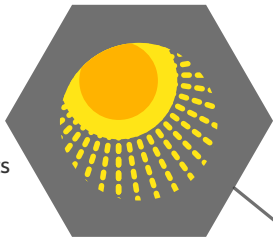


Ecological System Plan Topics

Urban Heat Island Effect

Minneapolis is significantly warmer than its surrounding rural areas due to by-products of human activities, such as carbon dioxide and paved/built-on land surfaces that retain heat.



Air Quality Issues

Poor air can lead to asthma and respiratory problems, making it difficult for both animal and plant life to thrive.



Habitat Connectivity

A green network across the city can help plants and animals thrive and improve air quality through increased carbon sequestration.



Park Ecology

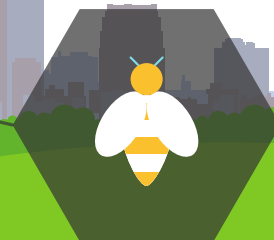
Carbon Sequestration

Trees and other vegetation can help to absorb carbon dioxide the city produces, as well as reduce air temperature.



Biodiversity & Habitat Quality

Diverse plant and animal communities depend on sustained quality of their living environments as well as protection from the spread of invasive species.



Sustainable Energy Generation

Use of solar, wind, geothermal and other forms of sustainable energy can reduce reliance on fossil fuels, decrease pollution, and improve air quality.



Stormwater Runoff

Stormwater carries pollutants from roadways, sidewalks, and lawns into water bodies and can make them unsafe for aquatic life and recreation.



What is Ecology?

Ecology is the relationship between living things and their physical environment.

Discussion Question

How do these plan topics relate to how you experience water, air, land and life in the parks?

Think of your favorite park-based activities. What recreational amenities, natural spaces, plants, and/or animals do you seek out?

Want to be involved in the Ecological System Plan development process?

Go to:
www.minneapolisparcs.org/ecologicalsystemplan

Ecological System Plan



The Ecological System Plan will address how environmental impacts from the city can be addressed throughout the park system in order to better protect water, air, land, and life in the parks.

Did you know...

that each Ecological System Plan topic relates to the ways in which you experience Minneapolis parks?

For instance:

- Stormwater carries, salt, oil, and other surface substances from roadways into major water bodies, so it's important to be aware of what's on the road that could end up polluting the water, affecting both plant and animal life in the parks!
- Trees help to capture carbon dioxide and improve air quality as well as cool the areas around them, so they are an important environmental counter-balance for pavements and buildings that tend to contribute to rising temperatures in urban areas.
- Parks offer not only recreational opportunities for users, but also play an important role in connecting communities of plant and animal life.

YOU can make a difference in how water, air, land, and life in the parks are impacted over time! Want to learn more? Go to:

www.hennepin.us/residents/environment/protecting-land-water

This publication available in alternate format (large print, braille, electronic, etc.) upon request. Please contact Cindy Anderson at (612) 230-6472 or canderson@minneapolisparcs.org

For the 5th year in a row, the Trust for Public Land has recognized the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board as the #1 park system in the United States.

6,804
acres of
parkland
and water

55-mile
Grand Rounds
National Scenic
Byway

179
park properties

102 miles
biking and
walking paths

22
lakes

49
recreation
centers

12
formal gardens

7
golf courses