



## Landmark Agreements

*For a Bright, Equitable Future*



Superintendent's Annual Report 2016



Minneapolis  
Park & Recreation Board

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#### 2016 Commissioners

Liz Wielinski, District 1

Jon Olson, District 2

Scott Vreeland, District 3

Anita Tabb, District 4

Steffanie Musich, District 5

Brad Bourn, District 6

John Erwin, At Large

Meg Forney, At Large

M. Annie Young, At Large

#### President

Liz Wielinski, January 1-July 19

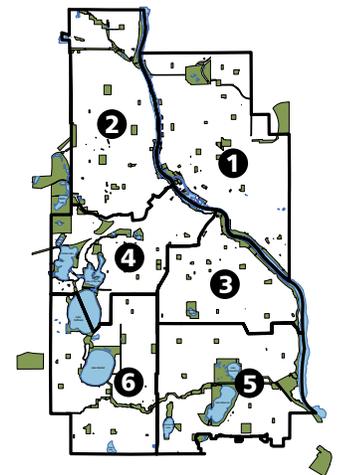
Anita Tabb, July 20-December 31

#### Vice President

Scott Vreeland, January 1-July 19

John Erwin, July 20-December 31

#### Minneapolis Commissioner Districts



## 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 the environment.



(pictured front, left-right) M. Annie Young, Scott Vreeland, Liz Wielinski, Meg Forney  
(pictured back, left-right) Anita Tabb, Brad Bourn, Jon Olson, John Erwin, Steffanie Musich



**20 Year Neighborhood Park Plan** The MPRB worked closely with the City of Minneapolis to pass concurrent ordinances that ensure essential long-term investment in neighborhood parks. The City's ordinance, which passed on April 29, also includes provisions to increase funding to repair city streets. The MPRB 20 Year Neighborhood Park Plan ordinance, which was approved May 18, provides an additional \$11 million in annual funding to the MPRB to revitalize Minneapolis' renowned network of neighborhood parks. On July 6, the MPRB approved another ordinance to ensure the new investments in neighborhood parks will be done equitably.

# Greetings from the SUPERINTENDENT



## A More Equitable Future



Neighborhood parks are intertwined with the vitality of Minneapolis. They are places where we meet our neighbors, learn new skills, celebrate, exercise and enjoy peaceful moments of natural respite amidst the din of urban life. Their abundance and vibrancy is why a lot of us choose to live here.

Years of underfunding have left these beloved spaces in desperate need of repair. Fortunately Minneapolis does not take them for granted. Backed by overwhelming public support, we signed a historic agreement with the City of Minneapolis in the spring. The 20-Year Neighborhood Park Plan (NPP20) ensures an additional \$11 million in annual funding to catch up on critical maintenance, rehabilitation and investments at neighborhood parks for the next 20 years.

But just as important, we passed a racial and economic equity ordinance that will ensure the upcoming neighborhood park revitalization addresses inequality by using a set of data-driven criteria to prioritize NPP20 spending. Over the last year racial equity influenced actions spanning budgeting, programming, hiring, contracts, planning and more.

We spent innumerable hours engaging and listening to Minneapolis residents as part of an effort to create a comprehensive, cohesive master plan for each of our five service areas. These plans will dictate all spending on outdoor improvements at neighborhood parks for the next 20-30 years. The South Service Area Master Plan is complete and a draft of one for Downtown will be published in January 2017. North launches next in 2017.

We also developed the Calhoun-Harriet Master Plan and created a new Racial Equity Subcommittee for RecQuest, an ongoing assessment of recreation center programming and facilities. An investigation into groundwater pumping at Hiawatha Golf Course continued while the entire 18-hole course reopened for business after the catastrophic 2014 flood. In 2017, the Meadowbrook course will also reopen.

Effective park stewardship relies on partnerships. In addition to NPP20, we also entered into a momentous agreement with the Loppet Foundation that will transform outdoor recreation at Theodore Wirth Regional Park. Our RiverFirst partner, the Minneapolis Parks Foundation, has raised more than \$10 million to help build a visionary network of Upper Riverfront parks and trails. Other riverfront highlights include progress toward identifying development teams to help reimagine the Upper Harbor Terminal and Scherer Bros sites, preliminary work on the future Water Works park and reconstructed Hall's Island, nearly five acres purchased on the North Minneapolis riverfront and the new Mississippi East Bank Trail opening.

New agreements with City of Skate, an inspiring nonprofit skateboard advocacy organization, and Minneapolis Public Schools opens the door to vital improvements and programming upgrades needed by our communities. I'm deeply grateful for all of our partners and volunteers who work tirelessly to improve our parks. You all do amazing work.

It's an honor to care for such cherished, magnificent public spaces. And they are magnificent – in 2016 we were named best park system in the country by The Trust for Public Land for the fourth year in a row and recognized as a finalist for the National Recreation and Park Association Gold Medal Award. The NPP20 agreement ensures a bright future, but we will not rest on our laurels. We will continue to aggressively address issues surrounding equity and create parks and programs where all feel welcome.

  
Jayne Miller

- 1883**  
Year MPRB established
- 16.7 million**  
Estimated regional park visits
- 6 million**  
Estimated neighborhood park visits
- 179**  
Parks
  - 160 neighborhood parks
  - 19 regional parks and trails
- 6,804**  
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 (1 reopening in 2017)
  - 2 operated by non-profit organizations
- 28**  
Computer labs open to the public
- 6**  
Skate parks
- 112**  
Playgrounds
- 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
- 462**  
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**  
Off-leash dog parks
- 12**  
Gardens
- 2**  
Bird sanctuaries
- 13**  
Golf facilities
  - 7 golf courses (1 reopening in 2017)
  - 3 golf driving ranges
  - 2 disc golf courses
  - 1 footgolf course
- 1**  
Winter recreation area
- 2**  
Indoor ice arenas
- 47**  
Outdoor ice rinks
- 397**  
Multi-use athletic fields

fast facts



## Allocated NPP20 Funding in 2017

### \$3 million – Increased maintenance

- More frequent mowing and tree pruning
- Increased maintenance of playgrounds, gardens, buildings and sidewalks
- Shortened timeframe for replacing site amenities: benches, tables, grills, etc.

