

**MINNEAPOLIS #1 IN CITY PARKS 2013**  
**THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND PARKSCORE® INDEX**

**Number One!**

*Minneapolis Parks Ranked Best in the Country*

Superintendent's Annual Report 2013



**Minneapolis  
Park & Recreation Board**





## Contents

- 3** Urban forests, natural areas and waters that endure and captivate
- 5** Recreation that inspires personal growth, healthy lifestyles and a sense of community
- 7** Dynamic parks that shape city character and meet diverse community needs
- 10** A safe place to play, recreate, contemplate and celebrate
- 11** Values guide Commissioners, staff and volunteers in their work
- 13** Organizational Overview
- 14** 2013 Budget

## 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.*

### Superintendent

Jayne Miller

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### 2013 Commissioners

#### President

John Erwin, At Large

#### Vice President

Liz Wielinski, District 1

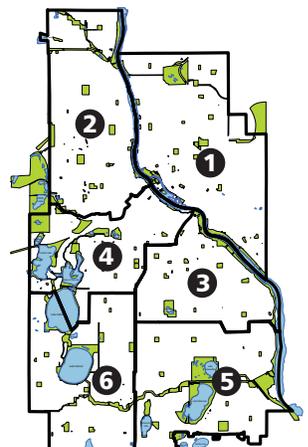
#### Commissioners

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  
 M. Annie Young, At Large



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

### Minneapolis Commissioner Districts





# The Best!

## Greetings from the Superintendent



What a privilege it was to represent Minneapolis last June when the Trust for Public Land named Minneapolis as the city with the best parks among the fifty largest cities in the United States. Minneapolis received the first ever “Five Park Bench” score for park access, park size, and park service and investment. New York finished second with Boston, San Francisco and Sacramento tied for third.

The honor represents 130 years of dedication to building excellent parks by countless park visionaries, commissioners, employees, citizens, and lawmakers in Minneapolis and the state of Minnesota. The award recognizes the foresight and planning of the people who first set aside land for parks in Minneapolis. It also recognizes the continuing commitment of so many to sustain the incalculable contribution of parks to the quality of life in our city and state.

You will see in the following pages a sampling of the never-ending work needed to maintain and improve a park system worthy of national and international recognition. New and refurbished facilities. Festivals beloved by generations. Neighborhood events that cement community bonds. Recreation programs that enhance the enjoyment of life. An urban forest that shades a city. Gardens and open spaces that nurture dreams as well as plants. Bold plans for new places of rest, relaxation, recreation and community building. Take a close look at the wide range of parks, services and programs and I think you’ll be amazed at all that goes into an award-winning park system.

Of course, there’s also much that goes on behind the scenes. We devote considerable time and energy to the organizational structures, skill-building and team-building needed to sustain excellence. A reorganization completed in 2013 created six new service areas that allow us to improve our coordination internally for improved external service delivery.

The real strength of Minneapolis’s park system is that it has always adapted to the wishes and needs of the people. That remains our highest priority. Behind nearly every accomplishment described in these pages were Minneapolis citizens, sometimes as members of a formal Citizens Advisory Council, neighborhood association or organizational partner, but more often as individuals showing up at hearings and presentations, who have provided invaluable input, feedback and ideas. To those thousands of people, and the many more who have volunteered at a park in their neighborhood, I would like to say “Thank you” and –“You’re #1!”

  
Jayne Miller

## Fast Facts

- 1883** Year MPRB established
- 15.4 million** Estimated regional park visits
- 6 million** Estimated neighborhood park visits
- 251** Properties
  - 157 neighborhood parks
  - 22 regional parks and trails (94 properties)
- 6,790** Acres of parkland and water
- 600,000** Estimated number of trees
  - 200,00 boulevard trees
  - 400,000 park trees
- 50** Recreation centers
  - 47 operated by MPRB (One closed, to be reconstructed in 2015)
  - 3 operated by non-profit organizations
- 28** Computer labs open to the public
- 6** Skate parks
- 112** Playgrounds
- 63** Wading pools
- 2** Water parks
- 12** Authorized beaches
- 10** Fishing piers
- 5** Boat launches
- 10** Canoe launches
- 380** Sailboat buoys
- 438** Canoe/kayak racks
- 5** Outdoor performance stages
- 55** Miles of parkways
- 51** Miles of Grand Rounds walking paths
- 51** Miles of Grand Rounds biking paths
- 7** Dog off-leash recreation areas
- 12** Gardens
- 2** Bird sanctuaries
- 7** Golf courses
- 3** Golf driving ranges
- 3** Disc golf courses
- 1** Winter recreation area
- 2** Indoor ice arenas
- 47** 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*

**Urban Forest: Hauling Ash.** Two hundred ash trees at Fort Snelling were removed in January due to emerald ash borer. Crews waited to remove trees until the ground was thoroughly frozen to minimize damage to the golf course. Multiple new infestations were found in the city during the year, including in Lakewood Cemetery. A special awareness program was launched in summer. Green ribbons were placed on many boulevard ash trees to alert residents to the eventual need to remove and replace ash trees.



**Minnehaha Park: A Clear Vision.** Maintenance crews cleared overgrown areas of the lower glen in Minnehaha Park, using sound management techniques to foster remnant native plant growth.

