



Superintendent's Annual Report 2011

Responsive • Efficient • Creative





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.

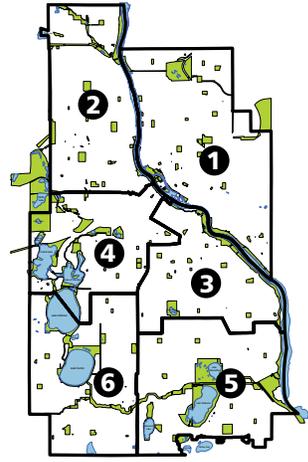
The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board exists to provide places and recreation opportunities for all people to gather, celebrate, contemplate, and engage in activities that promote health, well-being, community, and the environment.

2011 Commissioners

- President**
John Erwin, At Large
- Vice President**
M. Annie Young, At Large
- Commissioners**
Liz Wielinski, District 1
Jon Olson, District 2
Scott Vreeland, District 3
Anita Tabb, District 4
Carol A. Kummer, District 5
Brad Bourn, District 6
Bob Fine, At Large
- Superintendent**
Jayne Miller
- Secretary to the Board**
Karen Robinson

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Minneapolis Commissioner Districts



(front, left-right) Carol Kummer, Annie Young, Liz Wielinski, Anita Tabb
(back, left-right) John Erwin, Jon Olson, Scott Vreeland, Brad Bourn, Bob Fine

- 3** Urban forests, natural areas and waters that endure and captivate
- 5** Recreation that inspires personal growth, healthy lifestyles and a sense of community
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Greetings from the Superintendent



The weather was the topic of the year in 2011. Record snowfalls early in the year were followed by spring flooding, a devastating tornado, a summer heat wave and drought, and a winter of no snow – a condition that remains as I write this in early 2012. The unusual weather placed strenuous demands on an organization, like ours, that manages so many natural resources and operates as leanly as we do. I am very proud of our response to those challenges and of all that we accomplished despite the weather.

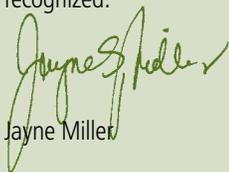
Throughout the year we demonstrated traits that I value highly: we were responsive to the needs of our communities and we were efficient and creative in providing the services, facilities and programs – planned and unplanned – that resulted.

In the shocking wake of the tornado that struck north Minneapolis last May, we reacted decisively and compassionately. Our forestry crews worked prodigiously to clear 2,600 downed trees from crushed cars, toppled structures and blocked streets. We partnered with others to convert our community centers at North Commons into a Red Cross shelter and at Farview Park into a disaster recovery center. The community was the priority. Only after critical public safety concerns and immediate human needs were addressed did we turn our attention to the significant damage at Theodore Wirth, Folwell, Webber and North Mississippi parks.

Especially noteworthy throughout the crisis was the superb coordination of our efforts with other public agencies and private and non-profit organizations. That efficient cooperation with others must continue to be a hallmark of how we deliver services. As you will see in the pages that follow, our collaboration with partners, volunteers and benefactors is critical to sustaining and improving this beloved park system.

I believe we also made excellent progress on many fronts during less adrenaline-infused times. Changes in our planning division and a new Community Engagement Policy emphasize the fundamental organizational value of engaging the community in decisions, communication and responsiveness as well as creative planning. Progress on our Minneapolis Riverfront Design Initiative was exciting as we began to fill in the details of RiverFIRST plans. The newly formed Community Outreach Department will focus on diversity and inclusion, cultural competencies, citywide special events, strategic partnerships and youth development. Our sustainability policy and plans continue to merit our close attention as we move forward with environmental, economic and equity initiatives.

Despite so many hours spent responding to emergencies, I believe we ended 2011 better-positioned than ever to meet future challenges, whether they come from a child needing a safe place to play, an elderly couple wanting a quiet stroll in a beautiful setting, or a family of the future with needs we've not yet recognized.


Jayne Miller

Responsive • Efficient • Creative

Fast Facts

- 1883 Year MPRB established
- 15.4 million Estimated regional park visits
- 5 million Estimated neighborhood park visits
- 202 Park properties
- 6,744 Acres of parkland and water
- 200,000 Boulevard trees
- 50 Recreation centers
- 27 Computer labs open to the public
- 6 Skate parks
- 215 Playgrounds
- 60 Wading pools
- 2 Water parks
- 12 Authorized beaches
- 7 Fishing piers
- 6 Boat launches
- 10 Canoe launches
- 379 Sailboat buoys
- 438 Canoe/kayak racks
- 4 Outdoor performance stages
- 55 Miles of parkways
- 51 Miles of Grand Rounds walking paths
- 51 Miles of Grand Rounds biking paths
- 6 Dog off-leash recreation areas
- 12 Gardens
- 2 Bird sanctuaries
- 7 Golf courses
- 3 Golf driving ranges
- 1 Winter recreation area
- 2 Indoor ice arenas
- 48 Outdoor ice rinks
- 396 Multipurpose sports fields

VISION 1:

Urban Forests, Natural Areas and Waters that endure and captivate



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

Where Is Thy Sting? – Working with the Park Board’s Forestry Department, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture released stingless wasps in three park locations – Tower Hill and East and West River Parkways – to combat emerald ash borers. The wasp is a natural enemy of the ash borer. Forestry continues to remove infested ash trees. A grant from Outdoor Heritage Fund is being used to replace ash trees with other species.

