil Research.** The MPRB helped the University of Minnesota in a research study looking into ecological variables that could contribute to reducing Eurasian watermilfoil. Five locations on Cedar Lake were sampled every three weeks as part of the study.

**Minneapolis Loves Parks.** The Park Stewards program taps into the passion of Minneapolis park users by allowing volunteer groups or individuals to restore, maintain and beautify gardens and natural areas within parks. Overall, the MPRB increased its number of park stewardship agreements by three in 2018, to total 57.



**Goal: People play, learn and develop a greater capacity to enjoy life**

**Rec Plus Certified.** Rec Plus met a federal certification process that allows it to continue to receive child care assistance payments. The updated policies and procedures include state fire inspections, site-specific emergency plans, fingerprint background checks and increased training for new hires.

**Kids Camps.** An impressive array of youth camps unfolded across Minneapolis parks over the summer and Winter/Spring Breaks. Topics spanned a wide range of interests – music, art, dance, language, culture, technology, athletics and more!

**Holidazzle WinterSkate.** A refrigerated ice rink built for the annual Holidazzle celebration at Loring Park stayed open into February to meet increased demand (an estimated 23,800 skaters!) for the wonderful wintertime activity.

**Goal: Residents, visitors and workers enjoy opportunities to improve health and fitness**

**Youth Sports by the Numbers.** Youth sports had 8,165 young athletes contributing to 610 teams across 10 sports in 2018.

**Adult Sports by the Numbers.** Adult sports had 25,911 athletes playing on 1,843 teams across 12 sports in 2018.

**Women's Golf Day.** Women's Golf Day attendance tripled in 2018! Free clinics and golf rounds were enjoyed by 717 women and girls across six MPRB golf courses on June 5.



**Ice Arena Reservations Go**

**Digital.** A new online reservation system for MPRB ice arenas debuted in June. The new digital system made it much easier to request ice time.

**RBI World Series.** Youth teams from all regions of the United States and Uganda, Curacao and Puerto Rico traveled to the Twin Cities in August to compete in the RBI (Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities) Baseball and Softball World Series. The MPRB hosted games at Neiman Sports Complex and Parade Stadium.

**Safe Swimming.** The summer swim season saw 1,128 people take swim lessons at seven locations in the Minneapolis park system, including the new Phillips Aquatics Center.

**Inclusive Swimming.** Private donations funded the purchase of 40 swimwear burkinis for Muslim girls and women who swam at MPRB facilities, participated in MPRB swim lessons or took part in a new culturally sensitive, women-only swim program at Phillips Aquatics Center.

**Fun in Freshwater.** The first-ever Lake Monster 1-2-3 open swim event at Lake Nokomis drew 139 swimmers on July 7 and the third annual Chain of Lakes Open Swim Classic at Bde Maka Ska recorded 125 swimmers on August 26. Overall, Open Swim Club had 817 adult participants in 2018.

**Garden to Table.** Produce grown at JD Rivers' Children's Garden was packaged and sold by Teen Teamworks at a summertime farmer's market. The pop-up shop operated Wednesday afternoons at MPRB Headquarters and Friday mornings at the garden. MPRB carpenters built a new high tunnel at the garden this year that extended the growing season.



**Goal: People connect through parks and recreation**

**Park Parties.** Gatherings, festivals and celebrations never cease throughout the seasons in Minneapolis parks. The Lake Harriet Kite Festival enjoyed record attendance in February; Earth Day, Arbor Day and dozens of Egg Hunts were full of joy after a delayed start to spring; former Viking Chad Greenway hosted the Gridiron Gallop event over the summer at Lake Nokomis to benefit MPRB Youth Athletics; and the Minneapolis Bike Tour let 2,000 bikers take over the city's parkways for a beautiful morning ride.



**Owamni Adds Fashion.** The 2018 Owamni Falling Water Festival drew more than 2,500 people to Father Hennepin Bluff Park for Indigenous food, art, music and a fashion show, which was new in 2018.

**Celebrating Freedom.** The community-led Juneteenth: Celebrating Freedom Day event at Bethune Park featured live music from Grammy Award winner Sounds of Blackness, dancing, youth activities, a historical sharing area and food. The Red, White and Boom Fourth of July Celebration – the most popular party in Minneapolis parks – avoided forecasted rain and enjoyed an estimated 70,000 attendees.



**MLK Day.** It was a full house at Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreation Center for the annual MLK Day Celebration. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park Legacy Council received the Living the Dream Award for demonstrating dedication and distinguished service to the MPRB and lives of Minneapolis residents. Earlier in the day,

community members celebrated with lunch and performances at Powderhorn Recreation Center and speeches and soul food at Central Gym.

**Black History Celebrations.** Youthline participants ate and learned about soul food during a Black History Month celebration at Farview Recreation Center in February. In March, Black History 365 kept the momentum going at Powderhorn Recreation Center. During the event, Youthline and St. Paul youth artists recited poetry, sang, rapped, danced, modeled and shared facts and information about contributions black people have made to the world.

**Teen Teamworks.** Teen Teamworks employed 242 teens in nine-week summer internships and 44 school-year positions. Team Teamworks employees contributed to Minneapolis parks through a variety of jobs, including maintaining park facilities and land, working on youth programs and helping run camps.