**Roberts Bird Sanctuary: Tree Story.** The Forestry Department completed an “i-Tree Ecosystem Analysis” of Roberts Bird Sanctuary. Tree data was analyzed using a new U. S. Forest Service model that will help develop a plan for managing succession and regeneration of the trees in the sanctuary.

**Citywide: Storm Damage.** A June storm once again challenged forestry crews with hundreds of downed trees and limbs. More than 2,300 semi truckloads of tree debris were hauled away. The damage was greatest across South Minneapolis, but affected all areas of the city. In addition to clean up efforts, foresters studied damage patterns with University of Minnesota researchers to better understand storm damage. Wood chips from downed trees were made available to the public by Koda Energy, a contractor that assisted with clean up.



**Lakes and Watersheds: Heroes.** A plan to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species in city lakes included inspections at boat launches from April to December. Inspectors detected zebra mussels in three instances on boats or trailers and prevented their introduction into Lake Harriet. Zebra mussels were found for the first time, however, in Lake Hiawatha as a result of their introduction to Minnehaha Creek in prior years. The Park Board’s prevention plan earned a Watershed Heroes Award from the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District.

**Citywide: Tech Upgrade.** Six storm sewer monitoring stations were upgraded with wireless technology to transmit data on storm water run off to MPRB Water Quality staff, increasing efficiency and employee safety.



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

**Urban Forest: Outstanding Project Award.** The Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee and Minnesota Society of Arboriculture presented its 2013 Outstanding Project Award for the Forestry Department’s response to the May 2011 tornado. The Department’s Northside Treecoverly program in 2012 included replanting 3,400 trees in tornado impacted areas and coordination of Arbor Week activities.

**Urban Forest: Research Partnership.** MPRB began another research partnership with the University of Minnesota’s Department of Horticulture to determine optimal root type of 70 sugar maples planted on residential boulevards. The trees were planted in the Shingle Creek neighborhood.



**A Street Near You: Tree Planting.** From spring through fall, the Forestry Department planted 5,200 new trees. Forestry also worked with University of Minnesota researchers to plant and monitor a wide variety of unique trees in Lyndale Park Garden as part of continuing efforts to diversify the urban forest.

**Urban Forest: Tree Inventory Data.** Data from tree inventories conducted at nine sites – Bottineau, Cavell, Dean Parkway, East Phillips, Eloise Butler, Jordan, Matthews, Peavey and Pershing – was confirmed, then made available to the public.

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

**Lakes: Scuba Harvest.** For the second year, MPRB contracted for removal of invasive aquatic plants at Wirth and Nokomis beaches by scuba divers. The divers selectively remove only invasive species in areas that are inaccessible to mechanical harvesters.





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

**The Cosmos: Honor Thy Mother.** Earth Day mini-grants were awarded to complete the final phase of a rain garden at Loring Park, construct a straw bale garden at Armatage Park, install garden water hose filters to remove chlorine and heavy metals, pilot the use of handheld leaf vacuum shredders, expand Teen Teamworks water quality focus and begin a pilot program for citizen volunteer tree pruning.

**Powderhorn Park: Get Outdoors Day.** This event provided participants the opportunity to try out new outdoor activities for free. This year featured canoeing, paddle boarding, geo-caching, fishing, archery, mountain biking, canoe portaging, wall climbing and fitness activities with dogs. Throw in games, music, prizes, live animals and Elmer the Elm tree and it was a day not to be missed. Partners included Minnesota DNR, US Fish and Wildlife Service and REI.



**J.D. Rivers Children’s Garden and Loring Park Garden of the Seasons: Operetta!** The 4th Annual Picnic Operetta brought together music, horticulture, food and storytelling for two nights at the gardens. The operetta was presented by Mixed Precipitation.

**Nokomis Naturescape Garden: Butterflies.** The annual Minneapolis Monarch Festival was held in the garden that is certified as a Monarch Waystation. Games, music, a fun run and educational activities surrounding the monarchs’ 2,300-mile migration to Mexico were sponsored by MPRB, the Nokomis East Neighborhood Association, University of Minnesota Monarch Lab, Mexican Consulate, UCare, Univision, U.S. Forest Service and the Minnesota State Arts Board.

**Lyndale Park Gardens: The Buzz.** A summer of beekeeping programs culminated with more than 1,200 people attending the Pollinator Party that brings together scientists, beekeepers and bees in an education program on the role bees play in pollination. Specialists from the University of Minnesota Bee Lab helped guests observe and identify bees.



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

**Mississippi River: Green Team.** In partnership with Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, MPRB sponsored the Green Team for teenagers from North and Northeast Minneapolis. The program provides a mentored job experience and teaches skills revolving around the management and care of one of our greatest resources, the river.

**North Minneapolis: Arbor Day Award.** The Arbor Day Foundation awarded its “Excellence in Volunteer Management Award” to MPRB for outstanding efforts replacing lost trees in the aftermath of the 2011 tornado. Five hundred volunteers helped plant more than 1,000 new trees during Arbor Week 2012, which was part of a larger Northside Treecovery program to plant 3,400 trees in North Minneapolis.

**East Phillips Park: Arbor Day 2013.** More than 200 trees of 40 varieties were planted at the park. Volunteers from around the city planted the trees in collaboration with People for Parks, Conservation Corps, and the Urban Forestry and Horticultural Research Nursery at the U of M. Some trees were planted as “buddy” trees near mature ash trees in order to maintain the urban canopy when emerald ash borer requires more ash trees to be removed.

