



Agenda

Joint Study Session of the Park Board & City Council/Park Board Tour

Minnetonka Community Center - Dining Room

Wednesday, September 6, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

Park Board

____ Chair Chris Walick

____ Anne Hanley

____ Ella DiLorenzo

____ Katie Semersky

____ Korey Beyersdorf

____ David Ingraham

____ Ben Jacobs

City Council

____ Mayor Brad Wiersum

____ Deb Calvert

____ Kimberly Wilburn

____ Brian Kirk

____ Rebecca Schack

____ Bradley Schaeppi

____ Kissy Coakley

3. Business Items

A) Lone Lake Park Multi-Use Mountain Bike Trail Metrics

B) Purgatory Park Master Plan Update

4. Adjournment

Park Board Tour to follow meeting:

Meadow Park (7:15-7:40 pm)

Ridgedale Commons (7:45-8:15 pm)

Return to City Hall (8:30 pm)

Park Board Vision:

An inclusive city with outstanding parks and recreational opportunities within a healthy and biodiverse natural environment.

Park Board Mission:

To proactively advise the city council, in ways that will:

- Conserve & enhance Minnetonka's natural environment

- Promote quality and inclusive recreation opportunities, natural amenities and facilities to meet the needs of all

- Provide a forum for public engagement regarding parks, trails, athletic facilities and natural resources

- Adhere to the goals and strategies of the Natural Resources Master Plan and the Parks, Open Space, and Trails Plan

**Joint Meeting of the Minnetonka Park Board and City Council
Item 3A September 6, 2023**

Subject:	Lone Lake Park Multi-Use Mountain Bike Trail Metrics
Park Board related goal:	To renew and maintain parks and trails
Park Board related objective:	Participate in park & trail projects process and make recommendations to the city council
Brief Description:	Review the annual trail metrics document

Background

On June 6, 2018, the Lone Lake Park multi-use mountain bike trail plan and study was presented to the Minnetonka Park Board. At that meeting, the park board recommended approval of the project to the city council. On August 26, 2019, the city council voted to approve the concept plan for the multi-use mountain biking trail in Lone Lake Park. Trail construction occurred in the fall of 2020 and the trail opened for use on November 4, 2020.

Metrics

An annual trail update to the park board and city council was requested as part of the city council approval of the project at their August 26, 2019 meeting. Annual reporting metrics were established with the assistance of local stakeholders. Staff has compiled the attached 2022-2023 metrics report and will give the board and council a brief presentation.

Trail Updates

The multi-use trail was used by a mix of bikers, hikers, runners and snowshoers throughout the past year. Volunteers from the local Minnesota Off-Road Cyclists (MORC) organization provided weekly trail maintenance and monthly restoration. MORC and staff strive to provide a safe and fun year-round amenity for all users while balancing competing interests. Volunteer hours have declined slightly over the past year, but continue to meet the maintenance needs. MORC and staff will continue to promote the trail and recruit volunteers.

Recommended Action

Review the Lone Lake Park Multi-Use Mountain Bike Trail Metrics report and provide comments and feedback. Also, provide direction as to whether or not the Park Board and Council prefer the full trail metrics report continue to be compiled and reported annually or an update on trail usage and any significant changes or issues with the trail.

Attachment

1. Lone Lake Park Multi-Use Mountain Bike Trail Annual Metrics Report 2022-2023



**LONE LAKE PARK MULTI-USE MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL
ANNUAL METRICS REPORT
2022-2023***

Trail Use
<p>Number of days trail is open and closed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open: 275 • Closed: 90
<p>Number and size of programs/events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 20, 2023 – Mountain Bike Opener – 250 attendees
<p>Number of team practices scheduled:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 team practices scheduled in the 2022 season and currently 16 team practices scheduled for the current/upcoming 2023 season. Teams include: Armstrong, Bloomington Jefferson, Chaska/Chanhassen, Edina, Mound/Westonka, Rockford, Shakopee • Teams consist of 30-40 riders per practice • All team riding groups must be 8 or less with a maximum of 40 coaches and student-athletes at a time. There is no time trial or race activities, this includes simulated starts, passing drills, etc.
<p>Periodic Trail counts to estimate average annual use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bikers: 17,799 • Hikers/Runners: 810 • Snowshoers: 706 <p>See Seasonal Trail Count attachment.</p>