**Youthline Trips.** Youthline's summer was bookended by awesome paddle trips. In June, Youthline participants navigated 8.3 miles down the mighty Mississippi from Fridley to Boom Island Park. In August, a Youthline group took a memorable weeklong camping trip to the Apostle Islands.

**LGBTQ Golf.** The MPRB offered a LGBTQ Golf League at Theodore Wirth Golf Club over the summer. The new league had 60 participants.

**New Look for Wirth Golf.** Renovations to the Theodore Wirth Golf Club 18 hole and Par 3 golf courses were completed in July. The upgrades and hole realignment were conducted in conjunction with the construction of The Trailhead, a new outdoor recreation hub at the park where the Par 3 course is now based.

**Twins Give Back.** The Twins Community Fund donated \$100,000 to fund MPRB youth baseball and softball leagues and coach training sessions. In May, Twins players Eduardo Escobar and Byron Buxton gave out 300 free gloves to kids in an exciting event at Brackett Park.

**Pop-Up Bike Parks.** The MPRB partnered with local nonprofit Minneapolis Bike Parks to host four pop-up bike parks. New to the Minneapolis park system, bike parks feature an obstacle course for bikers of all abilities to ride over and around.

**Music and Movies.** The Music and Movies program screened 72 movies over the summer – nine with Spanish subtitles or audio – and hosted 186 concerts. Total combined attendance was estimated at 130,000 people!

**zAmya Theater.** zAmya Theater Company worked at East Phillips and Elliot Parks to facilitate a creative discussion on homelessness in Minneapolis. Weekly workshops helped people experiencing homelessness and seniors from Augustana Health Care Center explore their acting talents and share personal stories. The program created a play titled "Second Chance" and special street theater performances.

**Goal: *Volunteers make a vital difference to people, parks and community***

**Volunteers of the Year.** Eight individuals were honored with Remarkable Volunteer Service Awards for their efforts to improve Minneapolis parks and park programs: Rodney Bell, Robert Buck, Charles Chevner, Sean Connaughty, Brian Crotteau, David Hile, Sarah Johanns, and Brad Madson. The Youth Rising Star Award was earned by Notorious Brown, and two groups were also honored for their remarkable volunteer contributions: Minneapolis Downtown Next Generation/Minneapolis Ambassadors Lions and the League of Women Voters Minneapolis.



**Volunteers Make a Difference.** Recreation volunteers (youth sports coaches and recreation center volunteers) contributed more than 100,000 hours of time to support Minneapolis parks. On top of that, one-time volunteer service projects brought nearly 150 groups to Minneapolis parks for a variety of tasks. Altogether, volunteer contributions to the Minneapolis park system in 2018 were valued at more than \$2.7 million!

**Goal: *Parks provide a center for community living***

**RecQuest Programming Priorities.** RecQuest is an in-depth project to assess services and facilities offered by MPRB recreation centers and provide a vision for the next generation of programs and facilities. In 2018, its recommended programming priorities were approved: Active Older Adults, Youth Development, Access to Equitable Athletics, and Equitable School-Age Educational Programs.

**Mobile Sensory Space.** A National Recreation and Park Association grant funded a new mobile Sensory Space for park events. The Sensory Space provides a place for someone to use items to either soothe or stimulate their senses if an event becomes challenging for them.

## vision 3: DYNAMIC PARKS that shape city character and meet diverse community needs



### Goal: Parks shape an evolving city

**Prodigious Planning.** An unprecedented amount of community engagement drove a landmark year for Minneapolis parks master plans:

- **The North Service Area Master Plan** covers 31 North Minneapolis neighborhood park properties and three regional trails. It's expected to be adopted in early 2019.
- **The East of the River Park Master Plan** covers 33 Minneapolis neighborhood park properties east of the Mississippi River, along with potential new park connections. It's expected to be adopted in 2019.
- **The Southwest Service Area Master Plan** covers 43 neighborhood park properties in Southwest Minneapolis. The first draft of park concepts will be published in early 2019.
- **The Mississippi Gorge Regional Park Master Plan** covers riverfront parkland between Bridge No. 9 (Dinkytown Greenway Bridge) and Minnehaha Regional Park. The Community Advisory Committee made its recommendation in December 2018 and the draft document will go out for public comment in early 2019.
- **The Minnehaha Parkway Regional Trail Master Plan** covers parkland along Minnehaha Creek between Minnehaha Regional Park and the western Minneapolis border. The plan is being created as a three-agency collaboration between the MPRB, City of Minneapolis and Minnehaha Creek Watershed District. The first draft of park concepts will be published in early 2019.



**It's Official.** On January 29, Bde Maka Ska (pronounced "b-day ma-KHA skah") became the official name of the lake previously known as Lake Calhoun. The MPRB requested to restore the Dakota name for the lake after a years-long debate surrounding the issue culminated in the name change being included in the Calhoun/Bde Maka Ska-Harriet Master Plan, which was adopted in 2017.



**Thinking Big.** The development team for the Upper Harbor Terminal site published a preliminary concept plan for the 50-acre, city-owned North Minneapolis riverfront site in August. The draft concept included a mix of residential and commercial development, a 10,000-person performing arts center and 18.5 acres of new riverfront parkland. Community engagement to get feedback on the concept and project evaluation will continue into 2019.

