Superintendent’s Annual Report 2010

Enjoyable, Equitable, Sustainable

Minneapolis
Park & Recreation Board
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.
I am honored to issue the first annual report since I became superintendent of Minneapolis parks in late 2010. I have great respect for the long tradition of resource stewardship and community building in Minneapolis among park commissioners, staff and the public. That tradition was evident in the past year when so much was done in the midst of great change.

Foremost in everyone’s mind in difficult economic times is how we can continue to deliver superb service with smaller budgets. I think the solution has four parts: listening well, building relationships, optimizing resources, and looking ahead.

Our community engagement policy is an important part of listening. We will ensure that park and recreation services are accessible, community-based and equitable. Many of our organizational efforts have been directed at putting resources as close to our communities as possible. Our neighborhood park capital funding initiative also comes from our commitment to being responsive to our communities. Our accomplishments during 2010 are keyed in this report to the visions, goals and values that emerged from public input into the 2007-2020 Comprehensive Plan.

We have many partners, public and private, with whom we will continue to increase collaboration. We are working with the City and public schools on service delivery and responsibilities across jurisdictions. The Park Dedication Ordinance and Stormwater Agreement are examples. We are also working with sponsors and partners to increase contributions and revenues.

Then we have to optimize resources. That applies to how we deploy the energy and expertise of park staff as well as how we use natural resources. Sustainability is very important to me and to the board, so it is gratifying to see that the new East Phillips center is the most efficient building in our system. We will continue to optimize resources by making our buildings, operations and city greener, from renovation of recreation centers to planting 5,500 new trees in 2011.

True to the legacy of our park system, we will not become so immersed in today that we forget tomorrow. That’s why I’m excited about the Mississippi Riverfront Development Initiative that grew out of last year’s design competition. In cooperation with our partners, we’re drawing on the best ideas of our communities and brilliant designers to develop river-connected parks that will continue to provide recreation benefits to the people of Minneapolis and the region for decades.

In the summary of our collective effort that follows, I hope you will see the dedication and commitment of our board and our staff to keeping Minneapolis one of the most livable and enjoyable cities in the world.

Jayne Miller
Urban forests, natural areas and waters that endure and captivate

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

Attack of the Emerald Ash Borer – The long-feared arrival of the tree-killing pest was confirmed in Tower Hill Park in February. The discovery led to the removal of 15 ash trees from the park. Minneapolis’s urban forest includes 38,000 ash trees on boulevards, or about 19% of all boulevard trees. Removal of the diseased trees and planting of new tree varieties was funded in part by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden Management Plan – Since Eloise Butler began tending the wildflower garden in 1907 it had been organized around the informal principles she established. In 2010 the garden staff believed there was a need to articulate those founding principles to care for the 500 plant species that attract more than 60,000 visitors annually. The result was the first five-year management plan for the garden, created to serve better the garden and its visitors, volunteers and supporters.

Erosion Control – In partnership with the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, MPRB began a project to control erosion and stabilize the bluff along East River Parkway from the University of Minnesota to Franklin Avenue. The project included installation of retaining walls, new railings, and a new culvert under the trail at Bridal Veil Falls, as well as trail repair.

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

5,500 New Trees – MPRB approved Forestry Division plans to plant more trees in 2011 than in any year since the 1970s, during the original onslaught of Dutch Elm Disease (DED). 5,500 trees were approved for parks and boulevards, an increase from 4,000 in previous years. The increase is necessary as the city continues to suffer losses from DED and anticipates more losses from Emerald Ash Borer. The Park Board plants and cares for all trees in parks as well as more than 200,000 trees along 1,000-plus miles of city streets.

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

Ancient Oak – The city’s oldest tree, a Burr Oak estimated to be more than 350 years old, died after years of declining health. The branches of the tree were removed by park arborists to be used by artists and carvers. The 17-foot trunk was left standing near West River Parkway in Riverside Park and new oaks were planted to take its place.

Arbor Day at Jordan Park – The Park Board celebrated Arbor Day May 19 at Jordan Park with assistance from the Hmong International Academy, which is adjacent to the park. With funding from People for Parks and assistance from MPRB foresters, 140 trees were planted by more than 400 students, volunteers and neighbors. The event helped maintain Minneapolis’s status as a “Tree City USA” for the 31st year.

