

minnetonka memo

*A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka
April 2016*

Planting the seeds for solar energy

The City of Minnetonka has been working for years to reduce its ecological footprint and save taxpayer dollars through energy saving initiatives. From installing more efficient lights, to improving insulation in buildings, the city is continuously updating its systems to be as “green” and cost effective as possible. Now, the city is making plans to harness the power of the sun to save even more energy and tax dollars in the coming years.



Solar energy is one of the most clean and affordable ways to generate electricity, yet space constraints often present hurdles to implementing the technology. In 2013, the city of Minnetonka considered placing solar panels on the only flat-roof building available, the public works building, but found that the panels would interfere with roof replacement and would not have met the building's energy needs. The city opted to wait for a solution that would generate more power and savings.

When a state law passed in 2013 that enabled community solar gardens in Minnesota, a new option emerged. Under this program, developers can build solar gardens, which are facilities that use ground-mounted or roof-mounted solar panels to

generate electricity that flows into the electrical power grid. Xcel Energy customers, such as the city, may contract with these developers and purchase a subscription to the garden.

The subscriber will then receive a discount on their bill based on the amount of energy the garden produces for that customer contract.

There are several requirements that complicate the process of building and participating in a solar garden. First, the garden must be located in the subscriber's county or an adjacent county. Additionally, each garden is limited to a specified number of kilowatts and no more than five gardens are allowed at any given site. In addition, they must be constructed close to Xcel Energy transmission infrastructure suitable for connection to the garden. Not only do these factors significantly reduce the number of sites available, it also creates a sense of urgency, because once the suitable sites are filled, the opportunity to participate will be lost.

When the city received a proposal from a solar garden developer early last year, both staff and the city council had many questions. To answer these questions, the city partnered with a local energy consultant to research solar garden participation and potential savings to the city.

What is a solar garden?

When most people think of gardens, they picture rows of plants or produce. In a solar garden, the plants are replaced by ground-mounted solar panels that harness the power of the sun to produce electric energy.

Subscribing to a solar garden will allow the city to:

- Reap the benefits of solar energy
- Save from \$7 to \$25 million on energy costs over a 25 year period
- Power streetlights, water systems, buildings, and more
- Reduce our impact on the environment

A win-win situation

Through this research, the city discovered that participation in a solar garden was a win-win situation – not only did it have the potential to return \$7 to \$25 million in energy savings over 25 years, it could also be done with no financial commitment from the city. The report also determined that out of the more than 30 solar garden developers in the area (none of which are in Minnetonka), only three were recommended to have the capability to successfully build solar gardens that could meet the city's requirements. The report also highlighted that because it takes roughly 15.7 million kW hours to run the city's buildings, street lights and water systems, the city would need to subscribe to multiple gardens to harness enough energy.

In order to move quickly, the city made the decision to negotiate directly with three developers to ensure competitive agreements.

The vendor contracts were approved by the city council on August 31, 2015.

Finalizing the details

Despite contract negotiations being completed, however, some hurdles still remain. Before the city will be able to participate, each of the three contractors must finalize the details of their agreements with Xcel Energy, and those negotiations are in process but out of the city's hands. “The city has committed to taking part in solar energy and has done what we can to move this forward,” Public Works Director Brian Wagstrom said. “Now it is up to Xcel Energy and the developers to finalize the details.”

If all goes as planned, Wagstrom says one of the developers could be up and running with a solar garden as early as the end of 2016, and the other two could be ready to go by 2017. The cost savings will be immediate, with Xcel Energy crediting the city's account based on how much energy each solar garden produces. “This is all part of a bigger plan to reduce the city's energy consumption,” said Wagstrom. “Powering city facilities with solar energy will not only save taxpayers and businesses money, it will also greatly reduce the city's impact on the environment, thereby ensuring the viability of the city for generations to come.”

Interested in using solar to power your home or business?

If you're interested in learning how to harness solar energy for your home or businesses, visit the American Solar Energy Society's website at energysage.com/ases for more information.

City acquires 30 acres of land for Open Space Preservation Program

The city of Minnetonka is revered for its abundance of open spaces, trees, wildlife and waterways. It's no accident that these beautiful features exist throughout the city – for over half a century, city leaders have been dedicated to preserving the open spaces that give the community its unique character.

Minnetonka has a long-standing commitment to open space preservation. During the city's high-growth development period from the 1960s through the mid-1990s, city leaders systematically acquired natural areas throughout the community to be enjoyed by future generations, including many parcels along Minnehaha Creek and in the city's large community parks.

As the city built out and development pressures increased, in the late 1990s the city council appointed a citizen advisory Open Space Preservation Task Force to institute an open space preservation program.

In particular, the task force identified the need for a referendum to accelerate land acquisition for preservation. After the successful passage of a voter-approved \$15 million referendum in 2001, half of which was dedicated to open space preservation, the city set to work prioritizing available areas for preservation under the new program. Each piece of land was evaluated for its open space value, followed by a determination of the best way to preserve it. Preservation strategies were developed for each of these areas, ranging from the negotiation of easements to outright purchase.

One of the properties that came to the forefront during prioritization was then 90-year-old Ann Cullen Smith's 30-acre plot located between Meadow Park and Interstate 494. As one of the largest single unspoiled parcels of land in Minnetonka, the city identified it as the most important to purchase.

Though many developers had called Ann with offers – and there were houses being built on all sides of her property – she said “no” to all of them. An avid birder and lover of nature, Ann wanted to see her property remain untouched for many years to come.

When the City of Minnetonka approached Ann with a proposal to buy the land, she agreed to sell the property for \$2.6 million, less than half of what she could have received from a developer. Ann had only two conditions: the city would receive the land upon her passing, and the Minnesota Land Trust would hold a permanent conservation easement on the property to ensure that the land remained in its natural state forever.

A vast legacy

Ann moved to her property in 1937 and raised her family there. She lived a long and vibrant life, traveling across the globe observing new birds and meeting new friends. At age 104, she was instrumental in saving an important hummingbird habitat in Arizona from development.

When she passed away at age 106 in January 2015, Ann's generous land dedication became the crowning jewel in the City of Minnetonka's Open Space Preservation Program. “Ann was a very passionate resident and was happy to be able to leave this legacy,” said Assistant City Manager Perry Vetter. “Thanks to Ann, we have been able to preserve an important and vast piece of Minnetonka's natural history.”

The land will be used as a conservation area for birdwatching and hiking, with a few walking paths throughout, just as Ann wanted. In the spring of 2015, the city began the long process of preparing the land for residents to enjoy. Vetter says, “We have considered what Ann would want us to do with the property every step of the way.” When it came time to remove Ann's house, the city worked with an organization that was able to recycle and reuse 92 percent of the materials, which is significantly higher than industry standards. “We knew Ann would have appreciated that,” said Vetter.

