

Commissioner 2026 Budget Questions - November 19, 2025

Question #	Commissioner	Question	Fund	Division	Budget Book Page # / Document	Attachment	Staff Response
1	Forney & Turner	Before we fully activate or expand the sponsorship revenue position, how are we ensuring that the foundational data — particularly around park impact, visitor trends, and resident attraction — is in place to guide equitable and effective sponsorships? In other words, how will we know which partnerships truly align with our community and economic impact goals?	General	Deputy Superintendent	Page 8–9		Initial sponsorship work will be to identify sponsors for existing programs and services. As staff view our current revenue potential, we recognize there is funding we are not currently securing to support our existing work. Overtime, we can consider growing programming and the sponsorships that may align with new program growth. But, the goal is not to develop new programs and services to attract sponsorships, but rather to attract sponsors to our current portfolio. Additionally, in the first months of this position being filled, the individual will be asked to help develop sponsorship goals. The work of this individual will be supported by a sponsorship team that includes staff from across the organization. This will help ensure the position and the work they do is well aligned with the MPRB's mission and vision.
2	Forney & Turner	How does the elimination of the Multicultural Communications Representative position align with our mission to dismantle historic inequities and ensure culturally responsive, multilingual engagement across all park communities?	General	Superintendent	10–11		The Multicultural Communications Representative position was budgeted, but not developed or implemented, as part of the MPRB's ongoing efforts to promote programs and services to non-English speaking and ESL audiences through digital and traditional media channels and marketing campaigns. However, after implementing a 2023-34 summer multicultural advertising campaign, MPRB staff realized promotions were impacted by the lack of multilingual front line and instructors at program buildings and the lack of translation on third-party program registration websites used by the MPRB. Communications and Marketing continues to support multicultural audiences by providing general web information, email subscriptions and program staff with options for translated materials. Other departments, including the Planning Department and Community Connections & Violent Prevention Department, continue to use multilingual staff, translators and a variety of culturally responsive tools to ensure engagement across all communities.
3	Forney & Turner	How will holding three Youth Program Specialist positions vacant impact access and participation across neighborhoods — particularly for BIPOC and low-income youth? How is this being measured for equity impact?	General	Recreation	9–13		We have reassigned the remaining Youth Program Specialists to neighborhoods with the greatest need to ensure continuity of service. Rather than being tied to a single recreation center, the Specialists are now working collaboratively across their entire service areas. This approach allows them to prioritize communities with higher concentrations of BIPOC and low-income youth and ensure that young people still have access to programs, field trips, enrichment opportunities, and youth development support. Recreation pulls reports from ActiveNet which helps us identify any gaps that may emerge. This allows us to make adjustments and ensures that no community experiences a disproportionate reduction in access or services due to the vacant Youth Program Specialist positions.

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4	Forney & Turner	How does expanding paid parking, event fees, and alcohol sales align with our commitment that parks remain accessible for all? Has an equity impact analysis been completed for these strategies?	Enterprise	Deputy Superintendent	8, 11-15		The 2026 budget proposals and fees include market comparisons and racial equity toolkit reviews. When considering parking, the MPRB seeks to provide a range of parking and park access options - paid parking, free parking, access by walking/biking and transit options to maximize accessibility while raising revenue. In most cases paid parking is in the highest demand areas, this also help increase turnover of these parking locations to allow more visitors to access the parks. This is paired with free parking in or near the same park facility. Event fees are charged to permit holders who are seeking to implement an event within the Minneapolis park system. The rates charged are compared with rates of other similar park systems. The MPRB uses a cost recovery model which is designed to allow for public access for typical activities and charge for actives that are more exclusive in nature. The proposed budget includes a new fee structure for alcohol at events that allows the MPRB to charge a fee when the event doesn't charge for alcohol but provides it for eligible participants in the event.
5	Forney & Turner	How will reductions in trash, recycling, and restroom servicing affect visitor experience and environmental equity?	General	Environmental Stewardship	11-12		<p>We will review trash, recycling, and restroom services to make sure they match how parks are used today. Many trash cans were placed years ago and early analysis shows we can remove about one-third of cans without reducing overall access. Fewer cans will reduce costs, free up staff time for other important maintenance needs, and allow us to focus service where it is most needed.</p> <p>To protect visitor experience, trash and recycling cans will still be available at park entrances, high-use areas, and places where monitoring shows they are necessary. We will use messaging and adjust placements if we see increased litter or concerns from park users. Staff will track feedback and complaints to make sure changes don't disproportionately affect any neighborhoods.</p> <p>Overall, the goal is to maintain clean, welcoming parks while using resources more efficiently and equitably across the entire park system.</p>
6	Forney & Turner	How is the racial equity tool influencing budget decisions, and will those results be published before or after adoption for public accountability?	General	Superintendent	10, 5-26		The racial equity review of each budget impact is published with the recommended budget and is available on the budget page of the website: <a href="https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/MPRB-Budget-Adjustments-Attachments-2026.pdf">https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/MPRB-Budget-Adjustments-Attachments-2026.pdf</a> . The racial equity tool includes a section for staff to articulate how and when they will communicate. It varies by item. Commissioners can request additional communication.