A Severe Challenge, An Impressive Response – A tornado in North Minneapolis destroyed not only homes and buildings but 2,600 public trees both in parks and along streets. The Forestry Department took on the enormous task of removing downed trees, first from emergency routes, then major traffic corridors. More than 100 trees were removed from houses using specialized equipment. With assistance from City of Minneapolis Department of Public Works, and a crew from the City of St. Paul – nearly 5,000 truck loads of wood debris were hauled to the former Scherer property for



disposal. Throughout the summer and fall, tree stumps were removed along residential boulevards. Reforestation efforts kicked off in October with trees planted in Folwell Park. The Park Board plans to plant 3,000 trees in North Minneapolis in 2012.

The Dredge Report – The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District dredged Amelia Pond southwest of Lake Nokomis to remove 1,800 cubic yards of sediment. The dredging was part of routine maintenance for the pond, which captures storm water runoff and filters out sediment and pollutants before the water reaches the lake.

Zebra Mussels Keep Out – Weather events provided severe challenges to park maintenance in 2011. Heavy rainfall in late spring caused flooding along some park trails, which required temporary closure of the trails and close monitoring of conditions and reporting on minneapolisparcs.org. Of particular concern were high water levels in Minnehaha Creek. The inflatable weir on the northwest corner of Lake Nokomis was inflated to prevent creek water and zebra mussel larva from entering Nokomis. Zebra Mussel education continued



throughout the summer with buoys at the Nokomis boat launch urging boaters to clean, drain and dry their watercraft.

A Growing Fleet – The Park Board continues to expand its environment-friendly practices through the purchase of electric vehicles. Two electric greens-mowers for Hiawatha Golf Course brought our fleet of electric vehicles to 14. The greens-mowers offer quiet operation, zero emissions and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

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

Before the Storm – Even before a tornado required additional measures to maintain our urban forest, the Park Board allocated additional funds to increase tree planting to 5,500, including 500 new trees for an area in and surrounding downtown. Tree-planting efforts were disrupted by the response to the storm, but by fall tree-planting efforts were resumed throughout the city.

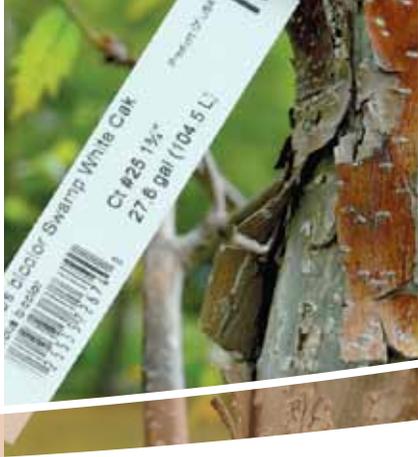


Boulevard Tree Inventory – In the wake of the North Minneapolis tornado the Forestry Department deployed its new data collection technology to inventory tree planting sites in the Willard-Hay, Jordan, Folwell and Webber-Camden neighborhoods. The inventory will help in assigning tree types to be replanted in 2012, focusing on diversity of groupings to prevent diseases from decimating neighborhood trees in the future. Two to three types of trees will be used in each block in groupings of three to five trees.

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

Triangles are for the Birds – Irving Triangle was given a makeover with an installation of native plants that attract native pollinators which improves habitat for birds and reduces turf grass areas that need to be mowed. The planting plan was created by MetroBlooms and funded by the Pohlad Foundation.





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

Urban Flyway – The Park Board, Audubon Minnesota, and Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul became part of the Urban Bird Treaty program.



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) awarded \$25,000 to the Park Board to enhance bird habitat at North Mississippi and B. F. Nelson parks. Both parks are located within the Mississippi flyway, a key migratory bird route.

Bee Party – Environmental Education staff and the University of Minnesota’s Bee Lab co-hosted a “Pollinator Party,” a celebration of bees at Lyndale Park Gardens. Party-goers learned about bees, bee-friendly plants and urban bee-keeping, listened to live music, played educational games and, after dusk, watched “Queen of the Sun,” a documentary featuring honey bees.



Practicing What We Preach – Waste from 14 Park Board-sponsored neighborhood events was composted, instead of thrown away. We continue to look for more ways to exercise leadership in sustainable practices.

Golf Course Tree Inventory – The Forestry Department conducted a tree inventory of park golf courses utilizing a time-saving mobile computer and specialized software. The inventory will be used to develop a management strategy to combat the effects of emerald ash borer, to increase species diversity and to maintain canopy cover.

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

Poof! Five Tons of Trash Gone – Despite cold weather, nearly 1,500 residents collected more than 10,000 pounds of trash from 40 clean-up sites throughout the city on Earth Day. The following day more than 700 adults and children participated in the Recycle Run at Lake Harriet to raise money for “green” projects throughout Minneapolis parks.



