

MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



Take action for resilience in your yard

For the past several years, James Lind watched as dry conditions and buckthorn took its toll on what had been a thriving area in his backyard.

"I decided to start a pollinator meadow and participated in a Resilient Landscapes webinar through Metro Blooms and sponsored by the city," Lind said. He doesn't expect immediate results but still can't wait for spring to see how things look.



Before



After

When it comes to our community and the natural environment, few ideas are more important or urgent than resilience. Resilience is the ability to prepare for, recover from and thrive after difficult situations - including extreme weather and other impacts of our changing climate.

Your yard can become a resilient landscape: lovely to look at, lively with pollinators and wildlife and more adaptable to climate stress. A resilient landscape provides so many benefits and services, including cleaner water and air, less soil erosion and need for herbicides and pesticides.

Learn and set goals

Minnetonka's Natural Resources division and its partners offer a variety of free or low-cost workshops and learning modules. Volunteering is another great way to gain skills and experience while helping your community.

Get help to achieve your goals

The Resilient Minnetonka program can help you identify and set goals, overcome barriers and, seek funding. Participants, like Lind, may be eligible for technical assistance and incentives, while funding lasts, such as a free site consultation, buckthorn pick-up or rebate.

Plant for resilience

Two annual programs make it easier for Minnetonka residents to choose, install and maintain plants that build resilience.

- **Tree and shrub sale** - Offers diverse trees and shrubs at a reduced cost. Applications for the lottery are accepted in April.
- **Native plant sale** - Choose plants and seed mixes for a variety of growing conditions. The sale runs online from May through September.

To learn more, visit minnetonkamatters.com/resilient-minnetonka.

Join us for the 2024 State of the City at The Marsh

The Marsh wellness and fitness center will host Minnetonka's annual State of the City Friday, March 15. The midday event will once again feature food from local restaurants.

"It's been nearly a year since the city acquired The Marsh, and in that time, we have seen membership and services grow along with the addition of a café," said Minnetonka Mayor Brad Wiersum. "We also know many people have never set foot in the building, so this will be a great opportunity to visit our newest community asset."

Friday, March 15
11:30 a.m. reception
Noon program
The Marsh, 15000
Minnetonka Blvd.



The event will be available via livestream for anyone unable to attend in person. It is free and open to the public.

NEW!

Read Minnetonka's Annual Report and Strategic Profile on Page 5

2024 market values hold steady

Minnetonka's real estate market saw minimal change this past year. The median Minnetonka home value increased slightly to \$502,200.

Average 2024 property value change by type*

Single-family homes	0.8 percent increase
Townhouses	1.3 percent increase
Condominiums	0.3 percent decrease
Commercial	0.7 percent decrease
Apartments	3 percent decrease
Industrial	2.6 percent increase

*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 to your market value. If not, you have the right to appeal by March 29, 2024.

Tax notices arrive this month

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

- Market valuation notice from the city, which affects taxes paid in 2025.
- Property tax bill for 2024 from Hennepin County, which must be paid this year.

Do you qualify for a property tax refund?

The state offers regular and special property tax refund programs to assist homeowners.

- **Regular property tax refund:** available to homeowners whose 2023 household income was less than \$135,410.
- **Special property tax refund:** available to homeowners whose property tax increased by more than 12 percent from 2023 to 2024. Additional requirements may apply.

Visit revenue.state.mn.us/property-tax-refund to learn more about these programs, as well as a senior citizens property tax deferral and foreclosure preventing counseling.

Learn more

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



Learn life skills.
Make connections and friends.
Earn money.
Work a schedule that fits your life.
Make a difference.



JOIN OUR SUMMER SEASONAL TEAM

minnetonkamn.gov/jobs

Vote in the presidential primary March 5

Minnesota's presidential nomination primary election is Tuesday, March 5.



HOURS

7 a.m.-8 p.m.

If you're in line at 8 p.m. you're allowed to vote.



LOCATIONS AND BALLOT

Find your polling place and view a sample ballot at pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us.



REGISTRATION

Voters can register at the polls with proper proof of residence.



POLITICAL PARTY

Voters must select a political party at the polls to vote for the candidate they want to represent that party in the November election.



VOTE ABSENTEE

Extended absentee in-person hours:

14600 Minnetonka Blvd.

Saturday, March 2 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Monday, March 4 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Mail-in ballots will also be accepted at city hall up until 8 p.m. on election night.