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7	Forney & Turner	Given District 2's mix of industrial and residential areas, how does this budget ensure equitable investment, environmental restoration, and community engagement around Upper Harbor and riverfront access?	Capital Projects	Planning	3-5, 17-18		The park at Upper Harbor opens 1.0 miles of public access to the Mississippi River and resulted in a new 12.5 acre park. Any changes to the UH park design in the future will go through our standard community engagement process where we will engage with residents, reaching out to neighbors in north Minneapolis. Relative to the mix of industrial and residential use, the park in combination with the parkway removed about 20 acres of industrial use, with the whole of that area become publicly accessible parkland. This budget also continues allocations to the Land Acquisition Fund, which can be used to transform additional riverfront industrial uses into parkland in north and northeast Minneapolis.
8	Forney & Turner	With fee increases based on market rates, how is MPRB ensuring affordability for all residents? Can we transition to a sliding-scale or income-based fee structure?	Enterprise	Deputy Superintendent	12-14		The MPRB started using a sliding fee structure for youth programming in 2025. This has been successful and the 2026 budget recommends expanding this to senior and youth sports programming in 2026. If success continues in the general fund, the MPRB can consider how to implement the sliding scale to the enterprise fund. Since the enterprise fund operates without any public funding support, testing it in the general fund first will help staff assess how the sliding scale impacts overall revenue and how it might be best applied to the enterprise fund.
9	Forney & Turner	Can the forthcoming rink tracking system report data by neighborhood, demographics, and number of public use days to ensure equitable access?	General	Recreation	11-12		This type of reporting has not been collected in the past; however, we are committed to building this capacity moving forward. We will work closely with our Data Insights Team and the Citywide Manager to determine what is feasible within the system and what additional processes may be required.
10	Forney & Turner	What is MPRB's plan for adapting outdoor rink operations to warmer winters while minimizing environmental impact?	General / Capital Projects	Planning / Environmental Stewardship	11-12, 131-133		We have moved outdoor rinks from bodies of water to land in all but Lake of the Isles. While not currently funded, the North Commons project holds the potential for a covered and refrigerated outdoor rink, which would substantially change the "ice" season for that facility. There are no other current plans for similar facilities.
11	Forney & Turner	Could MPRB partner with schools or neighborhood associations to extend rink seasons or share costs in underinvested areas?	General	Recreation	206		Extending the rink season is not solely a Recreation decision, nor is it exclusively a funding issue. Any adjustment to the season timeline impacts work required for set-up and tear-down, which is managed by our Asset Management team. They need adequate time to prepare the grounds, install and maintain infrastructure, and complete full site restoration once the season ends. Extending the season also has direct implications for staffing, scheduling and the broader winter maintenance workload. For these reasons, any proposal to lengthen the rink season requires a coordinated assessment with Asset Management to determine what is operationally feasible and sustainable.
12	Forney & Turner	Is there a sustainability or capital improvement plan for outdoor rink infrastructure similar to the investment we see in indoor arenas?	Capital Projects	Planning / Environmental Stewardship	131-133		Ice arenas are an Enterprise function and can utilize capital funding from Enterprise. Neighborhood ice rinks are a General Fund activity for which capital fund have been directed. There are no current capital funds directed specifically to outdoor rinks, although capital funds could be directed to parks with rinks if community engagement demonstrates a desire for rinks.