Bigger Than Ever – Thanks to many benefactors and volunteers, more trees were planted on Arbor Day in 2011 than ever before. More than 270 trees were planted at Pearl Park by volunteers under the direction of Park Board arborists. The trees were provided by People for Parks thanks to a gift



from the estate of Carl T. Remick, Jr. Other important partners in the successful day of greening the park were Bonestroo Company, Friends of Diamond Lake, Hale Community School, Hale Page Diamond Lake Community Association, Minneapolis Tree Advisory Committee, Pearl

Improvement and Recreation Council, Washburn High School, Target Corporation and Twin City Landscape. The new trees will provide many benefits to users of the park, both human and avian. New trees were also planted as “buddy” trees near ash trees that will eventually have to be removed due to emerald ash borer.

Audubon Park Gets Dressed Up – Audubon Park was the featured site for National Public Lands Day in September. Volunteers from Cargill and the Audubon neighborhood, as well as the Mississippi River Green Team and teens from the Youth Outdoors (YO!) program planted park hillsides with native shrubs and trees that attract pollinators and provide seeds or fruit. The Park Board’s enhanced planting fund was used to leverage additional support from People for Parks, the Twin Cities Chapter of the Wild Ones, and the Audubon Neighborhood Association.

Reforesting Folwell Park – In October, 275 new trees were planted in Folwell Park as part of the “Northside Treecovery” tree planting. The planting was made possible from contributions from Knutson Construction, People for Parks (through Carl T. Remick, Jr.’s bequest), the Folwell Neighborhood Association, and Bonestroo Company. Another 130 trees were supplied by the University of Minnesota through a research agreement with the Park Board. The trees planted in Folwell Park were among 800 trees planted in North Minneapolis last fall.



VISION 2:

Recreation

that inspires personal growth, healthy lifestyles
and a sense of community



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

Cannonball! – A new water sport was added to the Park Board summer program: logrolling at Lake Calhoun. But perhaps the most excitement was generated by the return of floating swimming docks to beaches at Lake Harriet, Lake Nokomis and Lake Calhoun.



Benefits of Big Snow – The Park Board took advantage of the record snowfall for 2010-2011 by offering a series of snowshoe excursions led by Park Board naturalists. Hikes in February – in sunlight and moonlight – explored the stunning views and resident critters of Robert's Bird Sanctuary, Wirth Park and Lakes Calhoun, Isles and Nokomis.

Bigger Benefits of Big Snow – The popularity of the Wirth Winter Recreation Area is evident in the revenues generated by the cross-country ski, tubing and snowboarding improvements over recent years. Revenues rose from about \$65,000 in 2006 to nearly \$300,000 in 2011.



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

Junior Olympics – The Wirth Winter Recreation Area hosted more than 400 of the best junior Nordic skiers from across the nation at the National Junior Championships in March. The economic benefit to the city and surrounding area was estimated at \$3 million. The Park Board worked closely with the City of Lakes Nordic Ski Foundation – and volunteers contributed more than 3,000 hours of work – to make the week-long meet a success.

A New Spin on Golf – Golf played with a disc is growing in popularity, so the Park Board added disc golf courses at Fort Snelling and Wirth Par 3 golf courses. The Wirth course has holes that range from 46 to 156 yards. The course at Fort Snelling is longer, but not necessarily more challenging because it has fewer trees.



Goal: *People connect through parks and recreation*

Monarch Mania – The annual Minneapolis Monarch Festival returned to Lake Nokomis in 2011 bigger than ever. The Friday night before the festival featured presentations on the monarchs' incredible 2,300-mile annual journey to Mexico. The festival, which raises awareness of the need to provide and protect monarch habitat, included American and Mexican music, food and dance, art activities, games and tours of the Nokomis Naturescape Garden. An estimated 6,000 people attended the festival, which was sponsored by the Park Board, Nokomis East Neighborhood Association, and the University of Minnesota Monarch Lab, with assistance from Community Celebration of Place, the Mexican Consulate, Univision, and UCare. Major funding was provided by the Minnesota State Arts Board as part of Minnesota's Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment.



A Rec Plus Plus – Rec Plus worked with the Sanjai Foundation's Wise Kids program thanks to funding from the Northwestern Mutual Foundation. The nine-week program taught 350 Rec Plus kids about wellness and making wise decisions about nutrition and exercise.

Youthline Funds – The Park Board's Youthline program was awarded a grant from the Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board to increase outreach and after-school programs for youth in grades 6-8. Youth participants in park programs will be active participants in program planning and community development activities. A second grant was awarded from the Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support. The grant will be used to target outreach and programs for families in the Hawthorne, Folwell and Willard-Hay neighborhoods.



Yes You Can Can – The JD Rivers' Children's Garden was awarded a Grow Your Park grant from the National Recreation and Park Association. Grant funds were used to greatly increase the number of fruiting shrubs and trees, extend waterlines, and to pilot an intergenerational camp for youth and their grandparents focused on preserving the harvest.



