

Investing in Our Future

Superintendent's Annual Report 2022



Minneapolis
Park & Recreation Board

Contents

- Goal 1** Foster belonging and equity 3
- Goal 2** Steward a continuum of nature and recreation 5
- Goal 3** Provide core services with care 7
- Goal 4** Work from our strengths and determine our role in partnerships 9
- Goal 5** Expand focus on health equity 11
- Goal 6** Strengthen ecological connections 13
- Goal 7** Connect through communications and technology 15
- Goal 8** Cultivate a thriving workforce 17
- Goal 9** Operate a financially sustainable enterprise 19
- 2022 Employment and Budgetary Reports 21

MISSION STATEMENT

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board permanently preserves, protects, maintains, improves, and enhances its natural resources, parkland, and recreational opportunities for current and future generations of our region including people, plants, and wildlife.

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board dismantles historic inequities in the provision of park and recreation opportunities for all people to gather, celebrate, contemplate, and engage in activities that promote health, wellbeing, community, and the environment.

Park users look to the treetops during a staff-guided bird-watching program at Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden.

PARKS FOR ALL 2021–2036 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Progress is tracked and shared through a Dashboard and Annual Report, with goal highlights on pages 3–20.

For plan details, visit minneapolisparks.org/mission.

Superintendent Al Bangoura

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2022 Commissioners

President Meg Forney, At Large

Vice President Alicia D. Smith, At Large

Billy Menz, District 1

Becka Thompson, District 2

Becky Alper, District 3

Elizabeth Shaffer, District 4

Steffanie Musich, District 5

Cathy Abene, District 6

Tom Olsen, At Large



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Welcome from Superintendent Al Bangoura

I'm proud of our parks, grateful for your support, and pleased to share accomplishments from 2022.

Climate change is here. This year Minnehaha Creek ran dry, trees were stressed, and persistent algae blooms affected lakes. We're adapting with urgency by partnering in a new program to fund planting thousands of new trees, conducting rigorous water quality testing and research, and restoring wildlife habitat.

From preschool to Rec Plus to Youthline teen mentorship, we provide enriching, safe spaces for all young people in Minneapolis. I'm proud of the smart, compassionate work of Park Police and Community Connections and Violence Prevention staff to address crime hotspots in 2022. Well-maintained infrastructure is also part of park safety. This year we resurfaced courts and trails across the city and opened five new playgrounds.

We've fully returned to hosting large events and people participated in tens of thousands of programs offered through our parks. Popular activities include art, music, environmental education, swimming, ice skating, bike clubs, sports leagues, golf and much more.

It's all built on park staff's dedication and the generosity of the people we serve. We're especially grateful for 3,000+ volunteers who donated time and talent in 2022. Thank you! Together, we've created one of the best park systems in the world over nearly 140 years and we will continue to work hard every day to make it better.



Superintendent Al Bangoura

FAST FACTS



1883

MPRB established



30.1 million

estimated park visits:

24.1 million regional parks
6 million neighborhood parks

185 parks:

165 neighborhood parks
20 regional parks



7,059 acres of parkland and water

600,000 estimated trees:

200,000 boulevard trees
400,000 park trees



49 recreation centers:

47 operated by MPRB
2 operated by non-profits

6 skate parks

121 play areas

147 basketball hoops

5 outdoor stages



67 aquatic facilities:

1 natural swimming pool
2 indoor swimming pools
2 water parks
3 splash pads
59 wading pools

12 authorized beaches

10 fishing piers

5 boat launches

7 canoe launches

380 sailboat buoys

542 canoe/kayak racks



102 miles of Grand Rounds trails:

51 miles walking
51 miles biking

55 miles of parkways

7 dog parks

12 formal gardens

8 community gardens

2 bird sanctuaries



13 golf facilities:

7 courses
3 driving ranges
3 disc golf courses

1 winter recreation area

2 indoor ice arenas

45 outdoor ice rinks

A mural was painted on the Phelps Park basketball court in fall of 2022.

Goal 1: Foster belonging and equity

Creating a park system that is accessible, equitable and welcoming to everyone across age, culture, race, ability, and gender.

Park Events

At the start of the year, the annual MLK Day Celebration at Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park honored Willie B. Jasper, beloved matriarch of North Commons, with the Living the Dream Award, the Lake Harriet Winter Kite Festival returned to the frozen lake, and Minneapolis International Festival brought cultural exhibits, food, and performances to Central Gym. In spring, 34 locations hosted an Earth Day Cleanup and Arbor Day returned with a North Loop block party.

Summertime Music and Movies in the Parks put on hundreds of free concerts and movies, Juneteenth was commemorated at Bethune, Creekview and Harrison Parks, and Fourth of July was celebrated at Lakes Harriet and Nokomis, and Logan and Victory Parks. Fall featured the Monarch Festival at Nokomis and Owámmni Falling Water Festival at Water Works.



Community Connections and Violence Prevention

CCVP staff engaged with more than 5,600 youth in 2022. In partnership with Recreation, Pop-Up Park activities were provided at more than 20 sites and supported 12 special events, and the Youth Empowerment Summer initiative brought safe, enriching, and fun activities to seven satellite park locations.

CCVP also collaborated with other departments to reach underrepresented groups in a culturally appropriate way, like helping Aquatics with a new East African lifeguard program.

More than 800 outreach interactions were recorded with unsheltered individuals in parks in 2022. Staff used their expertise and connections to secure direct access to service providers for youth and adults in crisis. They will continue to build on this compassionate, transformational work in 2023.





