

# MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



## City kicks off Climate Action and Adaptation Plan

Following the recommendation of the Sustainability Commission, the city is beginning its work on a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.

From waste, water, energy consumption, recycling and natural environment, the plan will act as a road map for the city to reduce its carbon emissions



and adapt to the impacts of climate change. “The climate action and adaptation plan will be a holistic, far reaching plan that touches all areas of sustainability,” said Drew Ingvalson, Minnetonka’s sustainability coordinator

The process began inside city hall with three workshops where staff from all departments weighed in about the effects of climate change on the people, infrastructure and natural environment of Minnetonka.

What stood out in this discussion was who might be most affected by climate change.

“I think there are many overlaps between climate change and socially disadvantaged groups,” Ingvalson explained.

The next step is to begin interactive sessions for the community. When asked what are the most important things about this plan, Ingvalson said, “No. 1, the plan must be readable for every community member. No. 2, we need to reach people we don’t usually hear from.”

To assist in its efforts, the city has hired LHB, consultants with an extensive background in creating climate action plans. LHB has already created a tool for Minnetonka residents to see how the city stacks up to surrounding suburbs historically and today. Visit [regionalindicatorsmn.com](http://regionalindicatorsmn.com) to see more.



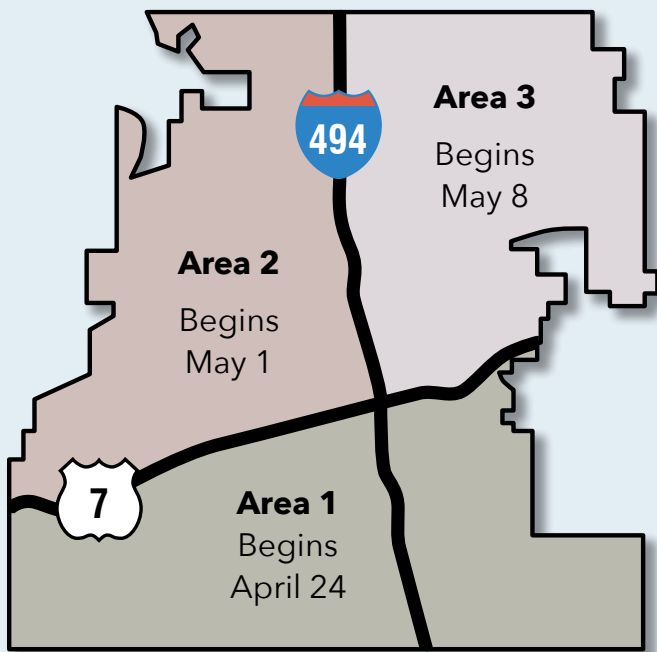
## Earth Day is April 22

If you’re looking to become more sustainable this Earth Day, consider some of these initiatives:

- Sign up for a **home energy audit**. Call 952-939-8293 or email [zoning@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:zoning@minnetonkamn.gov) to get a code for a free audit.
- **Replace gas yard equipment with electric options**. Yard equipment can emit anywhere from 10 to nearly 300 times the emissions of a vehicle.
- **Raise your thermostat temperature** this summer. Even one degree can save as much as 3 percent on your energy use.
- Start **organic recycling**. About 1/3 of trash is organic materials that can be composted. Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/organicsrecycling](http://minnetonkamn.gov/organicsrecycling) to learn more about options and discounts.
- **Enjoy the outdoors!** Minnetonka has 49 parks and 90 miles of trails and sidewalks for you to explore.

# Water main flushing starts April 24

Minnetonka Public Works will flush water mains throughout the city from April 24 through May 11, weekdays from 5:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in most areas. Crews flush water mains to remove loose sediments that build up over time, improving water taste and quality. Refer to the map to determine dates in your area.



Flushing in the areas listed below will occur at these special times:

## April 24

### Hutchins Drive

4 a.m.-5 p.m.

## April 27

### Opus, Beachside, K-Tel, Clearwater Drive, Whitewater Drive, Culligan Way

3 a.m.-3 p.m.