More information

- Visit minnetonkamn.gov/elections
- Call 952-939-8200
- Email elections@minnetonkamn.gov

Register your alarms, security cameras

Partner with Minnetonka Police Department to help officers more efficiently respond to crime.

All homeowners and businesses must register alarm systems with the Minnetonka Police Department through CryWolf Services. Register, pay online (\$20 annual fee) and find tips to prevent false alarms at minnetonkamn.gov/alarm-registration.

The department also offers two voluntary programs to register residential and commercial surveillance camera systems. SafeCam and Neighbors by Ring allows you to share potentially valuable video to help address property crimes. Learn more at minnetonkamn.gov/safecam.

Find more crime prevention services at minnetonkamn.gov/police. Questions? Call 952-939-8500.



Be an election judge

Apply to serve as an election judge for the Aug. 13 primary and Nov. 5 general elections.

To maintain balanced party representation at our polling places, there is a current staffing need for judges affiliated with the Republican or Legalize Marijuana Now parties or not affiliated with a major political party.

Apply at minnetonkamn.gov/jobs beginning March 18.



Ages 1-9

Spring Eggstravaganza

Calling all egg hunters to our annual spring event featuring an egg scavenger hunt, photos with the bunny, dancing, face painting, crafts, treats and games. Please bring a basket for egg hunting! Registration is required at minnetonkamn.gov/register.

Saturday, March 23
10-11:30 a.m.
Minnetonka Community Center

\$11 (#2200401-01)



Saturday, April 20
Minnetonka Community Center

Session 1	Session 2
9-11 a.m.	11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
(2020701-01)	(2020701-02)

\$35/team per session

Calling all puzzle lovers!

Are you looking for some fun, friendly competition?

Gather your team (up to 4) and compete to see who can complete the same 500-piece puzzle the fastest. Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place. Perfect to do with family or friends!



Registration is required; one person per team should register. You may register for both sessions; a separate puzzle will be used for each. Register by April 10 at minnetonkamn.gov/register.

SPONSOR



SPONSOR



Drop-in Hands-only CPR Classes

First Tuesday of every month
5:30-6:30 p.m.

Minnetonka Central Fire Station
14450 Minnetonka Blvd.



Learn more about our department at minnetonkamn.gov/fire

2023 ANNUAL REPORT and STRATEGIC PROFILE



MINNETONKA'S CITY COUNCIL constructs a budget that aligns with the city's strategic profile. In 2023, Minnetonka realized long-term visions with projects like Ridgedale Commons, the city's first urban park, and Tonka-Woodcroft Improvements, the city's largest reconstruction project. The purchase of The Marsh was an unexpected opportunity made possible by the city's consistently stable financial management. More than 1,300 people provided feedback on the purchase through Minnetonka Matters. This year, the community continues to guide the future of The Marsh and other community assets with the Community Facilities Study.



Strategic profile

Minnetonka's strategic profile is built around six priorities that lead to strategies and action steps. This annual report highlights progress made in each area and outlines new strategies for 2024. View the dashboard and track progress anytime at [Minnetonkamn.gov/city-data](https://minnetonkamn.gov/city-data).



Annual community survey

Source: Census Bureau & Census Bureau & 2023 Minnetonka Resident Survey



Population
54,474



Like most
25%
Natural environment
and open spaces



Like Least
19%
Lack of
sidewalks/trails



Lived here
20+ years
21%



Moved here less
than 5 years ago
33%

For more than a decade, Minnetonka residents have ranked their quality of life among the top three suburbs in the metropolitan area. City services also continue to be the most highly rated in the area. The value of those services continues to rank highly as well, receiving a 90 percent positive rating in the most recent community survey.

A successfully connected community

In 2023, Minnetonka Matters logged nearly 5,000 contributions from community members. Visitors provided comments, completed surveys and uploaded photos on a wide range of community projects. The feedback helps guide the work of Minnetonka's city council, its boards and commissions and staff.



Top Projects	Number of participants
The Marsh	1,301
Community Facilities Study	1,281
Adult-use cannabis	910
Climate Action and Adaptation Plan	751
Community Forest Management Plan	178

Financial Strength and Operational Excellence

Minnetonka has consistently ranked among the metro area’s top three suburban communities for more than a decade. The city maintains a long-term positive financial position by balancing revenues and expenditures for operations, debt management and capital investments.



Minnetonka consistently receives the highest possible bond rating.



90 percent of residents surveyed rate the quality of city services as good or excellent.