Chinese Garden – The Park Board approved in concept a garden at Washburn Fair Oaks Park that will be the first of its kind in the U.S.: an Imperial-style garden typical of northern China. The board approved a four-year fundraising plan by the Minnesota China Friendship Garden Society, which is working with Minneapolis’s sister city, Harbin, China. A citizen advisory committee will be formed when fund-raising milestones are reached.

Roberts Bird Sanctuary Revitalization – MPRB formed a partnership to revitalize and improve the condition of the Thomas Sadler Roberts Bird Sanctuary in Lyndale Park. The Park Board will work with Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis, East Harriet-Farmstead Neighborhood Association and Linden Hills Neighborhood Council to develop a management plan for the bird sanctuary, identify and implement volunteer stewardship projects, and provide educational opportunities that focus on bird conservation and natural history interpretation. Activities in 2010 included plant and bird surveys and removal of invasive plant species.
Thomas Lowry Park Garden — An expansion of the irrigation system in Thomas Lowry Park will make possible other garden enhancements as part of a long-term improvement plan funded by the Neighborhood Revitalization Program through the Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association and by Friends of Thomas Lowry Park. Improvements will continue through 2012.

Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden Nature Programs — The beloved garden became a classroom with courses on watercolor painting, gardening with wildflowers, nature writing and medicinal plants. All classes are in the pristine setting of one of the world’s premier wild gardens — in the heart of a city.

Green Gateways — The entrances to Lake Nokomis and Theodore Wirth Regional Parks were improved. The work included improving the grade, remediating poor urban soil, adding design elements of native stone, installing landscape lighting, and planting plants suitable to Minnesota’s weather extremes. The improvements will increase wildlife habitat, provide storm water filtration and increase year-round aesthetic interest.

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

Vegetation Restoration in Lower Glen — As part of an ongoing plan for Minnehaha Park, work began in late 2010 to remove invasive plants from along Minnehaha Creek from the falls to the Mississippi. Followed by new plantings in 2011, the work will return the glen to its natural state as oak savannah and maple/basswood forest, improving sight lines, creek visibility and habitat for wildflowers and wildlife. Depression-era walls, steps, bridges and paths had already been restored with funding from the Minnesota Legislature. The project was developed in cooperation with the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Goal: Knowledgeable stewards and partners generously support the system’s natural resources.

Earth Day — The 16th Annual Earth Day Watershed Cleanup was held in April at 37 park sites throughout Minneapolis. The clean-up effort — bags and gloves were provided — drew attention to water quality in Minneapolis and the effects of individual action on urban water quality. More than 3,000 volunteers participated.

Rain Garden Workshops — People interested in creating rain gardens to help protect water quality in our lakes and creeks attended workshops at Longfellow, Lynnhurst and Audubon Parks presented by MPRB and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District.

A Strong Housing Market — Chimney swifts and purple martins enjoyed new accommodations at Wirth Park and Lake Hiawatha respectively. A 16-foot tall tower for chimney swifts at J. D. Rivers Children’s Garden is accompanied by an information kiosk. “Gourds” mounted on poles along the eastern shore of Lake Hiawatha house purple martins. MPRB collaborated with the Bryn Mawr neighborhood, Standish-Ericsson neighborhood and Audubon clubs. Populations of chimney swifts and purple martins have declined significantly in recent years. Chimney swifts are especially attractive because a nesting pair can consume up to 2,000 flying insects a day.
Recreation inspires personal growth, healthy lifestyles and a sense of community

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

New Beach Playgrounds – The new playground at Wirth Lake beach opened in time for July 4th. The project included sand volleyball courts, play areas for older and younger children, a half basketball court and a floating boardwalk around the swimming areas. New boardwalks were also installed in the wetlands west of the beach. Funding was provided by the Metropolitan Council and Minnesota Parks and Trails Legacy Amendment. Playground equipment at Glen Gale and Perkins Hill were also upgraded.

Kenwood Gets Fibar – A new ground cover system called “Fibar” is the centerpiece of the renovation of the Kenwood Park totlot. The sustainable wood fibers of “Fibar” offer a soft surface to cushion falls, yet are firm enough for wheelchairs. The project, which was funded by the NRP through the Kenwood Isles Area Association, also included installation of safer, longer-lasting and more aesthetically pleasing playground equipment.

Outdoor Ice Rinks: 23, 21, 20, 6 – Even with unpredictable weather and stiff financial challenges, MPRB maintained 47 outdoor ice rinks. A total of 23 park sites offered 21 recreational skating rinks, 20 hockey rinks and 6 broomball rinks. Five of those rinks were on bodies of year-round water: Lakes Hiawatha, Isles, Nokomis and Powderhorn, along with Webber Pond.

