

# MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



## Conservation is key to saving money on utilities

It may be the middle of winter but utility bills are a reminder of a hot and dry summer. A severe drought produced some of the highest water usage in years. With most of Minnesota still suffering with some level of drought conditions, climatologists predict 2022 could be another challenging year.

As with most cities, Minnetonka residents pay for what you use. Metro area homes tend to use more than the state average of 52 gallons of water per person each day. Irrigation systems are often the biggest culprit. It will be important to take steps early this season to avoid bigger bills later.

- Repair or upgrade irrigation systems
- Inspect and repair leaky faucets and toilets
- Use dishwashers instead of handwashing

Learn more about Minnetonka water conservation rebates at [minnetonkamn.gov/utilitybilling](http://minnetonkamn.gov/utilitybilling).



There is another contributor to utility bills. Aging infrastructure. Each year the number of water main breaks increases. Minnetonka continues to use a pay-as-you-go approach spreading the costs of expensive infrastructure replacement across several years rather than charging special assessments.

The city's tiered rates are designed to encourage conservation. The highest users are billed nearly twice as much as the lowest users. For 2022, households with low to average water use will see water and sewer rate increases of just 2 or 3 percent. Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/utilitybilling](http://minnetonkamn.gov/utilitybilling) to review the 2022 residential utility rates.

## Renewable Energy Challenge

This February and March, the City of Minnetonka is challenging Minnetonka households to power their homes with renewable energy by subscribing to Xcel Energy's Windsource program. Participating households will be entered to win prizes from local businesses!

### What is Windsource?

Windsorce is a voluntary subscription program from Xcel Energy enabling you to source your electricity from wind. It's an easy way to lower your carbon footprint without investing in any equipment. Renters with an Xcel Energy electric account can also participate.



### How does it work?

You can subscribe through Xcel Energy for as little as \$1 per month, and it only takes 5 minutes to sign up. You decide how much wind energy to purchase, up to 100% of your electric use. A typical home using 750 kWh of electricity per month could get 100% of its electricity from renewable energy for about \$7.50 per month.

Join over 1,300 Minnetonka households in supporting renewable energy through Windsorce! Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/green](http://minnetonkamn.gov/green) to learn more and participate in the challenge.

Some events are canceled or postponed due to COVID-19. Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/coronavirus](http://minnetonkamn.gov/coronavirus) for updates.



# Tree sale begins Feb. 7

Minnetonka's annual tree sale is a great way to replace a tree in your yard, add shade and help the environment. Residents can buy young trees at a reduced cost and help expand the city's tree canopy. This year's sale includes 15 species of shade trees, shrubs, ornamental and fruit trees, and evergreen trees. The sale is held exclusively online beginning Monday, Feb. 7.



## Important dates and details

### Online preview - Friday, Jan. 28 - Sunday, Feb. 6

Before the sale begins, visit [minnetonkamn.gov/treesale](https://minnetonkamn.gov/treesale) to:

- Learn how the sale works.
- Browse available items, learn about each species, and find pricing.
- Set up or update your Shopify account, which is required for purchasing.

### Online sale begins - Monday, Feb. 7

**Buy early for the best selection!** Quantities are limited and some species sell out very quickly.

### Pick-up event - Sept. 23-24

Add this event to your calendar if you make a purchase. Buyers will be mailed a reminder in late August.

## Planting and maintaining trees

### Add a tree guard.

Hungry deer, rodents and rabbits love to eat tree bark, buds and leaves - especially in winter. Protect your new planting with a tree guard! Note: Tree guards can damage conifers or clump/multi-stem trees - use wire caging instead.



### Consider using a watering bag.

Zip a heavy-duty plastic bag around your young tree and fill it once every 5-7 days. The bag slowly releases about

20 gallons of water into the soil over a period of hours.



### Tree maintenance matters!

Check the Resource section of the city's tree sale page, which includes videos, handouts and

graphics to help you properly plant and maintain your new tree.