### \$4.55 million – Rehabilitation

- Accessibility improvements
- Repairs to sidewalks, playgrounds, recreation centers, etc.
- Upgrade park lighting for safety, energy efficiency
- Address maintenance backlog

### \$3.45 million – Capital investment projects

- Bassett's Creek Park
- Bossen Field Park
- Central Gym Park
- Folwell Park
- Painter Park
- Phillips Community Center
- Powderhorn Park

### Equity criteria to prioritize capital investments

- Areas of concentrated poverty and racially concentrated areas of poverty
- Population density
- Youth population
- Neighborhood safety
- Park assets: conditions, age
- Ratio of past 15-year investments to the replacement cost of major park assets

*2016 was a milestone for neighborhood parks and the people who love them. The 20-Year Neighborhood Park Plan (NPP20) provides critically needed funding in these parks with three key measures:*

- *Protect current levels of local and state funding sources allocated to the MPRB*
- *Dedicate an additional \$11 million annually, from 2017 through 2036, to Minneapolis neighborhood parks*
- *Direct the additional funding to three areas: increased maintenance, rehabilitation and capital investments*

## Funding that will “close the gap”

How did NPP20 come about? In large part, it is the outcome of an ambitious planning initiative that the MPRB launched in 2015. “Closing the Gap: Investing in Our Neighborhood Parks” collected enormous amounts of data about park conditions, as well as needs and concerns from community members regarding their neighborhood parks. It also calculated that all Minneapolis neighborhood parks faced a funding gap projected to grow to more than \$150 million by 2020, and more than \$450 million by 2040.

Support of city residents and an enormous amount of work from Superintendent Miller, Park Board Commissioners, City Council Members and Mayor Hodges, as well as MPRB and city staff, were critical to NPP20. Under the leadership of City Council President Johnson and Council Member Goodman a historic agreement was negotiated in the spring. NPP20 was approved in May, with annual funding available in 2017.

## Every neighborhood deserves a great park

Improvements in maintenance, rehabilitation and capital investments at all neighborhood parks will occur, thanks to a \$11 million boost in funding for this work. \$3 million is allocated to increased maintenance, while the balance, \$8 million, is dedicated to rehabilitation of park assets and capital investment projects. To help determine schedules and priorities for capital investment and rehabilitation projects, the MPRB passed an ordinance that ensures an equitable system to measure and rank neighborhood parks.

The ordinance specifies criteria and data focused on racial and economic equity, which allows for a relative comparison of parks throughout the city. It also improves the objectivity and equity of the MPRB's effort, over the past decade, to focus major park investments in historically underserved, economically and racially diverse areas. Parks that rank higher on the list have a higher priority for NPP20 funding. The goal is for all neighborhood parks to receive major improvements throughout the 20-year course of the plan.

NPP20 funds are incorporated into the budget for the 2017-2022 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) approved by the Board. In 2017, the CIP allocates NPP20 funds to projects in seven parks (see sidebar), some of which are already in the construction or planning phases. In those cases, the NPP20 funds supplement previously approved CIP funding and allow for more elements of a plan to be realized.

NPP20 makes Minneapolis' renowned network of neighborhood parks – and quality of life they foster – more equitable. For more information, visit [minneapolisparcs.org/NPP20](http://minneapolisparcs.org/NPP20).



*2016 saw the MPRB make important strides in addressing racial equity, both within the organization and in the park system. It's worth reflecting for a moment on why racial equity is critical to the success of the organization. First and foremost, it's part of the MPRB's mission to provide places and recreation opportunities for all people to gather, celebrate, contemplate, and engage in activities that promote health, well-being, community, and the environment. This mission cannot succeed if it doesn't truly apply to all people – that is, every member of the public.*

## Diversity and disparities

Minneapolis is undergoing a transformational demographic shift. The racial and ethnic makeup of the city's population has grown far more diverse in the past 20 years, a trend that will continue. This change is illuminating race-based disparities that reflect those nationwide. Members of historically disadvantaged communities of color, including immigrants, experience poorer general health and shorter life spans than white community members.

Parks play a vital role in reducing and eliminating disparities. They can improve the health and well-being of all residents and make neighborhoods and the entire city more livable. In fact, a wealth of research shows that the number-one action for reducing both health and educational disparities is to provide access to parks, nature and open space.

The MPRB has undertaken racial equity work since 2011 in order to address those disparities. This includes responding to and meeting the changing park and recreation needs of residents. It also includes developing policies, procedures and practices to build racial equity in our workplace and our workforce.

## Transformational change

In 2016, the MPRB joined the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE), a national network of government agencies to advance racial equity. Through GARE, seven MPRB staff members collaborated with colleagues from 13 other Minnesota government agencies in a yearlong learning cohort. A key accomplishment was development of a Racial Equity Action Plan to coordinate MPRB's ongoing efforts (see sidebar). This internal working document provides both guidance and accountability for the MPRB to achieve multiple goals in 2017 and 2018.

Also through the cohort, 23 MPRB staff participated in day-long workshops focused on various aspects of racial equity in government organizations. This created a foundation for additional, organization-wide racial equity training in 2017.

Building racial equity in all aspects of the organization goes hand in hand with the MPRB growing more diverse and inclusive. In turn, these same qualities and conditions will improve in the park system and in the MPRB's ability to serve all the individuals, neighborhoods and communities that make up Minneapolis.

## Racial Equity Action Plan

*An internal working document to coordinate MPRB's efforts in 2017 and 2018*

### 23 Actions

- 17 are in progress or build on previous actions
- 8 include Board actions or involvement
- 7 include community engagement or outreach

### Five areas of focus

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

## 2016 workforce highlights

- 25% of full-time MPRB employees are people of color (see p.16)
- 26% of full-time staff trained in implicit bias
- 100% of Minneapolis Park Police officers trained in implicit bias

## 2016 service delivery highlights

- 26 parks with master plans incorporating use of a racial equity toolkit
- 60% of swim lesson scholarship recipients were children of color
- 200+% growth in Northside Fundamental baseball program, 2015 to 2016
- 270 Teen Teamworks employees; approximately 98% youth of color
- 900+ hours of service by Bilingual Information Ambassadors
- 131,587 free summer meals served at recreation centers



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

**Vigilant Against Invasives.** Another successful year in protecting Minneapolis lakes against the spread of aquatic invasive species saw nearly 7,880 inspections prevent zebra mussels from entering a lake on 17 occasions. On the first day public boat launches opened, AIS inspectors discovered a zebra mussel on a sailboat attempting to enter Lake Nokomis while KSTP-TV was conducting an interview with inspection staff!



**AIS Research.** University of Minnesota researchers conducted a study at Cedar Lake that examined the relationship between invasive Eurasian water milfoil, milfoil weevils and sunfish. When abundant, the weevils, small beetle-like insects, can be effective in hindering milfoil growth.

**Combat Carp.** The MPRB received an \$189,000 grant from the State of Minnesota to perform research on and management of the common carp in the Lake Nokomis watershed. Over the next three years the MPRB will work to better understand and reduce the common carp population, one of the primary threats to Lake Nokomis water quality.

**Filter the Falls.** A “biochar” filter was installed next to the waterfall in Webber Park to improve Shingle Creek water quality. Water from the falls is redirected into a stainless steel chest, where it runs through the filter before returning to Shingle Creek. The project will study whether this direct treatment can be scaled up to make an impact on bacteria concentrations in the creek.