**River Overlook.** An updated design of a new river overlook planned at the eastern terminus of 26th Avenue North was published in November. Work on the exciting Upper Riverfront project will begin in 2019.

**New Era for Skateparks.** The Minneapolis Skate Park Activity Plan was adopted in January. The 20-year plan lays out three goals: Increase the number, variety and distribution of skate parks in Minneapolis; address policy barriers to high-quality skate park experiences; and improve the overall experience through design, operations, partnerships and safety measures.

**Community Gardens.** The Minneapolis Parks Community Garden Policy was adopted in October. The new policy outlines rules, requirements and processes for community gardening at neighborhood parks in Minneapolis.

**Ecological System Plan.** The Ecological System Plan will plot how parks and public land management can address threats to Minneapolis' ecology. In 2018 the plan's draft goals and strategies were developed and published for public feedback.

### Goal: Park facility renewal and development respects history and focuses on sustainability, accessibility, flexibility and beauty



**An Island Restored.** Hall's Island has been restored along the Northeast Minneapolis riverfront, five decades after it was destroyed when a lumberyard connected it to shore to expand mill operations. The island flourished with planted wildflowers, shrubs and trees, but it will remain off limits for recreation until Phase II builds bridges and an elevated walkway spanning the island. A new mainland gravel beach was also created and served as a popular attraction for both wildlife and riverfront park users.

**Phillips Aquatics Center Opens.** Phillips Aquatics Center opened April 21, ten years after the Phillips Pool was shut down due to disrepair. The facility is the first year-round indoor swimming facility owned and operated by the MPRB. The project renovated a six-lane competition pool, built a new four-lane pool geared toward swimming instruction, updated locker rooms and added a welcome desk.

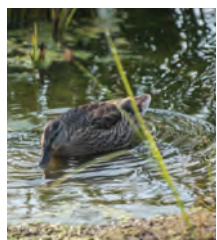




**The Trailhead Opens.** The MPRB and Loppet Foundation celebrated the grand opening of The Trailhead on July 17. The Trailhead is a new, 14,000-square-foot building that serves as an outdoor recreation hub within Theodore Wirth Regional

Park. It includes large indoor and outdoor gathering spaces, a bike/ski shop, ticketing counter for Par 3 Golf and snow tubing, and Loppet Foundation offices. It's owned by the MPRB and leased and operated by the Loppet.

**New Northeast Recreation Center.** The Northeast Recreation Center opened March 10. The new 15,000-square-foot facility includes a full-size gym, community learning kitchen and classroom, multipurpose room and a solar power installation on the roof.



**Challenges at Webber.** In its fourth year of operation, the Webber Natural Swimming Pool struggled with water quality issues likely due to waterfowl, which caused multiple prolonged closures. Many new initiatives failed to keep the ducks away. Additional options are being evaluated to help the pool open next season.

**Water Works.** Working with the Minneapolis Parks Foundation, the design of downtown riverfront project Water Works was updated as work continued to prepare the site for full-scale construction. Water Works will feature a new park pavilion, expanded outdoor gathering spaces and better trail connections in Mill Ruins Park.

**Sheridan Memorial Park.** A major park improvement project broke ground in October at Sheridan Memorial Park. In 2019, the riverfront park, which opened in 2014, will have a new playground with playable art, picnic shelter and basketball court.

**Central Gym Park Overhaul.**

Another major park improvement project at Central Gym Park includes new playgrounds that opened in the fall, a premier athletic field opening in 2019 and a new skate park that is being designed.

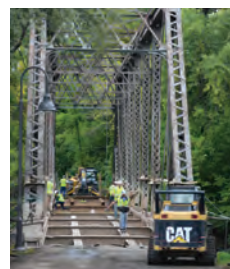


**Dakota Art at Bde Maka Ska.** A large public art project that celebrates Dakota culture at Bde Maka Ska was mostly completed by the end of the year. A concrete walkway stamped with images of animals alongside their Dakota names is flanked by an ornate decorative railing depicting Indigenous plants. The walkway leads to a circular lakeside gathering place with large seating stones.

**Avenue Art.** Two new public artworks debuted on parkland along the new 26th Avenue North Bikeway. Esther Osayande's "Purple Raindrop," an homage to Prince, was installed at Farview Park; Christopher Harrison's "Aqurbane," an archway honoring the Mississippi River area, was installed along Theodore Wirth Parkway.

**Progress at Peavey.** Peavey Park opened three new full basketball courts in Phase I of a two-phase park overhaul that will also bring a new athletic field and playground to the park.

**Upgrades at Cedar Lake South Beach.** The new-and-improved Cedar Lake South Beach officially reopened June 29. The beach now sports a new three-season bathroom, landscaping improvements and trail safety upgrades.



**Bridge Restored.** The 117-year-old former railroad bridge that connects Boom Island Park and Nicollet Island reopened Nov. 21 after a six-month repair project.

**Iris Garden.** The Northeast Minneapolis Municipal Iris Gardens marked its first bloom season in the Columbia Manor parking lot with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and juried exhibition on May 20. The volunteer-led gardens contain 10 beds, each with a specific theme, and altogether they display 377 iris flower varieties.

