

minnetonka memo

A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka
April 2010

Silver Skates Ice Revue is April 29 – May 1

MINNETONKA ICE ARENA'S ALL-SEASON SKATING SCHOOL IS PROUD to present the 36th Annual Silver Skates Ice Revue, "Movie Mania." More than 250 skaters from Minnetonka and surrounding areas are featured this year. Show times are:

Thursday	April 29	6:30 pm
Friday	April 30	6:30 pm
Saturday	May 1	2:00 pm

Admission is \$6 for adults and \$4 for children and seniors. Children under 5 are free. 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 — it's cold in the ice arena!

Skating lessons start June 7

Interested in skating lessons? Summer skating lessons for both children and adults are held Monday evenings starting June 7. Call the Minnetonka Ice Arena at (952) 939-8310 for more information. For a registration brochure, visit www.eminnetonka.com.



Caring Youth recognized at March reception

THIRTY CARING YOUTH WERE recognized Thursday, March 11, at the Minnetonka Community Center during the 2010 Caring Youth Recognition event. The cities of Minnetonka, Hopkins and Golden Valley, the Minnetonka and Hopkins school districts, and the Glen Lake Optimists, sponsor this annual program that recognizes young people in grades 7 through 12 who have given outstanding service to others. For more information about this year's Caring Youth award winners, visit www.eminnetonka.com.



This year's winners (nominators in parentheses) are: Jesse Abelson (*We Can Ride, Inc.*); Amanda Abrahamson (*Sojourner Project*); Stephen Bauer (*Benilde-St. Margaret's*); Jeremy Bayer (*Courage Center*); Jordan Deguzman (*Hopkins West Junior High*); *The Depot Coffee House Board of Directors*, including Peter Boisclair, Anna Coleman, Tyler Gustafson, Jack McCarty, Olivia Mestad, Emily Norell, Emily Nuckols, Maddie Smart, Anna Scheppers, Nia Sorto, Elisabeth Spry and Robert Wallant; Abby Gordon (*Minnetonka Middle School East*); Gina Gresham (*St. Luke Presbyterian Church*); Nick Leeke (*Hopkins West Junior High*); Catie Locker (*St. Joseph's Parish*); Dan Mann (*Jewish Family and Children's Services*); Rosie Mann (*Jewish Family and Children's Services*); Weston Reindl (*Speak the Word Church International*); Hannah Roth (*St. Luke Presbyterian Church*); Katie Snyder (*Ridgedale YMCA/Minnetonka Heights*); Michael Thomson (*ICA Foodshelf*); Andrew Urevig (*Golden Valley Library*); Michelle Vohs (*Hopkins North Junior High*); and Shane West (*We Can Ride, Inc.*).

Diversify
your
native
landscape!

LEARN ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF diversification and native plants in your landscape! Look inside for the annual natural resources insert, full of information about upcoming workshops and tips for beautifying your landscape this year!



Flashpoints



From the Minnetonka Fire Department

IN FIREFIGHTING LINGO, A “FLASHPOINT” is the temperature at which combustible materials may burst into flame. The flashpoints in this quarterly feature are not so volatile. Instead, they are the initiatives and events that serve as the catalyst for the excellent service provided every day by the Minnetonka Fire Department to city residents and businesses. For more information about any of these items, call the fire department at (952) 939-8598.

Why CodeRED or Twitter?

The recent house explosion in Edina vividly illustrated the usefulness of social media during an emergency. Edina residents near

the blast received a steady stream of Twitter updates from the city, helping keep them informed throughout the emergency.

Here’s how to be sure you are aware of the latest news in Minnetonka, including emergencies:

- Update your contact information in CodeRED, the city’s reverse 9-1-1 system. This system will allow the city to contact you via telephone, or even text message if you request it, within minutes of an emergency taking place in your area. Visit www.eminnetonka.com to update your information.

- Sign up for MyMinnetonka at www.eminnetonka.com to receive email alerts about the Minnetonka news you want to know. This system would also be used to inform residents in case of an emergency.
- Follow Minnetonka’s Twitter account ([@MinnetonkaMN](https://twitter.com/MinnetonkaMN)) for news about the city, including emergencies. Visit www.twitter.com to create an account, or use your existing account to follow the city.

Not interested in these methods? Don’t worry! You’ll still be informed of any news or emergencies. CodeRed, MyMinnetonka and Twitter are simply additional ways to ensure residents are in the know about Minnetonka news.

License your ring of fire

All recreational fires (campfires) in the city of Minnetonka require a burning permit from the city. Get yours through the city Web site at www.eminnetonka.com.

Once issued, the permit does not require annual renewal—but may be rescinded or cancelled by the Minnetonka Fire Department at any time.