Coaches and Activity Volunteers

Youth benefitted from 1,581 caring volunteer coaches contributing 83,110 hours to sports programs. Meanwhile, 845 enthusiastic volunteers contributed 8,010 hours to recreation center events, neighborhood festivals, and citywide special events like the Kite Festival, Earth Day Cleanup and Arbor Day Celebration.



New Public Art

Three new public artworks debuted this year. A lakeside sunset by Lily Lennox decorates the Cedar Lake South Beach bathroom, a patterned mural by Jendayi Berry adorns the resurfaced Phelps Park basketball court, and a tile mosaic by artist Craig David features poetry by Deeq Abdi on the bathroom next to the Currie Park splash pad.



Rec Plus School-Age Childcare

Activity highlights among 15 sites, with three fee-optional, included a Lynx basketball game, Human Anatomy week with edible spinal-column crafts, skate lessons, and garden-to-table zucchini breadmaking. Enrollment since the pandemic's 2020 onset continued growing, with 650 kids during the school year, 500 in summer.



Youth Advisory Council

The MPRB Youth Advisory Council served as ambassadors for the first annual Minneapolis Youth and Teen Job Fair. Council members also worked with youth-serving organizations focused on increasing community of color participation in non-traditional outdoor activities, like mountain biking, canoeing, kayaking, and camping.

AWARD-WINNING WATER WORKS

Water Works Pavilion was recognized with the Award of Excellence from the American Society of Landscape Architects – Minnesota Chapter.

TARGETING CRIME HOTSPOTS

Violent crime was drastically reduced at the top two park hotspots, Loring Park and Stevens Square Park, thanks to intentional, collaborative efforts between Park Police, park staff and community.

24.1 MILLION REGIONAL PARK VISITS

up 41% since 2016

200 PROGRAMS offered for adults 55+ in 2022

Active older adults enjoyed cards, coffee, crafts, pickleball, picnics, tech tips, field trips, basketball, birding and much more!

Violent Crime Incidents

	2021	2022
Loring	13	3
Stevens	3	0

911 Calls

	2021	2022
Loring	183	138
Stevens	116	37



GOAL 1 DATA

Scan the QR code to browse the Dashboard

Goal 2: Steward a continuum of nature and recreation

Implementing the detailed, system-wide vision recently developed for all neighborhood and regional parks that balances ecological well-being and recreational opportunities for all



Environmental Education

For a 24th year, Neighborhood Naturalists connected with people of all ages at recreation centers and neighborhood parks, while the Walks with a Naturalist program, launched in 2021, continued drawing adults to explore Loring Park and the Water Works riverfront area.

Summer operations ramped up as environmental education staff led weekly nature camps for youth at regional parks and connected with more than 5,000 people at 50 park spaces through bike tours, canoeing, and other outdoor fun.

Naturalists also partnered for activities with Powderhorn Park's Spark'd Studio and with Minneapolis Public Schools. Sadly, a longtime member of the team, Bullwinkle the Bullsake, passed on after more than 10 years of charming humans with his sweet, mellow personality.

Riverfront Progress

Demolition at the Upper Harbor site prepared the former shipping terminal for park construction to begin in 2023. The 53-acre redevelopment project includes a new 20-acre regional park with a mile of new riverfront trail and parkway.

Soil from Upper Harbor was trucked a mile downstream and reused to prepare Graco Park for construction in 2024 as well. Graco Park will feature a new building housing a Spark'd Studios location along Mississippi East Bank Trail, ample gathering spaces, and river access next to the Plymouth Avenue Bridge.

A major renovation of Father Hennepin Bluff Park is nearly complete. A new performance stage with seasonal restrooms will open in 2023 alongside upgrades to park accessibility, safety, and circulation.





Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden

Naturalist-led programs attracted 3000+ folks, including about 50 at each Garden Storytime! Meanwhile, 2,000 enjoyed informal programs like Stinky Flowers and F.B.I. Decomposers; the Visitor Shelter welcomed 12,000; and volunteers, including 28 re-activated docents, logged more than 700 hours of much-appreciated assistance.



Golf A busy, memorable season saw some 225,000 rounds played at MPRB’s seven courses. The Meadowbrook location opened its new clubhouse; Columbia’s major stormwater improvements led to improved play and increased plant/wildlife habitat; and Hiawatha’s clubhouse was named to honor trailblazing Black golfer Solomon Hughes, Sr.



Summer Camps Despite labor shortages, staff created fun, memorable camp experiences for youth of all ages. Citywide, 1,101 kids enrolled in \$10 weeklong day camps for cycling, the great outdoors, sports, “Summer Survivor” and water activities. Well over 100 additional camps offered dual-language music, robotics, tween tailored fun and more.



Algae Monitoring MPRB convened local and state experts to assess its water quality program in light of climate change and more frequent, severe, and sometimes toxic cyanobacteria blooms on lakes in Minneapolis – and worldwide. Testing procedures, beach signage and information and other communications for beachgoers are getting updates, too.

3,800 HOURS
of environmental
education programming
provided in 2022

LAKE CONDITIONS

The Lake Aesthetic and User Recreation Index (LAURI) scores city lake conditions annually across five indicators. Here are the scores for 2022:

CITYWIDE LAURI 2022



PLAN FOR CEDAR-ISLES

A new long-term plan for Cedar Lake, Lake of the Isles, and surrounding parkland is nearly complete after three years of work. Visit minneapolisparcs.org/cedar-isles for the latest.