Knee Deep – Four of the 61 wading pools in the Minneapolis park system required more than routine maintenance in 2010. A brand new wading pool was planned and approved, and work began on its construction, at Lake Hiawatha Park. The pool is scheduled to open in 2011. Emergency repairs were required for pools at Powderhorn and Linden Hills parks after water pipes developed significant leaks. The pool at Farview Park had such significant deterioration that repair was not possible. The pool is being rebuilt, scheduled for a 2012 reopening.

Minneapolis Bike Tour – 3,300 riders participated in the Fourth Annual Minneapolis Bike Tour, which took riders on a 36-mile course on sections of the Grand Rounds that were closed to motorized traffic. Toyota provided support for the event.

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

Welcome to Minneapolis – The Metropolitan Council calculated that people who live outside of Minneapolis visited Regional Parks and Trails within the city more than 7 million times in 2010. We’re delighted that our neighbors love our parks, too. The Chain of Lakes Regional Park – from Brownie Lake to Lake Harriet – was the most heavily used park in the metropolitan area with more than 5 million total visits from residents and non-residents.

Kick, Dodge and Broom – The newest ball games have surged in popularity in MPRB leagues for adults in recent years. In the past five years broomball teams have increased from 154 to 245 with more than 3000 participants in the 2010-2011 season. To accommodate growing interest in broomball, a rink was added at McRae Park and a new rink was built at Windom Park.

Golf Programs – Instruction, competition and fun were found at MPRB’s seven golf courses, including specialized lessons for beginners, women and couples, junior golf leagues, and LPGA-sponsored golf for girls. Golf programs were offered through First Tee Minneapolis and through Learning Centers at Columbia and Hiawatha Golf Courses.

Spike in Sand Volleyball – Sand volleyball leagues ran from May through July, Sunday through Thursday, at the new Wirth Lake courts. Leagues accommodate all levels of play.

Goal: People connect through parks and recreation.

Monarch Festival – The Nokomis Naturescape Garden was the site in September of the second annual celebration of Monarch butterflies’ 2,300-mile migration to Mexico. The event raises awareness of the need to provide and protect habitat for Minnesota’s state butterfly. Music, art, dance, food, and games highlighted the cultural connections between Minnesota and Mexico. Support for the festival was provided by the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, the Minnesota State Arts Board, a Minnesota arts and cultural heritage grant, and Radio Disney.
North Side Dog Park — The sixth and newest dog park opened in July at Victory Prairie. The one-acre off-leash recreation area is the first in north Minneapolis. Permits are required and available from MPRB.

Sharing Language and Culture — The Whittier Language and Culture Camp, a new initiative of Village Parks, an MPRB youth program, celebrated Minneapolis’s unique culture and diversity through a two week program at Whittier Park. Teenagers from Village Parks created, prepared, and taught the programs to help other youth build community, learn leadership skills and embrace cultural diversity.

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

Luxton Park Plaque Honors Dorothy Whitaker — Dorothy Whitaker was honored at Luxton Park in June for more than 20 years as a nursery school teacher and volunteer at the Park. She also oversaw the park’s lunch program. Ms. Whitaker died in 2008.

A Big Boost from Big Business — Volunteers from more than 40 corporations contributed time to park projects — in groups from 5 to 225 people — and more than $14,500 worth of materials and supplies as well. Funding came from Best Buy Children’s Foundation, Xcel Energy, Target Corporation and others. Volunteers from Best Buy’s finance department, 200 people, completed projects at Perkins Hill, Mill Ruins, Sculpture Garden, Loring Park and Lyndale Park in one whirlwind day, building a playground, refurbishing tables, planting and mulching annuals and trees, weeding gardens, removing invasive plants and more.

Volunteers of the Year — Of the 7,000 people who volunteer in parks, we’d like to give special recognition to these extraordinary people who received the Volunteer of the Year Awards in 2010: Ann Blumberg, who is retiring after 15 years as a volunteer tour guide in the park system’s gardens; Deane Brown, a multisport coach at Creekside Park who has been instrumental in engaging neighbors in park programs; David Hocker, a football coach, coordinator, fundraiser and marketer of programs at Waite Park over the last 10 years; Susan Olsen, donor of more than 450 hours to Morris Park’s Tiny Tots program and an active promoter of park programs and community engagement; Patrick Sarver, a multisport coach at Linden Hills and park sports advocate in neighborhood councils.