This spring, the city will begin the arduous task of removing several invasive plants that have taken over, including buckthorn, garlic mustard seed and others. The city is exploring several options for managing the unwanted vegetation, including mechanical and natural methods.

Once the land is free of invasive species, the city's natural resources division can more accurately evaluate the land's ecosystems, which will help determine the appropriate placement for walking paths. “We need to remove those invasive species so we can better understand the land's unique characteristics,” said Vetter. “This will help us conserve the natural beauty of the space as we consider any future improvements.”

Vetter says he estimates it will take at least three to five years to get the invasive species under control, and then the park board and city council will discuss a planning process for determining improvements that would allow visitors to access the property. Though it's a lengthy process, Vetter says preserving open spaces will benefit the community for many years to come. “It allows us to preserve the character of the city and set Minnetonka apart from other suburbs,” he said. “Plus, we are maintaining our natural resources for everyone to enjoy.”



Ann and her son Bill Cullen

To learn more about the City of Minnetonka's Open Space Preservation Program, visit eminnetonka.com/parks/open-space-preservation.

Silver Skates Ice Revue is April 28, 29 and 30

Minnetonka Ice Arena's All Season Skating School is proud to present the 42nd Annual Silver Skates Ice Revue, "Star Struck." More than 200 skaters from Minnetonka and surrounding communities are featured again this year.

Show times are:

Thursday, April 28, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, April 29, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 30, 2 p.m.

General admission for each performance is \$6, with free admission for children under 5. Senior citizens and individuals with special needs are granted free admission to the Saturday afternoon performance. Don't forget to bring a coat or blanket, as it does get cold in the ice arena.



Summer Skating Lessons

Interested in skating lessons? Summer skating lessons for both children and adults are held Monday evenings beginning June 13. Call the Minnetonka Ice Arena at 952-939-8310 or visit eminnetonka.com for more information.

Home repair loans available for limited time

For a limited time only, the city is accepting applications for the Small Projects Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program. This program offers up to \$5,000 through a 0 percent, no interest, no payment, deferred loan, for homeowners wanting to make eligible home improvements. If you continue to own and live in your home for 10 years after receiving a loan, the loan is completely forgiven.

To be eligible, your income must not exceed:

Household Size	Income Limit
1 person	\$46,100
2 person	\$52,650
3 person	\$59,250
4 person	\$65,800
5 person	\$71,100
6 person	\$76,350
7 person	\$81,600
8 person	\$86,900



Applications will be available starting at 8 a.m. Monday, April 11, and will be accepted on a first come, first served basis until Wednesday, April 27. For application forms and more information about the program, visit eminnetonka.com/housing, stop by City Hall (14600 Minnetonka Boulevard), or call 952-939-8290. Remember, there are a limited number of loans available, so you must act quickly!

Other Opportunities Available

If you don't meet the guidelines for the small projects program, there are several other home repair loans available for Minnetonka residents. Call 952-939-8290 or visit eminnetonka.com/housing to learn more about these opportunities.

Learn more about becoming a Burwell House tour guide

Originally built by the Burwell family in 1883 and purchased by the city in 1970, the historical Charles H. Burwell house at 13209 E. McGinty Road is a treasured city resource. Meticulously restored to its original character, regular tours are offered to give visitors of all ages a chance to experience what life was like in the late nineteenth century. In order to make these tours possible, however, the city must rely on volunteers from the community.

Find out what it takes to become a Burwell House tour guide at one of the following open house events. Attendees will meet other guides and get a tour of the house.

Tuesday, April 26 at 5:30-6:30 p.m.

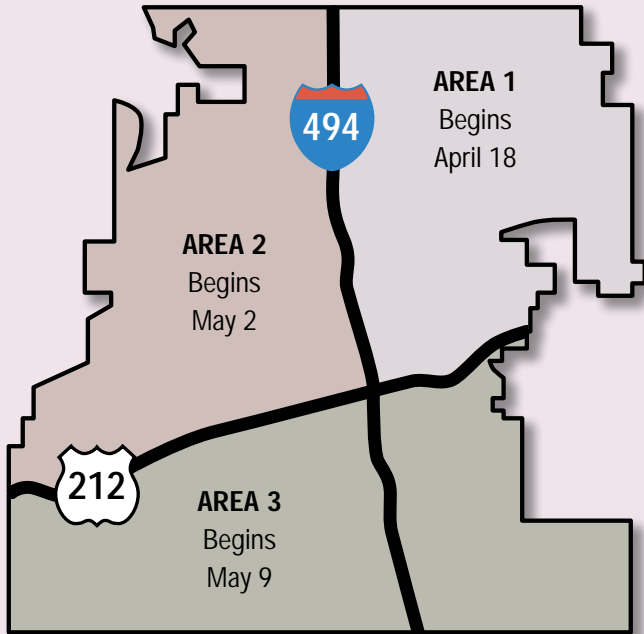
Tuesday, May 3 at 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Volunteering at the Burwell House is a unique way to connect with the community and learn more about Minnetonka's history. For more information on becoming a tour guide, or to RSVP to an open house event, contact Moranda Zimmer at 952-939-8219 or mzimmer@eminnetonka.com.



Water main flushing starts Monday, April 18

Minnetonka Public Works will flush water mains throughout the city from April 18 through May 12, weekdays from 5:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in most areas. See the map to determine dates in your area.



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

April 18

Ridgedale business area:
5:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

May 2

Minnetonka Industrial Road, Twelve Oaks Center,
Carlson Parkway:
5 a.m. – 5 p.m.

May 14

Opus, Beachside, K-Tel, Clearwater Drive,
Whitewater Drive, Culligan Way:
3 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Flushing schedules may be adjusted due to weather conditions. During the flushing period it is normal to experience some discolored water. This water is safe to drink and can be cleared up by running the cold water in your laundry tub. If you experience problems, please contact Minnetonka Public Works at 952-988-8400.

Try home organics recycling and get the first year free

Interested in trying home organics collection? Thanks to a \$13,000 grant from Hennepin County, the first 150 Minnetonka residents who sign up for organics recycling in 2016 will receive one free year of service, paid for by the city. Many residents have already taken advantage of this offer, but there are still slots remaining.

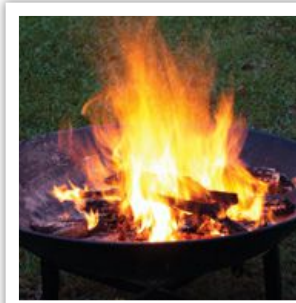
Organics collection includes food scraps, food-soiled paper products, and other compostable items. Organics make up roughly 25 percent of the residential waste stream, and collecting this material for composting keeps it from being incinerated or dumped into landfills.

Visit eminnetonka.com to get the complete details on how to participate. This offer only applies to new organics recycling customers.

