

# School Year Activities in Minneapolis Parks

Minneapolis  
Park & Recreation Board  
**2025-2026**



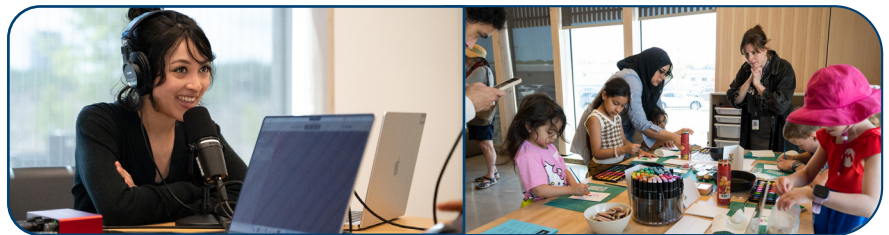
## Graco Park and The River Hub: The Newest Spot for Fun in Minneapolis Parks

Connect with the Mississippi River, enjoy skyline views and explore your creativity in Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's (MPRB) newest park and program building Graco Park and The River Hub! Once home to Scherer Bros. Lumber, the land was purchased by the MPRB in 2010 and over the past decade, the site has been transformed—from an industrial lumberyard to a vibrant park with trails and river access.

The River Hub building, which opened in Spring of 2025, was designed as a place for people to enjoy and appreciate the Mississippi River, with opportunities for environmental education, art and technology programs, and events supporting the Northeast community. Building features include a Spark'd Studios location, the Riverview Room, an event space with floor-to-ceiling doors opening toward the Mississippi River, the Idea Hub, a conference room that can accommodate up to eight people, a welcome lobby, and public restrooms.

Find out more about Graco Park at  
[www.minneapolisparcs.org/gracopark](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/gracopark).

### NEW Spark'd Studio at Graco Park



Express your creativity or try something new at the MPRB's newest Spark'd Studio in The River Hub at Graco Park! Spark'd Studios are technology hubs that support creative interests and self-expression for young people within our parks through access to creative arts, media, technology, and STEM programming.

Four Spark'd Studios exist throughout the park system, with one at Luxton Park opening this fall! For more information on Spark'd Studios or to see what programs are available at a studio near you, visit [www.minneapolisparcs.org/sparkd](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/sparkd).

# Recreation Centers



## Looking for a fun place to hang out when school is out? Check out your neighborhood recreation center!

With 49 recreation centers and several program facilities throughout the city, there's a place for fun and community in every neighborhood. Recreation centers and program facilities are hubs for activities and events, sports and classes for ages!

### Childcare and out of school programs



Many recreation centers offer after school programs and extended hours for school release days and school breaks, to help keep kids busy and having fun!

Visit [www.minneapolisparcs.org/schoolrelease](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/schoolrelease) for up-to-date school release offerings.

Some sites offer school-age before and after school care. For more information, visit [www.minneapolisparcs.org/recplus](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/recplus).

### Youth Program Fees

MPRB's new, more inclusive and accessible fee model offers discounted rates for Minneapolis youth at 25%, 50%, 75% and 100% reductions.

Learn more about the fee structure at [www.minneapolisparcs.org/youthfees](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/youthfees).

Host your next gathering at your neighborhood park or recreation center!

Reserve a space at [www.minneapolisparcs.org/register](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/register) and click on the "reservations" tab or scan the QR code



## Nature Programs



Discover the benefits of being outdoors in Minneapolis, where nature surrounds you with woodlands, prairies, ravines, and river bluffs. The MPRB provides enriching experiences for all ages, abilities, and interests. Seasonal programs—like guided hikes, snowshoe adventures, and bird-watching—offer fun ways to stay active, learn something new, and enjoy the beauty of every season.

Be sure to visit **Carl W. Kroening Nature Center**. Located in North Mississippi Regional Park, Kroening Nature Center is a hub for nature activities and education year-round, including the Nature in the City exhibit and youth and family focused programs. The nature center is a great place for group field trips!

Find nature events, self-guided activities or staff-led programs at [www.minneapolisparcs.org/nature](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/nature).