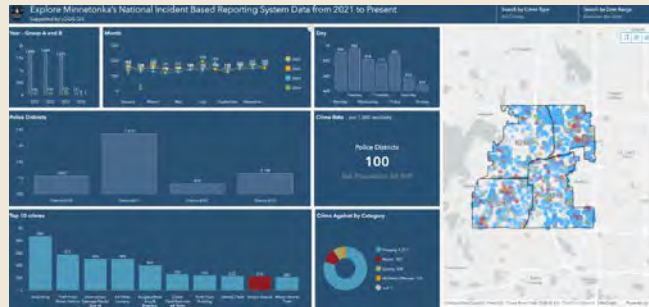
Ridgedale Commons is Minnetonka’s newest city park.

Safe and Healthy Community

A new police cadet program will build a strong, diverse pipeline of future officers. New public dashboards help display crime and other public safety trends. The acquisition of The Marsh preserved and stabilized a unique community asset.



Justin Johnson is a former college and pro football player transitioning to a career in law enforcement.



New public dashboards add transparency to public safety operations.



The city successfully acquired and reopened The Marsh fitness and wellness center.

Sustainability and Natural Environment

The community is developing strategies and resources to help prepare for, recover from and thrive in a difficult and changing climate. More than 1,000 participants provided feedback for Minnetonka’s Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.



A climate action plan will set strategies to better prepare for extreme weather events and reduce greenhouse gases.



Resilient Minnetonka provides resources and technical landscaping assistance.



Minnetonka is developing a plan to evaluate the health of trees across the city and plan for the future of our community forest.

Livable and Well-Planned Development

The city continues to take steps to diversify Minnetonka’s housing stock with plans to add more affordable housing. Planners are working with developers to support the growth and redevelopment of the Opus Area and related improvements.



The transformation of the Opus Area continues with new affordable housing and design of a new public space adjacent to the Minnetonka light rail station.



A new rental registration program aims to support property owners and their tenants with better information and housing resources.



Health inspectors visited more than 700 facilities. Building inspectors conducted more than 15,000 inspections and issued around 8,000 permits.

Infrastructure and Asset Management

Minnetonka uses long-term planning to provide safe, efficient and well-run infrastructure and transportation systems. The goal is the preserve long-term investments and ensure reliable services.



Tonka Woodcroft Improvements reconstructed 6 miles of streets and utilities and added a new mile-long trail.



The city operates nine electric vehicle charging stations serving more than 1,000 drivers with 6,855 sessions.



Work is underway on the Hopkins Crossroads Trail providing another valuable community connection.

Community Inclusiveness

Minnetonka works to create a community that embraces new perspectives and experiences to build an inclusive and equitable city for all. A newly created DEI commission will begin work in 2024.



The New Americans Academy introduces participants to the city, its services and helps them better understand their rights.



Increased scholarships and internships provide youth with new professional opportunities.



Sensory Room

A sensory room is now available at all city events to provide the best sensory input for attendees with specific needs.

City of Minnetonka Calendar

- 4** City Council/EDA, 7 p.m.
- 5** Presidential Nomination Primary, 7 a.m.
- 6** Park Board, 6:30 p.m.
- 7** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 12** Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
- 14** Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
- 15** State of the City, 11:30 a.m.
- 18** City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
- 19** Sustainability Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 20** Managing Buckthorn Workshop, 6:30 p.m.
- 21** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 23** Spring Eggstravaganza, 10 a.m.
- 25** City Council/EDA, 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.



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 952-939-8200 | minnetonkamn.gov

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Council

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Ward 2: Rebecca Schack 612-590-3735
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City Manager
 Mike Funk 952-939-8200
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PRESORTED
 STANDARD
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 CITY OF MINNETONKA

**ECRWSS
 POSTAL PATRON**

Community Solar Workshop

Learn the benefits of solar energy and how you can save on your energy bill – even without a yard or roof!



**March 12
 7-8:30 p.m.**

**Community Center
 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.**

Make it a summer to remember

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

	Registration opens 8 a.m.	How to register
General recreation programs	Tuesday, March 5	minnetonkamn.gov/register 952-939-8203
Senior programs	Thursday, March 7	minnetonkamn.gov/register 952-939-8393
Ice skating lessons	Tuesday, March 19	minnetonkamn.gov/register 952-939-8310
Swimming lessons	Wednesday, May 15	minnetonkamn.gov/register 952-939-8203