Recreational fire reminders

Now that spring is here, the Minnetonka Fire Department would like to remind residents to be careful when enjoying recreational fires. Please keep the following guidelines in mind:

- Consider the weather before burning; a day with high winds or dry conditions may not be the best time.
- Make sure your fire is constantly attended and you have an extinguishing method readily available.



Remember, too, that recreational campfires require a permit from the Minnetonka Fire Department, which can be obtained at eminnetonka.com. Even with a permit, however, the burning of brush, trash and leaves is not allowed.

Beyond minding the conditions of the

recreational fire permit, consider your neighbors as well. Please remember that smoke and the smell of smoke often carries into neighboring homes, even on calm days. In addition to the fact that not everyone likes the smell of a campfire (especially inside their home), smoke is also an irritant for those with chronic respiratory issues such as asthma, or other health problems.

Thank you for following these guidelines as you enjoy the great outdoors!



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Programs and services for those 55+
April 2016 Newsletter

Co ee with Natural Resources

Monday, April 11, 11 a.m.

Everyone knows that landscaping can increase your home's curb appeal, but did you know that by using sustainable and natural landscaping techniques you are also conserving water? Join Natural Resources Manager Jo Colleran and learn how to reduce water use and how to protect our lakes, wetlands and creeks. Refreshments will be served.

Cost: \$2 (Course #2180401-01)

Volunteer Social

Wednesday, April 13, Noon

Volunteers, please let us show our appreciation and join us for a social.

Menu: Baked potato bar and dessert.

Cost: Free! RSVP by Monday, April 11 (Course #3100101-01)

Ask a Pharmacy Student

UMN Pharmacy Students

Tuesday, April 19, 10:30 a.m.

Diabetes, blood pressure, cholesterol, heart failure, asthma, COPD, arthritis, joint health, vitamins, supplements, prescription medications and more. Pharmacy students from the University of Minnesota will be available to answer questions and provide information about your medications, health conditions and concerns.

Cost: Free! (Course #2180416-01)

Sips & Songs

Enjoy light refreshments and socializing before taking in local entertainment. Live it up, reserve your seat today!

Charlie Heymann

Wednesday, April 20, 10:30 a.m.

Tap your toes to Irish songs and dance music performed on the cittern and button accordion.

Charlie Heymann has entertained audiences with songs and stories for over 40 years!

Cost: \$3 (Course #2100302-01)

Sponsored by:

Brookdale Senior Living

SENIORS Expo

9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Thursday, May 5

Save the date for the Seniors Expo! Event features exhibitors, presentations, health screenings, activities, fitness demonstrations, refreshments and prizes. This event is open to the public and free of charge.

Presentations:

- Yes, You Can... Defy Your Chronological Age, 10 a.m.
- Online Selling, Noon

Sponsored by:

Changing Lifestyle Solution. Emerald Crest. ComForCare Home Care Meals on Wheels-South Shore. Landmark Tours. WestRidge of Minnetonka Homewatch CareGivers. Legacy Care Home

Lunch and a Movie Everest

Friday, April 22, Noon

Based on a true-life tale of death and survival, this epic adventure tracks the fate of two climbing parties as they encounter a massive snowstorm on Mount Everest.

Menu: Pulled pork sandwich, potato salad, chips and a treat.

Cost: \$5 due Tuesday, April 19. (Course #2100204-01)

Community Connections:

e Lives of Wolves, Coyotes & Foxes

Stan Tekiela

Monday, April 25, 10:30 a.m.

Take a fascinating look at some of the most intriguing animals in the wild. Featuring award winning images and fun and entertaining information, this presentation is a visual feast. Provided by Lake Minnetonka Senior Care Providers: Community Connections.

Cost: \$2 (Course #2180410-01)

Financial Fraud Protection

Tuesday, April 26, 10 a.m.

Learn about financial fraud, stranger scams and family financial exploitation. A representative from the MN Elder Justice Center, along with the Minnetonka Police Department, will highlight local senior fraud cases and share helpful tips and techniques to take measures against this growing national problem impacting retirees. Refreshments provided.

Cost: Free! (Course #2180414-01)

Grief, Loss, Transition and Downsizing

Marcie Spears

Thursday, April 28, 6:30 p.m.

Join Marcie Spears of Organizing Angel and learn how to downsize your things in the midst of emotional situations. Go from stuck and overwhelmed to hopeful and confident. Gain the tools you need to reclaim your space. Topics include: "How will I know when I'm ready?" and "How do I do it my way?"

Cost: \$2 (Course #2180405-01)



Fitness Programs

Over 50 and Fit

Volunteer Instructors

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 9 a.m.

Join this social group and enjoy music and fitness three days a week!

- Annual Fee: \$12
(Course #4090702-01)

Therapeutic Pilates

Dr. Sarah Petich

Mondays, April 4–May 16 (no class 4/11)
8:30–9:30 a.m.

Pilates is a great low-impact gentle, but challenging, full-body workout that focuses on improving posture, flexibility and core strength. Work on posture alignment techniques, core-strengthening exercises, flexibility, balance and breathing techniques. Taught by a physical therapist certified in Pilates and Postural Restoration. Please bring a yoga or Pilates mat to class.

- \$54 (Course #2090901-03)

Tai Chi Chih

Susan Sobelson

Mondays, April 4–May 23

Experience a form of “moving meditation” with benefits for body, mind and spirit. This series of 19 easy-to-learn movements creates a sense of calm and can improve balance, mental clarity and energy levels. Permission of instructor required for intermediate level.

- Beginner, \$40, 10–11 a.m.
(Course #2090301-02)
- Intermediate, \$40, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
(Course #2090302-02)

Tai Chi for Health and Wellness

Ron Erdman-Luntz

Tuesdays, April 7–May 12, 6–7 p.m.

Tai Chi short-form movements have many health benefits and are fun to learn. The slow, circular movements help to improve balance and relaxation. Must be able to walk comfortably for an hour. Wear comfortable clothes and athletic shoes.

- \$54 (Course #2090401-03)



Senior Yoga

	Instructor	Dates	Day	Times	Fee	Course #
Chair-Supported Yoga	Nancy Holasek	May 10–June 28	T	9:45–10:45 a.m.	\$48	3090101-01
	Nancy Holasek	May 12–June 30	TH	9:45–10:45 a.m.	\$48	3090101-02
	Nancy Holasek	July 12–Aug. 16	T	9:45–10:45 a.m.	\$36	3090101-03
	Nancy Holasek	July 14–Aug. 18	TH	9:45–10:45 a.m.	\$36	3090101-04
	Elizabeth Kelly	May 11–June 29	W	6:15–7:15 p.m.	\$48	3090101-05
	Elizabeth Kelly	July 13–Aug. 17	W	6:15–7:15 p.m.	\$36	3090101-06
Intermediate Yoga	Nancy Holasek	May 10–June 28	T	11 a.m. – noon	\$48	3090201-01
	Nancy Holasek	May 12–June 30	TH	11 a.m. – noon	\$48	3090201-02
	Nancy Holasek	July 12–Aug. 16	T	11 a.m. – noon	\$36	3090201-03
	Nancy Holasek	July 14–Aug. 18	TH	11 a.m. – noon	\$36	3090201-04
	Elizabeth Kelly	May 11–June 29	W	7:30 – 8:30 p.m.	\$48	3090201-05
	Elizabeth Kelly	July 13–Aug. 17	W	7:30 – 8:30 p.m.	\$36	3090201-06

New! Wedding Dances

Tricia Wood

Saturdays, April 2–23
10–10:50 a.m.