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

Thank You, Volunteers of the Year – When roughly 7,800 people donate more than 61,000 hours of their time to improving our parks, it is difficult to single out individual efforts, but we did recognize five individuals and one group for their exceptional contributions to our park system in 2011. Those recognized for extraordinary efforts were: Steve Young (Pershing Park), Amos Deinard (Kenwood), Rodney Lossow (Longfellow), Jessica Hill (Lake Hiawatha) and Brad Pass (East Phillips). We also saluted the tremendous work done by the 30 mentors of the Youthline Intensive Gang Prevention Program who work with young people in the Folwell, Hawthorne, Jordan and McKinley neighborhoods.



And You Too, Rising Stars – Each year the Park Board also recognizes the valuable contributions of teenage volunteers to our park system. This year we were honored to issue Rising Star Awards to Donnie Lawson (Whittier), Ashton Robinson (Powderhorn), Birra Hussein (Windom South) and James Williams (Central Gym).

Target and the Twins – Fifty volunteers from Target Corporation and the Minnesota Twins Community Fund teamed up to clean up Folwell Park



during National Volunteer Week in April. They cleaned up athletic fields, basketball courts and a tot lot in preparation for a summer of heavy use. The day began with a breakfast on the patio and a welcome from Twins mascot TC Bear.

Toro and the Twins – Once again the Toro Company and the Twins combined their turf and irrigation expertise and volunteer spirit to rehab playing fields in the Minneapolis park system. This year they focused their efforts on the baseball and softball fields at North Commons where Toro and Twins Community Fund volunteers helped to remake the fields.



The Buck Stops Here – Ten volunteer events focused on removing buckthorn - a small, invasive tree that chokes out native plants. MPRB partnered with National Park Service, Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis, Friends of the Mississippi River, Linden Hills neighborhood, Lynnhurst neighborhood, Friends of Diamond Lake, Friends of Lake Nokomis and Blake School on these volunteer events. In addition to volunteers, Conservation Corps Youth Outdoors crews assisted with the Roberts Bird Sanctuary, Lake Nokomis and Diamond Lake buckthorn removal projects.



Goal: Parks provide a center for community living

Reserve a Bit of Shade – Forestry crews worked with volunteers to plant 18 new trees at Reserve Block 40 west of Cedar Lake. A dozen neighborhood volunteers raised \$3,000 for trees and helped plant and water them.

Shelter from the Storm – In the case of the North Minneapolis tornado, the recreation center at North Commons became a temporary shelter for area residents whose homes had been destroyed. Working with the American Red Cross, the Park Board closed the recreation center to normal activities in order to provide a safe place for displaced residents. The Red Cross provided food and beverages, health services, resource referrals and long-term recovery planning at the center. The recreation center at Farview Park was also set up to serve as a disaster recovery center hosting many City and County social service agencies. The Park Board, community organizations and local businesses partnered to provide supplies, child care services, meals and family activities in the park.



Indigenous Music and Movies – On four Tuesday evenings in August the Park Board partnered with First Nations Composers Initiative, Independent Indigenous Film and Media, and Migizi Communications to bring indigenous music and movies to Father Hennepin Bluffs Park. The events introduced local and national indigenous composers and performers and showcased films produced by indigenous movie-makers that had debuted at national and international festivals.

Summer Food Program a Success – The summer food program launched with the Department of Agriculture served an estimated 95,000 lunches and dinners at 35 park sites. The highest volume of meals was served at the Logan Park and Stewart Park recreation centers.

VISION 3:

Dynamic Parks

that shape city character
and meet diverse community needs



Goal: Parks shape an evolving city

A Thriving Community – The long-awaited East Phillips Park Cultural and Community Center (EPPCCC) officially opened in February to wide acclaim. After six years of work by many individuals and organizations, the building provides attractive, energy-efficient space for people of all ages. The building



features a gymnasium, computer lab, kitchenette, teen space and multi-purpose rooms. The gym, kitchen and meeting rooms are available for rental. The EPPCCC project, which included site improvements as well as the new building, was funded by the State

Legislature, the MPRB's Capital Improvement Program, the East Phillips Improvement Coalition NRP funding, Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association, Toyota Environmental Funds, the Marbrook Foundation, the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development and Hennepin County Environmental Response Fund.

We Remember – A Remembrance Garden for the victims and survivors of the 35W bridge collapse in 2007 was dedicated on park land along West River Parkway on the fourth anniversary of the tragic event. The memorial overlooks the Mississippi River and new 35W bridge. More than \$1.5 million was raised to construct the memorial and provide for its long term maintenance. Families of victims and survivors worked closely with the City of Minneapolis to plan the memorial.



We Dream – The legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was celebrated with improvements to the park named in his honor in 1968. Among the improvements recommended by an Advisory Task Force formed by the Park Board were the relocation and renovation of a sculpture – Freedom Form #2 – that was a gift of sculptor Daniel LaRue Johnson in 1970 in honor of Dr. King. The sculpture's relocation was completed in time for a ceremony that commemorated the 48th anniversary of Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech.

The Park Board created a Legacy Advisory Committee to raise funds for additional park improvements, including an amphitheater, gardens, historical markers and a playground.



Transforming the Riverfront – As part of its Minneapolis Riverfront Development Initiative, the Park Board sought extensive public input from the diverse communities living near, working on and interested in the Mississippi River. Surveys, public meetings and community events helped shape the RiverFIRST plan.