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# Youth Sports



To find out more about MPRB youth sports, visit [www.minneapolisparcs.org/youth\\_sports](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/youth_sports)

or scan the QR code



## Keep kids active and hone their physical and social skills in a fun, supportive environment with youth sports!

Late registration is open for fall flag football, tackle football, soccer and volleyball. Customers who missed regular registration (May 21st – July 16th) may reach out to the park of interest to inquire if remaining roster space is available on their team: if there is space, customers can sign up through that specific park site. There is no waitlist available.

Registration for winter/spring basketball, hockey, wrestling and gymnastics opens October 22.

### New Centralized Sports Registration Process:

MPRB has moved to a new system that provides a simpler sign up process, fair competition and consistent schedules. When signing up for a youth sport, simply choose a sport, age division, and three preferred sites. After registration closes, Youth Sports staff will review all registrations, create teams based on people's preferred sites, and place teams into citywide leagues.

### Partner Leagues for Schools and Youth-Serving Organizations

Schools and youth-serving organizations can choose to enter full teams into a Partner League. Use the Youth Sports Partner League Team Declaration Form to declare a team.

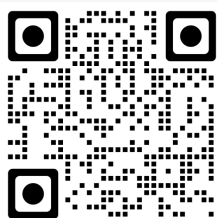
## Teens



**Minneapolis parks offer teens endless ways to stay active, build skills, and have fun in a safe, supportive environment. Below is a sample of programs designed specifically for teens.**

Learn more about how teens can work and play in Minneapolis Parks at [www.minneapolisparcs.org/teen](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/teen)

or scan the QR code



### Youthline

engages youth ages 12-17 in positive leadership experiences and recreational activities while connecting them to adult mentors in the parks.

### Nite Owlz

provides night time teen-focused programming at various recreation centers.

### Youth Advisory Council

is a select group of youth leaders who guide and influence recreation programs, youth employment and athletic decisions.

### Parkside Pathways

offers a dynamic and supportive environment where youth aged 10-14 connect with positive adult mentors to explore education, careers, and essential life skills.

# Phillips Aquatics Center



Swimming is a fun way to stay active and is a valuable life skill. At Phillips Aquatics Center, you can find fun in the water year-round. Programs include swim lessons for all ages and abilities, including adaptive lessons; lap swim, open family swim; youth and adult swim teams and dedicated swim times for a range of groups.

In the winter and spring, look for opportunities to take lifeguard courses and secure a summer job as a lifeguard at a Minneapolis beach or water park! Lifeguard certification cost assistance is available.

To see what classes are currently available, find hours and admission rates, visit [www.minneapolisparcs.org/pac](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/pac).

## Events

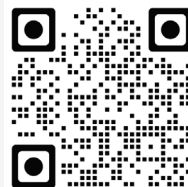


Recreation centers host hundreds of neighborhood events throughout the year, including: Halloween parties, fire and ice gatherings, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebrations and spring egg hunt and bunny parties.

### City-wide annual events include:

- September** – Monarch Festival
- October** – Owámmi Falling Waters Festival
- January** – Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Lake Harriet Winter Kite Festival
- April** – Earth Day Cleanup and Arbor Day
- May** – Music and Movies in the Park Kick-off

View the online calendar at [www.minneapolisparcs.org/events](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/events)  
Or scan the QR code



## Ice Rinks

### Indoor Ice Rinks

- **Northeast Ice Arena** offers group hockey, skating rentals and turf sports. [www.minneapolisparcs.org/northeast\\_ice](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/northeast_ice)

- **Parade Ice Garden** offers hockey, figure skating pro ice and open skating. [www.minneapolisparcs.org/parade\\_ice](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/parade_ice)

### Outdoor Ice Rinks

During winter months, Minneapolis Parks maintain outdoor ice rinks at parks citywide for general skating and ice sports.



YOUTH & ADULT PROGRAMS

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board collaborates with Minneapolis Public Schools. To find opportunities for adults and youth, go to [www.mplscommunityed.com](http://www.mplscommunityed.com).

Not finding what you're looking for?  
Interested in renting a Minneapolis Parks facility?  
Visit [www.minneapolisparcs.org](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org)  
or call (612) 230-6400.



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