Learn the most useful dances covering the widest variety of both modern pop music and traditional ballroom music you'll hear played at wedding receptions and galas! No partners needed.

- \$52 (Course #3091001-01)

New! Latin Dance

Tricia Wood

Saturdays, April 2–23
11–11:50 a.m.

Heat up the season whether you're listening to a Latin band, or going on a tropical vacation. Learn the merengue, salsa and cha-cha! No partners needed.

- \$52 (Course #3091002-01)

Community Dance

Friday, April 22, 6:15–9:30 p.m.

Dance to the music of the Moonlight Serenaders Big Band, at Eisenhower Community Center, 1001 Hwy. 7, Hopkins.
Dance lesson at 6:15 p.m. Dance at 7 p.m.

- \$13 in advance
- \$15 at the door.

Fee includes dance lessons, refreshments and dance.

Call Minnetonka Community Education to register, 952-401-6800.

Zumba Gold

Renee Rahimi

Ditch the workout and join the party! Zumba Gold is a Latin-inspired dance-fitness program featuring easy-to-follow rhythms and a variety of upbeat music. It is a low-impact, less-intense form of Zumba designed for beginners and active older adults. Working out has never been so much fun!

Mondays, 12:45 – 1:45 p.m.

- April 4–May 16
\$35 (Course #2090501-02)

Wednesdays, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

- April 6–May 18
\$35 (Course #2090501-06)

Art Programs

Watercolor Studies: The Painting Process

Gin Weidenfeller

Wednesdays, April 13–20
1–3 p.m.

Refine painting techniques and skills including creative marks, ratios, strokes, washes and concepts. Merge technique with expressing creativity to create spring paintings.

\$40 (Course #2130101-01)

Athletic Activities

Adult Golf League (50+)

Mondays, May 2–Aug. 29

A great way to meet new people, this informal 16-week co-ed league plays at four area golf courses: Glen Lake, Braemar, Baker and Eagle Lake. Participants are rotated with different players each week.

- \$230 due April 13,
(No league play May 30 and July 4)
Tee times: 9:30–10:30 a.m.
(Course #3120401-01)

70+ Softball

**Mondays and Wednesdays, 9 a.m.–noon
April–October**

Slow-pitch softball is played at Big Willow Fields #5-6, 11522 Minnetonka Blvd. Modified rules allow for competitive play without the risk of serious injury. Registration will be accepted throughout the season.

- \$25 (Course #3120201-01)

Indoor Pickleball

October–May

Try the fun and social game of pickleball. Limited supplies are available.

- Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 7:30–10 a.m.
- Thursdays and Fridays, 7:30–9:30 a.m.
- Saturdays, 1–3 p.m.
- Free for Williston, SilverSneakers and Silver and Fit members. \$4 per day for non-members.

**Williston Fitness Center
14509 Minnetonka Drive**

Minnetonka Bike Club

Kick O Meeting

Thursday, April 7, 9:30 a.m.

The goal of the club is to provide moderate exercise under safe conditions and encourage social interaction and friendship. These groups accommodate different levels of ability. More information at mtkabikers.org

- \$8 (Course #4120102-01)

Help with Electronic Devices

Monday, April 18, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Hopkins High School seniors will offer free one-on-one training on cell phones, digital cameras, iPads, iPods, etc. This is a great way to learn and to enjoy visiting with students.

Free! (Course #2180412-01)

Leisure Programs

Mahjongg

Carole Harris

**Wednesdays, April 6–May 18
10 a.m.–noon**

Learn to play the intriguing game of Mahjongg, a game of chance and skill.

- \$56 (Course #2190201-01)



Continuing Bridge

Lee Solee

**Mondays, April 18–May 16
1–3 p.m.**

Continue learning to bid and score during the challenging game of bridge. Please bring a deck of cards.

- \$30 (Course #3190301-01)

Education Programs

New! Healthy Living: Advanced Care Planning and End of Life

Dr. Sicora and Maureen Tyra

Monday, May 2, 1–3 p.m.

Learn about the options for end of life and advanced care planning. Necessary forms will be available on site. Provided by North Memorial Health Care.

- \$2 (Course #2180417-01)

New! Mind Fit

Carrie Dunkley, BSHA

**Tuesdays, May 17–June 21
9–10:30 a.m.**

Just like the body, the brain can show signs of aging. Learn about proactive ways to enhance cognitive functioning, including fun group activities, during this informative six-part series led by a brain fitness expert.

- \$12 (Course #3180401-01)

Defensive Driving

Register through MN Highway Safety Center, 1-888-234-1294, or visit mnsafetycenter.org for all classes.

4-hour renewal sessions:

- \$22, Thursday, April 7,
9 a.m.–1 p.m.
- \$22, Thursday, April 28,
9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Chow with the Chief

Tuesday, April 26, 5:30 p.m.

Tour Minnetonka Fire Station 1 and visit with the chief and firefighters. 14550 Minnetonka Blvd. Parking available at city hall.

Menu: Grilled hot dogs, chips and beverage.
Free! (Course #2180415-01)

History Programs

Scottish Estates

Terry Kubista

**Thursdays, April 7–28
1–3 p.m.**

Stories and inner workings of four of Scotland's most magnificent country estates through the eyes of the owners and those who keep the estates operating. Inveraray Castle, Dumfries House, Kincardine Castle and Rosslyn Chapel will be discussed.

- \$28 (Course #2180101-04)

Prohibition in Minnesota

Dan Hartman

**Wednesday, April 13
10:30 a.m.–noon**

Examine the effects of Prohibition in Minnesota including the well-known Minnesota 13, a group of moonshiners in Stearns County. Also, take a look at the caves in St. Paul and learn how they were used during Prohibition.

- \$3 (Course #3180201-01)

Interest Groups

Interest groups are coordinated and led by seniors in the community. All groups meet at the Minnetonka Community Center, unless noted otherwise.

Bird Club

1st Friday, 10 a.m.

Speaker: Karla Bloem, Great Horned Owls

Book Club

3rd Thursday, 1 p.m.

by Jhumpa Lahiri

Garden Club

2nd Monday, 1 p.m.

Tour of plantings at Tonkadale

Literary Book Club

4th Tuesday, 7:15 p.m.

Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde

Senior Day Trips

Serving in Minnesota

ursday, May 19

Discover the stories and contribution of Minnesota citizens who have served and sacrificed from our state's earliest years to the present in all branches of service. Enjoy lunch at the Black & White restaurant in downtown Little Falls before going on a public art tour through town with a local guide.

Menu: Soup and sandwich with beverage and dessert.

(Course# 3110101-01)

- **Cost:** \$66 includes tours, meal, transportation and guide
- **Estimated trip time:** 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- **Registration deadline:** Friday, April 15



Income Tax Assistance

This free tax program is designed to help individuals with moderate to low income with basic taxes. Please call senior services at 952-939-8393 to schedule an appointment. Hurry! Space is limited.

- Mondays and Thursdays, Feb. 8 – April 14.
- Appointment times available include: 12:30 p.m., 1:45 p.m. and 3 p.m.
- Bring your photo ID, last year's taxes and social security card.

Volunteer

Adopt a Highway

ursday, April 28, 1 p.m.

Meet at the Minnetonka Community Center and help pick up along Minnetonka Boulevard. Safety vest, pick-up sticks and bags provided. Please RSVP to the office in person or by calling 952-939-8393.

Services

Blood Pressure Screenings

*1st and 3rd Fridays; 2nd Wednesdays
9:30 – 11:30 a.m., Free!*

Provided by volunteer nurses.

Happy Feet

*1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Fridays,
9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$36*

Provided by nurses specializing in foot care. For appointment call 763-560-5136.

Senior Community Services

Senior Outreach Social Worker

Lisa Engdahl

2nd and 4th Tuesdays, Free!

Discuss finances, transportation, personal care, medical care, home maintenance and more. For appointment call 952-939-8393.

Health Insurance Counseling

1st and 3rd Mondays, Free!

Discuss Medicare, Social Security, long-term care, resources and more! For appointment call 952-939-8393.

HOME

Household and Outside Maintenance for Elderly (HOME) is available for Minnetonka residents 60 and older. For information call 952-746-4046 or visit the Community Center on Fridays, 9 a.m. – noon.

CareNextion

carenextion.org

is online communication tool brings together the support needed to help live a vital and engaging life.

Extended Trips

For information, call Senior Community Services at 952-767-7899 or visit *seniorcommunity.org*

- **Pella Tulip Festival** (May 5–8)
Cost: \$790 per person, double occupancy
- **Shipshewana** (May 11–15)
Cost: \$1019 per person, double occupancy

Our mission: To develop and promote programs and services in our community to meet the diverse needs of those 55+.

Contact and Registration Information

Register in person, over the phone, online or by mail.

Minnetonka Senior Services

952-939-8393

14600 Minnetonka Blvd.
Minnetonka, MN 55345
eminnetonka.com

Office Hours

Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Administrative Staff

Sue Svec

ssvec@eminnetonka.com

Kate Egert

kegert@eminnetonka.com

Senior Services and Activities Manager

Steve Pieh

952-939-8366

spieh@eminnetonka.com

Senior and General Programs Manager

Janelle Cross-eld

952-939-8369

jcross-eld@eminnetonka.com

Program Locations

Meet at Minnetonka Senior Services unless otherwise noted.

Registration Information

- **Program Cancellations**
Refunds will only be made if registration is withdrawn before the advertised deadline. If no deadline is given, registration must be withdrawn at least two business days prior to the start date of the program. Partial credit will be considered if injury or serious illness occurs. In such case, a physician's verification may be required.
- **Trip Cancellations**
Full refund requires canceling prior to advertised deadline. Cancellations after deadline are refunded after a \$5 fee per registration, only in the event a participant is found to fill the space.

OUR COMMUNITY FOREST

Past, present *and future*

In the mid-1800s, before this area was settled by farmers, a vast oak savanna blanketed much of the landscape between Minnetonka's lakes, streams and wetlands, while smaller stands of mixed woodland dominated to the southwest. During the 20th century, farms gave way to industry and suburban housing. Now, according to the Minnesota Land Cover Classification System, more than 67 percent of Minnetonka is covered by artificial surfaces and roughly 15 percent of the landscape remains wooded.

All of the trees in Minnetonka, on both private and public property, form a community forest that provides many benefits to people and the environment—from privacy and aesthetics to wildlife habitat. Trees are also the city's green infrastructure, offering wind control, improved air quality, stormwater collection and energy savings. Plus, the community forest is a renewable resource: If trees are removed, others can be planted in their place.

Just as private property owners may need to remove trees for remodeling or expansion projects, city projects sometimes require tree removal in order to improve roadways, water and sewer lines, and other infrastructure. Even so, the city preserves mature trees when possible and encourages residents to do the same. Did you know that it takes many small trees to equal the benefits of one large tree? (See table.) If you are planning a new project, have you thought about which trees to keep, or how those trees might be impacted by construction?

Keep reading to learn about the biology of trees, their benefits to people, and best practices for maintaining the health of mature trees on your property. Use the calculator at treebenefits.com to calculate the value of trees on your property.



Annual Benefits



Tree diameter	2"	10"	20"
Stormwater Intercepted	44 gal	639 gal	1,898 gal
Energy Saved			
Electricity	12 kWh	112 kWh	212 kWh
Natural gas	2 therms	16 therms	29 therms
Carbon Dioxide Absorbed	33 lbs	349 lbs	680 lbs
Improvements To Air Quality (value)	.38¢	\$3.85	\$5.10

Number of 2" Trees Needed to Equal Benefits of One 20" Oak Tree

Stormwater Interception:	53
Energy Savings:	14–17
Carbon Monoxide Absorption:	20
Air Quality Improvements:	22

Time to wrap up tree pruning and removal

April marks the time of year when the pruning of oak trees must stop in order to avoid spreading oak wilt disease, the fatal fungus so dangerous to oak trees.

Follow these guidelines to reduce the risk of spreading the disease:

Months	Level of Oak Wilt Risk
April–June	High Risk (stop pruning)
July–Oct.	Low Risk (use caution)
Nov.–March	No Risk*



**Fluctuates seasonally, can become high risk with warm spring*

There are also guidelines about pruning or removing ash trees in order to prevent the spread of the emerald ash borer (EAB). The "EAB Front" typically moves only two miles per year if left up to the insect's normal flight and growth patterns, but human-assisted movement can carry the insect at 60 mph to the next county or state.

This chart illustrates the likelihood of transporting EAB when pruning or removing ash:

Months	Level of EAB Risk
May–Sept.	EAB Is Active (stop pruning/removing)
Oct.–April	EAB Is Inactive (okay to prune/remove)



For more information on oak wilt and EAB, visit eminnetonka.com. If you have questions, contact the forestry information line at 952-988-8407.