**Pedaling Outreach.** AIS Inspectors educated the public about aquatic invasive species at events spanning the city with the help of a new AIS education bike cart that provided hands-on learning.

**Pest Policy.** The MPRB committed to better track and share data on herbicide use in parks and cease using all products containing glyphosate as an active ingredient in neighborhood parks, excluding projects underway. MPRB staff is also evaluating the potential use of goats for invasive species control in the future.

**Buckthorn Shorn, Cattails Derailed.**

Large quantities of cattails in Loring Pond and buckthorn in Theodore Wirth Regional Park were removed as part of separate ongoing invasive vegetation management projects.



**Growing Food and Minds.** JD Rivers’ Children’s Garden enjoyed an abundant harvest that produced more than 1,000 pounds of produce. The American Indian Center’s Golden Eagles program continued its tradition of visiting twice a week to help cultivate and cook fresh food and learn about urban wildlife. A new group, Pathways to Community, brought adults with developmental disabilities to plant, water and beautify the garden.

**Stormwater Stewards.** A dozen MPRB employees were certified in Stormwater Management Best Practices after successfully completing a class offered through the University of Minnesota.

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

**The Saga Continues.** The MPRB once again stated its concerns over a longstanding proposal to build a hydroelectric facility near important Central Riverfront parkland. Numerous issues regarding the Crown Hydro project were raised in a comment letter sent to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regarding its draft Environmental Assessment for the project.

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

**Rigorous Renewal.** Forestry planted more than 8,200 new trees to replace the trees that were removed due to Dutch Elm Disease, Emerald Ash Borer, storms and overall deterioration.

**Canopy Ash-surance.** Year Three of the eight-year Ash Canopy Replacement Plan was completed successfully, putting the MPRB on track to remove all 40,000 ash trees on Minneapolis’ public boulevards and parks by



2022, before the Emerald Ash Borer infestation reaches catastrophic proportions. Ash trees are replaced with a diverse mix of tree species that’s more resistant to widespread impacts from disease and infestation.



**Storm Aftermath.** Forestry crews sprang into action after a July 5 storm destroyed more than 250 trees. Two new dump trucks made a dramatic difference in the swift response.

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

**Bees and Butterflies.** Thousands of people attended two festivals that celebrated butterflies and bees. The Pollinator Party: A Celebration of Bees and Minneapolis Monarch Festival ~ Festival de la Monarca educated and entertained thousands of people through art, music, film, dance, poetry, food, recreation and hands-on learning and research.



**Outdoor Careers.** More than 150 teens attended Outdoor Careers Day, a day-long event that showcased pathways to careers in Water Quality, Natural Resource Management, Environmental Education, Forestry, Maintenance and Trades. Dozens of MPRB employees and outside experts talked about their outdoor careers and offered advice and hands-on instruction to workshop participants.

**Woven Whimsy.** A large, domed structure made from woven willow branches debuted at Lyndale Park Gardens. Nicknamed The Thicket, the beautiful piece of natural artwork was surrounded with annual flowers. It will be moved to a new location near Lake Nokomis in 2017.



**Don't Feed the Ducks.** A flock of yellow rubber ducks bearing the message "Please do not feed the ducks" was deployed on the tables at Bread & Pickle as part of a pilot program to reduce malnutrition among ducks and improve water quality at Lake Harriet. The message was also displayed on two buoys and stamped on all popcorn bags.



**Healthy Lakes, Rivers, Streams.** MPRB staff contributed to the Healthy Lakes, Rivers and Streams report, which identified and measured water body impairments to better understand water quality issues throughout the city. Staff participated in a roundtable forum with members of the public, nonprofit organizations, City staff and City Council Members to discuss the results.

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

**Cheers to Trees.** The annual Arbor Day Celebration was expanded into a large community celebration at Logan Park. More than 600 attendees enjoyed music, tree-themed games, bucket truck rides, supervised tree-climbing opportunities and a beer garden featuring local brews. Volunteers helped plant more than 130 trees comprising 39 different species throughout the park thanks to a generous contribution from People for Parks.



**Pruning Programs.** Forestry staff partnered with the University of Minnesota to host several Citizen Pruner programs. Once trained, the volunteer pruners contributed thousands of dollars in free work by pruning dozens of trees.

**Amazing Arborists.** Arborist Crew Leaders John Elward and Ryan Mahoney were both recognized for their extensive arboriculture knowledge. Elward received the Mark Stennes Award from the Minnesota Shade Tree Short Course for his commitment to sharing arboricultural knowledge and Mahoney became the Forestry Department's first Board Certified Master Arborist from the International Society of Arboriculture.

**Respect Your Mother.** Volunteers collected 640 pounds of recycling, 8,100 pounds of trash and 1,640 pounds of metal during Earth Day events across the city in a coordinated effort to beautify and clean up the city.



**Conservation Corps.** MPRB staff worked with the Conservation Corps Youth Outdoors (CCM YO) program for the sixth consecutive year. The program provides youth from diverse backgrounds job skills development and experience in urban conservation projects.

**iTree Eco.** A CCM YO crew helped perform an assessment of the urban forest in Theodore Wirth Regional Park using a program called iTree Eco. Twenty random plots were inventoried to identify the composition and benefits of Wirth's forest. The iTree Eco model estimates trees in the Wirth study area can sequester approximately 68 tons of carbon annually!

**Youth Service.** MPRB staff hosted 26 one-time group "youth-in-service" volunteer events. Tasks included planting and tending gardens, trail and tree mulching, and assisting in the Rose Garden as "grateful deadheaders." In all, 864 youth served as eco-volunteers and contributed 2249 hours of service.



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

**Cultural Voyage.** The Global Quest program expanded to Whittier Park in 2016 after its debut at Longfellow Park in 2015. Youth participants were immersed in myriad global cultures. They sang in Dakota, French, Kiswahili and Spanish, and danced to songs in Italian, German, Spanish, Arabic, Hindi, Indonesian, Portuguese, French and Punjabi.



**Spring Break Outdoors.** Youthline took a three-day camping trip in the Baker Regional Park Near-Wilderness Settlement over spring break. Campers learned survival skills and archery, enjoyed hiking and bonfires, and solved a nighttime puzzle in the woods with a compass.

**Better Than Rio.** More than 100 children hailing from South Minneapolis Rec Plus school-age childcare programs competed in a fun day of wacky, Olympic-themed activities at Keewaydin Park. With activities like Poolside I-Spy, Playground Olympics and an inflatable slip-n-slide, it didn't quite mirror the Rio Olympics, but both staff and children had an absolute blast.