Trail Impacts
<p>Periodic parking lot counts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Parking Lot Counts attachment.
<p>Number and type of complaints and resolutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two Complaints • 10/31/22: Bike rider expressed concern regarding trail sightlines and trail runners/walkers listening to music with earbuds. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Resolution: Increased sightlines by removing buckthorn and brush in faster areas of the trail. Also added signage on some informal trails alerting runners/walkers of trail intersections. • 5/18/23: Homeowner indicated that the trees that were planted to block bike lights were dying. They asked if they could personally plant and manage a tree(s). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ City forestry staff evaluated the trees and recommended the replacement of one of the trees and suggested it be planted in the fall.
<p>Number and type of reported incidents and resolutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None reported
<p>Qualitative input from residents (annual community survey question):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Survey question: What park amenities does your household use most often? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mountain bike trail was indicated by 7% in 2023 compared to 3% in 2022
<p>Trail erosion tracking and maintenance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Trail Erosion Tracking and Maintenance attachment

Number and size of risk/diseased trees within the trail corridor:

- Based on scouting conducted in Spring of 2022, there were approximately 94 trees that could pose a risk to trail users if they fell towards the trail. Most are small (3"-10" diameter), and eight are larger than 20" in diameter. Species include mostly Quaking aspen, some Northern red oak, and American elm. Fifteen trees are in poor condition, three are in fair condition, and 76 are dead. A majority of trees had lost bark on the trunk, indicating they had been dead for several years with no known cause. Scouting only occurred along the trail corridor, not within the natural wooded areas of the park. Scouting will continue to occur along the trail to mitigate risks to trail users, and dead material will be removed by staff or contractors as needed.

Advocacy & Engagement**Number of MORC:**

- Volunteers: 180 volunteers (49 unique volunteers)
- Volunteer events: 32 (7 restoration events)
- Volunteer hours for trail maintenance: 232
- Volunteer hours for park restoration: 140

Number of other volunteers/hours related to the trail: 0**Description of restoration work completed (area size, locations, type of restoration):**

- Buckthorn, garlic mustard and other common invasive species removed in various areas of the corridor. Planted prairie wildflowers. See MORC Restoration Volunteer Project and Hours attachment.

Total cost benefit of volunteers:

- Current estimated national value of each volunteer hour is \$31.80
- \$31.80 x 372 volunteer hours = \$11,830 value

Meet with local stakeholders to review and contribute qualitative information:

- Draft report reviewed by a MORC and FLLP representative in August 2023.

General Lone Lake Park Monitoring**Conduct Rusty Patched Bumble Bee survey annually for three years:**

- 2020: 1 Rusty-patched bumble bee documented
- 2021: 6 Rusty-patched bumble bees documented
- 2022: 2 Rusty-patched bumble bees documented

Document invasive species presence and abundance:

- Garlic mustard abundance throughout the park has been relatively low in recent years due to annual maintenance activities. There are several patches that continue to need annual maintenance.
- Poison ivy near and along trails was significantly reduced by NR staff sprays in 2022. Due to its spread by rhizomes, re-checks and continued control are necessary every other year or so.
- Stickseed abundance remained up despite extensively pulling by MORC and staff in 2022, because it is a biennial and has seed longevity.
- Pre-existing species - crown vetch, leafy spurge and birds foot trefoil, remain among the far south east trails away from other park amenities. They are expanding along the open trails with more light. Staff and volunteers continue to conduct maintenance activities.

- Newer invasive species in the corridor: narrowleaf bittercress, extensively pulled by MORC and staff 2022 and 2023. Weeds that have increased moderately elsewhere in the corridor: burdock, common mullein, white campion, motherwort
- Thistle is not a problem within the corridor.
- One weed species was included in an older trail seed mix: sweet clover. It continues to germinate, but is not a problem at this time due to shade.

Lake water quality monitoring every three years:

- Lone Lake was monitored for water quality in 2021. The lake is sampled every three years, thus the next year monitoring will occur is in 2024.

*Data reported from 9/1/22-7/31/23 with the exception of trail open & closed dates and trail counts which are reported from 5/6/22-5/5/23 due to the change in the joint meeting moving from Nov. to Sept. this year.