HIAWATHA GOLF COURSE VISION

A new long-term plan for Hiawatha Golf Course passed in September. It outlines transitioning the course from 18 holes to 9 holes with reduced groundwater pumping, improved ecology and water management and expanded trails and winter recreation.



GOAL 2 DATA
Scan the QR code to browse the Dashboard

Goal 3: Provide core services with care

Focusing on key areas: capital investments, rehabilitation, and increased maintenance at neighborhood parks; racial equity; and youth

20-Year Neighborhood Park Plan (NPP20)

Thanks to NPP20 funding, the park system's first all-wheel pump track opened at Perkins Hill Park, Phelps Park got a new splash pad, and Kenny Park's playground was renovated and expanded. Though high bids temporarily delayed construction of several NPP20 projects, an all-ages play complex, featuring bouldering/climbing, is underway at Keewaydin Park.

Planning and design progressed for a new roof at Powderhorn Recreation Center, flexible skatepark features at 28th Street Totlot, and a range of improvements at Whittier, Bethune, Sibley, Corcoran, Riverside and Powderhorn parks.

On a smaller scale, NPP20 funded lighting at Cedar Avenue Field Park, interior updates at Van Cleve and Folwell recreation centers, and sport court upgrades at 12 parks (see page 8).



Park Police

Officer Karl Zabinski is the 2022 Park Police Officer of the Year. Zabinski was lauded for his work on serious violent crime in his patrol district. Violent crime incidents in this district fell from 38 in 2021 to 13 in 2022. Three Minneapolis Park Police Officers received Lifesaving Awards in 2022: Brian Duran, Justin Brown, and Allie Simonett.

Park Police completed a successful audit of its body-worn camera program and began a process to modernize body-worn cameras, squad cameras, tasers and digital evidence storage.

A collaboration with the Data Insights Team created a dashboard that measures serious crime indicators and helps direct patrols at parks based on data trends. As a result, the most challenging areas in the park system saw significant decreases in violent crime.





Free Youth Programs Starting in the summer, all fees were eliminated for all youth programs, activities and sports at parks, recreation centers and facilities located within a census-designated Area of Concentrated Poverty. The new policy applies to 17 total sites and was renewed for 2023. In addition, fees are now optional at three Rec Plus sites.



Major Projects Under Construction A new concessions pavilion at Bde Maka Ska is under construction and scheduled to open in 2023. It includes two all-season buildings and ample outdoor public seating. In late fall, work began on a full renovation of Bryn Mawr Meadows Park that will bring a new playground, water quality ponds, lighted ballfields, and picnic areas.



Resurfaced Courts and Trails A total of 31 courts were resurfaced in 2022 (18 tennis, 12 basketball, one bike polo) and two tennis courts were replaced at Beards Plaisance. Five pickleball courts were striped at McRae Park when pavement under the hockey rink was resurfaced, and six new pickleball courts are under construction next to Lake Nokomis Community Center.



Downtown Parks Programming A new array of daily activities, weekly classes, and a special series of concerts, movies and events drew big crowds to The Commons and Water Works. The new programming was part of an effort to bring people back to Downtown after the pandemic and showcase two of the newest attractions in the Minneapolis park system.



BDE MAKA SKA POP-UP SKATEPARK

A pop-up skate park opened in the Bde Maka Ska north parking lot. Skate features were designed by park trades staff and skaters, then crafted from salvaged park furnishings like old fences.

98% OF MINNEAPOLIS RESIDENTS

live within walking distance of a park

OUTDOOR ICE RINKS

- 23 Total Parks
- 47 Total Rinks
- 21 Skating
- 19 Hockey
- 7 Broomball

1,131 MAINTENANCE SERVICE REQUESTS

completed in 2022



GOAL 3 DATA

Scan the QR code to browse the Dashboard

Goal 4: Work from our strengths and determine our role in partnerships

Establishing well-defined partnerships with clear goals to increase our level of service

Youth Funding Agreement with City

A historic six-year agreement reached in 2021 with the Mayor and City of Minneapolis provides an annual investment of \$2.6 million to serve the youth of Minneapolis. This year the agreement funded the addition of 22 full-time employees who provide safe, engaging environments for youth and introduce youth to new enriching experiences.

Efforts are focused on youth programming, Spark'd Studios, youth employment, nature-based programming, and intergenerational programming. New staff are working together to help develop citywide programs using demographic and program data to ensure equity in programming across Minneapolis.

These new programs are accountable through program capacity measurement, multi-tiered program evaluation, and enrollment tracking.



Environmental Volunteers

MPRB tallied 140 one-time group events with 2,640 volunteers caring for parks, gardens, and natural areas; plus 2,311 park stewards providing 17,149 hours of ongoing care at specific sites.

Volunteers tackled a host of jobs, showing up for spring cleanups and picking up trash. They planted trees and garden beds and sowed seed. They weeded and pruned, wheelbarrowed mulch and pulled literally tons of invasive plants: A buckthorn pile on Minnehaha Parkway measured 8 x 10 x 150 feet!

They also welcomed visitors, served as tour guides, and inspired others to volunteer. In all, environmental volunteers clocked 27,757 hours – that is 694 weeks of full-time employment! The value of their work may be quantified as dollars, but their spirit, enthusiasm and generosity are simply priceless.