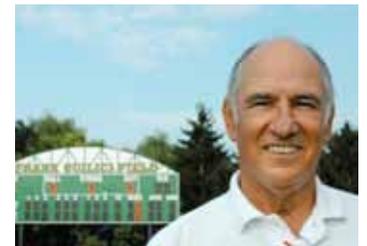
Goal: Park facility renewal and development respects history and focuses on sustainability, accessibility, flexibility and beauty

Playing Fields Upgraded – Grants from Hennepin County Youth Sports (HCYS) generated by taxes associated with Target Field, funded important improvements to playing fields in Minneapolis parks. Baseball, softball and soccer fields at Armatage, Bottineau, Pershing, Van Cleve, Northeast and

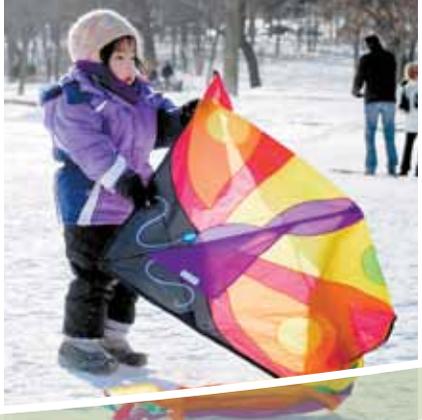


Pearl parks received a variety of upgrades to meet the demands of use. Improvements ranged from irrigation systems to fencing to field renovations. The Park Board provides a 25 percent matching grant for HCYS-funded programs.

Frank Quilici Field – The renovated baseball field at Shingle Creek Park was renamed and dedicated for the former Twins player, manager and broadcaster – and former president of the Minneapolis Parks Foundation. New fencing, bullpens, dugouts, scoreboard and training and maintenance facilities, thanks in part to contributions from the Minnesota Twins Community Fund, transformed the field, which is home to the North Minneapolis RBI program.



Fake Turf, Real Fun – The soccer fields at Stewart Park and Currie Park were reconstructed with artificial turf and new goals. The new turf extends the playing season and withstands high-volume use. These projects were also funded in part by grants from Hennepin County Youth Sports.



Boardwalk Is the New Park Place – The Park Board began to implement the recommendations of the Wirth Lake Community Advisory Committee (CAC) to improve water quality and accessibility to park amenities. Trail construction included a new boardwalk along the north edge of Wirth Lake that completes the trail around the lake. Reconstruction of the parking lot improved stormwater management. A paved entrance lane and accessible parking improved access to the picnic pavilion. The improvements were made possible by grants from Minnesota’s Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment and Metropolitan Council Regional Park funds. In addition to this work, the CAC worked throughout 2011 and will make recommendations in 2012 for the entire park.



B. F. Nelson and Boom Island Park Improvements – Considerable work was completed in the dramatic renovation of Boom Island Park and the B.F. Nelson site to open the parks to the river and improve views. A lot of earth was moved and new soil was added for a better growing environment at Boom Island. Trails and parking places were installed near the historic Pioneers Statue, which was moved in 2010 from the corner of 5th Ave. NE and Marshall St. to B. F. Nelson Park.

A Historic Bridge Re-opened – The Earth Day Clean Up at Lynnhurst Park featured a special occasion: a celebration of the restoration of the Bryant Avenue pedestrian bridge over Minnehaha Creek. A ribbon was cut, the



Washburn High School band played and the 230-foot bridge built in the late 1920s was officially re-opened after being closed for two years due to deteriorating superstructure. Funding for the renovation came from the Park Board’s Capital

Improvement Program through the City of Minneapolis and federal economic stimulus funds through the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

A Debt Acknowledged Again – The rededication and 90th anniversary of Victory Memorial Drive was celebrated with live music, historic displays, a flyover by vintage military planes, and a 21-gun salute. The beautiful boulevard was originally landscaped with rows of elm trees and memorial markers for the 568 men and women from Hennepin County who died in World War I. The original landscaping and a memorial fund for maintenance

were gifts from Charles M. Loring, known as “The Father of Minneapolis Parks.” The renovation of Victory Memorial Drive included repaving the parkway, updating lighting, widening pathways, and restoring and landscaping the flagpole plaza at the northwestern corner of the drive. Partners in the renovation included Hennepin County, the State of Minnesota, the City of Minneapolis, the City of Robbinsdale and the Hennepin History Museum.



A New Grand Plan for Webber Park – Master planning for the future of Webber Park kicked off with community meetings and information gathering.

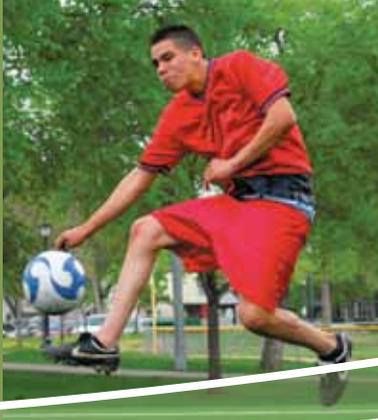


Concept designs included a new aquatic facility, improved trail connections and enhanced natural resources to best meet the needs of the community. The plan will be implemented in 2012 and 2013.