Seasonal Trail Counts
Summer 2022 - Spring 2023

Season Totals

	Walkers/Runners	Snowshoers	Mountain Bikers
Spring & Summer Totals	361		9,136
Fall Totals	449		5,988
Winter Totals		706	2,675
Four Season Total	810	706	17,799

Average Daily Use

	Walkers/Runners	Snowshoers	Mountain Bikers
Spring & Summer Daily Average	4		94
Fall Daily Average	7		91
Winter Daily Average		6	24

Days Open

Season	Total
Spring & Summer <i>05/06/22 - 08/31/22</i>	97 of 118
Fall <i>09/01/22-11/10/22</i>	66 of 71
Winter (snow on ground) <i>11/11/22 - 03/24/23</i>	112 of 134
Spring Thaw - Trail Closed <i>03/25/23-05/05/23</i>	0 of 42
Total Days Open	275 of 365 (75%)

**2022-2023 Lone Lake Park
Parking Lot Counts**

Parking Lot	Capacity		09/27/22 @ 5:30pm	10/25/22 @ 4:45 pm	11/07/22 @ 4:15 pm	11/19/22 @ 10:00 am	12/22/22 @ 5:30 pm	01/04/23 @ 10:30 am	02/06/23 @ 4:30pm	03/07/23 @ 10:00 am	03/22/23 @ 5:00 pm	05/08/23 @ 9:30 am	06/20/23 @ 5:30 pm	06/23/23 @ 4:00 pm	07/11/23 @ 5:15 pm
A	55		6	12	5	2	7	0	2	0	4	1	7	4	14
B	10		2	3	4	7	2	0	2	1	3	3	4	6	3
C	18		8	4	11	14	12	3	5	6	13	7	14	11	9
D	84		22	12	14	6						42	32	47	27
E	9		5	2	6	6	4	4	2	5	6	4	9	6	4



Trail Erosion Tracking and Maintenance

Type of Work	Loop Name	Specific Location	Work Details	Date Completed
Erosion	Entire Trail	TBD	Identify areas holding water and look to fix	Ongoing
Other	Entire Trail	Storage Container	Look to add shelving in storage container	09-01-22
Dirt Work	Lone Lake Ridge East	Before mm #17	Need to hold riders in on left. Build up rocks to hold dirt in. Create slight in-slope/berm if possible. Armoring.	09-13-22
Other	Water Tower Ridge	Just after MM6. Turn around of stacked loop.	Rework and clean up turn around of stacked loop after the new signage is installed.	09-13-22
Dirt Work	Nine Mile	Topo Ridge	Fix berm on topo. Add knicks to areas with drainage issues.	09-27-22
Trees	Nursery	Just above storage container	Small tree/branch needs removal from trail.	09-30-22
Dirt Work	Nine Mile	After MM #13. Right before exit of TopoRidge	Need to hold rider in. Build rock support. Add more dirt. Build up.	10-11-22
Dirt Work	Lone Lake Ridge East	After mm #17	Small rut forming and pushing riders left. Final descent of Pickball Plunge. Rework trail tread.	10-11-22
Safety	Entire Trail		Blow and remove fallen leaves from trail	10-20-22
Erosion	Lone Lake Ridge West	Well after MM10, just before exit to Topo.	Keep an eye on potential water flowing down on trail. Look to rework trail tread to slope out. Add roller if necessary.	10-25-22
Erosion	Water Tower Ridge	MM18-19. Climb back to the trailhead.	There are a few ruts and areas where the trail tread needs to be out sloped. Add small rollers to divert water. Also, spots where riders are riding low/off the trail. Add boulders to pinch rider and hold soil where needed.	10-25-22
Erosion	Water Tower Ridge	MM 18.8. Last uphill of the three turkeys.	Trail is widening. Rut forming. Rework and reslope.	10-25-22
Other		Storage Container	Someone tampered with lock and used epoxy to fill key hole. Remove lock with angle grinder and replace.	11-02-22
Erosion	Entire Trail		Put snow fencing in place for spring thaw	03-27-23
Trees	Entire Trail	Mile Marker 7.8, 15.2 & 6	Three down trees. Public works contacted to remove.	04-26-23
Other	Entire Trail	Rowland main loop gate/entrance	Lock was tampered with. Epoxy was put into key hole. Remove and replace lock.	05-01-23
Erosion	Nine Mile	Before MM12. First Berm	This berm is being washed out. Look to reinforce the back of the berm with boulders and repack with soil. Potentially add a roller shortly after berm to help with drainage.	05-09-23
Dirt Work	Nine Mile	Right at MM12. Berm.	Rework berm. Difficult to trust the berm and hold the rider in. Add boulders and pack with dirt.	05-09-23
Other	Nursery	Main TH	Clean up down branches near parking lot entrance	05-15-23
Drainage	Nine Mile	Berm near parking lot	Install drainage tile and rework berm	05-16-23
Dirt Work	Nursery	Right after MM2.	Rework grade reversals to enhance riders flow and shed water. Remove rocks that are forcing some riders to the outside.	Ongoing