**Wading Pools.** A new wading pool opened at Bryant Square Park and work began on a new wading pool at Logan Park.

**Playgrounds.** New playgrounds opened at Bassett's Creek, Central Gym, Longfellow and Luxton Parks, as well as at the Washburn Avenue Tot Lot.



**Trails.** A trail safety and resurfacing project that included an Indigenous art project and new paver plaza at the WWI Mast Memorial wrapped up at Bde Maka Ska. Work began on extending boardwalks in Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and under the intersection of Minnehaha Parkway and Lyndale Avenue. About 85 feet of Plank Road Trail on West River Parkway was refurbished.

## vision 3: DYNAMIC PARKS that shape city character and meet diverse community needs



### **Goal:** Focused land management supports current and future generations

**Visioning Hiawatha.** A Community Advisory Committee (CAC) was formed to recommend a master plan for the Hiawatha Golf Course property after the MPRB discovered it annually pumps about 240 million gallons of groundwater to keep Hiawatha Golf Course dry – 200 million gallons more than its current state permit allows. The CAC’s charge was clarified by the new Board of Commissioners in July. The recommended master plan must only consider a reduced pumping scenario and bring forward a solution that includes, at a minimum, a flood-resilient and ecologically-driven nine-hole golf course. It also must identify appropriate methods to recognize the history of black golfers at Hiawatha and in the Minneapolis park system.



**Graco Park.** The MPRB reached several agreements with Minneapolis-based manufacturer Graco Inc. that will result in the development of a new riverfront park next to Hall’s Island that will be called Graco

Park. Graco agreed to donate more than \$3 million to fund development of the park, end legal proceedings related to an easement taken for the Mississippi East Bank Trail, buy 2.2 acres of developable land next to the future park from MPRB for \$1.1 million and prepay park dedication fees for the development. With all the agreements in place, the new park could be complete as soon as 2022, a decade earlier than expected.

### **Goal:** Financially independent and sustainable parks prosper

**Parks Philanthropy.** The Minneapolis Parks Foundation raised millions of dollars for Minneapolis park projects in 2018, including a \$1 million contribution from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation for riverfront park projects.

**Exciting News for North Mississippi.** The Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources provided \$500,000 for new, hands-on educational exhibits at Kroening Interpretive Center. In addition, People for Parks awarded \$35,000 – its largest grant ever – to support a new natural play area at Kroening, which was matched with a \$30,000 grant from the National Recreation and Park Association and Walt Disney Company.

**County Contributions.** Hennepin County provided \$500,000 in grant funding to support three major facility funding requests – a new skate park at Central Gym Park, tennis court renovations at Loring Park and athletic field and tennis court renovations at Folwell Park. The county also provided \$63,786 to support 12 smaller requests for new play equipment at Minneapolis parks.

### **Goal:** Through outreach and research, park and recreation services are relevant today and tomorrow

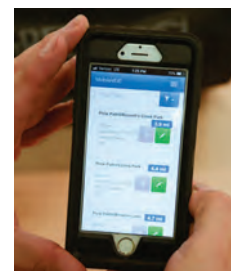
**I-94/Riverside Corridor Partners.** The MPRB entered a Memorandum of Understanding with Pillsbury United Communities, the YMCA, Augsburg University and Fairview Health Services to jointly explore the potential for building a new recreation and wellness center in the Interstate 94/Riverside Corridor. A renovation or nearby relocation of the Brian Coyle Community Center is also being explored as part of the project.



**Outdoor Careers.** On July 18, more than 100 youth had the opportunity to learn about and participate in hands-on outdoor work experiences as part of Teen Teamworks’ 6th annual Outdoor Career Exploration Day.

**Inclusive Marketing.** Multicultural advertisements were created to promote the Phillips Aquatics Center opening and swimming lessons, listening sessions for the Superintendent Search and free after-school homework help programs.

### **Goal:** Easily accessible information supports enjoyment and use of the park and recreation system

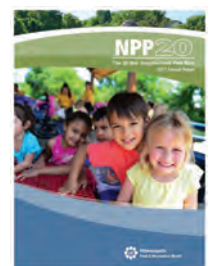


**VUEWorks.** A new digital asset management system called VUEWorks rolled out in 2018. The customized software program created a comprehensive, centralized system to track and manage work requests and assets across the park system.

**New Intranet.** A new employee intranet launched in 2018. It features mobile access, a searchable photo library, downloadable and digital forms, and department pages with shared workspace functionality.

**NPP20 Annual Report.** The first annual report detailing all the work made possible through the 20-Year Neighborhood Park Plan was published and presented to City Council in June.

**#MplsParks.** A new social media policy was approved and staff training provided for employees who created new social media profiles for specific MPRB facilities or programs.



## vision 4: A SAFE PLACE to play, recreate, contemplate and celebrate



### **Goal: Positive recreation experiences and welcoming parks prevent crime**

**Fun on the Go.** More than 4,000 youth enjoyed a Pop-Up Park in 2018. Pop-Up Parks traveled to neighborhoods and events to bring fun that included a basketball hoop, giant chess, soccer, art, games, kites, music and books.



**Street Reach.** More than 7,000 youth engaged with Street Reach staff at 100 athletic games, 80 swim days, four large gatherings and 75 days in Minneapolis neighborhoods.