Rising Stars — Teenage volunteers deserve special mention and their own award for their creative vision, enthusiasm and leadership. The 2010 Rising Stars are Eugenia Conneh from Bryant Square; Tom Goldberg, Windom South; Rickia Martin, Dr. Martin Luther King Park; Lee Mier, Logan Park; Kia Robinson-O numa, Pershing Park; and, Chris Williams, Powderhorn Park.

Goal: Parks provide a center for community living.

Restructure of Recreation Staffing — The recreation staff was reorganized to place more recreation personnel in the field closer to the communities they serve and to provide greater flexibility. Thirteen Community Service Areas (CSA) were established, each with a team of recreation experts to maximize resource sharing and responsiveness to community needs.

Increased Neighborhood Park Funding — Despite reducing the park system’s budget by $1.6 million to adapt to the un-allotment of state funds, MPRB allocated an additional $1 million to neighborhood park capital improvement programs.

Rec Plus to Windom Park — The popular child-care program for school-age children was extended to Windom Park in NE Minneapolis for the 2010-2011 school year. The affordable, safe, recreation-based childcare is offered at 18 recreation centers with options for before and after school, summer only or year-round care.

Movies in Parks — Minneapolis parks offered a great variety of cinematical entertainment throughout the city, adding more than 20 movie screenings over previous years. A new, larger 25x13-foot screen enhanced the movie watching experience. For the first time, commercials about park programs were shown before the movies. Sponsors of the family entertainment were Toyota, Clean City Minneapolis and Radio Disney.
vision three:

Dynamic parks shape city character and meet diverse community needs

Goal: Parks shape an evolving city.

35W Bridge Memorial – MPRB approved a site on West River Parkway for the Remembrance Garden, a memorial to the victims and the heroes of the collapse of the I-35W Bridge on August 1, 2007. The dedication of the memorial, designed by Oslund and Associates of Minneapolis, is planned for August 1, 2011, the fourth anniversary of the tragic collapse.

Historic Nature Play Ground – Construction of the first playground on the west side of the Mississippi River downtown was begun at 4th Avenue North and James I. Rice Parkway. The new play area will serve the growing North Loop neighborhood. The play apparatus were inspired by the historic sawmills that once stood on the site. The playground was the official “Leave it Better” service project of the National Recreation and Parks Association annual congress in October, 2010. Work will be completed in 2011. The project was funded mostly by donations, including a grant from the Minneapolis Parks Foundation.

Music in the Square – An innovative musical playground was installed at Jackson Square Park. The installation features seven percussion instruments. Funding was provided by City of Lakes Rotary Club. The University of Minnesota’s School of Music will conduct a study of how children use the instruments.

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

East Phillips Park Community Cultural Center – The beautiful new community center was substantially completed in 2010 for a January 2011 ribbon-cutting. The 14,000-square-foot building includes a teen center, computer lab, high-school sized gym, kitchen and multi-purpose rooms. The opening will be the culmination of years of work beginning with a master plan for the park in 1997. Funding for the center came primarily from the Minnesota legislature, but included contributions from the city, Park Board, county, foundations and businesses.

Pioneers Go West – The Pioneer Statue has a new permanent home. The 65-ton statue was moved across Main St. to B. F. Nelson Park as part of plans to develop that park. The statue was created by Minneapolis sculptor John K. Daniels for Pioneer Square, a park across from the downtown post office, in 1936. When renewal plans for the old square were implemented in 1966, the statue was moved “temporarily” to its northeast location. The latest move of the peripatetic pioneers was funded by neighborhood, city and state funds.

Fewer Planks in Plank Road – The oak planks on West River Parkway in Mill Ruins Park that once spanned the tail races from the mills were replaced with concrete due to noise, safety and maintenance concerns. The oak planking, installed in 2003, remains on pedestrian and bicycle paths beside the parkway.

Lake Hiawatha Tennis Courts – Reconstruction of tennis courts at Lake Hiawatha began in August. The new courts will enable competitive play for Roosevelt High School tennis teams and Minneapolis InnerCity Tennis, as well as recreational play. This is the fifth site at which Support the Courts, a non-profit foundation, has raised money for new tennis courts in Minneapolis parks since 2007.