## May 1

### Minnetonka Industrial Road, Twelve Oaks Center, Carlson Parkway

5 a.m.-5 p.m.

## May 8

### Ridgedale business area

5:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Flushing schedules may be adjusted due to weather conditions.

- It is normal to experience some discolored water.
- This water is safe to drink and can be cleared up by running the cold water from a faucet without a screen.
- Contact Minnetonka Public Works at 952-988-8400 with questions.

## Leaf and brush drop-off site now open

### Yard waste drop-off

The city's yard waste site is now open for the season. Minnetonka residents can access the yard waste drop-off site at 11522 Minnetonka Blvd. April 1 through the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

Brush is accepted throughout the season, while leaves and yard waste are accepted from April 1-May 13.

Saturdays, 7 a.m.-3 p.m.

Mondays, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Tuesdays, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

More information about accepted materials:

[minnetonkamn.gov/yardwaste](http://minnetonkamn.gov/yardwaste)



## Street sweeping under way

Minnetonka Public Works crews have also begun street sweeping. This project usually lasts four weeks or until all city streets have been swept. Crews work in 10-hour shifts and try to avoid residential areas in the early morning hours. It is helpful to remove debris from storm sewer grates in your neighborhood and ensure trash and recycling containers are not placed in the street.

# Seven city employees recognized for excellence in service

## Crabb receives Spirit of Minnetonka Award

Assistant City Attorney Anna Krause Crabb received the Spirit of Minnetonka Award for 2022. The recognition is given each year to an employee who exemplifies the city's shared values, including teamwork, leadership and exceptional customer service.

"I can't think of anyone who is more deserving of this award than Anna," said City Attorney Corrine Heine. "It's not just what she brings to her job as a prosecutor, but also what she brings to the office every day. No matter what activity is going on, she is there to volunteer and to participate, and it is truly appreciated."

Crabb has organized employee blood drives, Veterans Day observances and is a member of the city's Internal Diversity Committee. "The credit for this award especially belongs to the legal department and our public safety team for all they do," said Crabb, "In working here over the past 17 years, I feel blessed to be able to help others, including crime victims."

The Spirit of Minnetonka Award winner is chosen each year by the Employees In Action committee. Crabb and six additional employees were recognized for their achievements at the annual employee recognition event in March.



## Above & Beyond

**Svetlana Vold | Fire Department**

For organizing an open house to connect with Russian-speaking families across the area.

## Exceptional Customer Service

**Delane Wetterlin | Public Works**

For compassion and her calm demeanor in assisting residents with service delivery questions.

## Innovation

**Kristin Doran | Administration**

For developing a communications platform to connect employees whether at their desk or in the field.

## Leadership

**Kevin Fox | Fire Department**

For leading the department through two tragedies and many successes.

## Teamwork

**Neil Maddox & Rick Kuehn | Public Works**

For their excellent work in support of the Police Department's first community-wide catalytic converter marking event.

## City closes on the purchase of The Marsh

The City of Minnetonka finalized its purchase of The Marsh in late February. The city is currently hiring building and fitness staff to open the pool and exercise area of the center later this spring.

More information about job openings and the city's plans for the facility is available at [minnetonkamn.gov/themarsh](http://minnetonkamn.gov/themarsh).



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

# Mary Pat Noonan

There's a common saying often repeated by volunteers: You get back more than you give.

Minnetonka Police Reserve Mary Pat Noonan says she finds that true every day. "That formula always adds up to a net gain for me."

Noonan joined the police reserves seven years ago after learning about the program through the Minnetonka Police Academy. A clinical psychologist at a pain management clinic, Noonan has found passion in the volunteer role, as a way to serve the police department and the Minnetonka community she loves.

As a police reserve, Noonan says her job is to ease the workload of department staff. She helps however she can - from fingerprinting civilians to picking up uniforms, driving squad cars in for repairs to working traffic detail at community events.



You don't have to have a specific background qualification for this. You don't have to have taken classes in law enforcement or want to be a police officer. The biggest qualification is just wanting to help and be willing to say yes.