**Fun and Delicious.** The sixth annual Battle of the Badges BBQ rib cook-off was held September 22

at North Commons Park. Teams representing different Minneapolis public safety agencies squared off in a friendly rib-cooking competition. Minneapolis Police took the title, but Park Police was affectionately crowned “The People’s Champ” for its fun activities and delicious ribs and BBQ samples.

**Badges for Baseball.** Members of the Park Police Department joined forces with staff from many Minneapolis public safety agencies for the annual Badges for Baseball event at Farview Park. Police officer coach/mentors were paired with kids as they played and learned the game of baseball.

### **Goal: Communities, public and private partners, and staff cooperate to promote safety**

**Safety at the Super Bowl.** Minneapolis hosted Super Bowl LII in February! The major international event was preceded by 10 days of exciting public gatherings, many of which took place in parks. Park Police played a crucial role through numerous tasks: managing Event Action Plans for every event on MPRB property over the 10 days, providing additional support to highly trafficked park areas and working extra duty at permitted events within the system leading up to and throughout the event, which took place without any major security incidents.

**Secure Major Events.** In addition to the Super Bowl, Park Police provided more than 5,500 hours of event support and security at a litany of major special events across all seasons and areas of the city.

### **Park Police Open House.**

More than 150 people attended the Park Police Department’s first-ever open house at MPRB Headquarters. Highlights included a live performance from the Twin Cities Masquerade Dance Team (based out of Harrison Park), a Pop-Up Park, bike rodeo, food and squad car tours.



**Homeless Outreach.** The MPRB contracted with St. Stephens Street Outreach for support around issues involving homelessness in parks. St. Stephens outreach staff directly engaged people experiencing homelessness in parks and provided training and support for MPRB staff.

**PEACE.** Park Police participated in the Pathways to Emergency and Academy Career Experiences (PEACE) Program. This program gives Minneapolis public school students the opportunity to explore careers in Fire, Police, Emergency Services and Legal Services. Students met monthly with a trainer to get hands-on experience in their field of interest.

### **Goal: Intervention and communication reduces safety concerns**



**Park Police Officer of the Year.** Five-year veteran John Archer was honored for his outstanding work in ensuring safe parks and recreation programs. While a colleague described him as “the ideal” officer: “intelligent, patient, respectful, and hardworking,” MPRB staff and community members also noted his friendliness and compassion.

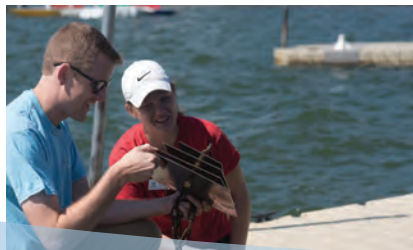
### **Goal: Residents, park visitors and staff make safe choices in parks**

**Safety Camp.** MPRB hosted its annual Safety Camp program July 23-25 at Wirth Beach and Pavilion. More than 120 campers learned about water, bike and home safety, as well as overall awareness while having fun in a camp-like setting. Activities included fishing, canoeing, water games and an all-camp BBQ.



### **Goal: Parks are safe and welcoming by design**

**Welcome Designs.** The Kenwood Recreation Center lobby was remodeled to make it more welcoming and accessible. Also, 11 parks received accessibility upgrades to paths and parking lots as part of ongoing work through the 20-Year Neighborhood Park Plan.



**Sustainability.** *Meet current park and recreation needs without sacrificing the ability of future generations to meet their own needs by balancing environment, economic and equity concerns*

**Award-Winning Clean Energy.** After constructing solar installations at five park locations, MPRB and Xcel Energy received one of six national awards for leadership from the Clean Energy States Alliance. The nonprofit coalition, dedicated to advancing clean-energy markets, lauded the MPRB/Xcel partnership for modeling “the seamless incorporation of renewable energy into public amenities.”

**Glyphosate Moratorium.** Building on efforts since 2000 to reduce use of pesticides and herbicides in the park system, the Board approved a moratorium on the herbicide glyphosate. It also approved a committee to research viable glyphosate alternatives and recommend practices and potential modifications to MPRB’s Integrated Pest Management Policy.

**Oil and Parks Don’t Mix.** Citing climate change-related threats to Minneapolitans’ health, safety and welfare, the Board called for a divestment in fossil-fuel corporations by the Minnesota State Board of Investment, which administers MPRB employees’ pension funds. Through this resolution, MPRB seeks to join a global movement of 800-plus governmental, educational, religious and philanthropic organizations that have cut ties between their financial assets and fossil-fuel corporations.

**Visionary Leadership.** *Respect the vision and leadership that built the park and recreation system and recognize the need for ongoing leadership in achieving excellence*



### **Once & Future Superintendents.**

After the resignation of Superintendent Jayne Miller, Superintendent Emeritus Mary Merrill returned as head of MPRB in an interim capacity during a “Super Search” initiative that included unprecedented community

engagement. Nineteen-year MPRB veteran Al Bangoura is returning from Charlotte, NC, where he worked as Recreation Superintendent of Mecklenburg County Parks & Recreation, to assume leadership of MPRB in January 2019.