Dirt Work	Nursery	Between MM2 and 3. Rock garden.	Rework trail through rock garden, more friendly for beginner riders.	Ongoing
Dirt Work	Lone Lake Ridge West	MM 10.5	Add pinch points to hold riders in and narrow trail. Work on break bumps. Clean up debris.	06-27-23
Safety	Entire Trail	Poor sightlines	Cut back buckthorn that's obstructing sightlines. Trim face slappers.	Ongoing
Trees	Water Tower Ridge	Mile marker 5.5	Tree fell across trail. Needs removal.	07-03-23
Safety	Nursery	Blind intersections with informal trail.	Add intersection signage in areas where the informal trail crosses the MTB trail. Increase sightlines.	07-18-23
Trees	Water Tower Ridge	Mile Marker 5.3	Tree fell across trail after storm. Needs removal.	07-27-23

2023 MORC Habitat Restoration Volunteer Hours at Lone Lake Park

(Seven work days: September 2022 through July 2023)

BT-buckthorn; GM-garlic mustard; NLB-narrow leaf bittercress; RCG-reed canary grass
 HQ-high quality; CST-cut and stump treat with herbicide;
 Trail-mountain bike trail

DATE 2022	# Vols	Vol Hrs	Acres	Management area	Invasive species removed and/or Activity	Notes
Sept 6	10	17	1	1) Along trails 2) SE woodland near high point, HQ sedge area	1) Stickseed, pull & bag 2) CST Buckthorn & arrange in wind rows	
Oct 4	16	31	0.25	Superfood Gardens Trail below pickle ball	Planted "MTB garden" with prairie wildflowers and grasses. Re-planted half of sign garden eaten by rabbits.	Welded wire fencing w small mesh at base for rabbits and soil contact below mulch.
Date 2023						Notes
Feb 18	7	14	0.25	MTB trail mile 9.75	1) Cut up Buckthorn and dead elm on ground 2) Arranged brush into row on trail edge downslope 3) Seeded evening primrose	Buckthorn debris left by contractor in deep snow at end 2022; pics
April 25	12	23	0.25	MTB trail mile 9.75	1) Cut and treated tall stumps from 2020 trail-building 2) Cut up slash on slope. Approx 30 ft 3) Seeded black eyed susan	Used loppers and daubers.
May 2	10	19	0.25	MTB trail mile 9.75	Same as above. No seeding	Same as above. GM too immature for pulling.
06-Jun	8	16	1	1) 9-mile/topo ridge, north end near deer enclosure 2) Far SE MTB trails above Bren Rd.	Pulled & Bagged GM & NLB	Group split up to work two areas.
July 11	10	20	1	1) Prairie unit by Rowland Rd parking lot 2) Foot path thru far N prairie unit, east side, north of trail junction under cottonwoods	1) Prairie: pulled white campion, RCG, Asiatic dayflower, catnip; CST huge burdocks, mulberries. 2) N- footpath: CST fruiting woodys: Buckthorn, non-native honeysuckles	Group split in two: six maintained prairie by the parking lot and four went N to cut woodies. 4 tarp-loads of material removed. 2 brush piles.
Restoration Totals						
Events						7
Hours						140
Area maintained						4 Acres

**Joint Meeting of the Minnetonka Park Board and City Council
Item 3B September 6, 2023**

Subject:	Purgatory Park Master Planning – Project Update
Park Board related goal:	To protect renew and maintain parks and trails
Park Board related objectives:	Review conditions of park facilities, fields, amenities and natural resources to inform park investment plan projects and priorities.
Brief Description:	Presentation on the current status of the Purgatory Park Master Plan project

Background

The Minnetonka City Council approved the updated Parks, Open Space and Trail (POST) System Plan at its April 25, 2022 meeting. The plan was developed over the course of 14 months with consultation from the Park Board and community engagement through extensive public outreach, surveys and feedback.