**Sheridan Park: Fall Tree Planting.** Thirty volunteers from Xcel Energy planted and mulched 12 trees and 80 shrubs at Sheridan Memorial Park. The trees and shrubs were purchased with generous donations from Xcel Energy and People for Parks.

**Loring and Eloise Butler Gardens: Many Friends.** Garden volunteers from Friends of Loring Park joined MPRB gardeners on October 12 to clean up the Loring Park gardens for winter and plant bulbs for next spring. The volunteers put in more than 500 hours throughout the growing season tending those gardens. More volunteers helped remove invasive species from Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden in the fall. Fall is the best time to remove the thousands of invasive plants that threaten the 15-acre garden each year.



**Citywide: Hands-on.** The Park Board collaborated with Conservation Corps of Minnesota to employ teenagers in an 11-week outdoor program that connected young people with the natural environment through hands-on conservation work. The teens worked at gardens, events and a variety of parks and parkways.

## 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*

### East River Flats: Rowing

**Partnership.** Forty-three Minneapolis kids and teenagers participated in a free week-long rowing camp taught by U of M rowing athletes at the rowing facility on East River Parkway.



**Citywide: Healthy Foods.** MPRB passed a Healthy Foods Policy establishing standards for serving healthy food at park events. Initial implementation focused on recreation programming, with training that began in August.

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

**Citywide: Youth Sports.** Nearly 7,000 young people participated in team sports through their parks. They played on 155 basketball teams, 9 wrestling teams, 41 hockey teams, 107 soccer teams and 16 football teams.

**Citywide: Adult Sports.** Adults loved to play games in parks, too. They formed 60 basketball teams, 180 sand volleyball teams, 500 summer softball teams, 300 fall softball teams, 188 kickball teams, 88 soccer teams, 12 pond hockey teams and 264 broomball teams – among others.

**Everywhere: Baseball.** Former Twins Tim Laudner, Rod Carew and Roy Smalley helped park, school and RBI coaches get ready for the baseball and softball season with winter and spring meetings at Target Field. On RBI Night in June, the Twins hosted 1,200 baseball and softball players at Target Field. Later in the summer, Parade fields hosted the RBI World Series with 24 teams from the U.S. and other countries.

### Francis A. Gross National Golf Club:

**Simulation.** Two new golf simulators at Gross helped golfers keep their swings in shape all winter long. The simulators allow golfers to play 55 of the world's greatest golf courses even in the dead of Minnesota winter.



**Lakes: Buoy and Racks.** Permits to use a sailboat buoy or a kayak or canoe rack were determined by public drawing in April. 370 sailboat buoys are located on Harriet, Calhoun and Nokomis. Rack space for 438 canoes or kayaks is offered on Harriet, Calhoun, Isles, Cedar, Brownie and Nokomis.

### Lake Calhoun: DNR Fishing Pier.

A new DNR fishing pier was installed in July on Lake Calhoun near 36th Street by an MPRB crew. The pier was the oldest in the park system and slated for replacement later in the year, but the June storm damaged the old pier beyond repair and required earlier than planned replacement.



**Citywide: Ice Rinks.** MPRB maintained 47 outdoor ice rinks for open skating, broomball and hockey at 22 park locations. More than 300 teams participated in youth and adult leagues in the 2012-2013 season.

### Citywide: Sportsmanship Awards.

Recognizing individual and team contributions, fall sportsmanship awards were given to Waite Park, Longfellow Park and Sibley Park in football, Pearl Park and Lynnhurst Park in soccer and Pearl Park in volleyball. Winter sportsmanship awards were presented to Folwell Park and Pearl Park in basketball, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park in wrestling and Pearl Park in hockey.



**Citywide: Aquatics.** Sixty-five wading pools were opened in June, but only 34 closed as expected at the end of August. The other 31 wading pools, those not adjacent to schools, were kept open an extra week because of very hot weather. Lifeguard service was provided at beaches on six lakes. MPRB employed 110 people in the summer aquatics program. In addition to lifeguarding, they provided swimming lessons to 393 people, water safety training to 121, and youth sailing lessons to 213.

**Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park: Hometown Hero.** Arizona Cardinals wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald donated 1,000 Riddell helmets to the youth football program at Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park where he played as a child.





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

**Neighborhoods: Festivals.** Dozens of festivals were celebrated across the city during the summer. More than 200,000 people attended the largest festival of all – Red, White and Boom – featuring music, food and fireworks over the Mississippi River on July 4.



**In Hearts and Parks: Martin Luther King, Jr.** Celebrations in honor of the civil rights leader included programs at Luxton, Powderhorn and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park and Green Central Gym. More than a ton of food was collected for the Groveland Food Shelf during the events. In August, The Dream @ 50 celebrated the 50th anniversary of Dr. King’s famous “I Have a Dream” speech. The program coincided with the 12th Freedom Jazz Festival at the park named for Dr. King.



**Citywide: Egg Hunts and Bunny Parties.** Parks across the city welcomed spring with egg hunts and bunny parties and a variety of family activities.

**Citywide: Music and Movies.** Performance venues at Harriet, Minnehaha, Father Hennepin Bluffs, Nicollet Island and Bryant Square parks featured more than 200 free summer concerts. More than 60 free outdoor movies were shown at parks across the city.