**Honoring Annie.** The Board rededicated Lower Riverside Park in tribute to Annie Young, one of MPRB’s two longest-serving commissioners. Annie Young Meadow was a favorite park spot for the at-large commissioner, who retired from the Board in December 2017 after seven consecutive terms of service, and passed on January 22, 2018.



**Official High-Fives!** MPRB celebrated 78 staff who retired; received awards; or earned work-related certificates, degrees or significant professional recognition in 2017. A committee is expanding this annual employee recognition event into a full-fledged program to appreciate MPRB staff at all levels.



### **Firsts for State Funding.**

To advocate for state funding for regional parks, MPRB organized its first-ever lobby day at the State Capitol; it also held a news conference on the Stone Arch Bridge to draw attention to needed funding to preserve that historic site, which was last repaired in 1965 and had been in danger of closing. MPRB maintains the bridge’s pedestrian and bike trails.



**Safety.** *Work safely to support a thriving work environment and an outstanding park experience for visitors*

**Law Enforcement Career Exploration.** A Park Police Department-coordinated event brought 15 students of color from Career Pathways High School to the department to explore law-enforcement professions through a panel discussion, squad-car tour and lunch with park police officers.



### Learning About Park Safety.

211 people, including MPRB staff, attended MPRB-hosted sessions to help the organization listen, learn, acknowledge, educate and gather input to create a common community

vision for park policing. An internal work group organized the sessions after a 911 call led Park Police officers to detain several teens at Minnehaha Falls Regional Park. Findings from the learning sessions and internal work group discussions on short and long-term strategies will be used to develop a Park Police Service Level Plan in 2019.

**Youth Violence Prevention Week.** The MPRB joined this nationwide initiative by partnering with the Minneapolis Health Department for a second annual symposium for 75 girls, with presentations on identifying and meeting goals and fun, positive recreational activities. A fourth annual Bridges to Manhood Conference provided an occasion for 50 young men of color to share stories and understand their power and truth.

**Responsiveness and Innovation.** *Anticipate and thoughtfully respond to the diverse needs of the city's communities, continually seeking ways to better deliver park and recreation services*

**Distinctive New Flavors from Food Vendors.** Lola's Café, having developed a following for its wings, pulled pork, seafood and more, opened its Lola on the Lake outpost at Bde Maka Ska; and caterers Cajun Twist expanded operations to serve gumbo, jambalaya and other New Orleans-style fare at the new Trailhead facility in Theodore Wirth Regional Park. Finally, the Sioux Chef partnered with MPRB and the Minneapolis Parks Foundation to open a restaurant at the future public pavilion at Water Works.

**Ordinance Updates.** The Board changed several ordinances that had long been deemed outdated, no longer valid or difficult to enforce. Removal of a spitting ordinance allows park rules, rather than park police, to address this issue. Descriptions of prohibited language and conduct were updated; and in a restroom facilities ordinance, clearer definitions of what is enforceable replace references to "lurk," "loiter" and "lie in wait."

**Safety: Up; Costs: Down.** MPRB's fleet of nearly 250 vehicles was equipped with Automatic Vehicle Management (AVM) systems, expanding the City of Minneapolis' use of the system for its vehicles. A 2016-17 pilot program showed that AVM improves fuel economy and safety and reduces idling and maintenance.

**Improving Access.** To support the full inclusion of people with disabilities and ensure access to parks and recreation, the Board accepted a plan outlining steps for MPRB to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards for local governments. As a framework for ADA compliance for the next 25 years, the plan includes updated federal guidelines on access to facilities, emerging practices and technology.



**Luck of the Draw.** Residents seeking coveted canoe/kayak rack space or sailboat buoys on Minneapolis lakes experienced a new, more pleasant and equitable assignment process. Live lottery events replaced the old web-based system, allowing customers to talk in person with MPRB staff and – if they were lucky – select rack or buoy locations on maps in real time. Everyone gained a realistic understanding of available storage space and the odds of drawing an opportunity to claim an assignment.

**More Boats to Float.** Responding to customer demand for canoe and kayak storage space (see above), MPRB installed new racks at Lake Hiawatha, Boom Island and Cedar, Wirth and Ryan lakes.

**Independence and Focus.** *Independence allows the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to focus on providing and obtaining the resources necessary to accomplish its mission and form effective, responsible partnerships*



**Tops Times Three.** Trust for Public Land's ParkScore® index ranked Minneapolis as the best park system in the US for the sixth year in a row, and MPRB was a finalist for a third year running for Gold Medal honors awarded by the National Recreation and Park Association and the American Academy for Park

and Recreation Administration. The Metropolitan Council's use estimates for 2017, released last summer, tallied 20.3 million visits to Minneapolis regional parks — nearly double the visits to regional parks in the Three Rivers Park District (11.7 million) and in Saint Paul (11.8 million).

# ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW



## Superintendent's Office

**Leadership, vision, direction** The Superintendent's Office is responsible for the executive management of the highly diverse services and operations of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. The Superintendent provides leadership and vision, implements Board policy, and crafts strategic and financial planning objectives. The Superintendent's Office oversees communications and marketing, park safety and security, and, as of late November, community outreach.



