

MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



Tree and shrub sale to boost tree canopy in Minnetonka

For over 15 years, Minnetonka's annual tree sale has provided residents with affordable options to build up tree diversity, climate resilience and wildlife habitat in their neighborhood. We're happy to report it has been a great success, with more than 18,000 trees planted across the city. However, there are many neighborhoods around Minnetonka that could use an extra boost.

Every year, trees are lost to storms, disease and pests, such as emerald ash borer. Replacing these trees is critical to Minnetonka's natural environment - and to its human residents. A good canopy covers the surrounding environment, reducing summer heat locally by as much as nine degrees.

That's why the city is introducing a new procedure for the tree and shrub sale. A lottery system will help prioritize areas citywide that especially need more tree canopy cover.

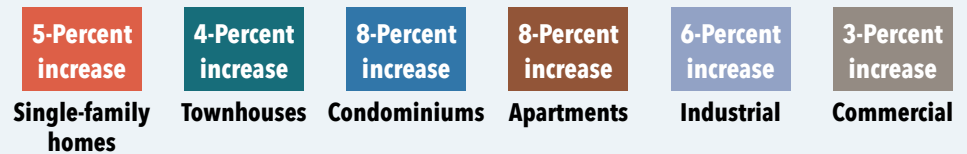
Find details, a timeline and resources - including a preview of trees being sold this year - at minnetonkamn.gov/treesale.



Market value grows, slower rate than 2022

Minnetonka's real estate market continues to grow, although at a slower rate. Nearly all property types increased in value with the median Minnetonka home valued at \$496,500.

Average 2023 property value change by type*



*Individual properties may vary greatly, and adjustments vary by market.

How is market value determined?

The city's assessing division adjusts the market value based on actual real estate sales of comparable properties from the past year. At least 20 percent of all properties are physically inspected each year. Market value adjustments are also made for building additions, remodeling and other improvements.

What if I don't agree with my property's market value?

Contact the assessing team at 952-939-8220. The staff will review property records and sales information with you. The appraiser may or may not change your market value. If not, you have the right to appeal by April 7 of this year.

Learn more

Visit minnetonkamn.gov/market-value to learn more. Call 952-939-8220 to ask questions.

Tax notices arrive this month

Watch your mailbox for two notices.

- Market valuation notice from the city, which affects taxes paid in 2024.
- Property tax bill for 2023 from Hennepin County, which must be paid this year.

The city accounts for 29 percent of a homeowner's total property tax bill. The rest includes taxes for your school district, county and other jurisdictions.

Help is available

Several state programs assist eligible residents with property taxes.

Learn more at minnetonkamn.gov/property-taxes or revenue.state.mn.us/property-tax-refund.



We're looking for **YOU**

- Lifeguards and swim instructors
- Shady Oak Beach staff
- Gray's Bay Marina attendants
- Kid's Corner day camp staff
- Park Adventures staff
- Park attendants
- Civil engineer interns
- Tree inspectors
- Habitat restoration
- Watering technicians
- Parks, streets and utility maintenance



Apply now at
minnetonkamn.gov/jobs



NATURAL RESOURCES HAPPENINGS



Buckthorn Workshop

Thursday, March 23
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Minnetonka Public Works lunchroom
11522 Minnetonka Blvd.

Learn tips that will save you time and money as you tackle this invasive plant on your property. Advance registration is required at minnetonkamn.gov/NRevents or call 952-988-8400.

Volunteer with us!

Visit minnetonkamn.gov/NRevents for specific dates and locations



Minnetonka in concert

Join the Music Association of Minnetonka for two free upcoming performances:

Minnetonka Symphony Orchestra Young Artist Concert

Sunday, March 5 at 3 p.m.
Immanuel Lutheran Church
16515 Luther Way, Eden Prairie

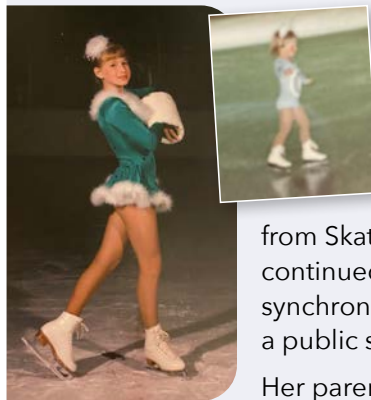
Minnetonka Concert Band in Concert

Sunday March 26 at 3 p.m.
Minnetonka High School Auditorium
18285 Highway 7, Minnetonka

More info: musicassociation.org

At home on the ice

Libby Leavenworth likes to joke that growing up, she spent more time at the Minnetonka Ice Arena than at home. At age 3, she started skating lessons at the arena, following her older brothers' blades. Initially, she thinks her parents expected her to play hockey, but she was drawn to figure skating.