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

**Seasonal Celebrations.** Crowds flocked to parks for celebrations in every season: In the spring thousands of people turned out for the Eggstravaganza Helicopter Egg Drop at North Commons Park and on the Fourth of July, Red, White and Boom! enjoyed record attendance for a party that included a live concert from the Minnesota Orchestra at Boom Island Park. The 10th annual Minneapolis Bike Tour was celebrated in the fall with nearly 3,000 bicyclists cruising through one of three courses created on the Grand Rounds Scenic Byway, and over the winter the MPRB partnered with the Minneapolis Downtown Council to host Holidazzle in Loring Park for the second year.



**Scow Much Fun.** The MC Scow Invitational was the first event of its kind held on Lake Harriet. During the four-day regatta, sailors from across the country piloted the MC Scow, an extremely maneuverable 14-foot sailboat.

**Owámni.** The Owámni Falling Water Festival continued to grow in its third year with more than 2,500 attendees who enjoyed and appreciated Indigenous Minnesota culture with music, art, food, exhibits and more.

**Major Milestone.** Youthline celebrated 25 years of providing recreation programs, leadership opportunities and mentorship for youth aged 12-16 in an energetic anniversary party at Boom Island Park. At the event, current and past Youthline Outreach Mentors were recognized for their positive contributions to the community.



**Core Values.** Youth Program Specialists launched Core Value Programs in 2016. The eight-week program offered Youthline participants curriculum-based instruction across six topics.

**Live the Dream.** Central Gym, Powderhorn and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parks hosted events celebrating the legacy of King on his namesake holiday. Longtime youth sports referee, advocate and instructor Frank White was honored with the Living the Dream award.



**Teen Teamworks.** Teen Teamworks is still going strong after more than 30 years. In 2016, 270 youth learned valuable works skills while earning a paycheck and enhancing countless programs, events and parks across Minneapolis. Another 650 teens received work readiness training.

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

**Youth Sports.** More than 6,400 children competed in a variety of outdoor and indoor sports, including football, soccer and volleyball in the fall, basketball, hockey and wrestling in the winter, gymnastics, baseball and softball in the spring and tennis and track and field in the summer.



**Adult Sports.** More than 21,000 adults participated in hundreds of leagues in a dozen different organized sports offered across all seasons.

**Excellent Teamwork.** The following teams were recognized for their exemplary teamwork and positive attitudes with Youth Sportsmanship Awards: Whittier Wolves Open Basketball 11U, Webber Park Girls Basketball 11U, Lynnhurst Wrestling, Lynnhurst Polar Bears Open and Girls Hockey, Folwell Park Track, McRae Park Baseball 13U and Sibley Eagles Softball 18U.



**Individual Awards.** The Sandy Peterson Most Improved Player Award was given to three inspiring youth softball players: Ava Herenhoff, Hiawatha Lakers 10U; Grace Tuttle, Pershing Park 12U; and Kaya Neubauer, Bottineau Badgers 14U. The Jordan Holt Most Improved Player Award was presented to four promising youth basketball players: Lily Balk, Keewaydin Lakers 11U; Haugen Stamps Pearl Park 11U; Darren McCurry, Creekview Knights 11U; and Rose Zaremba, Armatage-Kenny 11U. Most Improved Player Awards in hockey were awarded to Edy Zambrano, Squirts DinoMights; Owen Boss, Pearl Park 11U; Greta Wilbur, Linden Hills Skaters 13U; Eleazar Rott, North Commons Bulldogs 15U; and Maia Merims, Lynnhurst Polar Bears.

**City of Lakes.** Hundreds of adults and children took sailing lessons on Lake Harriet, participated in Open Swim Nights at Lake Nokomis and Cedar Lake and tried log rolling at Lake Calhoun and Lake Nokomis and rowing in the Mississippi River.

**Swim Calhoun.** More than 100 people swam in the inaugural Chain of Lakes Open Swim Classic. Swimmers competed in both 1.5-mile and 2.4-mile courses in the first sanctioned swim across the lake.



**Coaches Learn.** Nearly 200 coaches for MPRB youth recreation attended professional training sessions offered by the Minnesota Football Coaches Association Conference, the Minnesota Twins Play Ball! Conference and Positive Coaches Alliance training.

**Snack to the Future.** Five more recreation centers transitioned to vending machines that only offer nutritious snacks. The three most popular healthy vending machines are in Farview, Powderhorn and Bottineau Recreation Centers.

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

**Volunteers of the Year.** Six individuals and two groups were honored with Remarkable Service Awards for their efforts to improve parks and park programs: Kathy and Ron Buhta, Friends of Lake Nokomis; Maria Gilleece, McRae Park; M'Angelo Harris, Corcoran, Powderhorn and Creekview Parks; Ede Holmen, Friends of Loring Park; Carleton Perry, Lyndale Farmstead Park; Luxton Book Exchange, Luxton Park; Nokomis Naturescape 'Gardeneers', Lake Nokomis Park.

**Rising Star.** Ibrahim Arale was named the Youth Rising Star Honoree for his amazing commitment to the Village Parks Youth Development Program. He volunteered more than 100 hours at Bryant Square Park, Whittier Park and the Walker Library.

**Massive Impact.** Nearly 12,000 volunteers contributed more than 147,000 hours – an estimated \$3.5 million worth of labor! – to enrich Minneapolis' parks through recreation, environmental, and youth programs in 2016.



**Garden Made Great.** The Martha Crone Visitor Shelter at the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden was partially staffed by 41 volunteers who gave more than 1,100 hours of their time. An additional 64 volunteers dedicated 153 hours to removing invasive species in and around the Garden.

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

**Reimagine Recreation Centers.** RecQuest is a sweeping initiative to better align the facilities and services offered at recreation centers with the communities they serve. In May, a Racial Equity Subcommittee was created to help ensure equity concerns are considered throughout the multiyear planning process. Phase 1, which compiled and analyzed data on recreation center use, programs and needs, will be presented to the Board of Commissioners in 2017.

**Rec Plus Comes to Corcoran.** Rec Plus school-age childcare program expanded to Corcoran Recreation Center. The popular after-school program provides active play, sports, arts and crafts, optional park classes, self-directed play and nutritious snacks for children in kindergarten through 6th grade.

**Kroening Transition.** The MPRB transitioned into full control over programming at the Carl W. Kroening Interpretive Center after the Three Rivers Park District redirected its resources away from the 14-year-old facility within North Mississippi Regional Park.



**Pickleball.** Pickleball is one of the fastest-growing sports in Minneapolis. It's similar to tennis and especially popular among active adults aged 50 and older. In 2016 new indoor pickleball programs debuted at Logan, Pearl and Longfellow Recreation Centers and outdoor pickleball striping was added to tennis courts at McRae, Painter and Windom NE Parks.



**Goal: Parks shape an evolving city**

**Neighborhood Park Plans.** It was a productive year for master planning efforts. The Board of Commissioners approved the South Service Area Master Plan, which will guide all capital improvements at neighborhood parks south of downtown and east of I-35W for decades. A draft of the Downtown Service Area Master Plan will open for comment during the winter of 2016-2017 and preliminary work was completed on the North Service Area Master Plan, which will launch in 2017.