### Do you live in, own or manage multi-family housing?

HOAs, townhomes and apartment complexes are great places to add tree diversity! Rather than purchasing through the online sale, contact Forestry staff at 952-988-8407 or [forestry@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:forestry@minnetonkamn.gov). They'll help you choose the right species and number of trees for your site, and you'll get the same low price offered to private property owners.



# 2022 Tree Sale Options

Tree	Mature Height x Width	Light			Moisture				Benefits					
		full sun	part shade	full shade	wet	moist	average	dry	ash replacement	buckthorn replacement	shoreline buffer zone	climate resilience	pollinators & wildlife	seasonal interest
<b>Elm 'Triumph'</b>	60' x 40'	x				x	x	x	x				x	
<b>Kentucky Coffee Tree 'Espresso'</b>	up to 60' x 40'	x				x	x		x				x	
<b>Red Maple 'Northwood'</b>	50' x 40'	x	x		x	x	x		x		x	x	x	x
<b>Oak 'Prairie Stature'</b>	40' x 30'	x				x	x	x	x				x	x
<b>Linden 'Harvest Gold'</b>	up to 40' x 30'	x	x			x	x	x	x				x	x
<b>Magnolia 'Merrill'</b>	40' x 30'	x	x			x	x	x						x
<b>Thornless Hawthorn</b>	20' x 20'	x	x			x	x	x		x			x	x
<b>Plum 'Newport'</b>	up to 20' x 20'	x				x	x						x	x
<b>Nannyberry (tree form)</b>	15' x 20'	x	x	x		x	x	x		x			x	x
<b>Apple Duo: 'Cortland' &amp; 'Snow-sweet'</b>	up to 15' x 15'	x				x	x							x
<b>Pear Duo: 'Toka' &amp; 'Superior'</b>	up to 15' x 15'	x				x	x							x
<b>Wetland Trio: Red Twig Dogwood</b>	10' x 10'	x	x		x	x	x			x	x			x
<b>Woodland Trio: Black Chokeberry 'Autumn Magic'</b>	5' x 4'	x	x		x	x	x			x	x		x	
<b>White Pine</b>	up to 70' x 40'	x	x			x	x							x
<b>Norway Spruce</b>	up to 60' x 30'	x	x			x	x		x					x

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CITY OF MINNETONKA

## City of Minnetonka Calendar

- 2** Park Board, 6:30 p.m.
- 3** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 7** City Council/EDA, 6:30 p.m.
- 8** Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
- 10** Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
- 14** City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
- 17** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 21** Presidents Day, city offices closed
- 27** Home Remodeling Fair, 10:30 a.m.
- 28** City Council/EDA, 6:30 p.m.

City meetings are held in person. Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/virtual-meetings](http://minnetonkamn.gov/virtual-meetings) to learn how to participate remotely. Watch meetings live and on-demand at [minnetonkamn.gov/tv](http://minnetonkamn.gov/tv).

For up-to-date information, visit [minnetonkamn.gov/calendar](http://minnetonkamn.gov/calendar) or call 952-939-8200.



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### Mayor

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### Council

**At Large:** Deb Calvert 612-205-5399  
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Kimberly Wilburn 952-222-8142  
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**Ward 4:** Kissy Coakley 952-486-9670  
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### Acting City Manager

Mike Funk 952-939-8200  
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**ECRWSS  
POSTAL PATRON**

## Sign up for adult softball

Registration for the city's many adult softball leagues begins in February. Leagues begin in April and include co-rec, co-rec doubleheaders, men's single games, men's doubleheaders and women's league.



### Registration dates

- Returning teams: **Feb. 7**
- New teams: **Feb. 14**
- Deadline: **March 28**

Learn more at [minnetonkamn.gov/softball](http://minnetonkamn.gov/softball).

## Seeking summer farmers market vendors

The summer Minnetonka Farmers Market will run each Tuesday from June 7 to Sept. 27 on the city's civic center campus. We're accepting applications for vendors who grow food or make items, including fruit, vegetables, cheese, meat, pickles, desserts, soap, art, handmade jewelry and more.



Details and application materials are available at [minnetonkamn.gov/farmersmarket](http://minnetonkamn.gov/farmersmarket).