Mississippi Watershed Management Organization The MWMO awarded two major grants – \$2.6 million for the Upper Harbor site regional park and \$480,000 for Graco Park – to improve river water quality and add habitat at these parks under construction. MWMO and park staff also partnered on research to improve green infrastructure projects.



Loppet Foundation An invaluable partner and park steward, the Loppet Foundation welcomes all to enjoy year-round outdoor recreation at Wirth Park. In addition to adult programs, the Foundation hosts bike, ski and outdoor adventure programs for thousands of youth, including no-cost programs through partnerships with North Minneapolis schools.



Minneapolis Parks Foundation This dynamic, innovative philanthropic partner serves all Minneapolis residents with world-class parks and public spaces. MPRB Superintendent Al Bangoura spoke to 250 Twin Cities leaders at MPF’s eighth annual Sunrise on the Mississippi breakfast, showcasing the park system’s current and future work to ensure accessible, equitable parks.



Superintendent on Stage In addition to the Sunrise Breakfast, Superintendent Bangoura delivered two presentations on equitable park investment strategies at the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Conference in Phoenix, sat on an NRPA Business Council Panel Discussion, and spoke at a Minneapolis Downtown Council event to kick off summer activities.



NE ICE ARENA DRYLAND TRAINING FACILITY

Northeast Ice Arena opened a new training facility and mentoring room as a legacy to the 2022 Winter Classic at Target Field. The NHL, MN Wild and Herb Brooks Foundation funded the project.

2,411 TOTAL COACHES and Recreation Volunteers in 2022

COUNTY TRAIL PARTNERSHIP

Park staff and Hennepin County are developing a new off-street trail on Main Street between E Hennepin Ave. and 1st Ave. NE. Long desired by trail users, it’s called “The Seam” by designers.



GOAL 4 DATA
Scan the QR code to browse the Dashboard

Goal 5: Expand focus on health equity

Considering proactive and reactive approaches to public health and reducing health disparities



Community Gardens

Way to grow! With more than 200 applications submitted, community garden plots are becoming a popular feature in neighborhood parks. Ultimately, nearly 150 families grew food and flowers at nine garden sites, including the newest, at the to-be-renamed Cepro site park next to the Midtown Greenway.

Non-growers are also welcome to sample produce from a signed, shared “community plot” at each garden. The shared plots and MPRB pantry gardens yielded enough produce for 35 deliveries to local food shelves.

Much-appreciated contributions from volunteers (see page 9) included installation of Sibley Park’s community garden and berry patch, a rehab for Fuller Park’s garden, plus tool-storage benches, a pollinator border, trellises, a “tiny seed library” and more!

Aquatics

Summer saw over 100,000 people having fun in and around the water at three pools, twelve beaches and seven lakes. The Aquatics department logged 826 people for swim lessons, 1,190 at Open Swim Club and more than 400 learning to sail.

After Labor Day, activity ramped up at the Phillips Aquatic Center, a facility designated for free youth programs (see page 8), including lessons and pool admission. The center was busy every day with Minneapolis Public Schools girls’ swim team practice, 158 youth and seven adult beginner swim lessons.

Better still, five years after it launched, the Jr. Swim Club is going strong with 62 members. Also popular: Friday’s open swim, which attracts Phillips-area youth for active fun and exposure to a wonderful lifelong activity.





– **Pools and Beaches** Despite the nationwide shortage, lifeguard hires for Minneapolis pools and beaches increased slightly over 2021. Aquatics facilities were accessible to the public for 91% of regular operating hours – an improvement from years prior – while water quality issues caused about 10 temporary beach closures.



– **Youthline** Dozens of youth ages 12-16 connected with caring adult mentors, learned life skills, and embarked on citywide adventures. Program highlights included a teen basketball night; bike repair and earn-a-bike classes; and trips to the Science Museum of Minnesota, a haunted hayride, and Allianz Field – a first-ever pro sports outing for some.



– **Cycle the Summer** Cycle the Summer promoted biking with free summer events and activities offered throughout the park system. These include Bike Mechanics 101, an open house bike repair workshop; Cycling 101, a youth bike rodeo and BMX Big Air show; a Passport Program, which places collectable QR codes across the trail system; and an end-of-summer party.



– **Bike, Kayak, Scooter Agreements** A renewed agreement with Nice Ride allowed bike share docking stations to return to numerous park locations, a new five-year agreement with Mississippi Paddle Share permits kayak rental lockers at four riverfront parks, and five scooter companies were granted licenses to operate shared scooter fleets on park land in 2022.



PARKS STUDY

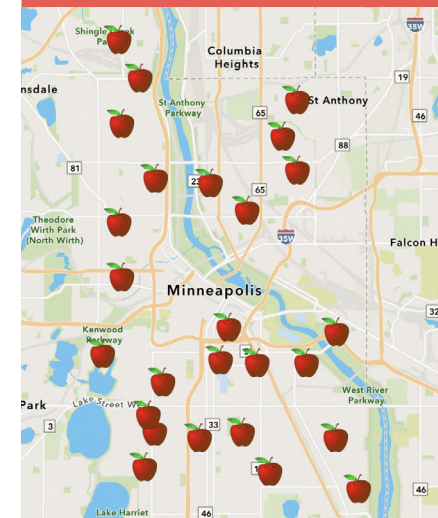
The University of Minnesota is partnering on the Parks and Recreation for Kids (PARKS) research study examining impacts of free youth sports programs and intensive community outreach on child physical activity levels.