High Court Rehab – Nicknamed the “Courts on the Hill,” the two tennis courts at 50th Street and 16th Avenue South were resurfaced and the area around the courts was landscaped to improve drainage. Local residents and Hale Page Diamond Lake Neighborhood Association contributed to the project.
Synthetic Fields, Natural Fun – Synthetic turf was installed on athletic fields at Currie and Stewart Parks with funding from Hennepin County Youth Sports Grants. The turf will provide greater durability on multi-use fields that are heavily used in all weather conditions. Other neighborhood playing fields improved with Hennepin County funds were at Armatage, Bottineau, East Phillips and Van Cleve Parks.

Victory Memorial Makeover – An extensive makeover of historic Victory Memorial Drive began in 2010. As part of a 2004 master plan, the parkway, flag plaza, Lincoln Circle and memorials to Hennepin County soldiers will be beautified or replaced. The project is a $6 billion collaboration among Hennepin County, MPRB, Minnesota and Minneapolis. The drive was dedicated in 1921 to the 568 people from Hennepin County who died in World War I. The beauty, safety and utility of the 3-mile-plus drive will be dramatically enhanced as we renew our tribute to the victims of war.

Better Baseball at Phelps Field – The Twins Community Fund and Toro Company teamed up with MPRB to rebuild two multi-purpose ball fields at Phelps Park. Toro and the Twins contributed money, expertise and labor toward the construction of the fields. The Twins Community Fund also contributed money for equipment and uniforms to park tee ball programs in Minneapolis courtesy of Twins player Jason Kubel.

Accessibility Improved – Playground improvements at Matthews Park, which began in 2009, were completed with the addition of rubber-surfaced concrete paths. The new surfaces make the playground equipment accessible by all.

Fuller Recreation Center Updated – With funding from the Tangletown Neighborhood Association, the MPRB carpentry shop updated furnishings in the rec center at Fuller Park. Furnishings in the center’s computer lab were replaced and a new welcome desk, shelving and countertops were installed. Carpet was also replaced.

Veterans Memorial at Sheridan Memorial Park – Sheridan Memorial Park was graded and the park’s riverbank was stabilized, in part by planting 100 trees. The work was funded by the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization and was consistent with the Above the Falls Master Plan. MPRB hired Howard R. Green Co. to develop plans for a veterans’ memorial at the park. Funds from the Minnesota Legislature, Sheridan Neighborhood Organization and veterans have made the memorial possible.

Bryant Avenue Bridge – The pedestrian and bicycle bridge over Minnehaha Creek at Bryant Avenue, closed since 2008, was rehabilitated using federal stimulus dollars and city bond funds. The 230-foot span, built in 1930, had been closed due to deteriorating concrete footings and rusting anchor bolts.

West River Parkway Trail Reconstruction – Bike and pedestrian trails along 3.5-miles of West River Parkway were transformed in early 2010. The trail from Franklin Avenue to Godfrey Parkway was resurfaced and the river bluff was stabilized where needed. Other improvements included landscaping, lighting and new signs, benches and water fountains. The $2.2 million project was paid for by a creative combination of federal, state, county, city and Park Board funds.

Lots of Parks – Parking lots were reconstructed at Lake Calhoun and Columbia, Folwell, Logan and Linden Hills Parks. The new South Calhoun lot replaced an outdated lot built into the former roadway. The lot redesign features permeable pavers, attractive rain gardens to filter storm water and additional green space, while increasing safety for park-goers in that heavily used portion of the park.

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

Research Partnerships – Important new research partnerships were established with the University of Minnesota to study urban forests and the impact of park improvements on families and children, and to measure and analyze pedestrian and bicycle trail traffic.
Goal: Focused land management supports current and future generations.

A Rare Riverfront Opportunity – The most significant addition to the Minneapolis park system in decades was completed with the purchase of 11 acres along the Mississippi River in northeast Minneapolis. The property just north of the Plymouth Avenue Bridge was the home of Scherer Brothers Lumber Company for 76 years. Riverfront acquisition is a priority in the Above the Falls Master Plan approved in 2000 by MPRB, the Metropolitan Council and the Minneapolis City Council. Development plans for the property will be addressed in part by the Mississippi River Design Competition. The land was acquired with $5.3 million from Minnesota’s Legacy Parks and Trails Fund, $1.7 million from the Regional Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund and $700,000 from the sale of park land for the new I-35W bridge. The acquisition will enable continuous trail access from downtown to the railroad bridge at 18th Avenue NE.