**Victory Memorial Drive: Live on the Drive.** The 7th annual summer program kicked off on June 13 with music by Bruce Henry, Debbie Duncan and Gwen Matthews and the movie “Happy Feet.” More than 1,300 attended the event sponsored by North Memorial Medical Center, the Cleveland Neighborhood Association, Camden Music School and MPRB.

**Father Hennepin Bluffs: Music and Movies in the Park.** For four Tuesdays in August, the park hosted Indigenous Music and Movies, a series featuring indigenous musicians and filmmakers. The series was sponsored by MPRB, First Nations Composers Initiative, Dream of Wild Health, St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board, General Mills Community of Colors, and Vision Maker Media.



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

**Citywide: Volunteers of the Year.**

More than 9,000 volunteers contributed more than 150,000 hours of their time to help make our park system the best in the nation. 2012 Remarkable Volunteer Service Awards were presented to Jerry Bahls (Roberts Bird Sanctuary), Jerry Dieffenbach (Lake Hiawatha Park), Keith Johnson (McRae), Constance Pepin (Linden Hills), Mike Tate (North Commons) and Falls 4 All, which raised funds for a universal access playground at Wabun Picnic Area.



**Citywide: Rising Stars.** Teen volunteers also contribute enormously to our parks.

2012 Rising Star Awards were given to Abdi Abdikhadar (Van Cleve), Francisco Escobar (Whittier and Bryant Square) and Olivia Foster (Armatage and Linden Hills).

**Lyndale Park Rose Garden: G’night.** 350 volunteers – students, staff and families – from Parkway Montessori School helped gardeners put the Rose Garden “to bed” in November.

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

**Citywide: Improved Service.** Internal reorganization within MPRB was completed with a realignment of service areas to improve internal communication in order to provide even better service to park users. Services and programs at recreation and community centers continued to focus on community needs.

**Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park: The Fabric of Life.** The Kingfield Neighborhood Association and Volunteers of America of Minnesota’s Southwest Senior Center developed and installed mosaic tile quilts on the exterior wall of the recreation center at Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. More than 300 people contributed time to this public art project.



## VISION 3:

# Dynamic Parks

that shape city character  
and meet diverse community needs

### Goal: Parks shape an evolving city

**Northeast Riverfront: RiverFirst.** Nearly two years of RiverFirst planning culminated with the presentation of spectacular schematic drawings and a video depicting the new park, a riverfront beach and a restored Hall's Island. Efforts continue to raise funds to push RiverFirst projects forward.



**Water Works: Designers Chosen.** In another major RiverFirst project, designers were chosen to create schematic designs for new park amenities at the Waterworks site at Mill Ruins Park. The plans for the park will be an important element of the Central Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park Master Plan, which is currently in development.

### Sheridan Memorial Park: To Honor.

Groundbreaking for the Veteran's Memorial at Sheridan Memorial Park took place in May and a Veterans Day program was held at the future site of the memorial in November. The Memorial will be completed in 2014.



**Webber Park: Natural Filtration Pool.** MPRB broke ground for a new natural filtration swimming pool at Webber Park. The 28,000-square-foot pool – the first of its kind in the United States – uses plants in a nearby regeneration pond, instead of chlorine, to treat the water. Other improvements at Webber Park include a new “bathhouse” pool building, connecting park trails and expansion of the parking lot. Much of Webber Park, including the new pool, which is expected to be a regional attraction, was also added to the North Mississippi Regional Park, which makes it eligible for park development funding from the Metropolitan Council.



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

**East Phillips Park: Athletic Fields.** The grand opening of the athletic fields at East Phillips Park was celebrated in May.

**Northeast Park: Progress.** The recreation center at Northeast Park was closed early in 2013 to allow for the expansion of Yinghua Academy. The master planning process was initiated to redesign the park to meet community needs. A series of community meetings was held and a consultant was hired for the design process.

**Ridgway Trail and Overlook: Hearing.** A public hearing was held at Logan Park in October to gain community input on the redesign of the trail and overlook along Ridgway Parkway. The project will continue into 2014.

**Citywide: Trail Blazers.** Significant improvements were made to trails throughout the park system, notably at Cedar Lake, West River Road, and Rice Parkway. Improvements at Dean Parkway will be completed in 2014.

**Farview Park: Wading Pool.** The grand opening of the phenomenal wading pool at Farview was celebrated in June. The zero-depth-entry pool features a water dome and multi-play area with rushing water and water wheel, as well as two large shade structures.



**Brownie Lake: Nearly Done.** Work at Brownie Lake was nearly completed in 2013, including major improvements to the trails around the lake and along the parkway on the east. The last step, construction of the bridge over the channel between lakes, will be completed in early 2014.

**Citywide: Golf Plan.** First steps were taken to develop a ten-year master plan for MPRB golf courses. A complete operational study, including course-specific community engagement meetings, began in July.

### Lyndale Farmstead: New Dog Park.

The new dog park officially opened in July after a trial run during the winter. The fenced park features a shaded seating area.

### Marshall Terrace: New Playground.

Families and children celebrated the opening of a new river-themed playground at Marshall Terrace in September.



**Coyle Community Center: New Gym Floor.** A new maple gym floor was installed in the Coyle Community Center at Currie Park. The center is operated by Pillsbury United Communities under a lease agreement with MPRB.



**Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park: Playground Design Phase.**

The design phase of a new playground was initiated with community input sessions.

**Basset Creek: Channel Restoration.** The visioning process was inaugurated in March for the channel restoration project in and downstream from Theodore Wirth Park.

**Theodore Wirth Park: Pavilion.** The grand re-opening of the pavilion at Theodore Wirth Park was celebrated in October. The pavilion renovation was a priority of the Citizen Advisory Committee that helped develop the master plan for the park. The renovation included new restrooms, updated kitchen, and new wiring and HVAC systems to make the facility available for year-round programming.



**Elliot Park: Athletic Fields.** MPRB initiated the process of upgrading the playing fields at Elliot Park with community input meetings in May.

**Minnehaha Park: Universal Access Playground.** Construction began on a new universal access playground in the Wabun picnic area at Minnehaha



Regional Park. New playground equipment is also being installed in the play area near the bandstand and refectory. Both play areas will be completed in spring 2014.

**Powderhorn Park: Paths and Lights.** Construction of a new concrete path and lighting around Powderhorn Lake, and sidewalk along Powderhorn Terrace, was substantially completed in 2013 following rewiring of lights on the athletic fields north of Powderhorn Lake.

**Historic Main Street: Repairs Begin.** Temporary repairs to the street and walks were completed in November. Walks and streets were patched and loose or uneven pavers were replaced to improve the experience of drivers, bikers and pedestrians. A complete reconstruction of the street is planned in a few years.

**Parade Parkway: Paving and Parking.** A ribbon cutting ceremony in September commemorated the opening of a repaved Parade Parkway and adjacent parking lot at the Parade Ice Garden.

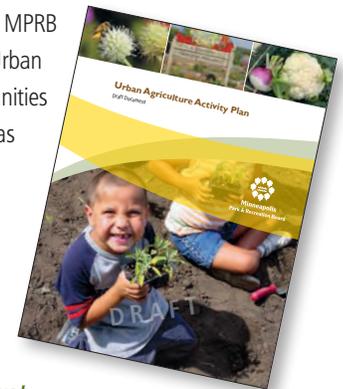
**Bohannon and Linden Hills Park: Tennis Courts.** Linden Hills and Bohannon both celebrated the completion of new tennis courts in 2013.

The Bohannon courts were funded through MPRB's Capital Improvement Program. The Linden Hills courts were funded in part by grants from Hennepin County, the United States Tennis Association, Linden Hills Neighborhood Council and neighborhood fund-raising efforts.



**Citywide: Skate Parks.** MPRB launched a survey in June to get public input on a citywide activity plan to support skate parks and related activities such as BMX biking and inline skating. The survey, which generated 800 responses, was followed up by public meetings in August and September.

**Citywide: Urban Agriculture Plan.** MPRB planning staff continued work on an Urban Agriculture Plan that identifies opportunities and community needs. A draft plan was presented and public comments were received in 2013. More than 1,500 people commented on the draft plan. A final plan will be presented early in 2014.



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

**Waite House: Moved, Property Sold.** MPRB approved sale of the 2529 13th Avenue South property, former site of the Waite House, to the Banyan Community. The site had been leased to Pillsbury United Communities (PUC) for 40 years, and became available when PUC relocated to the East Phillips Community Center. Banyan Community is building a new center on the property.

**Riverfront: New Property.** Another key riverfront lot was acquired at 2128 Marshall St. NE, just one lot away from Gluek Park on the Mississippi River. Funding was provided by the Metropolitan Council and the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, and the seller donated a portion of the purchase price.



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

**Residential and Commercial: Parkland Dedication.** In December, the Minneapolis City Council and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board jointly approved a new Parkland Dedication Ordinance that ensures the preservation and development of parks, playgrounds, recreational facilities and trails within the City. The ordinance, which goes into effect on January 1, 2014, requires that new residential and commercial developments in the City of Minneapolis dedicate a reasonable amount of the land included in the development project for public use, or pay a fee to the Park Board for future land acquisition and development or improvement of existing parkland within a neighborhood or one-half mile of the development.

**Parade Ice Garden: Reconstruction.** Energy savings were a major objective of a reconstruction of the north rink at the Parade Ice Garden. The floor and refrigeration system were removed and replaced. In addition, the entire facility was reroofed. Reconstruction of the south and studio rinks will be done in 2014.



**Farview Park and North Commons: Ball Fields.** The Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation built high-quality ball fields at Farview Park and North Commons last summer. Others donating to the project were the Edward J. Phillips Family Foundation, the Pohlrad Family Foundation and the Minnesota Twins Community Fund. The Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation will continue to work with MPRB after construction of the new fields to engage at-risk young people.

**Nokomis: Sandcastle.** The new Sandcastle eatery opened mid-summer, becoming the MPRB's fourth food venue to provide healthy food options to park visitors.

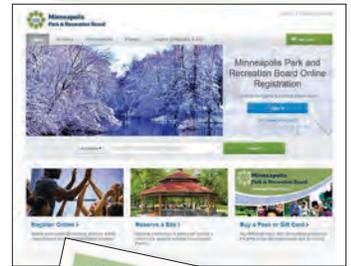
**Citywide: Event Permits.** Throughout the year, more than 340 permits were issued to use parkland for local and international events.