28 PARKS OFFER FREE MEALS & SNACKS FOR YOUTH

throughout the year thanks to a partnership with Minneapolis Public Schools

143.1 MILES
of trail cleared after snowfall

13 PARKS HOST ORGANICS DROP-OFF SITES
including two new sites in 2022 – Stewart Park and North Commons Park



GOAL 5 DATA
Scan the QR code to browse the Dashboard

Goal 6: Strengthen ecological connections

Being a responsible steward of our water, air, trees, plants, soil, habitat, and wildlife

End of Tree Levy and Start of Carbon Credits Agreement

The Forestry Department not only planted trees faster, thanks partly to auguring planting holes rather than hand-digging, it also embarked on a pilot program to increase the urban tree canopy, and the carbon it stores.

A collaboration with Green Minneapolis, the Urban Tree Carbon Offset Program sells carbon credits for new trees planted, with funds supplementing MPRB's tree planting budget. The goal is to plant 8,000 trees annually, a rate achieved from 2014 to 2021, while the Tree Preservation and Restoration Levy was in effect.

The City of Minneapolis jump-started the effort with \$1 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding to add trees in the city's major heat islands, environmentally disadvantaged areas and throughout city streets and parks.



Kroening Nature Center

The newly renamed Kroening Nature Center engaged with several new partners and collaborators, among them: Fishing in Neighborhoods (a MN Department of Natural Resources program), Latino Youth Development Collaborative and Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

A collaborative highlight was Black to Nature, a new event series led by three Northside African American artists and Kroening naturalists, incorporating Indigenous African and Black historical narratives. Kroening hosted 50 teachers and administrators for a professional development day, and then 240 of their students came on field trips.

Summer brought hundreds of children for camps, and more than 450 Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) students for summer school programs, while staff supported programs at multiple MPS sites.



Invasive Species Management Human volunteers and hungry goats supported efforts to keep invasive species in check. Staff and volunteers sowed native seed in natural areas, which over several years can reclaim land damaged by invasive plants. Goats continued their annual Theodore Wirth Regional Park visits to browse invasive buckthorn and honeysuckle, decreasing their density.



Responding to Extreme Drought Another year of drought dried up Minnehaha Creek, and MPRB arborists did overtime shifts to water stressed trees. Meanwhile, MPRB continues to build stormwater management in every major park improvement project, and conserve energy and reduce emissions with upgrades to park buildings, vehicles, and equipment.



JD Rivers' Children's Garden From July to October, a crew of six teens and their supervisor cared for the one-acre garden and ran a twice-weekly pick-your-own, pay-by-the-pound produce market. They also helped with youth programs at the Garden all season, culminating with three weeks of Garden-to-Table camps.



Protecting Turtles Public support buoyed MPRB's work to preserve the diversity and abundance of turtles in Minneapolis parks. Using initial findings from 2021, goals include: reduce road mortality; protect, improve, create, and maintain quality nesting and other parkland habitat; and communicate with, educate, and involve the public.



DROP-IN CANOEING

Park naturalists supplied canoes, paddles, lifejackets, and instruction as part of free weekly drop-in canoeing offered throughout the summer at Wirth Lake and Loring Pond.

9,200 TREES
planted in spring 2022

34 PARK SITES
hosted Minneapolis Earth Day Clean-Up events on April 23



GOAL 6 DATA

Scan the QR code to browse the Dashboard

Goal 7: Connect through communications and technology

Building capacity throughout our organization for information sharing and storytelling



Real-Time Winter Plowing Map

A new live trail plowing map debuted in November! This online tool refreshes every three minutes to show where park trails and sidewalks have been cleared when it snows 2+ inches.

People can see where plow equipment is located throughout the park system in real-time and follow along, check when segments of trail have been last cleared, and submit requests, issues or complaints related to snow and ice removal.

The popular interactive map joins other similar maps created recently to effectively share data and information with park staff and visitors. There are maps that display ice rink or pool locations and status, outline public art walking tours, illustrate yearly park funding, detail tree canopy coverage by neighborhood, and more! Check it out at minneapolisparcs.org/maps.



Spark'd Studios

Spark'd Studios are new spaces in Minneapolis park buildings that help young people build creative skills through free multimedia arts programs and access to technology.

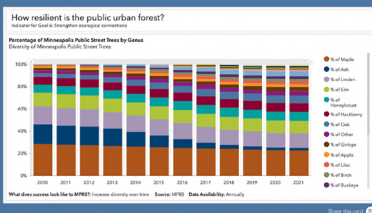
Spark'd Studios offer interdisciplinary classes, drop-in studio hours and access to creative technology and professional mentors. Participants collaborate on youth-driven projects that explore hands-on creative practices, grow interests, and cultivate career readiness.

The first location is open at Powderhorn Recreation Center. Nearly 300 students took classes in 2022, learning skills like 3D design and printing, audio engineering and podcast production, playing musical instruments and songwriting, gaming, mixed media art and more! Up to four more locations are scheduled to open next year.





Parks for All: MPRB Comprehensive Plan



Visitor Services Department The Customer Service Department was renamed “Visitor Services Department” in 2022 to better capture its significantly expanded duties over the years. Visitor Services includes units that focus on Customer Service, but also Use and Events Permitting, Downtown Programming, Community Events, Citywide Program Advancement, and Parking.

Data Insights Team The new Data Insights Team uses data to inform internal decision-making. In 2022 it enhanced online wading pool and ice rink maps, developed standards for collecting demographic data, created tools to analyze a wood duck nesting box program, and built a “TrueCIP” tool that shows all capital budget items going back to 2017.