"It was so freeing to glide across the ice and learn new tricks and twirls," she said.

Leavenworth joined the Lake Minnetonka Figure Skating Club at age 5 and began private lessons from Skating School Director Carol Timm. She continued group lessons until 16, joined the synchronized skating team and even worked as a public skating attendant at the arena.

Her parents did eventually see her on the ice with a hockey stick, too.

"I played hockey for the first Minnetonka High School girls' hockey team in 1996," Leavenworth recalls. "Our team was a mix of hockey players and figure skaters new to the sport. I remember going to hockey practice in rink B and then making the transition to my figure skates in rink A."

Today, Leavenworth's 11-year-old daughter, Sage, also skates at the ice arena. Sage fell in love with figure skating during her first ice show. She takes group lessons, skates in the annual ice show and competes in metro figure skating competitions.

"[The Minnetonka Ice Arena] was like a second home to me and my childhood was filled with many happy memories at the rink. Now, I see Sage making those memories for herself at the rink," Leavenworth says.



The Minnetonka Ice Arena offers skating lessons for skaters ages 3 and up, including adults, through the Learn-to-Skate USA program.

"I feel that growing up in Minnesota it is important to learn to skate, [and] the Minnetonka skating school is one of the premier in the area," says Lake Minnetonka Figure Skating Club Board Member Libby Leavenworth. "Skating School Director Carol Timm and her skating instructors are so knowledgeable and have classes for all levels and ages."

Spring skating lesson registration opens Tuesday, March 21. Visit minnetonkamn.gov/brochure to view upcoming classes and programs.

City of Minnetonka Calendar

- 1 Park Board, 6:30 p.m.
- 2 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 6 City Council/EDA, 6:30 p.m.
- 10 State of the City, Noon
- 14 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
- 16 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 20 City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
- 21 Sustainability Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 23 Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
- 27 City Council/EDA, 6:30 p.m.
- 30 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.

City meetings are held in person. Visit minnetonkamn.gov/participate to learn how to also take part remotely. Watch meetings live and on-demand at minnetonkamn.gov/tv.

For up-to-date information, visit minnetonkamn.gov/calendar or call 952-939-8200.



CITY OF
MINNETONKA

14600 Minnetonka Blvd.
Minnetonka, MN 55345
952-939-8200 | minnetonkamn.gov

Mayor

Brad Wiersum 612-723-3907
bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov

Council

At Large: Deb Calvert 612-205-5399
dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov
Kimberly Wilburn 952-222-8142
kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov

Ward 1: Brian Kirk 952-451-6251
bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov

Ward 2: Rebecca Schack 612-590-3735
rschack@minnetonkamn.gov

Ward 3: Bradley Schaeppi 612-770-7447
bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov

Ward 4: Kissy Coakley 952-486-9670
kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov

City Manager

Mike Funk 952-939-8200
mfunk@minnetonkamn.gov

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**ECRWSS
POSTAL PATRON**

Summer recreation program registration begins

Tuesday, March 7, 8 a.m.
GENERAL RECREATION PROGRAMS

Thursday, March 9, 8 a.m.
SENIOR PROGRAMS

Tuesday, March 21, 8 a.m.
ICE SKATING LESSONS

Wednesday, May 10, 8 a.m.
SWIMMING LESSONS SESSION 1



Visit minnetonkamn.gov/register

to check out program options and choose from hundreds of activities, including summer camps, swimming and skating lessons, fitness classes, arts and crafts, athletic leagues and senior programs. There's something for everyone!

How to register

ONLINE
minnetonkamn.gov/register



PHONE
Between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

- General programs and swimming lessons: 952-939-8203
- Senior programs: 952-939-8393
- Ice skating: 952-939-8310