Another Essential Land Purchase – Consistent with long-term plans to acquire river property when possible, a one-third acre lot at 2220 Marshall St. NE, between Gluek Park and Edgewater Park, was purchased. The lot had held an abandoned apartment building, which was recently demolished.

Goal: Financially independent and sustainable parks prosper.

Concert Sponsor – Oak Ridge Financial enabled another superb season of concerts at the Lake Harriet Band Shell with a donation of $33,000. Concerts are offered daily at the band shell throughout the summer, anchored by the performances of the Minneapolis Pops Orchestra.

Parking Improvements Generate New Revenue – Parking system improvements generated more than $150,000 in new revenue. Three new pay-and-display parking meters were installed, event parking was expanded, and marketing efforts to sell parking permits were increased.

Increased Lupient Water Park Revenue – Revenues at the popular Lupient Water Park increased $21,700 when season pass prices were dropped. To encourage greater use of the water park and “stay-cations,” prices for season passes for families were reduced by nearly a third. Partly as a result, 900 more season passes were sold than last year resulting in higher revenues.

Bread and Pickle – A vendor was selected for Lake Harriet food concessions based on recommendations of staff and a citizen advisory committee. The concessionaire, “Bread and Pickle,” will begin operations in spring 2011.

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

ActiveNet – A new online registration system for recreation services was launched, which offers easier public access to registration and updated information on park programs.

Enhanced Web Site on Emerald Ash Borer – MPRB launched enhanced web pages with maps of the location of ash trees in every Minneapolis neighborhood and information on the tree pest.

Activities Guides and Trail Maps – Two widely distributed seasonal activity guides were reformatted to reduce paper usage and to make them easier to adapt for online use.
A safe place to play, recreate, contemplate and celebrate

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

More Muscle – High-intensity summer-use areas of parks benefitted from the addition of five new seasonal park patrol agents.

Le Tour de Parks – The police department purchased six new bicycles to increase police visibility on trails and access to all areas of our parks. Officers and agents on bikes not only heighten security, they serve as goodwill ambassadors too, providing directions, safety tips and general park information.

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

Officer of the Year – Evidence of the continuing commitment of MPRB and its dedicated park police force to park safety was the recognition of MPRB Officer Amy Krekelberg as Minneapolis Police Officer of the Year for 2010.

Safer Sweeny Lake and East Cedar Beach – Park police increased patrols to deter unauthorized use of lakeshore on Sweeny Lake and East Cedar Beach (formerly referred to by the public as Hidden Beach).

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

Anti-theft Initiatives – More signs were posted and park police distributed fliers reminding park goers using parking lots to lock valuables in trunk, close windows and lock doors especially in heavily used regional park lots.

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

Expanded Tobacco-free Areas in Parks – The Park Board adopted a new ordinance which significantly reduced the areas in parks in which smoking or the use of other tobacco products is permitted. The new policy took effect in June 2010.

Auto Locks – New programmable electronic locks were installed at the popular pavilion at Minnehaha Park to enhance security and improve service delivery. Doors automatically locked and unlocked on a daily basis, while card readers provided pavilion users with access during specified times.

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

H1N1 Vaccinations – Underscoring the central role of park recreation centers in our city’s neighborhoods, flu vaccinations were offered free of charge at 14 MPRB Recreation Centers by the City of Minneapolis Health Department and Minnesota Visiting Nurses.

**H1N1 Flu Shot Clincs**

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<td>Farview Park</td>
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<td>Green Central Gym Park</td>
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<td>Harrison Park</td>
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<td>Webber Park</td>
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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

Energy Efficient Upgrades – To improve energy efficiency and reduce operating costs, improvements were made to Logan and Lake Nokomis Community Centers and to recreation centers at Matthews, McRae and Pershing Parks. Improvements included window sealing, foam insulation, weather stripping, and installation of low flow faucets and toilets. A high efficiency boiler was also installed at Logan Community Center.

Sustainability Fund – As part of the budgeting process for 2011, MPRB established a Sustainability Fund to finance capital investments and activities that promote sustainability efforts.

Energy Efficient Construction – The new East Phillips Park center meets Minnesota Sustainable Building Guidelines and is the most energy-efficient building in the park system with in-floor heating, sensored lighting and high-efficiency windows.

Solar Power for Kroening Center – A grant from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources was received to provide solar panels for the south wall of the Carl W. Kroening Interpretive Center at North Mississippi Park. The panels are projected to generate nearly one-third of the electricity used by the center. The panels were installed in early 2011.