### Community Outreach:

- 251,182 attended events
- 112,180 listened to concerts
- 17,800 watched movies

### Communications:

- 87,400 email subscribers
- 3 million annual website visits
- 11,800 Facebook Likes

### Community policing:

- 8,200 calls for service
- 4,340 visits to recreation centers
- 5,600 hours of event security

## Environmental Stewardship

**Caring for the system** Environmental Stewardship provides expertise for the care and maintenance of the Minneapolis park system, including its physical infrastructure, equipment and fleet; natural areas and water resources; forests and trees, including street trees; volunteer coordination; and environmental education.

### Miles of city streets where arborists plant and maintain trees:

- 1,100

### Completed work orders:

- 6,186

### AIS boat inspections:

- 7,535

### Participants:

- 16,000 Neighborhood Naturalist participants
- 70,000 Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden visitors
- 57 Park Stewardship Agreements



## Deputy Superintendent's Office

**Supporting service delivery** The Deputy Superintendent's Office provides support to the Superintendent and Board of Commissioners. The Deputy Superintendent provides strategic focus and leads performance management efforts. The Deputy Superintendent's Office oversees customer service; finance; human resources; information technologies; and risk management.



### Customer Service:

- 7,090 permits issued
- 20,951 calls answered

### ITS:

- 1,007,328 emails sent
- 1,343,880 emails received
- 1,129,107 spam emails blocked

### Finance:

- 15,663 invoices processed
- 34,177 paychecks processed

### Human Resources:

- 1,190 total hires

## Planning Services

**Developing the system** Planning Services provides expertise to lead, advise and guide the development and redevelopment of the Minneapolis park system. The division oversees research and analysis, community engagement for park planning and design, park master planning, real estate services, design and engineering, physical development and redevelopment, and construction permitting.



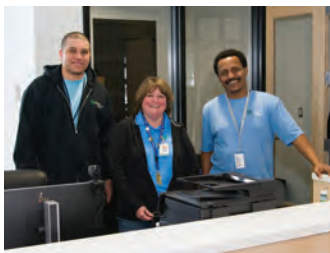
### Renovations completed or underway:

- 6 playgrounds
- 4 athletic fields
- 3 wading pools
- 3 recreation buildings
- 1/3 mile of sidewalk removed and replaced



## Recreation Services

**Providing visitor activities** Recreation Services provides expertise to lead, provide and create affordable recreational, cultural, educational, and leisure opportunities to benefit and enhance the lives of all Minneapolis residents. The division oversees recreation facility operations, including recreation centers, golf courses, aquatic facilities and beaches, ice arenas, cross-country skiing venues, and Wirth Winter Recreation Complex; recreation, education, youth development and interpretive programming; and athletic fields and complexes.



### Sport team participants:

- 8,165 youth
- 25,911 adults

Non-sport recreation center program and special event participants:

- 103,227

### Golf rounds played:

- 164,399

### Rec Plus locations:

- 16 school-year
- 15 summer

### Athletic facility rental permits issued:

- 173 permits to 168 organizations for 20,620 hours of play



### MPRB employees:

- 569 budgeted full-time
- 1,500 approximate temporary

## Building an inclusive workforce

For several years, the MPRB has worked hard to put systems in place to build a more inclusive workforce and one that better represents the community we serve. Approximately 40% of Minneapolis residents are people of color with approximately 25% working age 18-64. Today, almost

26% of our workforce are people of color. Below is a summary of the MPRB workforce, of appointed and full-time certified employees, as of December 17, 2018. We still have work to do and remain committed to this effort.

EO04 Category	American Indian	Asian	Black	Hispanic	Pacific American	White	Two +	Percent of Total Employees
Officials & Administrators	0%	5.00%	20.00%	0%	0%	75.00%	0%	3.88%
Professionals	2.80%	4.67%	12.15%	1.87%	0%	76.64%	1.87%	20.78%
Technicians	0%	0%	10.71%	0%	0%	78.57%	10.71%	5.44%
Protective Service Workers	0%	13.04%	0%	0%	0%	82.61%	4.35%	4.47%
Paraprofessionals	1.89%	5.66%	26.42%	1.89%	0%	62.26%	1.89%	10.29%
Administrative Support	11.11%	0%	16.67%	0%	0%	61.11%	11.11%	3.50%
Skilled Craft Workers	1.49%	0%	4.48%	4.48%	0%	88.06%	1.49%	13.01%
Service – Maintenance	2.51%	2.01%	15.08%	6.03%	0%	71.86%	2.51%	38.64%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.33%</b>	<b>3.11%</b>	<b>13.59%</b>	<b>3.50%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>74.56%</b>	<b>2.91%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## PARK FUNDING Comparison by Commissioner District

*The MPRB is focused on making capital, recreation and maintenance investments in parks serving racially diverse and low-income neighborhoods. Below is a breakdown of MPRB investments, past, present and future, sorted by Commissioner District.*