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

**Citywide: Community Outreach.** In continued efforts to improve diversity within the organization and improve outreach and services to the community, five community engagement coordinators were added to the Community Outreach Department. These employees will work closely with the Recreation Division to engage underserved segments of the community and reduce barriers to participation.

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

**Citywide: Interfaces.** An improved customer user interface was tested for ActiveNet, MPRB's customer service website. In addition to a redesigned interface, the new ActiveNet provides improved searching and mobile capabilities.



**Citywide: Timely Updates.** The Communication Department produced three 4-page brochures for insertion in the Minneapolis Community Education's Adult Enrichment Guide that is delivered to 200,000 households. Spring-summer, fall and winter brochures featured a calendar of events and special offers for park activities. Additional copies of the brochures are available in recreation centers, park buildings and libraries.



**Citywide: Technology Upgrades.** A successful ITS broadband network conversion began at Logan Park in April and was then implemented at four other pilot sites before installation began throughout the city. The conversion enhances phone systems, provides faster internet connections and improves customer service at recreation centers – and will be completed in early 2014.

**Citywide: Easy Access.** The number of email subscriptions grew from 63,682 to 67,948. Website visits jumped from 1.7 million to 2.2 million. Plans for a new website began with an extensive website needs assessment to guide work to build and launch a new website in 2014.

**Citywide: Permits.** Customer Service worked with Minneapolis Animal Care and Control to package Minneapolis Pet Licenses and Minneapolis Parks Off-leash Permits and sell them through veterinary clinics and animal shelters. The licenses are now sold through four non-MPRB locations, increasing ease of access to dog owners.

## VISION 4:

# a Safe Place

to play, recreate, contemplate  
and celebrate



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

**Citywide: Knock It Off!** MPRB showed the anti-bullying film "Boys Cry" at five parks outdoors last summer and at Farview Park and Green Central Gym indoors. Members of the award-nominated cast and crew appeared at the two indoor screenings to discuss the films anti-bullying message and answer questions.



**Citywide: Teen Night Owlz.** An estimated 1,692 youth took part in extended teen programming at nine recreation centers from 8-11 pm on Friday and Saturday nights.

**Citywide: Top Cop.** Jason Ohotto was sworn in as new Park Police Chief in September. Chief Ohotto has 17 years of experience with the Minneapolis Park Police. He continues the Department's commitment to working closely with MPRB employees and the community to ensure the park system is safe for all to play, recreate, contemplate and celebrate.



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

**Citywide: Safety Camp.** Park Police Officers and Minneapolis Firefighters conducted a three-day safety camp for 200 children at Theodore Wirth Park. The youth are taught personal and social safety skills in a fun and friendly environment.



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

**Lakes: Safety Screening.** MPRB continuously monitors bacteria levels at 12 beaches and automatically closes any beach with elevated levels of bacteria. Such events typically follow heavy rains that cause run-off into the lakes. The results of weekly monitoring are posted on the MPRB website. A beach at Lake Calhoun and another at Lake Hiawatha were closed for brief periods in 2013.



**Citywide: Police Awards.** James Huber, Park Police Officer (now Sergeant), was presented with the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association 2013 Police Officer of the Year – Honorable Mention Award. Huber was one of only three officers honored state-wide. He was honored for action taken on August 21, 2012. While responding to a robbery call along Minnehaha Creek, Huber and his partner were attacked and stabbed. In



response, Huber shot the suspect and likely saved his partner from grave injury. Also in 2013, four individuals received the Minneapolis Police Department's Lifesaving Award: Park Police Office Sam Xiong for performing CPR on a 7-year-old drowning victim at Wirth Lake in August; Park Patrol Agent Sean Hyman for helping rescue a 12-year old at risk of drowning in Minnehaha Creek on August 2; and Police Sergeants Richard Doll and Robert Helmeke for pulling a suicidal woman from the Camden Bridge on September 15. In addition, Officer Lynette Unke was selected as the 2013 Park Police Officer of the Year for her leadership, dedication, professionalism and skills.

**Citywide: Training.** Park Police provided safety and crime prevention training for all recreation, aquatics and community outreach staff.

**Everywhere You Go: Interceptors.** Park Police took delivery of four new 2013 Ford Police Interceptor SUVs. The Interceptor is significantly different from the discontinued Crown Victoria squad cars of the past, featuring all-wheel drive, better visibility, more space for equipment and suspects, and new technology for audio and video recording of officer actions.



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

**Citywide: Alarmed.** MPRB's electricians completed installation of emergency lighting and exit lighting in all 32 community centers with fire alarms. They also began to install tamper-resistant ground fault outlets in childcare areas.



# 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*

**Citywide: Pedal Perfect.** NiceRide Minnesota added 24 new stations in 2013 and several were in or near Minneapolis parks. A total of 170 bicycle rental stations in the Twin Cities help provide healthy and fun activity on the extensive park and Grand Rounds trail system.



**Citywide: Green Events.** An Events Go Green section was added to the MPRB website to provide information and resources to event coordinators wanting to pursue Green Certification. Green Certification recognizes events that are working to lower their environmental impact by using environmentally-conscious practices such as recycling, reducing paper usage, and conserving energy. Composting was also a focus; and more than 23 Park Board events collected recycling and organics.