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

Superintendent Hired – A national search was conducted to identify and hire a new park superintendent. Former park superintendent David Fisher was appointed interim superintendent while that search took place. The process culminated in the hiring of Jayne Miller as the 11th superintendent in the 127-year history of the MPRB.

Restructuring – MPRB made painful, but necessary decisions in 2010 to reorganize in a manner that allowed it to meet demands for improved efficiency and responsiveness with reduced budgets. The reorganization resulted in the structure that is described at the back of this report with five assistant superintendents reporting to the superintendent. As a part of the reorganization, 21 positions were eliminated, many of them at the management level. This will result in savings of more than $1 million per year. In addition, the recreation staff was reorganized into 13 Community Service Areas to place more people in the field, with greater flexibility, which will help us be responsive to the communities we serve.

2010 NRPA Congress – Minneapolis hosted 7,000 park and recreation officials at the National Recreation and Parks Association congress in October at the Minneapolis Convention Center. MPRB staff played a central role in planning and hosting the congress.

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

Safety Training DVDs – MPRB inaugurated a new staff safety training program centered on DVDs that allow flexibility in use and can be tailored to specific employee needs and requirements. The DVD-based program enables safety training without major schedule and service disruptions, increasing efficiency and effectiveness. The new program also ensures new employees receive appropriate safety training from the time they begin work.
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

Minneapolis Riverfront Design Competition Launched – In the fall of 2010 the Park Board launched the largest design competition in state history. Fifty-six design teams from 14 countries competed to create plans to implement the Above the Falls Master Plan from the Stone Arch Bridge to the northern city limits. The competition was developed in conjunction with the Minneapolis Parks Foundation and its partners, Walker Art Center and the College of Design at the University of Minnesota. Four finalists were selected to present their designs in February 2011. Spoiler Alert: Tom Leader Studio and Kennedy-Violich Architects won the competition and continue working in 2011 on plans to implement a portion of their design.

Citizen Advisory Committees (CAC) – An effort to increase citizen engagement was highlighted by creation of CACs for Wirth Park, SW LRT and Brownie Lake. In addition the Riverfront Design Competition included a significant citizen input process. A CAC for BF Nelson and Boom Island was concluded.

Accreditation from CAPRA – MPRB achieved accreditation from the Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies, one of only five Minnesota park agencies and 97 agencies in the United States to earn that distinction. CAPRA accreditation is a highly-respected measure of an agency’s overall quality of operation, management and service to the community.

Phillips Community Center – Renovations at Phillips Community Center included replacement of the roof, installation of new HVAC systems and electrical service, and other repairs to bring the building up to code. MPRB is seeking a tenant to offer recreation programming in the building’s gym.

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

Important Agreements with City Government – MPRB reached agreement with the City on three important issues.

- **2011 Tax Levy:** The City of Minneapolis and the Park Board set the 2011 tax levy below the maximum set by the Board of Estimate and Taxation.
- **Joint Park Dedication Ordinance:** MPRB and the City approved and are jointly preparing legislation to amend state law to allow the City to assess a park dedication fee on new real estate developments. The fee will support park rehabilitation, renovation and expansion within the development area.
- **Stormwater Management Fee:** In the future MPRB will participate in the City budget process for operating and capital needs related to stormwater activities. In 2010, the Park Board was reimbursed for a significant portion of its stormwater management activities. The 2010 reimbursement was $286,713.

The park dedication ordinance and stormwater management agreement are projected to generate an additional $1 million in annual revenues for MPRB.

Delegation of Human Resources Functions – Beginning in 2010 MPRB acquired from the Civil Service Commission the authority and responsibility for staffing and classifying its own positions, contingent upon quarterly reviews for a year. Following a year of developing procedures specifically to meet the needs of MPRB for fast, efficient and responsive recruitment and hiring, the Civil Service Commission has extended full authority to MPRB to implement its own program.

Building Relationships – The range of government agencies – city, county, regional, state and federal – with which MPRB collaborates to provide the best service possible to its customers can be staggering. In 2010, MPRB devoted special attention to building mutually beneficial relationships with the many public and private entities that contribute to the successful operation of our parks now and in the future.
The MPRB professional staff was reorganized in 2010 to improve service delivery in our communities in the face of declining revenues from the State of Minnesota. The reorganization was completed in early 2011. Assistant superintendents are responsible for managing each of the five divisions described here.