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13	Forney & Turner	Are there unspent funds in expiring Professional Service Contracts expiring in 2025? Potentially \$1.5 Million CPI dollars and \$1 Million in General Funds? If so, where are those "excess" dollars	General / Capital Project	Recreation	PSA Listing		Professional service agreements are not to exceed contracts and can be written and funded for up to 5 years. This can result in a large unspent balance that is either not used and removed when the contract expires or that will be drawn from over a 5-year period. This is very common for large contracts related to information technology services, background checks, workers compensation services and small multi-site contracts. At the end of each fiscal year, the net of actual revenues less actual expenditures is either added or subtracted from fund balance/reserve for each fund.
14	Forney & Turner	Regarding revenue versus expenses in Golf, please detail the expenses.	General	Recreation	129-131	1	See attachment
15	Forney & Turner	Is there a map of trees planted utilizing the carbon offset credit funding? Is there a tally of the funding and where/how it has been utilized.	General / Special Revenue Fund	Environmental Stewardship		2	Multiple funding sources are used to procure and plant trees, including general fund, grants and the revenue generated from the carbon offset partnership with Green Cities Accord. Since its inception, the carbon offset partnership has generated \$178,168 in revenue. In 2025, \$96k of this carbon offset funding was budgeted in the General Fund to procure and plant approximately 960 trees. A map of the trees planted in 2025 in each Commissioner District is attached. The recommended 2026 budget maintains the \$96K transfer to the General Fund from the carbon offset revenue source.

2026 Recommended Budget

Golf Total

Account	2026 Recommended Budget
400001 - SALARIES/WAGES - REGULAR	3,653,431
492001 - EXTRA DUTY SWORN	39,062
<b>400000 - Salaries and Wages</b>	<b>3,692,493</b>
781001 - SUPPLEMENTAL PENSION	38,780
781201 - PERA-COORDINATED	203,273
781301 - FICA-ASDI	226,513
781601 - PERA-POLICE & FIRE	6,914
782101 - MEDICARE	53,540
782701 - DENTAL INSURANCE	19,286
782901 - HEALTH INSURANCE	414,656
784001 - SEVERANCE	8,918
785001 - UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION	101,305
786001 - LIFE INSURANCE	930
786301 - L/T DISABILITY INS	5,659
788101 - WORK COMP-PERM PART DISAB	48,160
<b>780000 - Fringe Benefits</b>	<b>1,127,933</b>
<b>200000 - PERSONNEL</b>	<b>4,820,426</b>
502000 - COMMUNICATION SERVICES	161
502001 - ALARM SERVICE	8,949
502401 - RAD/PAGE/CELPHONE RENTAL	3,602
502500 - TELEPHONE SERVICES	3,309
502501 - TELEPHONE - BASIC	30,124
505000 - PRINTING COPYING BINDING MICRO	4,134
506001 - MISCELLANEOUS OVERHEAD	210,264
507000 - PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	7,840
507019 - OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	43,337
507200 - TRAINING	592
507501 - LEGAL SERVICES	2,536
507700 - ITS SERVICES	98,800
507701 - ITS BASIC SVS FEES	968
507703 - ITS COMPUTER USAGE ASSESSMENT	9,019
507901 - MEDICAL SERVICES	19,180
508000 - RENT	333,986
508004 - OTHER RENTALS	219,935
508005 - CHEMICAL TOILETS	6,276
508301 - OTHER RENTAL OF GROUNDS	125,091
509000 - RENT-MOBILE EQUIPMENT	935,356
509003 - RENT MOBILE EQUIP - MONTHLY	6,432
509101 - RENT-MOBILE EQUIP-VENDOR OWNED	5,655
510000 - REPAIR & MAINTENANCE-CONT	5,696
510001 - APPLIANCE REPAIRS	10,113
510002 - BUILDING/STRUCTURE REPAIR/MNT	6,607
510004 - ELECTRICAL/MECHANICAL REPAIRS	31,951
510006 - EQUIPMENT - OFFICE REPAIR/MNT	405