-Mary Pat Noonan on being a Minnetonka Police Reserve

"[Our role is] being there in any way we possibly can to support police officers [and] admin staff. And every week, it's something a little different," Noonan says.

That variety, along with the program's extensive training opportunities, has given Noonan a unique perspective into the department's operations. She's used her knowledge to dispel myths about law enforcement in her full-time work and among her neighborhood.

Because of her work as a police reserve, Noonan was also asked to join the Metro CISM Team, a nonprofit organization that provides trained peer support to emergency responders following critical stress incidents.

"Mary Pat is the type of volunteer that departments love to have," says Capt. Rachel Meehan. "She's hardworking, open minded, supportive and not afraid to offer a different perspective. She has helped us build bridges and strengthen relationships with our community."

Want to learn more about the Minnetonka Police Reserves? Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/reserves](http://minnetonkamn.gov/reserves).

## Severe weather season is here

From thunderstorms, to flooding and tornadoes, it pays to be weather aware. Every April, Minnesota recognizes Severe Weather Awareness week. From April 17-21, look for messages from local and state agencies reminding residents about weather watches and warnings. Practice your tornado drill at home, work or school during statewide siren tests on April 20.

### Advanced warning is key to remaining safe during severe weather



Sign up for Wireless Emergency Alerts

Seek shelter when outdoor sirens sound



Learn the difference between advisories, watches and warnings

## Smoke alarm assistance for seniors

As a service to seniors and residents who need assistance, the Fire Department offers free installation of new smoke alarms. To schedule your free installation, contact the Fire Department at 952-939-8598. For more information about smoke alarms, visit [minnetonkamn.gov/smokealarms](http://minnetonkamn.gov/smokealarms).



# Silver Skates Ice Revue is May 4-6

Minnetonka Ice Arena's skating school is proud to present the 48th Annual Silver Skates Ice Revue!

The show features more than 200 skaters from Minnetonka and surrounding communities.

## Show times

**Thursday, May 4, 6:30 p.m.**

**Friday, May 5, 6:30 p.m.**

**Saturday, May 6, 2 p.m.**



## Tickets

- Advance tickets (\$7) will be available at Minnetonka Ice Arena. Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/skating](http://minnetonkamn.gov/skating) for dates and times.
- General admission tickets (\$10) available at the door.
- Free admission for children age 5 and under.
- Seniors receive complimentary admission for the Saturday performance.



We're looking for

# YOU

Apply now at  
[minnetonkamn.gov/jobs](http://minnetonkamn.gov/jobs)



# Minnetonka reaches recycling goal

The city set a goal to collect 500 pounds of plastic bags and films in six months and did it in just 30 days. Minnetonka residents dropped off 542 pounds at bins located at the Williston Fitness Center and City Hall in January. As part of the NexTrex program, the city will receive a free Trex bench made from recycled plastic.

The city plans to continue plastic bag and film collection at these locations. As residents continue to bring in their plastic bags, here are a few tips about what **cannot** be recycled as part of the program.

| NOT ACCEPTED  |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| Material  | Examples                                   | Where to put it?                           |
| Bags or films that touch food (except clean bread bags) | Granola bar wrapper, cheese wrapping/bag   | Trash                                      |
| Items with the 1, 3, or 5 recycling triangle            | Plastic bottles, yogurt cups, milk jugs    | Curbside recycling or recycling containers |
| Paper products  | Paper bag, paper envelope with bubble wrap | Trash or recycling (if only paper)         |

| TEST YOUR PLASTIC TO SEE IF IT'S ACCEPTED                             |                      |  |
|---|----------------------|--|
| Test  | Accepted in Program? | Where to put it?                                     |
| Is it labeled with a 2 or 4 recycling triangle?                       | Yes                  | City Hall or Williston Fitness Center collection bin |
| Does it tear or not stretch when pulled (most frozen food packaging)? | No                   | Trash  |
| Does it crinkle when squeezed (like a chip bag or bar wrapper)?       | No                   | Trash  |

The best practice when recycling is always, "when in doubt, keep it out."