Reminder: Pick up your pre-ordered trees April 29 or 30

If you ordered a tree through the city tree sale remember to pick your tree up at the Public Works Facility (11522 Minnetonka Blvd.) during one of the following times:

- Friday, April 29, 9 a.m.–2 p.m.
- Saturday, April 30, 9 a.m.–noon

After arriving at the facility, follow the signs to the east driveway where the recycling drop-off center is located.

Trees which are not picked up will be planted in a Minnetonka park.

Order confirmations will be sent via U.S. mail to participants approximately two weeks prior to the event as an additional reminder. Questions? Call Minnetonka Public Works at 952-988-8400.

HOW DO TREES FUNCTION?

Just as each organ in your body has a specific function, so do the parts of a plant. The roots, stem and leaves of a tree work in different ways to help the tree grow, reproduce and survive disease or injury.

Canopy

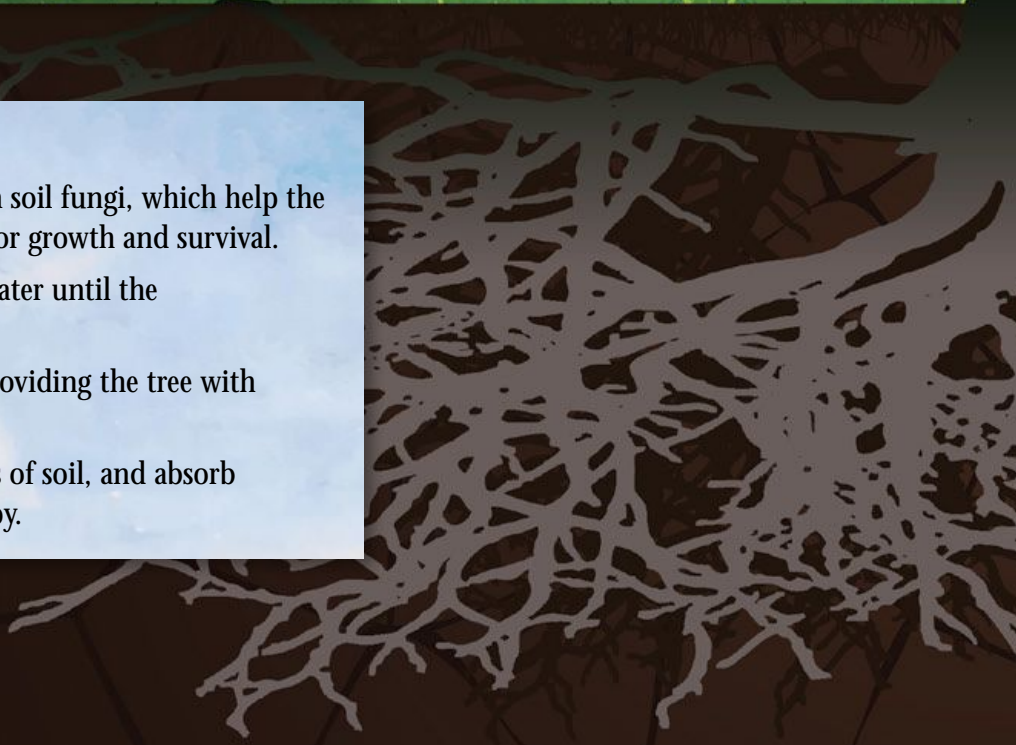
- Leaves are like solar panels in which sunlight, carbon dioxide and water combine (by photosynthesis) to produce sugars, the tree's food.
- Leaves produce structures and chemical compounds that protect the tree from insects, disease and stress.
- Branches grow longer from their tips outward while expanding in girth.
- Pollen is produced in flowers or young cones and carried between trees by wind or animals, allowing the tree to reproduce.

Trunk

- The trunk expands in girth as new wood is added each year, providing support to the whole tree.
- Water and nutrients from the soil flow up the trunk from roots to canopy, while sugars made in the leaves move down to the roots.
- Bark protects the tree from wounding—and the extra-thick bark of some species (such as bur oak) helps protect them against fire.
- Some trees, such as aspen, can photosynthesize through their thin bark.

Root System

- Roots form a partnership (symbiosis) with soil fungi, which help the tree absorb water and nutrients required for growth and survival.
- Fine roots continue to grow and absorb water until the ground freezes.
- Sugars are stored in the roots in winter, providing the tree with a quick source of energy in spring.
- Most roots grow within the first 12 inches of soil, and absorb moisture far beyond the edge of the canopy.



WHAT GOOD ARE TREES TO US?

Trees increase property values, offer health benefits (from decreased blood pressure to improved concentration), improve the quality of our environment, and provide countless materials. In fact, just about every part of a tree is useful to people.

Canopy

- The canopy filters harmful UV light and can provide cooling shade, reducing energy used for air conditioning.
- Leaves capture carbon dioxide, release oxygen and improve air quality.
- Leaves, flowers, fruits and seeds feed pollinators, birds and other wildlife—as well as people.
- The canopy shelters structures from wind and noise, and adds privacy.

Trunk

- Wood is an important building material used to make myriad products.
- Sap is extracted from maple, birch and black walnut trees in spring to make syrup.
- Tree resins are key ingredients in some cleaning products, flavorings, medicines and adhesives.
- Cellulose from wood fibers is used to manufacture paper, linoleum, rayon fabrics, paint, cosmetics, and even molded plastics.

Root System

- Roots absorb stormwater, allowing more water to soak into the soil—which in turn reduces runoff pollution and flooding.
- Erosion is slower where tree roots hold the soil in place.
- Roots anchor a tree in the soil, reducing the risk that the tree will fall and damage people or property.
- Fine roots absorb healthful minerals from the soil, which we obtain by eating foods like fruit and nuts.

How to protect trees during construction

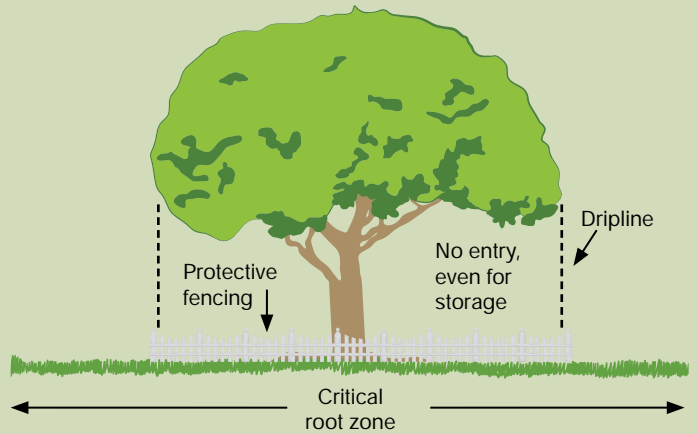
If you are planning a construction project that requires heavy equipment, consider taking precautions to protect the trees on your property before construction begins.