Hiring Campaign Facing a challenging labor market, Minneapolis parks responded with “Join our crew, we need you!” The two-month campaign featured radio spots on KMOJ and La Raza; large banners at high-visibility locations; and regular social media posts. MPRB hired 415 people: 103 full-time and the rest part-time and/or seasonal.

Park User Data Standards Thanks to established standards across the organization, demographic data about park users and program participants can be more easily compared and analyzed, both internally and with external sources. The standards also support ongoing dismantling of historic inequities related to parks and recreation.



130,648 SUBSCRIBERS to Minneapolis Parks emails, with 535 emails sent in 2022

250 TOPIC LISTS The five most popular lists are Golf, Special Events, Jobs, Environmental Programs and Concerts

VUEWORKS UPGRADE VueWorks, the software used to submit and track IT and maintenance work requests for park assets, was upgraded in May and shifted to a new phone app in November.

SOCIAL MEDIA
Social media accounts continue to grow! Year-end followers:
Facebook (@MinneapolisParks): 23,537
Instagram (@MinneapolisParks): 14,170
Twitter (@MplsParkBoard): 11,567

NEW INSTAGRAM ACCOUNTS
Check out new Minneapolis Parks Instagram accounts!
Spark'd Studios: @sparkdmpls
Youth Athletics: @mprbyouthsports
Youthline: @mplsparkyouthline

4 MILLION VISITS to MinneapolisParks.org in 2022

GOAL 7 DATA
Scan the QR code to browse the Dashboard

Goal 8: Cultivate a thriving workforce

Fostering safe, welcoming, and diverse workplaces and reducing barriers throughout the organization

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 MPRB. The Superintendent provides leadership, vision, and direction to MPRB's service areas, implements Board policy, and works with the Board and leadership staff to craft strategic and financial planning objectives. The Superintendent serves in a highly visible capacity as an ambassador to the community and other governmental agencies. The Superintendent provides expertise and leadership in general MPRB administration, organizational development, community relations, intergovernmental relations, grant and donation administration, Board support/relations, MPRB budget and financial strategic planning, communications and marketing, community connections and violence prevention, and park safety and security.

Deputy Superintendent's Office

Supporting organization service delivery

The Deputy Superintendent's Office is responsible for the coordination of the day-to-day operations of the support services group of the MPRB. The Superintendent provides leadership and direction for the entire MPRB, while the Deputy is responsible for cross-departmental coordination and leadership. The Deputy Superintendent provides oversight of MPRB's information technology, finance, visitor services, and human resources departments as well as records management, archives, data practices, and safety and risk management.

Environmental Stewardship

Caring for the system

The Environmental Stewardship Division provides expertise for the care and maintenance of the Minneapolis Park system. The division oversees maintenance of the park system's physical infrastructure; equipment and fleet services; management of natural areas and water resources; care of boulevard trees and wooded areas; environmental education; volunteer stewardship coordination; and youth employment and training.

Planning Services

Developing the system

The Planning Division provides expertise to lead, advise and guide the development and redevelopment of the Minneapolis Park system. The division oversees park system analysis and master planning; capital program development; property administration; parkland acquisition; design and engineering; physical development and redevelopment; and construction permitting.

Recreation Services

Providing visitor activities

The Recreation Division 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; and recreation and education programming.



Teen Teamworks When they weren't rejuvenating planting beds, mulching, constructing garden planters, replacing park name signs, or learning tool safety from older peers, nearly 200 Teen Teamworks summer employees focused on financial literacy, career exploration, conflict resolution and more at Earn While You Learn classes.



Employee Recognition At its annual celebration, MPRB honored 175 employees for their contributions, including: AJ Lange (tree preservation efforts); Jeanne Whitehill (creativity, compassion and integrity with staff and community at East Phillips Community and Cultural Center); and Kate Lamers (dedication to the development of Water Works).

Internal Influencers for Racial Equity

Some 110 employees continued ongoing learning and other efforts to address systemic racism and develop networks to advance racial equity within MPRB and the communities it serves. A new charter focused on purpose, expectations, and a practical structure for approaching this work.

Internal Influencers Structure



Strategic Directions Park Commissioners created five new Strategic Directions for the next four years:

- Act boldly for our climate future
- Cultivate each community's place and honor cultural traditions in Minneapolis parks
- Implement quality youth and intergenerational programs
- Care for park assets to meet evolving needs and practices
- Steward our natural resources



617 FULL-TIME STAFF
budgeted in 2022

**23% CERTIFIED/
APPOINTED STAFF**
with professional certifications

**372 SEASONAL AND
TEMPORARY STAFF**
rehired in 2022

TELEWORK POLICY

All office employees were required to return to the office in February. The Telework Policy allows eligible employees to work at a defined satellite location for up to two days per week.

**PARENTAL
LEAVE POLICY**

An updated Parental Leave Policy was approved in 2022, increasing paid leave for eligible employees to up to 12 weeks for a birth or adoption. It took effect January 1, 2023.