**Calhoun-Harriet Improvements.** Extensive public feedback helped shape preferred concepts for trail and access improvements around Lake Calhoun and Lake Harriet and a strategic direction for the Calhoun Refectory (where the Tin Fish restaurant currently leases space) as part of the Calhoun-Harriet Master Plan.



**Unprecedented Opportunity.** A team led by United Properties, Thor Development and First Avenue Productions submitted an initial vision for redeveloping the 48-acre Upper Harbor Terminal site along the North Minneapolis riverfront. The Board of Commissioners and Minneapolis City Council will take an in-depth look into the team's vision during the winter of 2016-2017.

**Water Works Flows Forward.** A design team was hired and performed numerous pre-construction tasks for the upcoming Water Works Park on the Downtown riverfront. Those tasks included assessing mill foundations under the Fuji-Ya building; meeting with Native American and African American community leaders and elders to discuss the area's history; and developing programming and design options. Construction is expected to begin in 2018.



**Possibilities at Scherer.** A Community Advisory Committee was formed to help guide potential development at the Scherer site. The initial vision for the 11-acre riverfront location includes a park and a supporting development across 3.5 acres designated as 'Parcel D.'

**All Set at South Cedar.** The Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhood Association funded the development of a plan to upgrade Cedar Lake South Beach. The plan was approved by the Board of Commissioners and will begin implementation as soon as funding is secured.

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

**Repaired, Reopened, Rejoiced.** West River Parkway reopened after a challenging, lengthy repair of damage caused by a June 2014 landslide. Five retaining walls, better soil, a network of underground drain tile and new vegetation significantly reduce the probability of another landslide.

**A Natural Experience.** Hours for the Webber Park Natural Swimming Pool expanded to six days per week. The first public natural swimming pool in North America was dedicated in a special summertime ceremony.

**Artistic Overhaul.** The reconstruction of underground infrastructure at the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden was completed and workers began to install trees, plants and sculptures in the fall. Construction will finish up in the spring and a grand opening is planned in June 2017.



**New Era of Outdoor Recreation.** Thanks to a groundbreaking agreement between the MPRB and the Loppet Foundation, a new 14,000-square-foot outdoor recreation hub called The Trailhead will begin construction next year in Theodore Wirth Regional Park. The Loppet will secure funds to build The Trailhead and then donate it to the MPRB once it's fully constructed.

**Swimming Soon.** Many different funding sources secured the resources necessary to rebuild Phillips Pool, which has been closed since 2008. The pool will undergo reconstruction in 2017 and is expected reopen in 2018.

**Northeast Renewal.** A contractor was hired to build a brand-new recreation center near the northeast corner of Northeast Athletic Field Park. Also, the restroom building underwent renovations, contaminated soil was removed and replaced and new lighted pathways are teed up for construction next year.

**New Trail into the Mix.** The Mississippi East Bank Trail opened, creating nearly a mile of new riverfront trail along the Northeast Minneapolis riverfront. The lighted trail created an off-street bike and pedestrian connection between Boom Island Park and the 1600 block of Marshall Street NE, adjacent to the BNSF railroad bridge.





**Bossen Goes Big.** A ton of work was performed to reorganize Bossen Field Park according to the wishes of the community. The softball fields were redone with better grading and layouts, a new open field was added in the east side of the park, new utilities were installed and construction began on a new playground. Work on the park overhaul will wrap up in 2017.

**Unique Technique.** A new timber frame pavilion was built at Beltrami Park. Timber framing is a distinctive style of building construction used for thousands of years. Timber framing expert Clark Bremer and staff from the local non-profit organization Spark-Y led a fantastic volunteer effort in which wooden beams were carefully carved, fitted together and secured using complex joints and large wooden pegs instead of nails or other mechanical fasteners.



**Bridges Reborn.** The 91-year-old spans of the St. Anthony Parkway Bridge were removed and will be replaced in 2017. At Columbia Golf Club, Bridge 93844 was stabilized so that it may serve golfers and MPRB operations staff for years to come.

**Art, Upgrades at Bryant Square.** Bryant Square Recreation Center upgraded its flooring and furnaces and unveiled five new mosaic murals that decorate its exterior walls. Each mural depicts a different theme: spring/summer, winter, autumn, water and butterfly garden.



**Hooray for McRae.** The well-used natural turf athletic field at McRae Park was removed and replaced with a new field that has better drainage and new turf. Also, a new drinking fountain was installed for thirsty athletes.

**Fantastic Future for Freedom Form II.** The 46-year-old Corten steel Freedom Form II sculpture at Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park was shored up through a round of structural repairs so that the important piece of park history may be enjoyed by park users for decades to come.

**Fresh Landscape at Ryan Lake.** A new patio, small garden, bike racks, picnic table and bench were installed near Ryan Lake, completing the two-phase project that also upgraded the sidewalk and removed an old building near the lake.

**Picnic in the Park.** New picnic tables were placed in Levin Triangle Park to improve use of the park.

**Accessible and Safe.** Trails were repaved and received accessibility and safety upgrades at Lake Nokomis Park (near Cedar Avenue), William Berry Parkway, Lake of the Isles Park, Dean Parkway and Ridgway Parkway.



**Brownie Black Diamond.** Nearly two miles of sustainably built, limestone-armored natural surface trail opened in Brownie Lake Park. Portions of the trail exceed a 15% slope, offering a much-needed black diamond challenge for off-road cyclists.

**Wading Pools.** New wading pools were celebrated at Bethune, Hi-View and Van Cleve Parks, while work began on new pools at Matthews and Powderhorn Parks.

**Playgrounds.** New playgrounds were celebrated at Bethune, Hi-View and 54th Street near Lake Hiawatha, while work began on new playgrounds at Bryant Square, Powderhorn and Bossen Field Parks.



**Rehab Priorities.** Work began on an effort to measure the condition of all neighborhood park pavement and the roofs at recreation centers and other MPRB buildings. The data collected will help prioritize the allocation of increased rehabilitation funding from NPP20.

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

**Engage to Understand.** Dozens of public meetings were held throughout Minneapolis to garner feedback from stakeholders regarding a number



of different initiatives, including RecQuest, the Racial Equity Action Plan, Service Area Master Plans, Upper Harbor Terminal redevelopment, Calhoun-Harriet Master Plan and many other projects.



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

**Critical Connection.** The MPRB acquired more than four acres of property along the North Minneapolis riverfront when it purchased 4022 1/2 Washington Ave. N and 4050 1/2 Washington Ave. N. Someday that land will become part of the continuous network of parks and trails along Minneapolis' Upper Riverfront envisioned by the Above the Falls Master Plan and RiverFirst Initiative.