[Parks, Open Space and Trail \(POST\) System Plan](#)

The POST Plan provides a 15-to-20-year road map for planning and implementing park improvements. Specifically, the plan helps the park board, city council and city staff prioritize park improvements and ensure that changes and investments to parks, trails and open spaces continue to serve the needs of the entire community. Further, it offers guiding principles, recommendations, priorities and tools to help the city, its residents and partners keep Minnetonka’s parks, open space and trail system relevant and functional into the future. Key recommendations from the POST Plan include creating comprehensive master plans for all major community parks, beginning with Purgatory Park.

Development of the Purgatory Park Master Planning began in the spring of 2023. City staff has contracted with consultant Bolton & Menk and their team of park planners, landscape architects, outreach specialists, and engineers to engage with residents and use those findings to create a comprehensive master plan outlining future park improvements.

Master Planning Process

The first stage of master planning began this spring. Through the summer, the team will be collecting input from the residents and park users to inform future recommendations. No park improvements will be recommended until the draft master plan is provided for public comment in the fall of 2023.

Working with Bolton & Menk, city staff including Communications staff, helped create an Outreach and Engagement Plan for the Purgatory Park Master Planning Process. This plan outlines a series of engagement opportunities ranging from formal in-person events, “pop-ups” in the park, and a thorough online engagement process including surveys. The planning process began on June 14, 2023 at the Purgatory Park Planning Open House. This kick-off event allowed over 120 residents to share their feedback with

consultants and staff on hand. The open house featured a variety of background information to peruse and facilitate conversation. Key areas of interest for feedback include “how do you use the park?”, “what do you value about the park?”, and “what concerns about the park do you have?”

Completed outreach events:

- Project Kick-Off Open House – June 14th
- Minnetonka Farmer’s Market – August 15th
- Unmapped Brewing/Base Camp Coffee and Provisions – August 30th

Upcoming outreach events include:

- City of Minnetonka Open House –October 10th

The City is hosting a project website on Minnetonka Matters where project updates will be listed. Residents can sign up for project updates and be provided access to the survey.

More information regarding is available here:

[Purgatory Park Master Plan | Minnetonka Matters](#)

A draft master plan will be made available for public comment and presented to the Park Board late in 2023. This plan will outline short-term and long-term recommendations for potential park improvements. A final master plan document will be created early 2024 and any future park improvements will be incorporated into future Capital Improvement Plans.

Feedback Summary

As of August 28, 2023, there have been approximately 1,700 unique page visits, with nine contributions and 11 guest book entries. 378 residents have filled out the survey.

Key Feedback Themes

- Sense-of-Place - The park adds a significant quality of life improvement for residents of all ages. Residents use the park throughout the year and value its natural resources and trail network to get a sense of connectedness to the outdoors. Folks find a sense of connection to their community members by meeting up at the park for a variety of reasons including but not limited to volunteer natural resources restoration efforts and family bike rides The park is a significant place to exercise via walking, hiking, biking, and jogging.
- Dogs in the Park - Residents from Minnetonka and surrounding communities visit the park to walk with their dog off-leash. A number of sense-of-place values listed above are derived directly from this activity. Other residents have noted that the off-leash dogs have resulted in them no longer visiting the park because of unwanted negative interactions with dogs and dog walkers and negative impacts on the natural resources of the park.
- Trails and Park Access - The trail network, both the formal trail loop maintained by the City and the informal walking paths, are extremely valuable and some

efficiency should be considered, but should generally stay intact. Parking at the northern lot gets busy at times and off-leash dogs released directly from cars complicate the situation. Parking at Stodola Avenue cul-de-sac is an important, highly used access point, but at peak times local residents are impacted by street parking in their neighborhood.

- The Red Barn Site - The Red Barn is an iconic image along Excelsior Boulevard. The City should incorporate the site into the park. Creative uses of the Red Barn site have been suggested including a Climate and Nature Center concept that would highlight the natural resources in the park while functioning as a regional education/public use center.
- Natural Resources - Purgatory Park is a gem of natural resources. Various volunteer communities use the park regularly including restoration volunteers, birders and the geocaching community. More restoration resources should be provided to protect and enhance the plant communities and habitats within the park.

Discussion Questions

Does Park Board and City Council agree with the direction of the Purgatory Park Master Planning process thus far and/or have feedback on specific items or timeline of the project?

Recommended Action

Receive presentation and provide feedback to Staff