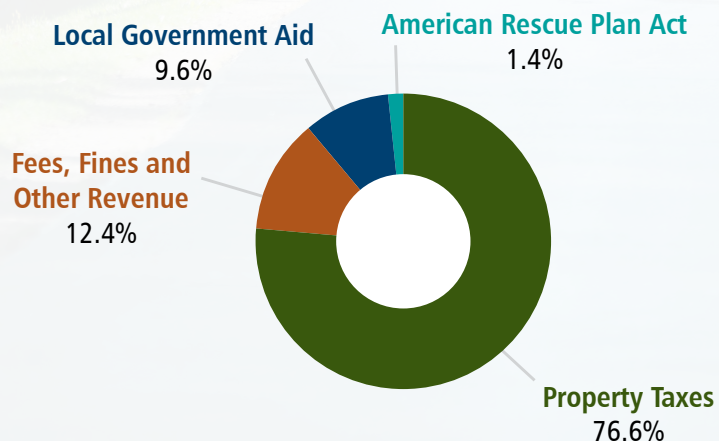
GOAL 8 DATA

Scan the QR code to browse the Dashboard

Goal 9: Operate a financially sustainable enterprise

Developing diverse, flexible, and innovative funding sources and allocating the budget using data-driven, transparent, and equitable processes

2022 GENERAL FUND REVENUE BY MAJOR SOURCES



True CIP A new online dashboard was created for people to view the organizational Capital Improvement Program (plan for all improvements to parks and trails). This “True CIP” tool shows park and trail improvements budgeted 2017-2028 through tables, graphs, maps, and a sortable, searchable database. Explore it at minneapolisiparks.org/cip.

Hennepin County Youth Sports Grants

The Hennepin County Youth Sports Program provided two major facility grants for Minneapolis Parks in 2022: \$300,000 for all-wheel skills area at Folwell Park and \$100,000 for a multi-use sport court at Whittier Park. Both grants are supporting major park improvement projects that will be constructed in 2023 and 2024.

State Legislature Impacts

Lawmakers failed to pass a bonding bill in 2022, which stalled funding for regional park improvements. The Capital Improvement Program for regional parks had to be significantly altered as a result. A separate bill did pass with \$286,000 for habitat restoration at Bohemian Flats Park, which has been repeatedly used for bridge construction staging.

Federal Funds for the Northside

A transformative rebuild for North Commons Park received two major federal funding sources in 2022: The City of Minneapolis allocated \$3 million from its American Rescue Plan Act funds and Rep. Ilhan Omar requested and secured \$2 million as a Community Funding Project for Congressional District 5. Blocks away, Willard Park will benefit from \$1.3 million from the National Park Service directed to urban parks in diverse communities.



2022 Park Funding Facts <i>Comparison by Geographical Area and Commissioner District</i>	NE/SE District 1	N District 2	Upper S District 3	Upper SW District 4	Lower S District 5	Lower SW District 6
Population per American Community Survey, 2014–2018	81,332	72,881	68,206	75,868	65,038	66,629
Average annual capital investment per capita, 2016–2021 / Slated for 2022–2027	\$44/\$58	\$44/\$70	\$50/\$28	\$41/\$38	\$40/\$35	\$15/\$16
Youth and Family Recreation investment per capita, 2021	\$30.24	\$45.24	\$44.78	\$14.40	\$36.81	\$33.34
Maintenance and Operations investments per capita, 2021	\$66.21	\$81.28	\$51.20	\$55.71	\$82.76	\$74.30
Parks	41	39	20	37	22	24
Total Acres – Land/Water	837/3	1077/103	353/12	746/535	1030/357	650/563
Land acquisition 2016-2021 (acres)	1.46	4.88	3.15	4.18	0	0
Recreation Centers¹	8	6	11	4	9	11
Play Areas¹	22	28	18	17	18	15
Wading Pools/Splash Pads¹	13	12	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, 2016–2021²	\$8.9 M	\$9.2 M	\$13.8 M	\$7.8 M	\$8.9 M	\$3.2 M
Regional Parks – funds allocated for capital improvements, 2016–2021	\$12.7 M	\$9.9 M	\$6.5 M	\$10.9 M	\$6.6 M	\$3.0 M
Neighborhood Parks – funds slated for capital improvements, 2022–2027²	\$13.4 M	\$15.5 M	\$10.7 M	\$10.8 M	\$6.3 M	\$4.6 M
Regional Parks – funds slated for capital improvements, 2022–2027	\$15.0 M	\$15.3 M	\$0.7 M	\$6.5 M	\$7.6 M	\$1.7 M
Maintenance and Operations – funds invested 2021	\$5.4 M	\$5.9 M	\$3.5 M	\$4.2 M	\$5.4 M	\$4.9 M
Key Youth and Family Recreation Services – funds invested in 2021	\$2.5 M	\$3.3 M	\$3.1 M	\$1.2 M	\$2.3 M	\$2.2 M

¹ Examples of park assets available city-wide.
² Does not include approximately \$3.7 million per year for neighborhood park rehabilitation, beginning in 2017.

Created October 2022 using financial and other information from 2021. Investment figures reflect pandemic-related effects and funding from local, county, state and federal sources.