**Return to Nature.** An old house, sheds and various outbuildings standing near the Northeast Minneapolis riverfront at 1822 Marshall St. NE were demolished. This cleared the way for the re-vegetation of the property, which was purchased by the MPRB in 2015.

**Golf's Future.** The effects of groundwater and stormwater pumping at Hiawatha Golf Club underwent extensive investigation that will continue into 2017. A significant amount of data needs to be analyzed for all stakeholders to have a thorough understanding of options before any decisions are made regarding the future of the course. Meadowbrook Golf Club remained closed after a devastating 2014 flood, but major repairs performed will allow for it to open in 2017. Work began at Theodore Wirth Golf Club that will shift holes 17 and 18 to help untangle the course from winter activities.

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

**County Contributions.** Hennepin County provided more than \$60,000 in grant funding to support 11 requests for new recreation equipment at parks across Minneapolis.

**Generous Gifts.** The Minneapolis Parks Foundation raised more than \$10 million toward the implementation of RiverFirst park projects from individuals,



foundations and corporations, including a \$3 million contribution from General Mills. Contributions from the Loppet Foundation, Minnesota Vikings, US Bank, Minnesota Twins, People for Parks and numerous other generous

organizations and individuals supported park projects and programming throughout Minneapolis.

**Embarking on Better Parking.** New digital parking pay stations replaced outdated meters at 10 locations throughout the park system. The new pay stations allow people to use coins or credit cards to pay for parking.

**Five More Years.** Popular bike and watercraft rental shop Wheel Fun and Lake Harriet concessionaire Bread & Pickle both signed five-year agreements with MPRB to continue to offer park patrons their services.



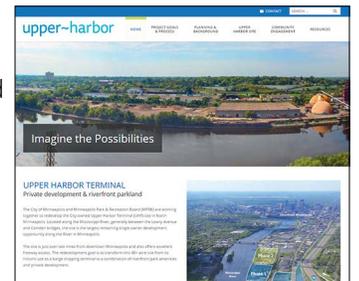
**Goal: Easily accessible information supports enjoyment and use of the park and recreation system**

**Intra the Wild.** An assessment of PBItranet, the MPRB internal communications site, was completed and a new internal communication system with improved capabilities and access will be implemented in 2017.

**Not Smitten with Written, Typed is All Right.** Efforts began to transition existing PDF forms on the MPRB website to a digital fill-in format available online to make submitting information easier for both MPRB employees and park patrons.

**Interactive Mapping Tool.** A new interactive mapping tool that tracks park dedication fee collections, allocations and expenditures debuted on the MPRB website. Fees are assessed on any new development within Minneapolis and are designed to enhance the park system for new residents or employees moving into the city.

**UpperHarborMpls.com.** The MPRB partnered with the City of Minneapolis Community Planning and Economic Development Department to launch UpperHarborMpls.com, a one-stop, stand-alone website for everything related to the Upper Harbor Terminal redevelopment.



**Spotlight on Webber Pool.** The Webber Park Natural Swimming Pool was featured in major articles published in both Parks and Recreation Magazine and Minnesota Parks and Recreation Magazine. It was also honored in Finance & Commerce's "Top Projects" series.



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

**Popular Pop-Ups.** Mobile Pop-Up Parks with themes like Youth Violence Prevention, Adventure Sports, Bicycle Shop and Family and Nature engaged more than 4,000 children and youth in sports, games, dance, music, art, environmental learning and more. The festive tents appeared in neighborhoods, on street corners and at park events and celebrations.



**Safe Streets.** StreetReach outreach workers engaged with more than 21,000 youth at 59 large youth gatherings. StreetReach helped create safe and supervised environments at marches and protests, busy summer days at different pools, popular athletic events and more.



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

**Swim Safely.** The MPRB partnered with People for Parks to provide 150 swimming lesson scholarships to Minneapolis youth. Lessons continued at the indoor Creekview Pool after the outdoor swimming season ended.

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

**MPRB Officer of the Year.** The Minneapolis Park Police Department (MPPD) selected Officer Robert Mooney as the 2016 Officer of the Year. A Park Police veteran, Mooney has spent years building positive relationships in the north Minneapolis parks and recreation centers he patrols. Besides patrol duties, Mooney serves as a field training officer for new officers and works as a part-time use-of-force instructor. Additionally, he served as a temporary sergeant from April to October.



**Platinum Excellence.** MPPD received the 2016 Platinum Excellence Award from the Park Law Enforcement Association. MPPD's partnership with Recreation staff to train youth workers to prevent bad or potentially criminal behavior in parks and recreation centers was recognized as an especially innovative, effective crime-fighting technique.

**Crisis Intervention.** Every Park Police Officer completed a 40-hour course on Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training. CIT training is a nationally recognized program that provides the foundation to implement assistance and solutions for individuals with mental illness.

**Saving Lives.** Five Park Police Officers received Life Saving Awards from the Minneapolis Police Department. Officers Adam Swierczek and Brian Woodfill provided life-saving first aid to an 11-year-old boy who was run over by a train near Webber Park and Officers Andrew Klein, Jeremy Randle and Joseph Stetson put themselves at risk to prevent a man from jumping off the Broadway Bridge.

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

**Scintillating Safety.** Theodore Wirth Regional Park hosted the ever-popular Safety Camp. The three-day program taught safety education to kids going into grades 3-5 through demonstrations, games, and hands-on activities in an action-packed camp setting. Police officers, firefighters and recreation staff served as camp counselors.



**Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).** An EOP was developed to ensure a coordinated, interdivision and interagency response to major emergency situations that may occur within, or immediately impact park properties, facilities, programs and events. The plan will be finalized in early 2017 and shared internally and with interagency partners, along with training activities.

**Work Safe.** More than 375 MPRB employees attended an eight-hour safety training session and submitted a competency exam upon completion. The training covered numerous topics, including accident and injury reduction, safety rights, responsibilities, duties and communications, workplace hazards, incident reporting, and personal protective equipment.

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

**The People's Fort.** The MPRB participated in a project between multiple public agencies that will upgrade trails and wayfinding at Fort Snelling. Once completed, trails and signage will link the Fort Snelling Blue Line Light Rail stop to the Historic Fort, Neiman Sports Complex, Fred Wells Tennis Center, Fort Snelling Par 3 Golf Course, Boy Scouts Base Camp, future and current residences and miles of regional trails running alongside the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers.



**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*

**Best Boardwalk.** A new boardwalk in the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary received a People's Choice Award from the Minnesota



chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architecture. This attractive addition to the garden's wetland was constructed with assistance from the Conservation Corps Minnesota, using specially

treated, reclaimed wood from trees harvested through the MPRB's Ash Canopy Replacement Plan.