Long May She Wave – An enormous new flag measuring 12 by 18 feet was raised on the 110-foot flagpole at Gateway Park on Hennepin Avenue. The flag was a gift from the Daughters of the American Revolution, which had also donated the flagpole in George Washington’s honor in the original park at The Gateway in 1917.

Cause for Celebration – The grand opening of a new wading pool and tennis courts coincided with the Lake Hiawatha Neighborhood Festival. The new wetland-themed wading pool, designed with neighborhood input, replaced a pool that had not been updated since the 1960s. The tennis courts were replaced, and a fifth court was added, thanks to the efforts and contributions of Support the Courts Foundation, the United States Tennis Association, the City of Minneapolis, the Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association, and the Roosevelt High School tennis team, which will use the courts for competitive play. Minnesota InnerCity Tennis will also offer tennis instruction on new courts specially marked for youth play.





Spiff the Biff, Part II – With funding from People for Parks, the Park Board re-roofed and repainted the exterior of the women’s restroom at Lake Harriet. The restroom was built in 1892 from a design by noted architect and park commissioner Harry Wild Jones.

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

The Newest Park for Dogs – On the recommendation of a Citizens Advisory Committee, the Park Board approved a site for the first dog park in the Sixth Park District. The site selected is currently a parking lot and storage area adjacent to the MPRB Southside Operations Center at Lyndale Farmstead Park. Conversion of the site into a green off-leash park will begin in 2012.

Focus on Community Engagement – A revised MPRB ordinance and new policy on community engagement were developed based on community



input and approved by the Board. The ordinance, policy and procedures work together to provide a consistent and balanced approach in working and communicating with residents and park users on Park Board projects.

Does this Make Census to You? – An updated demographic report was completed and highlights 2010 U.S. Census data vital to understanding shifts in the city’s population over the last ten years. The report provides the Board, staff, and MPRB partners with relevant information to align service, facility and program delivery with current demographic characteristics.

Goal: Focused land management supports current and future generations

Reinvention of Fuji Ya Site – The Park Board partnered with the Minneapolis Parks Foundation to begin studying the former Fuji Ya restaurant site and adjacent riverfront parkland. The study, which will continue into 2012, began after the Park Board won a lawsuit filed by a developer interested in the property.

Goal: Financially independent and sustainable parks prosper

Bread and Pickle – A third privately operated restaurant began serving customers in a Minneapolis park when Bread and Pickle opened at the pavilion at Lake Harriet. Following the great popularity and profitability of Sea Salt at Minnehaha Falls and Tin Fish at Lake Calhoun, and an extensive Citizen Advisory Committee report, the Park Board selected the eco-friendly restaurant to provide light fare to concert-goers and visitors at Lake Harriet in exchange for a share of the revenues.



Park Board Workplace Efficiency – An essential element of independent and sustainable performance is maximum efficiency from individuals, groups and work processes. An effort to identify potential performance improvements was initiated in 2011 and will continue into 2012. The intent is not to criticize current or past efforts, but to identify opportunities for improvement throughout the park system.

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

Subscribe! – The Park Board launched a new email subscription service to provide updates on Park Board activities and services. The service allows subscribers to choose the topics on which they will receive notifications. Email notifications will improve public access to information, reduce printing costs and increase “green” communication efforts.



Get It Online – The listing of important events on the Park Board’s website – from festivals to road closures – has earned high praise from residents around the city.

Visitors Welcomed in Historic House – The historic Longfellow House in Minnehaha Park became a welcome center from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Center staff provided the public with park information and a variety of guest services, from trail maps and concert schedules to parking permits and information about weddings and picnics at the park.



VISION 4:

a Safe Place to play, recreate, contemplate and celebrate



Goal: Positive recreation experiences and welcoming parks prevent crime

Safer River Banks – The stairs down the riverbanks at Father Hennepin Bluffs were repaired during the summer by a Tree Trust youth crew.

Busier Courts – Busy parks are safer parks and well-maintained hard surfaces on basketball and tennis courts are important to attract players. This year hard courts were resurfaced at Loring, Armatage, Cedar Fields and East Phillips parks.



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

More Eyes on the Water – To enhance safety on beaches, the Park Board beefed up its aquatics and beach budget this year to hire additional



lifeguards. This was considered especially important as the Park Board responded to beach-goers wishes to add swimming docks and have fewer restrictions on beach activities.

Goal: Intervention and communication reduces safety concerns

Park Police Recognized – Four officers were recognized for their heroic actions and service to the community. Officer Rob Mooney received two Lifesaving Awards, one for pulling a man off an interstate bridge who was threatening to jump and another for diving into a lake in search of a drowning victim. Officer Chad Berdahl received a Lifesaving Award for providing CPR to an adult. Officer Tom Ryan was named 2011 Park Police Officer of the Year for his overall public service and significant felony arrests. Officers Tom Ryan and Troy Sandberg were awarded the Department Award of Merit for locating an unidentified suspect in a hand gun case.