	<b>NE/SE District 1</b>	<b>N District 2</b>	<b>Upper S District 3</b>	<b>Upper SW District 4</b>	<b>Lower S District 5</b>	<b>Lower SW District 6</b>
Population per American Community Survey	72,014	69,245	66,637	66,892	64,958	64,640
Average annual capital investment per capita – 2013–2018/Slated for 2019–2024	\$51/31	\$36/66	\$51/30	\$26/43	\$28/30	\$14/15
Youth and Family Recreation investment per capita, 2017	\$30	\$40	\$38	\$16	\$32	\$35
Maintenance and Operations investments per capita, 2017	\$61	\$68	\$46	\$56	\$71	\$71
Parks	41	39	20	37	22	24
Total Acres – Land/Water	795/22	1,056/141	316/57	728/576	1,076/401	632/568
Land acquisition 2013–2018	5.6 acres	7.2 acres	.15 acres	4.2 acres	0 acres	0 acres
Recreation Centers <sup>(1)</sup>	8	6	11	4	9	11
Play Areas <sup>(1)</sup>	22	28	18	17	18	15
Wading Pools <sup>(1)</sup>	13	13	11	6	10	9
Basketball and Tennis courts	46	33	31	26	40	44
	Numbers below in millions					
Neighborhood Parks – funds allocated for capital improvements, 2013–2018 <sup>(2)</sup>	\$6.8 M	\$4.9 M	\$12.2 M	\$3.2 M	\$6.2 M	\$2.2 M
Regional Parks – funds allocated for capital improvements, 2013–2018	\$15 M	\$10.2 M	\$8.2 M	\$7.1 M	\$4.9 M	\$3.3 M
Neighborhood Parks – funds slated for capital improvements, 2019–2024 <sup>(2)</sup>	\$6.5 M	\$15.4 M	\$8.8 M	\$10.4 M	\$4.2 M	\$4.4 M
Regional Parks – funds slated for capital improvements, 2019–2024	\$6.9 M	\$12.1 M	\$3.1 M	\$6.7 M	\$7.4 M	\$1.5 M
Maintenance and Operations – funds invested 2017	\$4.4 M	\$4.7 M	\$3.1 M	\$3.8 M	\$4.6 M	\$4.6 M
Key Youth and Family Recreation Services – funds invested in 2017	\$2.2 M	\$2.8 M	\$2.5 M	\$1.1 M	\$2.1 M	\$2.3 M

<sup>1</sup> Examples of park assets available city-wide.

<sup>2</sup> Does not include approximately \$3.7 million per year for neighborhood park rehabilitation, beginning in 2017.



## Revenues

Property Taxes	\$ 61,579,702
Enterprise	\$ 11,996,665
Capital Projects	\$ 18,267,227
Local Government Aid	\$ 9,345,764
Other Revenue	\$ 11,569,846
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 112,759,204</b>

## Expenditures

### Superintendent's Office

Superintendent's Office	\$ 791,001
Board of Commissioners	\$ 713,121
Communications & Marketing	\$ 842,738
Community Outreach	\$ 1,420,867
Park Police	\$ 6,082,402

### Deputy Superintendent's Office

Deputy Superintendent's Office	\$ 265,745
Customer Service	\$ 2,070,056
Finance	\$ 1,219,474
Human Resources	\$ 1,138,808

### Environmental Stewardship

Asset Management	\$ 28,106,653
Environmental Management	\$ 3,156,404
Forestry	\$ 11,246,555

### Planning Services

Design & Project Management	\$ 2,217,669
Strategic Planning	\$ 1,009,357

### Recreation Services

Athletic Programs, Aquatics & Ice Arenas	\$ 4,311,921
Recreation Centers & Programs	\$ 11,554,794
Youth Development	\$ 4,291,860
Golf Operations	\$ 6,566,294

### Other

Capital Projects	\$ 22,515,227
City Mgmt Fee, Contributions & Other	\$ 1,790,729
Debt Service	\$ 729,887

<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 112,041,562</b>
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The Minneapolis park system was rated number one in the nation for the sixth consecutive year by the Trust for Public Land. Minneapolis earned a perfect five “park bench” rating on the Park Score® index, based on several data sets: Park Access, which measures the percentage of residents living within a 10-minute walk of a park; Park Size, which is based on median park size and the percentage of total city area dedicated to parks; and Facilities and Investment, which combines park spending per resident with availability of popular park amenities.

## 2018 Distinctions

Minneapolis Parks: #1 Park System in the U.S. (for its 6th consecutive year)  
 – The Trust for Public Land ParkScore® index, May

Minneapolis: Second Best City for Runners – SmartAsset, April

MPRB Forestry: Tree City USA Award & Growth Award – The Arbor Day Foundation, April

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board: 2018 Golf Medal Award Finalist  
 – National Recreation and Park Association, May

Minneapolis: #1 Most Bikeable City in America – Bike Score® rankings by Redfin, May

Lake Harriet: Best Park in Minnesota – Time.com - Money, May

MPRB Customer Service Boot Camp Training Program: Award of Excellence  
 – Minnesota Recreation and Park Association, June

MPRB, with Xcel Energy: State Leadership in Clean Energy Award – Clean Energy State Alliance, July

MPRB: 2018 AchieveMpls Community Partner Ally – AchieveMpls, October

Minnehaha Falls: 2018 Editor’s Choice Award for Best Beaches and Natural Attractions – Trip Savvy, October

MPRB: Creating a More Inclusive and Effective Democracy Award  
 – Government Alliance for Race Equity (GARE) and League of Minnesota Cities, December



**Minneapolis**  
**Park & Recreation Board**

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