**Solar Power Strides.** MPRB's first foray into solar power will save about \$28,000 annually in electricity costs and offset some 400,000 pounds of carbon emissions. A grant of nearly \$1 million from the Xcel Energy Renewable Development Fund, plus \$150,000 in matching funds from the MRPB, allowed for solar projects at five sites. The Parade Ice Garden's 374 solar panels now provide about 15% of that building's electrical power. East Phillips Park, Webber Park and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park received smaller installations, with an installation at Lake Nokomis' main beach planned in 2017.



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

**Moving Up the Ranks.** Tong Xiong and Andy Heinen were promoted as Park Police Officers in June after they graduated from Minneapolis Police Department's Recruit Academy. Both served as Park Patrol Agents – Xiong for nine years and Heinen for one – and Heinen was recognized as the outstanding recruit of his Academy class.

**Next-Level Leadership.** Minneapolis Park Police Chief Jason Ohotto attended the FBI National Academy, a 10-week, invitation-only professional course at the FBI campus in Quantico, Virginia. The Academy selects about 200 leaders from local, county, tribal, military, federal, and international law enforcement agencies in every U.S. state and territory and international partner nations.

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

**Workplace Improvement.** Throughout the year staff worked on teams to implement the Culture and Climate Action Plan developed in 2015. Efforts throughout the organization included leadership training for foremen, crewleaders and directors in the Environmental Stewardship division; development of onboarding programs customized for various employee groups (certified, appointed, seasonal, temporary); and communications training for commissioners and supervisors. Staff also developed customer service standards; policy and training for employee recognition; a Gender Inclusion Policy, and a Racial Equity Action Plan.

**Long-Term Help for Neighborhood Parks.** After working with the City of Minneapolis, the MPRB approved an ordinance for a 20-year financial plan to achieve a shared goal of closing the funding gap in the MPRB's renowned system of neighborhood parks. Read more about the 20-Year Neighborhood Park Plan on page 3.

**Equity in Park Funding.** In addition to the 20-Year Neighborhood Park Plan (NPP20), the MPRB approved an ordinance affirming its commitment to use racial and economic equity criteria to determine the distribution of NPP20 funds to neighborhood parks during the period of the Plan. Find out more on page 3.

**Delegacion Mexicana.** A delegation of 17 Mexican park and recreation professionals visited Minneapolis in June. MPRB staff gave tours of Minneapolis parks and explained many different facets of operating, programming, maintaining and planning our park system. The trip was organized by Parques de Mexico, an organization that specializes in the development of quality parks and public spaces responsive to the social needs of vulnerable communities in Mexico.



**New Leaders, New Honors.** Tyrize Cox brings a wealth of public education and nonprofit experience to the MPRB as its new Assistant Superintendent for Recreation, and others at the MPRB received national recognition for their leadership. Corky Wiseman, director of MPRB's Community Outreach department, was elected board president of the National Recreation & Park



Ethnic Minority Society, and Superintendent Jayne Miller was elected to American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration.

**Urban Scholars.** Three current or recent college students joined MPRB for the second summer of its partnership with the City of Minneapolis Urban Scholars program. They expanded outreach and engagement to Minneapolis' Latino community, worked on racial equity and ADA transition plans and helped out in the Deputy Superintendent's office and Customer Service.

**All Things Being Equitable...** Nearly two dozen staff participated in daylong workshops offered by the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE), part of MPRB's ongoing work to advance racial equity (see page 4).

**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*

**Playful by Nature.** Created with tree stumps, trunks, branches and sticks rather than metal and plastic, a Nature Play Pop-Up near the Nokomis Community Center got consistently "awesome" reviews from both children and adults. The MPRB partnered with Bienenstock Natural Playgrounds on the temporary playground as part of the Children & Nature Network's International Conference in Saint Paul.



**Drill Training.** Customer Service's Annie Olson and Iris Pahlberg Peterson brought their innovative, interactive Boot Camp to eight groups, both inside and outside the MPRB. The training offers recreation professionals a well-rounded – and fun – overview of best practices for welcoming and engaging diverse customers.

**Convenient Kayaks.** River paddling got much easier thanks to a new nonprofit service similar to bikeshare programs. People can paddle to Boom Island Park on the Mississippi River after renting kayaks at two stations



upriver. Mississippi River Paddle Share is a partnership between Mississippi Park Connection, a non-profit charitable partner of the National Park Service; the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization and MPRB.

**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*

**Fourth Year Running!** Minneapolis once again ranked as the nation's best park system, narrowly besting its twin city of Saint Paul, according to The Trust for Public Land's 2016 ParkScore Index. ParkScores are based on size of parks and access to parks, as well as facilities and park spending per resident.

**Going for Gold.** MPRB was a finalist for the 2016 National Gold Medal Awards for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management. MPRB was also a finalist in 1988 and won the award in 1989. The Gold Medal Awards program is a partnership of the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration and the National Recreation and Park Association.

**Millions Served.** The Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Regional Park had 5.1 million visits; Mississippi Gorge Regional Park, 2.7 million; Central Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park, 2.1 million and Minnehaha Regional Park, 1.7 million. Once again the Metropolitan Council reported these as four of the five the most-visited regional parks in the seven-county metro area, along with St. Paul's Como Regional Park, Zoo and Conservatory, which had 4.3 million visits.

**Rewarding Relationships.** It was a landmark year for partnerships and agreements that advance MPRB's programs and services and ensure stewardship of park lands. These included Memorandums of Understanding with the Loppet Foundation, for a new adventure and welcome center and winter recreation management

in Wirth Park; Minneapolis Public Schools, regarding the pool project at Phillips Community Center; Prospect North Partnership, for pursuing its long-term vision for the Innovation District near the University of Minnesota; City of Skate, regarding improving and expanding skate park facilities in Minneapolis parks; Seward Redesign, Inc. and the City of Minneapolis, for a park dedication option to create an important trail connection; and the Federal Transit Authority, regarding mitigation efforts and "de minimis" impacts from the proposed Metro Blue Line Light Rail Extension project.



# 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 serves as an ambassador to the community and to other governmental agencies. The Superintendent's Office oversees communications and marketing; community outreach; and park safety and security.



### Communications:

- 74,821 email subscribers
- 2.6 million annual website visits
- 8,023 Facebook Likes

### Community policing:

- 10,552 calls for service
- 5,722 visits to recreation centers
- 366 special events

## Environmental Stewardship

**Caring for the system** Environmental Stewardship provides expertise for the care and maintenance of the park system. The division oversees the maintenance of the Minneapolis Park system's physical infrastructure; equipment and fleet; natural areas and water resources; forestry; volunteer coordination; and environmental education.



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

- 1,100

### Completed work orders:

- 2,786

### AIS boat inspections:

- 7,880

### Participants:

- 16,000 Neighborhood Naturalist participants
- 60,000 Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden visitors

## Deputy Superintendent's Office

**Supporting organization 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 community outreach; customer service; finance; human resources; information technologies; and risk management.