Beach Watchdogs – The Environmental Operations staff sampled park beaches for bacteria. Water samples from 12 beaches were analyzed for harmful bacteria before beaches opened in the summer, then weekly during the swimming season. Information was available to the public online and through the beach hotline.

Extra Eyes – A new mobile security camera will assist Park Police in monitoring problem areas, assessing activities, and deterring crime. The camera will be used at parks, special events, weather related emergencies, and traffic/parking areas.



Goal: Parks are safe and welcoming by design

An Inviting Playground – The finishing touches were put on the Park Board's first playground on the downtown riverfront at 4th Avenue North and James Rice Parkway. The playground was designed to reflect the sawmills that once occupied the site. Work included installation of an accessible rubber surface around the custom-made equipment, benches and picnic tables, drinking fountains and play water pumps. The playground was made possible through the design collaboration of Landscape Structures, Inc., with funding from Bobby and Steve's Auto World Youth Foundation, the Minneapolis Parks Foundation, and the North Loop Neighborhood Association.



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

Collectively Improving a Park – Park Police worked with Minneapolis Police, Transit Police, U.S. Marshals, Hennepin County Probation, neighbors and community businesses near Peavey Park to address safety issues at the park and surrounding neighborhood. The joint effort focused on livability issues and specific crimes, as well as targeting gangs, loitering, abandoned cars and problem properties.

Values

guide commissioners, staff and volunteers in their work



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*

Preserving a Shoreline – With funding from a Clean Water Grant, the Environmental Operations staff and Conservation Corps of Minnesota enhanced shoreline habitat and water quality buffers along the Lake Nokomis shoreline. Invasive species were removed and native plant species were planted.



Stop Stirring the Sediment! – Improving water clarity at Lake Nokomis was the target of a fish project at the lake. Working with the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and the Park Board, a contractor netted bullheads from the lake and stocked thousands of walleye yearlings. The goal is to



reduce the number of bullheads, which feed at the bottom of the lake and stir up sediment that contains phosphorous. Phosphorous increases algae growth, which reduces dissolved oxygen for fish and wildlife habitat and makes the lake less desirable for recreation.

Interdisciplinary Focus – Work teams were formed across Park Board staff functions in 2011 to develop system-wide action plans for Sustainability and Vegetation Management. Five sustainability teams were developed to create specific action plans around the Board's priorities for the urban forest, green events, waste management strategies, building efficiency and educating residents and staff on the Park Board's sustainability practices. A vegetation team was established to develop action plans for effective and sustainable practices and protocols. The development and implementation of these plans are critical to future management of park resources.

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

Redesigning a Riverfront – RiverFIRST, the proposal by Tom Leader Studio and Kennedy & Violich Architecture, was selected as the winner of the Minneapolis Riverfront Design Competition sponsored by the Park Board and Minneapolis Parks Foundation, with creative partners the University of Minnesota College of Design and the Walker Art Center.



The design competition sought and received proposals from design teams throughout the world to redevelop the Mississippi River banks from St. Anthony Falls to the northern city limits. After the winning team was selected, the Park Board launched an initiative to develop a workable plan for short and long term development along the river. Working collaboratively with the public and Steering, Advisory and Technical committees, and following an extensive, multidimensional community engagement process, priority projects were identified. Five priority projects identified for development through public/private partnerships: a Riverfront Trail System and trail connections to Farview Park; artificial biohaven islands in the river; a new park on the former Scherer Brothers Lumber Company site; a northside wetlands park at the site of the Upper Harbor Terminal; and a gateway park to connect downtown to the river. In 2012, the Park Board will decide the scope and timing of the first RiverFIRST projects.

Refocused Planning Division– Early in 2011, the Planning Division refocused its efforts on two objectives: a strong project management function that provides forward-thinking park design and development; and a responsive community engagement function that ensures that our work meets the needs of those we serve.

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

A Defensive Line – In addition to safety cones, barricades were added to forestry job sites to prevent injuries to workers and park users along trails and roads. The Forestry Department also added a series of safety and awareness DVDs to its training program to keep workers up to date and reduce injuries.



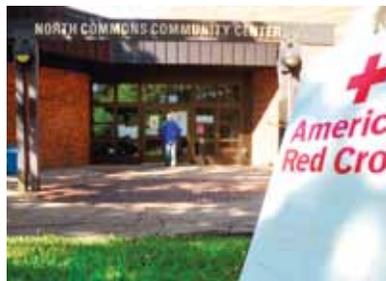
Responsiveness and Innovation *Anticipate and thoughtfully respond to the diverse needs of the city's communities, continually seeking ways to better deliver park and recreation services*

New Community Involvement Policy – A new policy on community involvement in park planning and operation was developed and approved. The new policy provides consistent practices and approved methods for working and communicating with the community on Park Board projects.

Community Outreach Reaches Out – A new department was created to increase communication and interaction with residents and encourage their participation in our programs and services. The department will focus on the service areas of youth development, strategic partnerships, diversity and inclusion, cultural competencies and citywide special events.