Administration  Our Administration Division manages our human, financial and technological resources to ensure the most efficient delivery of services possible in our parks. They provide the behind-the-scenes support and services that enable us to direct maximum resources and energy to park and recreation facilities and services. Wherever possible, Administration coordinates services with the City of Minneapolis and uses City software application systems to minimize cost.

Recreation  Our Recreation Division develops and manages recreation programs and facilities for people of all ages. Our recreation teams work in 13 Community Service Areas and 47 neighborhood and recreation centers to provide unique programs and special events that meet the recreation needs of many different communities. They run athletics programs for youth and adults, offer Recreation Plus childcare programs, and provide Youthline programs for young people aged 12-16 to help them develop leadership skills. Recreation staff oversees neighborhood park use and the rental of playing fields and facilities, and organizes the Movies in the Park series and several fun runs.

Operations  Our Operations Division manages the land and water of the park system and everything that’s been built or planted on it. They are the stewards of our built and natural environments, ensuring that our parks are safe, attractive, enjoyable and sustainable. They maintain all properties and facilities, they plant gardens, care for trees, monitor water quality, maintain and operate vehicles and heavy equipment, and plumb, paint and wire whatever needs it. Park police provide safety and security in parks, environmental services staff educate people about the natural world and volunteers generously contribute time and talent to countless activities and services.

Planning  Our Planning Division works on two levels. First, they ensure that park and recreation needs are met on a community level and that citizens have the opportunity to participate and be heard in the planning process. Second, they are responsible for the physical planning of projects and project management as those plans are implemented to ensure that they are consistent with the Park Board’s mission and policies. Our Planning Division also leads comprehensive planning of park facilities, programs and services — and sustainability initiatives. Staff work closely with local, state, regional and federal agencies to fund capital improvements and develop collaborative projects.

Development  Our Development Division manages revenue-producing events, activities and facilities. The staff manages events — from art fairs to the Red, White and Boom 4th of July — and facilities — from water parks to golf courses. Revenues come from use fees, lessons, equipment and facilities rental, food concessions, and parking. Customer service provides assistance to walk-up, phone and internet customers, and issues permits for a variety of activities and services — from weddings to annual parking passes. The Development Division also seeks grants from public and private partners.

Full-time employees: 498
Temporary employees: 1,584
MPRB budget: $71,699,471
New online registration and reservation accounts: 18,000

Local and State funds available for capital improvements to neighborhood parks: $2.81 million
Regional and State funds available for capital improvements to regional parks: $8.61 million

Sport team participants: 8,000 youth, 32,000 adults
Rec Plus locations: 18
Youthline locations: 29
Athletic facility rental permits issued: 6,000

Revenue generating facilities: 2 water parks, 5 18-hole golf courses, 2 9-hole golf courses, 2 indoor ice arenas, 2 sports complexes, 1 winter recreation area
Food concessions: Tin Fish, Sea Salt, Bread and Pickle, mobile carts
Permits issued: 177 weddings, 212 special events, 368 sail boat buoys, 485 canoe racks, 897 picnics, 6,300 off-leash recreation areas, 7,200 parking

Miles of city streets arborists plant and maintain trees: 1,000
Miles of paved biking and walking trails maintained: 104
Acres of unique ecosystems cared for (prairie, woodlands, wetlands, shorelines): 400

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# 2010 Budget

## Condensed Financial Report

For the year ended December 31, 2010

### Revenues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Property Taxes</td>
<td>$44,403,101</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enterprise</td>
<td>$14,622,094</td>
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<td>Local Government Aid</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
<td>$6,210,611</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenues</strong></td>
<td><strong>$72,659,734</strong></td>
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### Expenditures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>$17,707,905</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enterprise</td>
<td>$13,317,847</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recreation</td>
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<td>Forestry</td>
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<td>Park Police</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skilled Trades</td>
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<tr>
<td>City Management Fee, Workers Comp and Other</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enterprise – Capital Projects</td>
<td>$1,541,676</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finance and Personnel</td>
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<td>Environmental Operations</td>
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<td>Planning and Project Management</td>
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<td>Aquatics and Neiman Complex</td>
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<td>Summer Youth Employment – Teen Teamworks</td>
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<td>Capital Projects</td>
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<td>Public Information and Customer Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Board of Commissioners</td>
<td>$499,379</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>$474,891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditures</strong></td>
<td><strong>$71,699,471</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more details about the 2010 budget, visit www.minneapolisparks.org, select “About MPRB,” then select “Park Board Budget.”