Before you can make plans to protect your trees, it is important to understand the difference between the “dripline” and “critical root zone.” A tree’s dripline is the outer line to which the branches extend. The critical root zone is the portion of the root system that is most essential to the tree’s survival; it generally extends 1.5 feet from the trunk for each inch of trunk diameter. For example, the critical root zone of a 10-inch diameter tree extends 15 feet from the trunk of the tree. Most of those roots are within 12 inches of the soil surface.

During construction, heavy equipment and materials may compact the soil, reducing the ability of small roots to absorb nutrients, air and water. If enough of the root system is impacted, the tree may become unstable or will eventually die. Follow these guidelines to protect your trees:

- ☑ Prior to the start of construction, install silt fence or orange construction fence around the critical root zone.
- ☑ If it is absolutely necessary to transport materials over the critical root zone, spread six to eight inches of wood mulch over the root system or construct a temporary ramp to distribute the weight and reduce the impact on the soil and roots.
- ☑ Avoid moving equipment over wet soil. Instead, consider doing the project when the ground is dry or frozen.

If damage cannot be avoided, water the remaining portion of the root system to help the tree recover. Water both during and after construction, keeping the soil moist but not flooded. Applying a layer of wood mulch atop the root system is another way to help the tree recover. Ask an arborist about the “vertical mulch” option.



Although the greatest impacts usually occur to the tree’s root system, it is also important to prevent damage to the branches or trunk. If an oak tree is wounded between April and September, apply an acrylic spray paint to the opening as soon as possible. This prevents beetles from potentially transmitting oak wilt disease.

Call the forestry information line at 952-988-8407 with any questions.

Questions for contractors

- What types of equipment are needed to do the job?
- How will equipment access the site?
- Where will materials and equipment be stored on the property?
- Will soil level be altered on the site?
- Can construction plans be modified to prevent or reduce tree damage?

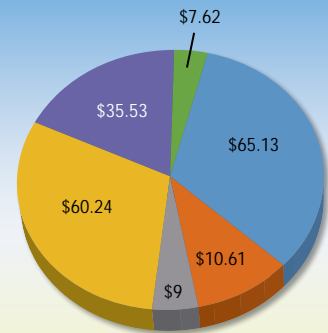
Discounted ash injections available to residents

In an effort to preserve the character of Minnetonka neighborhoods, the city is once again offering a bulk discount to residents on the injection treatments used to prevent emerald ash borer (EAB). The insect has not yet been found within the city of Minnetonka but it was discovered in Plymouth last summer.

The primary focus of the program is to protect trees in the street right-of-way or “boulevard” areas, which are owned by the underlying property owner. Beyond neighborhood character and aesthetics, mature street trees provide a variety of ecosystem services to the city like reducing stormwater runoff and extending the life of pavement due to cooling shade.

The bulk rate also can be used to protect front and backyard ash trees, and there is an opportunity to obtain a small discount on preventative treatments for Dutch elm disease, which still kills over 1,000 trees each year in Minnetonka.

The 2016 contractor is Rainbow Treecare. Find more information about the program at minnetonka.com or contact Rainbow Treecare directly at 952-767-6920.



Annual benefits of a 20" green ash tree

- Stormwater collection
- Improved air quality
- Reduced use of natural gas
- Reduced electricity use
- Increased property values
- CO2 capture

Leaf and brush drop-o sites open April 2

Each spring and fall, the city accepts leaves, yard waste and brush from Minnetonka residents at the Public Works Facility at 11522 Minnetonka Blvd.

REGULAR HOURS AND LOCATION

Monday and Tuesday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.*

Saturday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Public Works Facility

11522 Minnetonka Blvd.

**Please note, Monday and Tuesday hours have changed.*

LEAF DROP-OFF SITE OPEN APRIL 2–MAY 21

In addition to regular hours, the leaf drop-o site is open Friday, May 6, 13 and 20 from noon to 6 p.m. and Sunday, May 8 and 15 from noon to 4 p.m.

Leaf Drop-o Site Guidelines

- A driver's license, state ID or utility bill must be presented to verify residency.
- Leaves and yard waste such as grass, weeds, pine cones, needles, straw, plants, and garden materials are accepted.
- Sticks and branches smaller than ½ inch in diameter are also accepted; larger materials must go into the separate brush pile.
- Bags of any kind cannot be left at the drop-o site. Residents must take all bags home (including compostable bags) after depositing leaves and yard waste.
- Leaves are not accepted from commercial tree or lawn services without proof of Minnetonka origin.
- Remember to bring proper equipment, like a stout pitch fork, for unloading leaves
- Loads of leaves must be covered during transport.



BRUSH DROP-OFF SITE OPEN APRIL 2–NOV. 19

In addition to regular hours, the brush drop-o site is open Friday, May 6, 13 and 20 from noon to 6 p.m. and Sunday, May 8 and 15 from noon to 4 p.m.

Brush Drop-o Site Guidelines

- Branches up to eight feet in length are accepted.
- Stumps, dirt, sod, trash, metal, plastics, concrete, lumber, fences or wood scraps are not accepted.
- Brush is not accepted from commercial tree or lawn services without proof of Minnetonka origin.
- All yard waste must be disposed of in the leaf drop-o area. The brush drop-o and leaf drop-o programs have different processing methods and distinct end markets for the different materials; it is important they stay separate.

For more information, call Public Works at 952-988-8400 or visit eminnetonka.com.

Learn to protect your local lake or stream at April 23 event

Most of us have an affectionate connection with a local lake or stream. Learn what you can do to protect your favorite lake or stream at the 2016 Urban Waters Forum at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum from 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Saturday, April 23. Participants will get the tools and knowledge needed to make a meaningful difference.

Lake association members, people who live on or near water bodies, local policymakers, educators and concerned citizens are encouraged to attend. The event is \$15 for Arboretum Members and \$20 for non-members. Learn more and register at arboretum.umn.edu/2016UrbanWaters.aspx or call 612-301-1210 for more information.

Learn what it takes to become an election judge

This August and November, thousands of Minnetonka residents will cast ballots in the primary and general elections. The city relies on a dedicated group of election judges to ensure the process goes smoothly for everyone.

Judges are needed for both the state primary election August 9 and for the presidential general election November 8. This year, high school students ages 16 and 17 are also invited to apply and serve as student election judges. This is a paid opportunity and training is provided.

Learn more about what's involved in being an election judge at an information session Wednesday, April 27 from 7–8 p.m., Thursday, April 28 from 10–11 a.m. or Wednesday, May 11 from 10–11 a.m. Each session will take place in the Minnetonka City Council Chambers at the Minnetonka Community Center (14600 Minnetonka Blvd).

Visit eminnetonka.com or call Moranda Zimmer at 952-939-8219 for more information.