Leadership and Service During a Crisis – Under the leadership of the Superintendent and Board Members, the organization quickly responded to the May tornado in unprecedented ways. While Park Board forestry, maintenance and police crews have always been instrumental in responding to weather-related crises, the Park Board had not in the past offered up its recreation centers as emergency sites. Partnering with the City and providing



Farview Recreation Center as the Disaster Relief Center site and North Commons Recreation Center as a Red Cross temporary shelter, allowed families displaced and devastated by the storm relief that was close to home.

Nice Ride! – The Park Board authorized Nice Ride Minnesota, a non-profit that rents bicycles throughout the city, to place kiosks in five parks: Currie, Elliot, Farview, Logan and Loring.

The short-term bicycle rentals are available 24/7 April to November. The bicycle kiosks promote sustainable, environment-friendly transportation and active, healthy lifestyles.



Focus on Brownie Lake...and LRT – The Park Board appointed a Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) to gather input and develop plans to improve the secluded park and protect its natural resources. The Brownie Lake CAC will continue meeting in 2012. Another CAC convened in 2010 continued to consider the impact on parks of the Southwest Light Rail Transit Corridor.

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*

Park Dedication Ordinance – In 2010, the Park Board and the City of Minneapolis approved a joint park dedication ordinance that allows for assessment of a fee on new residential and commercial industrial development to support park rehabilitation, renovation and expansion within a nexus of the new development. In 2011, the Park Board and City developed the process by which the fee will be assessed; however, the legislation necessary to move forward with the park dedication ordinance was not passed during the Minnesota Legislative session. The proposed legislation will be brought back to the Legislature during the 2012 session.

Stormwater Agreement – The Park Board entered into an agreement with the City of Minneapolis Public Works Department to be reimbursed for providing stormwater monitoring, lake monitoring and water quality educational activities.



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, vision, and direction to Park Board's service areas, implements Board policy, and works with the Board and leadership staff to craft strategic and financial planning objectives. The Superintendent serves as an

MPRB employees: 498 full-time, 1,584 temporary

MPRB event participants: 38,500 events, 100,000 concerts, 25,000 movies

Annual website visits: 2.2 million

ambassador to the community and to other governmental agencies. The Superintendent's Office oversees human resources; community outreach; and communications and marketing.

Administrative Services

Supporting organization service delivery Administrative Services provides expertise in supporting the operations, planning and recreation services of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. Administrative Services provides support to the Board of Commissioners. The division

Online program registrations and reservations: 18,000

MPRB Budget: \$73,168,824

Permits processed: 177 weddings, 368 sail boat buoys, 485 canoe racks, 897 picnics, 6,300 off-leash recreation areas, 7,200 parking

oversees the organization's information technologies; fiscal accountability, including accounting, financial and budget management, and procurement; records management; risk management; and customer service center.

Operations Services

Caring for the physical system Operations Services provides expertise for the care, maintenance, and safety of the park system. The

Miles of city streets arborists plant and maintain trees: 1,000

Miles of paved biking and walking trails maintained: 102

Acres of unique ecosystems cared for (prairie, woodlands, wetlands, shorelines): 400

division oversees the maintenance of the Minneapolis Park system's physical infrastructure; equipment and fleet; natural areas and water resources; forestry; volunteer coordination; environmental education; park law enforcement; and emergency management.

Planning Services

Developing the physical system Planning Services provides expertise to lead, advise and guide the development and redevelopment of the

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: \$5.28 million

Minneapolis Park system. The division oversees park system analysis and master planning, real estate services, design and engineering, physical development and redevelopment, and construction permitting.

Recreation Services

Providing user activities Recreation Services provides expertise to lead, provide and create affordable recreational, cultural, educational, and

Sport team participants: 8,000 youth, 32,000 adults

Rec Plus locations: 18

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

Special event permits issued: 212

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, and interpretive programming; use and event permitting; and athletic fields and complexes.



2011 Budget



Condensed Financial Report

for the year ended December 31, 2011

Revenues

Property Taxes	\$ 46,273,318
Enterprise	\$ 14,060,657
Local Government Aid	\$ 7,571,635
Other Revenue	\$ 6,088,549

Total Revenues \$ 73,994,159

Expenditures

Superintendent's Office

Superintendent's Office	\$ 681,337
Board of Commissioners	\$ 526,925
Communications and Marketing	\$ 312,591
Human Resources	\$ 482,602

Administrative Services

Customer Service	\$ 381,820
Finance	\$ 880,069
City Management Fee, Contributions and Other	\$ 1,781,699

Operations Services

Environmental	\$ 1,272,241
Volunteer Services	\$ 131,745
Forestry	\$ 9,776,762
Maintenance	\$ 15,786,080
Summer Youth Employment – Teen Teamworks	\$ 963,547
Park Police	\$ 5,063,538
Trades and Field Services	\$ 3,420,584

Planning Services

Planning	\$ 1,386,953
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Recreation Services

Aquatics	\$ 420,251
Recreation	\$ 10,157,441
Wirth Winter Recreation Area	\$ 391,964
Enterprise	\$ 13,205,266

Other

Storm Damage	\$ 976,314
Capital Projects	\$ 4,354,998
Capital Projects – Enterprise	\$ 814,097

Total Expenditures \$ 73,168,824





**Minneapolis
Park & Recreation Board**

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