## Apply for a Sustainable Minnetonka Award

Have you made your home or business more sustainable? The Sustainable Minnetonka Awards recognize innovative projects that help our environment and make our community more resilient. Winners will be selected by the sustainability commission and recognized by the city council.



**Sustainable Minnetonka Awards**

**2023**

*Awards will be given in the following categories:*

### Energy

Renewable energy, energy efficiency and electric vehicles

### Landscape

Native, pollinator-friendly or less resource intensive plantings

### Waste Reduction

Material reduction or reuse, recycling or composting

### Water

Water conservation and stormwater improvements

### Young Adult

A project in any of the categories above created by someone under 25 years old.

## Minnetonka Tree and Shrub Sale lottery is now open

Every year, trees are lost to storms, disease and pests. Replacing those trees is critical to Minnetonka's natural environment and the humans living here. A good tree canopy cools the surrounding environment.

To help everyone enjoy the benefits of trees, the tree and shrub sale will prioritize planting in neighborhoods with higher summer temperatures.

Enter the lottery for the tree and shrub sale from April 3 - 30. Sign up and learn more at [minnetonkamn.gov/treesale](http://minnetonkamn.gov/treesale).

## Minnetonka's Adopt-A-Park-Sign

Minnetonka's Adopt-a-Park-Sign program is a wonderful way for individuals, families, neighborhood groups or organizations to plant flowers at city park entrances.



### How it works

- The city partners with Tonkadale Greenhouse to provide annuals or perennials of the volunteer's choice.



- Adopt-a-Park-Sign volunteers are responsible for planting, watering and maintaining the plants.

### How to sign up

- Sign up starts in April. 2022 volunteers will receive first priority to adopt their sign again in 2023.
- Contact Christine Petersen at 952-988-8442 or [cpetersen@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:cpetersen@minnetonkamn.gov).

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

# NATURAL RESOURCES HAPPENINGS



## WORKSHOPS

### Resilient Yards Workshop

Thursday, April 27, 6-8 p.m.

Location: Hybrid - online

Advance registration is required at [bluethumb.org/events](http://bluethumb.org/events).

Learn how to beautify your yard, create habitat for pollinators and improve resilience to climate change and other stressors. This workshop is split into two parts:

1. Self-paced online learning modules
2. A live virtual session with one on one time with landscape designers

Participants will be automatically entered into a lottery for Lawns to Legumes habitat grant; Minnetonka residents can also apply for technical assistance from the city.

### Garlic Mustard Workshop

Thursday, May 4, 6:30-8 p.m.

Location: Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.

Advance registration is required at [minnetonkamn.gov/NRevents](http://minnetonkamn.gov/NRevents) or call 952-988-8400



Learn tips that will save you time and money as you tackle this invasive plant on your property. You'll receive learning materials prior to the in-person session.

## Volunteer with us!

Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/NRevents](http://minnetonkamn.gov/NRevents) for specific dates and locations.

Try out new skills and meet city staff and fellow Minnetonka residents working to protect our natural environment.



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### City of Minnetonka Calendar

- 11** Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
- 17** City Council & EDA Authority, 6:30 p.m.
- 20** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 22** Fire Dept. Sensory-friendly Open House, 10 a.m.
- 24** City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
- 27** Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.

City meetings are held in person. Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/participate](http://minnetonkamn.gov/participate) to learn how to also take part 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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**ECRWSS  
POSTAL PATRON**

# Sensory Friendly Open House



For families with members who have autism, sensory disorders or physical disabilities that make attending heavily crowded events difficult.

- Emergency vehicles on display will be "sensory friendly" - no lights/no sirens
- Cookies with Sparky
- Fire truck slide
- Autism Society of Minnesota booth
- Therapy dogs on site

This event provides an opportunity for families to interact with fire, police and EMS personnel in a relatively calm and non-threatening environment.

**Saturday, April 22  
10 a.m.-noon  
Minnetonka Fire Station 1**