GOAL 9 DATA
 Scan the QR code to browse the Dashboard

Building an Inclusive Workforce

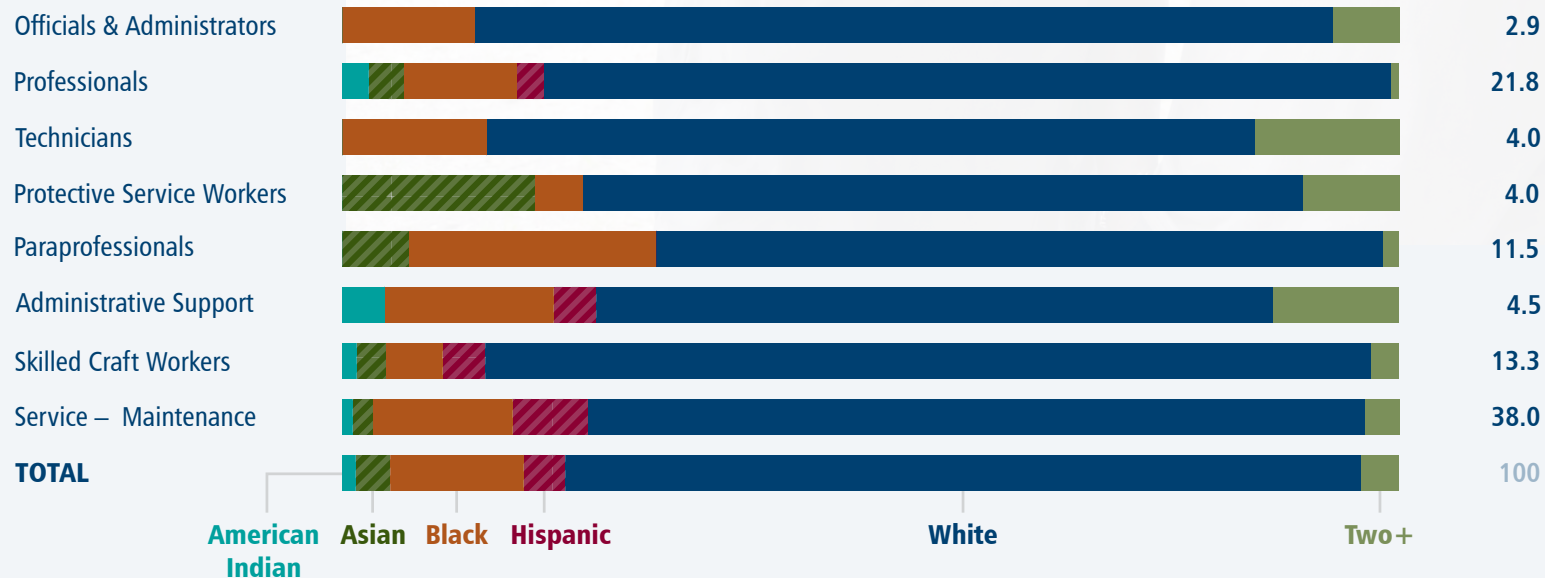
The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) continues to put systems in place to build a more inclusive workforce that better represents communities that use parks. Today almost 25% of full-time certified and appointed employees are people of color. City of Minneapolis demographics show approximately 39% of Minneapolis residents are people of color and an estimated 26% of all residents are of people color and of working ages 18-64 based on 2021 American Community Survey data.

Below is a summary of the MPRB workforce as of December 31, 2022. The MPRB still has work to do and remains committed in this effort.



Summary of MPRB Workforce | Appointed and Full-Time Certified Employees

EE04 Category



2022 Park Board Budget

Revenue

Property Taxes	73,694,610
Enterprise	13,957,144
Capital Projects	22,133,316
Local Government Aid	9,233,125
Other Revenue	13,260,084
Total Revenue	132,278,279

Expenditures

Superintendent's Office	
Superintendent's Office	1,009,058
Board of Commissioners	739,022
Communications & Marketing	963,389
Community Connections & Violence Prevention	1,465,455
Park Police	6,375,336
Environmental Stewardship	
Asset Management	31,607,449
Environmental Management	5,156,762
Forestry	11,170,823
Deputy Superintendent's Office	
Deputy Superintendent's Office	1,287,464
Finance	1,415,488
Human Resources	1,491,292
ITS – Copy Center	64,360
Visitor Services	3,930,063

Planning Services	
Design & Project Management	2,073,123
Strategic Planning	1,571,708
Recreation Services	
Athletic Programs, Aquatics & Ice Arenas	11,423,790
Youth & Recreation Center Programs	22,023,524
Other	
Capital Projects	29,711,642
City Mgmt Fee, Contributions & Other	1,453,622
Debt Service	1,280,663
Total Expenditures	136,214,033

Expenditures exceed budgeted revenues due to the programmed use of Enterprise Fund reserves for capital projects and Special Revenue Fund reserves for tree planting. See minneapolisparcs.org/budget for more details.



2022 Distinctions

Minneapolis Parks: #5 Best Park System in the Nation

Trust for Public Land, May

Water Works Pavilion: Honor Award and Award of Excellence

American Society of Landscape Architects Minnesota

Owamni by the Sioux Chef (at Water Works Pavilion): James Beard Award for Best New Restaurant

James Beard, June

FORESTRY DEPARTMENT:

Tree City of the World Award

Tree City USA Award

Tree City USA Growth Award

The Arbor Day Foundation, April

Minneapolis: 6th Most Bike-Friendly City in the World

TimeOut, April

Minneapolis: Gold-Level Walk Friendly Community

Walk Friendly Communities, June

USTA Northern Member Organization of the Year

United States Tennis Association, April

Jim Lupient Waterpark: Readers' Choice Award

Sun Publications, January

Top 5 Bucket List Minneapolis Destinations: Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, Minnehaha Park, and Stone Arch Bridge

Midwest Living, February



Minneapolis
Park & Recreation Board

Administrative Offices

2117 West River Road
Minneapolis MN 55411

Phone 612-230-6400

Website minneapolisparcs.org