**Citywide: Trash.** New exterior waste and recycling containers were piloted at several parks. Compostable bag liners were used in parks throughout the city. A trash management mobile application was developed to locate all containers in parks to allow for easy gathering of data on how much and where trash is being collected, to streamline and improve collection efforts in 2014.

**Parade and Elsewhere: Xcellent Energy.** A \$1 million solar energy grant from Xcel Energy was used to install roof-mounted solar panels on the Parade Ice Garden, which will generate 150 kW. Six other solar energy demonstration projects will be installed at Lupient Water Park, Webber Park, East Phillips Park, the Lake Calhoun refectory, the Lake Nokomis main beach and Rev. Doc. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. The projects will produce about 280,000 kilowatt hours, lowering MPRB electric bills by about \$28,000 annually and offsetting 400,000 pounds of carbon consumption.

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

**Citywide: Leaders.** MPRB has been energized by the hiring of new Assistant Superintendents Nick Williams in Recreation and Justin Long in Environmental Stewardship. Williams began work in January. Long was hired in November. Both men came to Minneapolis from Atlanta, Georgia.



**Citywide: Professionalism.** Many employees won awards, completed work-related certificates and degrees, or received significant professional recognition. Awards were bestowed upon 11 employees in recognition of their leadership and contributions to the community. Masters degrees were obtained by three employees. Almost 40 employees received certificates or professional development training to enhance critical skills and improve service delivery to residents and park visitors.

**Worldwide: Leadership and Host.** Superintendent Jayne Miller was elected to the board of the City Parks Alliance (CPA), the only independent membership organization dedicated solely to urban parks. CPA's mission is to support the creation, revitalization and sustainability of parks and green spaces that contribute to dynamic cities. CPA selected the Twin Cities to host the 2017 International Urban Parks Conference. The last conference attracted more than 900 representatives from 200 cities in 20 countries.





**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*

**Everywhere You Go: Customer Service Boot Camp.** The Customer Service Department created and delivered a fresh training program to 400 recreation staff in April. The training helped staff become more responsive, empowered and consistent when delivering services to our customers. Customer service staff were recognized by Alliance for Innovation for the program.



**Anywhere You Go: Cultural Competency Training.** The Community Outreach and Human Resources Departments launched a new cultural competency training program for all staff. Training was provided first on Somali and Muslim cultures, with a program on Hispanic and Latino cultures to follow.

**Workforce: Diversity.** While the organization experienced a reduction in force of 5% between 2010 and 2013, the diversity of the organization did not decrease. In 2013, employees of color make up about 21-22% of the workforce. This is important to note because the Park Board operates in a seniority system where employees of color usually have less seniority than majority culture, and therefore are usually 'last in-first out' when reductions are made. The organization made a deliberate effort to retain employees while reducing the size of the workforce. While diversity of the overall workforce has remained stable, makeup of our executive team is now more reflective of the overall workforce diversity. In 2010 the makeup of the executive team was 8% employees of color and 46% women, makeup of manager level positions was 0% employees of color and 99% women, and the makeup of professional level positions was 12% employees of color and 16% women. By the end 2013, the makeup of the executive team was 22% employees of color and 56% women, makeup of manager level positions was 15% employees of color and 61% women, and the makeup of professional level positions was 19% employees of color and 30% women.

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

**Citywide: Health and Safety.** A new occupational health and safety officer position was created to enhance safety and reduce costs due to injury throughout the park system. The position will be filled in 2014.

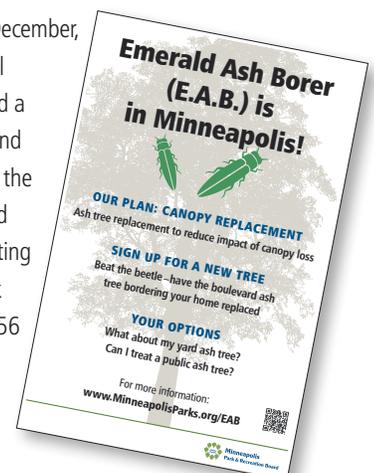
**Urban Forest: Tools and Training.** The Forestry Department accepted delivery of two new log loaders and both operators and mechanics were trained on their use and maintenance. All arborists also participated in Line Clearance Certification training for those who work near overhead utility lines. The new equipment and training will result in safer work practices, less injuries, improved efficiency and a shorter pruning cycle for the urban canopy.



**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*

**Parks and Schools: Jointly.** MPRB recreation staff joined with Minneapolis Public Schools personnel in an effort to establish an organizational network, along with other community stakeholders, to provide high quality sports and fitness opportunities and facilities for all Minneapolis youth.

**Ash Trees: Tax for Removal.** In December, the Board approved a 2014 General Fund operating budget that reflected a zero percent property tax increase and included a special levy dedicated to the removal and replacement of infested and distressed ash trees and replanting of trees lost during storms. The Park Board's 2014 Budget of \$66,051,956 includes \$1,190,780 for the special revenue fund dedicated to trees.



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

**MPRB event participants:**  
89,910 events, 89,750 concerts,  
23,570 movies

**Annual website visits:** 2.2 million

## Deputy Superintendent's Office

**Supporting organization service delivery** The Deputy Superintendent's Office provides expertise in supporting the Environmental Stewardship, Planning and Recreation Divisions of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. It also provides support to the Board of Commissioners. The Deputy Superintendent's Office oversees customer service; human resources; fiscal accountability, including accounting, financial and budget management, and procurement; the organization's information technologies; and risk management.