### MPRB event participants:

- 645,000 attended events
- 93,000 listened to concerts
- 17,817 watched movies

### Permits processed:

- 5,861 parking
- 5,790 dog park
- 1,107 picnic
- 182 photo
- 154 wedding
- 242 event

### Better connectivity:

- 600 email mailboxes migrated to Microsoft Office 365

## 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 park system 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
- 2 athletic fields
- 6 wading pools
- 1 recreation center
- 2 miles of trail repaved
- 2.5 miles of parkway resurfaced

### Park Plans completed or underway:

- 5 master plans
- 3 activity plans
- 2 service area plans



## 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:

- 6,458 youth
- 21,113 adults

### Non-sport recreation center program and special event participants:

- 93,560

### Golf rounds played:

- 153,239

### Cross-country ski passes sold:

- 1,409

### Rec Plus locations:

- 18

### Athletic facility rental permits issued:

- 175 permits to 100 organizations for 19,890 hours of play

## 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 about 28% working age. Today approximately 25% of our

full-time employees are people of color. Below is a summary of the MPRB workforce, of appointed and full-time certified employees, as of December 28, 2016. We still have work to do and remain committed to this effort.



### MPRB employees:

- 505 full-time
- 1,100 temporary

EEO4 Category	American Indian	Asian	Black	Hispanic	Pacific American	White	Two +	Percent of Total Employees
Officials & Administrators	0%	5.00%	15.00%	0%	0%	80.00%	0%	4.19%
Professionals	3.66%	6.10%	8.54%	1.22%	0%	80.49%	0%	17.19%
Technicians	2.86%	5.71%	8.57%	0%	0%	77.14%	5.71%	7.34%
Protective Service Workers	0%	11.54%	7.69%	0%	0%	76.92%	3.85%	5.45%
Paraprofessionals	0%	4.17%	20.83%	4.17%	0%	70.83%	0%	10.06%
Administrative Support	10.00%	0%	15%	0%	0%	55.00%	20.00%	4.19%
Skilled Craft Workers	1.92%	0%	5.77%	5.77%	0%	84.62%	1.92%	10.90%
Service – Maintenance	4.12%	2.06%	12.37%	6.70%	0.52%	72.68%	1.55%	40.67%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.14%</b>	<b>3.56%</b>	<b>11.53%</b>	<b>3.98%</b>	<b>0.21%</b>	<b>75.26%</b>	<b>2.31%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## PARK FUNDING Comparison by Service Area

*The MPRB has been focused in making capital, recreation and maintenance and operations investments in parks that are in racially diverse and low income neighborhoods. The per capita average annual capital investments have been highest in the NE/SE and North Service Areas, with the South Service Area seeing the highest during the next six years.*

	North Service Area	Northeast/ Southeast Service Area	South Service Area	Southwest Service Area
Population per American Community Survey	65,885	69,194	137,006	122,047
Average annual capital investment per capita – 2012-2016/ Slated for 2017-2022	\$63/\$26	\$68/\$27	\$26/\$40	\$14/\$26
Youth and Family Recreation investments per capita, 2015	\$38	\$31	\$34	\$24
Maintenance and Operations investments per capita, 2015	\$59	\$57	\$61	\$50
Park Properties	40	44	40	55
Total Acres – Land/Water	1,128/85	725/0	1,657/946	1,231/1,274
Land acquisition 2012-2016	8.7 acres	7 acres	0 acres	0 acres
Recreation Centers*	6	8**	21	14
Tot Lots*	46	42	57	50
Wading Pools*	14	15	21	13
Basketball and Tennis Courts*	38	37	74	61
Neighborhood Parks – funds allocated for capital improvements, 2012-2016	\$3.3 million	\$7.9 million	\$10.2 million	\$2.1 million
Regional Parks – funds allocated for capital improvements, 2012-2016	\$17.4 million	\$15.5 million	\$7.9 million	\$6.6 million
Neighborhood Parks – funds slated for capital improvements, 2017-2022	\$8.7 million	\$3.5 million	\$19.8 million	\$10.4 million
Regional Parks – funds slated for capital improvements, 2017-2022	\$1.7 million	\$7.9 million	\$12.9 million	\$8.9 million
Maintenance and Operations – funds invested 2015	\$3.9 million	\$3.9 million	\$8.3 million	\$6.1 million
Key Youth and Family Recreation Services – funds invested 2015	\$2.5 million	\$2.1 million	\$4.7 million	\$3 million

\* Examples of park assets available city-wide    \*\* Includes NE Recreation Center opening 2017



## Revenues

Property Taxes	\$	53,771,673
Enterprise	\$	10,166,753
Capital Projects	\$	19,487,600
Local Government Aid	\$	9,182,581
Other Revenue	\$	9,742,694
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>102,351,301</b>

## Expenditures

### Superintendent's Office

Superintendent's Office	\$	982,720
Board of Commissioners	\$	650,441
Communications and Marketing	\$	681,237
Park Police	\$	5,531,048

### Deputy Superintendent's Office

Community Outreach	\$	1,411,199
Customer Service	\$	1,754,088
Finance	\$	980,455
Human Resources	\$	983,068

### Environmental Stewardship

Asset Management	\$	23,563,364
Environmental Management	\$	2,760,414
Forestry	\$	10,767,616

### Planning Services

Design and Project Management	\$	1,444,008
Strategic Planning	\$	846,795

### Recreation Services

Athletic Programs, Aquatics and Ice Arenas	\$	3,635,397
Recreation Centers and Programs	\$	11,087,443
Youth Development	\$	3,963,479
Golf Operations	\$	5,191,883

### Other

Capital Projects	\$	22,531,183
City Management Fee, Contributions and Other	\$	2,186,008
Debt Service	\$	730,137

<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>101,681,983</b>
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The Minneapolis park system was rated number one in the nation for the fourth 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.

## 2016 Distinctions

Minneapolis Parks: #1 Park System in the U.S. – *The Trust for Public Land Parkscore® Index, May*

Minneapolis: 6th Best City for an Active Lifestyle – *Wallet Hub, January*

Minneapolis Park Police Department: Platinum Excellence Award – *Park Law Enforcement Association, February*

Minneapolis-St. Paul: 12th Best Place to Live in the U.S – *U.S. News, March*

Lake Nokomis: Best Summer Swimming – *Star Tribune, April*

Minneapolis: 12th Most Walkable City – *Walk Score, April*

Minneapolis: 7th Best Running City – *runnersworld.com, August*

Minnehaha Falls: 16th Most Breathtaking Destination in the World – *Expedia, September*

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Playground – *Bridging the Gap: Advancing Equity in Planning Award, Minnesota Chapter of the American Planning Association, October*

Minneapolis: 10th Greenest City in America – *Wallet Hub, November*



## Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

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