2026 Recommended Budget

Golf Total

Account	2026 Recommended Budget
510008 - GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	27,501
510009 - LINEN & LAUNDRY SERVICE	4,306
510012 - MISC REPAIR & MAINTENANCE SRVC	643
512000 - UTILITIES	773
512003 - REFUSE DISPOSAL	23,870
512007 - WATER & SEWER	112,521
512201 - ELECTRICITY	182,638
512401 - NATURAL GAS - BASIC	45,238
512803 - OTHER INSP & TEST	962
513000 - MISCELLANEOUS	10,512
<b>500000 - Contractual Services</b>	<b>2,539,281</b>
601000 - AGRICULTURE SUPPLIES	142,368
601001 - AGRICULTURAL SUPPLIES	55,322
601004 - PLANT PROTECTANTS	73,589
601005 - HERBICIDES	21,424
601007 - SEEDS	52,394
601008 - FERTILIZER	80,387
601011 - TREES PLANTS SHRUBS	6,106
602001 - AWARDS	1,416
603000 - CASH MANAGEMENT	181,774
604000 - TRANSPORTATION	2,857
604001 - AUTO ALLOWANCE	4,335
605001 - REGISTRATION FEE & TUITION	5,722
608000 - INSURANCE	8,467
608005 - PROPERTY INSURANCE	15,524
609000 - MACHINERY & EQUIP SUPPLIES	21,914
609002 - MOTOR FUELS & LUBRICANTS	168,085
610004 - OFFICE SUPPLIES	10,097
611000 - OPERATING SUPPLIES	24,619
611004 - CHEMICAL SUPPLIES & GASES	1,480
611011 - RECREATION SUPPLIES	1,670
611012 - SELLING SUPPLIES	26,537
611013 - MISC OPERATING SUPPLIES	37,910
611014 - PAPER GOODS	905
613000 - REPAIR & MAINT SUPPLIES	2,753
613001 - BUILDING SUPPLIES	384
613002 - CARPENTRY SUPPLIES	6,836
613003 - ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES	5,340
613004 - PAINTING SUPPLIES	5,104
613005 - PLUMBING/PIPEFITTING SUPPLIES	6,855
613007 - OTHER REPAIR/MAINTENANCE SUPP	1,479
613009 - EQUIPMENT REPAIR SUPPLIES	2,714
614000 - MAINT/CONSTR MATERIALS	10,436
614001 - MAINTENANCE/CONSTRUCTION MTRLS	23,000
614008 - SAND	56,225
616000 - TAXES LICENSES & FEES	193

2026 Recommended Budget

Golf Total

Account	2026 Recommended Budget
616002 - LICENSE FEES & PERMITS	3,963
617001 - UNIFORMS CLOTHING PERS	6,086
619000 - OTHER OPERATING COSTS	6,840
619013 - SALEABLE MERCHANDISE	163,360
619017 - MISC OTHER OPERATING COST	82,640
619201 - MEMBERSHIPS & DUES	40,975
619401 - REFRESHMENTS - FOOD & BEVERAGE	389
619601 - SUBSCRIPTIONS	10,307
641010 - SMALL TOOLS & MINOR EQUIPMENT	35,351
<b>600000 - Operating Costs</b>	<b>1,416,134</b>
802000 - EQUIPMENT	47,500
<b>800000 - Capital</b>	<b>47,500</b>
<b>250000 - NON PERSONNEL</b>	<b>4,002,915</b>
<b>001000 - TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>8,823,341</b>

# 2025 Tree Plantings