**MPRB Budget:** \$85,140,398

**MPRB employees:** 486 full-time,  
1,710 temporary

**Permits processed:** 1,086 picnics,  
5,676 off-leash recreation areas,  
7,628 parking

and Recreation Board. It also provides support to the Board of Commissioners. The Deputy Superintendent's Office oversees customer service; human resources; fiscal accountability, including accounting, financial and budget

## Environmental Stewardship

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

**Miles of city streets arborists plant and maintain trees:** 1,100

**Miles of paved biking and walking trails maintained:** 102

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

## Planning Services

**Developing the system** Planning Services provides expertise to lead, advise and guide the development and redevelopment of the Minneapolis Park system. The division oversees park system analysis, community engagement for park planning and design, park master planning, real estate services, design and engineering, physical development and redevelopment, and construction permitting.

**Local and State funds available for capital improvements to neighborhood parks:** \$11.51 million

**Regional and State funds available for capital improvements to regional parks:** \$8.69 million

## Recreation Services

**Providing visitor activities** Recreation Services provides expertise to lead, provide and create affordable recreational, cultural, educational, and leisure opportunities to benefit and enhance the lives of all Minneapolis residents. The division oversees recreation facility operations, including recreation centers, golf courses, aquatic facilities and beaches, ice arenas, cross-country skiing venues, and Wirth Winter Recreation Complex; recreation, education, and interpretive programming; use and event permitting; and athletic fields and complexes.

**Sport team participants:** 7,567 youth, 33,460 adults

**Rec Plus locations:** 19

**Athletic facility rental permits issued:** 6,000

**Revenue generating facilities:**  
5 18-hole golf courses, 2 9-hole golf courses, 2 indoor ice arenas, 1 winter recreation area

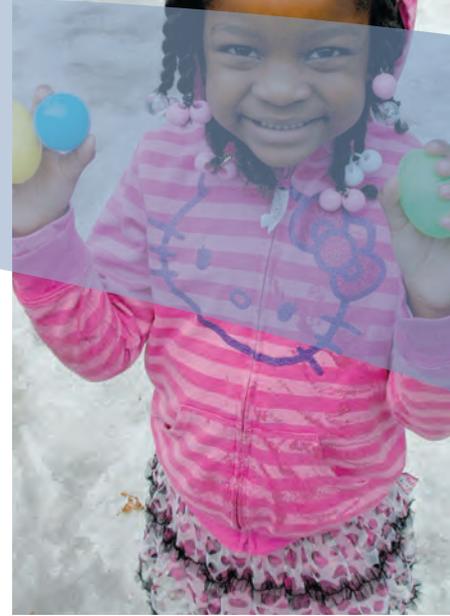
**Food venues:** Bread and Pickle, Sandcastle, Sea Salt, Tin Fish, mobile carts

**Permits issued:** 342 special events, 192 weddings, 209 receptions, 380 sail boat buoys, 438 canoe racks

# 2013 Budget

## Condensed Financial Report

for the year ended December 31, 2013



### Revenues

Property Taxes	\$ 48,571,200
Enterprise	\$ 9,899,352
Capital Projects	\$ 8,491,450
Local Government Aid	\$ 7,570,039
Other Revenue	\$ 8,892,994
Storm Damage Reimbursement	\$ 2,280,307

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**Total Revenues** **\$ 85,705,342**

### Expenditures

#### Superintendent's Office

Superintendent's Office	\$ 953,828
Board of Commissioners	\$ 637,164
Communications and Marketing	\$ 386,066
Community Outreach	\$ 1,616,423
Park Police	\$ 4,990,332

#### Deputy Superintendent's Office

Customer Service	\$ 399,019
Finance	\$ 748,036
Human Resources	\$ 494,867
City Management Fee, Contributions and Other	\$ 1,983,484

#### Environmental Stewardship

Asset Management	\$ 16,914,392
Environmental Management	\$ 5,642,450
Forestry	\$ 8,480,883

#### Planning Services

Planning	\$ 1,758,599
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#### Recreation Services

Athletic Programs and Aquatics	\$ 2,014,193
Recreation Centers and Programs	\$ 11,967,509
Enterprise	\$ 9,133,294

#### Other

Capital Projects	\$ 14,404,230
Storm Damage	\$ 2,615,629

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**Total Expenditures** **\$ 85,140,398**





### 2013 Distinctions

Minneapolis: #2 for Bikeability in USA – *WalkScore*, January

Minneapolis: One of Ten Best U.S. Cities for Urban Forests – *American Forests*, February

Minneapolis: 9th Most Walkable City in the U.S. – *Walk Score*, April

Minneapolis-St. Paul: #1, Healthiest, Fittest Cities in the USA – *The American College of Sports Medicine*, May

Minnehaha Park: #22, Top 30 World's Most Beautiful City Parks – *Travel + Leisure*, May

Minneapolis: #10, Top 10 Dog-Friendly Cities – *Estatelly.com*, June

Minneapolis Parks: #1 in City Parks – *Trust for Public Land*, June

Minneapolis: #1 Biking City – *Facebook*, July

Minneapolis: Best U.S. City for Recreational Activities – *Nerd Wallet*, July



## Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

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