Music Association of Minnetonka Community Youth Choirs

Does your child love to sing? If so, consider encouraging them to try out for a Music Association of Minnetonka (MAM) youth choir this spring or summer. Not only does singing in a choir build communication skills and promote health, it is also a chance to meet other kids with the same interests. Check out the following opportunities to get involved.

Buddy Day: Thursday, April 14

Boys and girls currently in 1st through 7th grade and girls in 8th through 11th grade are invited to explore the choral world with no commitment at this event. Kids participate in a rehearsal with the choir, meet the MAM directors, sing songs and have fun!

Choir Camp: June 13–17

Youth entering 3rd through 8th grade in fall 2016 are invited to participate in a one-of-a-kind youth choir camp experience from Monday, June 13, to Friday, June 17, 2016, at the Arts Center on Highway 7 in Minnetonka. Participants will enjoy the following activities:

- Singing with Choir Director Cynthia Bayt Bradford
- Storytelling with WonderWeavers, Tina Rohde and Colleen Shaskin
- Instruments with Orchestra Teacher Kristina M. Guire
- Performance for families on Friday afternoon

Choir Camp weaves music and storytelling together with traditional camp fun. Arts and craft opportunities are offered every day.

Learn more about the Music Association of Minnetonka at musicassociation.org. For more information, email mamoffice@musicassociation.org or call 952-401-5954.

Help monitor Minnetonka's wetlands

Each year, adult volunteers wade through wetlands in Minnetonka to learn more about the plants and insects that live there and provide an assessment of the wetland's overall health. All monitoring is done as a team and training is provided. A science background or any monitoring experience is not needed to participate. Training generally starts in May, with monitoring primarily taking place in June and July. It is a great opportunity to learn about and help Minnetonka's wetlands.

If you are interested in volunteering for the Minnetonka Wetland Health Evaluation Program, contact Natural Resource Specialist Aaron Schwartz at 952-988-8422 or aschwartz@eminnetonka.com. Learn more about the program at mnwhep.org.



Spring 2016 Natural Resource Happenings

Lake Rose Habitat Restoration Walk

Saturday, April 16
10 a.m.–noon

Meet at the intersection of Oric Ave.
and Lake Rose Dr.

Join Heather and Brent Holm,
neighborhood volunteer coordinators,
to see the “trolley woods” section of
Lake Rose Park that was transformed
from a tangle of invasive species into
open woods. RSVP to 952-988-8400 or
online at eminnetonka.com.

Rain Barrel and Compost Bin Pick-Up

Saturday, May 7
8 a.m.–noon

OR

Monday, May 9
5–7 p.m.

City of St. Louis Park Municipal Service
Center, 7305 Oxford Street

Rain barrels must be pre-ordered online
at recycleminnesota.org. Please note,
these are the only dates available to pick
up your order in St. Louis Park.

Hilloway Park Plant Walk

Wednesday, May 25
5:30–7 p.m.

Meet at trail entrance, 12415 Hilloway
Rd., on south side of the street

Assist restoration specialist Janet Van
Sloun in removing garlic mustard in
wild over areas near the trail.

Plan early for the arrival of garlic mustard

Unfortunately, wet conditions
in 2015 and warm
temperatures in the early winter gave
garlic mustard a head start on the
2016 growing season. Many of these
invasive plants are already larger
than normal and have the potential
to create a bumper crop of seeds that
will only advance its spread.

Help deter the spread of this noxious weed
by learning more about it at an upcoming
workshop or by volunteering to help
remove the weed from area parks.



Flowering Garlic Mustard Plant

Garlic Mustard Events

Thursday, April 14

Garlic Mustard Workshop #1
Learn time-specific methods to reduce the
risk of garlic mustard returning annually.
6:30–8 p.m.
Community Room
Minnetonka Community Center

Wednesday, May 4

Volunteer Opportunity*
Minnetonka Mills Park
5–7 p.m.
Meet at Burwell House parking lot,
13207 McGinty Road East

Thursday, May 5

Garlic Mustard Workshop #2
Learn time-specific methods to reduce the
risk of garlic mustard returning annually.
6:30–8 p.m.
Community Room
Minnetonka Community Center

Wednesday, May 11

Volunteer Opportunity*
Meadow Park
5–7 p.m.
Meet at parking lot, 2725 Oakland Road

Wednesday, May 18

Volunteer Opportunity*
Jidana Park
5–7 p.m.
Meet at parking lot, 3333 Jidana Lane

Thursday, May 26

Volunteer Opportunity*
Hilloway Park
5–7 p.m.
Meet at trail entrance, 12415 Hilloway
Road; Park on south side of Hilloway
Road

*RSVP for volunteer opportunities

Individuals should RSVP to 952-988-8400 or at eminnetonka.com. Groups should
RSVP to Restoration Specialist Janet Van Sloun at 952-988-8423 to schedule a date
and place. Volunteers are required to sign a release form and will be asked to wear work
clothes and sturdy footwear; bring hand trowel, pruners, garden gloves, insect repellent
and water.

minnetonka memo

April 2016

PRESORTED
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CITY OF MINNETONKA

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8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday

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City Manager Geraldyn Barone 952-939-8200	Ward 1: Bob Ellingson . . . 952-931-3065 bellingson@eminnetonka.com
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POLICE-FIRE: Emergency 9-1-1 Non-emergency 952-939-8500 or 9-1-1	

ECRWSS
POSTAL PATRON

Calendar

City of
Minnetonka

April
2016

Call 952-939-8200
for meeting
locations.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Call 952-939-8200 for meeting locations.
					1	2	6 Park Board, 7 p.m. 25 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	11 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	12 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	14 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	18 City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
							21 Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.

All meetings are open to the public. Meeting dates and times are subject to change – visit eminnetonka.com for the latest information.

Minnetonka City Council and Planning Commission meetings are broadcast live on cable channel 16 and can be viewed live and on-demand at eminnetonka.com. e meetings are rebroadcast on channel 16 on Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays at noon.

Agendas for council meetings are available at eminnetonka.com by the Friday afternoon prior to the meeting, and planning commission agendas are available by the Monday prior to the meeting.

Streetlight or electricity out?

If your streetlight is out, it should be reported to Xcel Energy. Call 1-800-960-6235 or visit xcelenergy.com for an online reporting form.

If your power is out, or you have an electrical emergency, report it by calling the Xcel Energy Electric Outage number at 1-800-895-1999.

Contact information for outages at the various utilities is available at eminnetonka.com.



Staying informed about city projects

The city regularly receives applications for projects that require planning commission and/or city council approval. Information on these projects, as well as many other city projects, is regularly updated at eminnetonka.com. You can learn about new projects in the city; provide online feedback on projects during the approval process; and receive email updates. Planning commission meeting agendas are posted the Monday prior to the meeting. Visit eminnetonka.com to get started.

The paper in this newsletter was manufactured with electricity in the form of renewable energy (wind, hydro, and biogas).