Remember, a recreational fire permit does not excuse the holder from being aware of weather conditions or from being considerate of neighbors’ concerns about recreational fires and smoke.

Extinguisher recycling

Expired or empty residential fire extinguishers may be recycled at Minnetonka Fire Department Station 1 (14550 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka) Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Extinguishers will be sent to a local servicing company for proper recycling.

Fire alarm fee reminder

The Minnetonka Fire Department is primarily a paid-on-call department; therefore, there are significant non-fixed payroll costs associated with response to fire alarm calls. On March 1, 2004, the city council implemented a \$250 charge for each fire department response to an automatic fire alarm except fire sprinkler water flow alarms and for residents reporting a fire alarm sounding when it is reported through the 9-1-1 system. ☺

INNOVATION

50 years of fire department progress

THE CITY OF MINNETONKA HAS A LONGSTANDING REPUTATION FOR INSTITUTING innovative ideas in order to provide excellent customer service to residents while also using taxpayer dollars wisely.

Recently, to mark the occasion of the Minnetonka Fire Department’s 50th year, Chief Joe Wallin spoke to firefighters about the progress the department has made over the past 15 years to become a world-class fire department. Accomplishments include dramatically cutting response times and time at fires by two-thirds; having no fire fatalities in 15 years; acting as a regional partner with the county; and pursuing cooperative response.

Some of the innovative measures implemented by the fire department in past years include the following.

- Three-person duty crews, established in 2009 and staffed by paid-on-call firefighters, provide 24/7 fire and emergency medical response at a fraction of the cost of full-time personnel, while maintaining the core paid-on-call fire department that has proudly served Minnetonka for 50 years.
- By combining purchasing power with Eden Prairie and several communities, the joint airpack program not only brings costs down but also promotes interoperability, equipment service and overall safety on emergency scenes. Future joint partnerships for acquiring gear and conducting maintenance are underway.
- Once every quarter, firefighters from Minnetonka, Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Edina, Hopkins, Richfield and St. Louis Park participate in joint operations training. This training allows seamless integration of the various departments at emergency scenes, as well as giving valuable experience to future officers within each of the organizations.
- In 2001, Minnetonka was the first city in Minnesota to be certified StormReady by the National Weather Service. This certification shows that Minnetonka has taken the steps to arm the community with the communication and safety skills needed to save lives and property before and during a weather event, as well as to strengthen the overall community safety program. ☺

Severe Weather Awareness Week: April 19 – 23

TAKE THE TIME DURING SEVERE Weather Awareness Week, April 19 to 23, to ensure you and your family are educated about and ready for these severe weather events.

April 19

Thunderstorms, hail, straight-line winds and lightning cause extensive damage across Minnesota each year.

April 20

Understand the weather information, advisories, watches and warnings prepared by the National Weather Service in Chanhassen. Get this information through the Emergency Alert System (local media), NOAA's all-hazard weather radio, and/or outdoor warning sirens (tornado warnings)

April 21

On average, five flash floods occur every year in Minnesota, most of them in June. Half of flash flood fatalities occur in vehicles.

April 22

The National Weather Service will hold a simulated tornado watch starting at 9 a.m. Two tornado drills, with simulated tornado warnings and sounding of the outdoor warning sirens, will occur at 1:45 and 6:55 p.m. The first allows schools and businesses to practice sheltering plans, while the second allows families and second-shift workers to practice their plans.

April 23

Heat-related fatalities outpace deaths in several other weather categories. Based on a national average from 1992–2001, excessive heat claimed 219 lives each year while floods killed 88, tornadoes 57, lightning 52 and hurricanes 15. ☺



City council takes on EDA duties; establishes new advisory commission

IN EARLY MARCH, THE MINNETONKA CITY Council named itself as the city's Economic Development Authority (EDA), replacing the previously separate EDA. The council also created a new commission, called the Economic Development Advisory Commission, to be made up of seven residents appointed by the city council.

History of the EDA

Over the years, the Minnetonka EDA had functioned as an advisory commission to the city council, a role that expanded significantly in recent years as the city undertook new activities such as adoption of a Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) levy, approval for complex development documents for projects such as Glen Lake, community development block grant expenditures, and affordable housing program planning as envisioned in the city's comprehensive guide plan.

However, the state statutes under which the EDA was originally formed were very restrictive, with limitations that complicated the traditional advisory role of Minnetonka's commission. For example, the logistics of multiple and overlapping public meetings and legal actions could sometimes confuse lines of authority and weaken the effectiveness of public input.

Why the council as EDA?

Appointing council members as the EDA, a common practice in many cities, allows for more transparent and straightforward decision making. It also helps ensure that economic development actions align with the other policy actions of the city council.

Advisory commission established; members needed

Since Minnetonka has traditionally benefitted from a broad-based advisory group, the council wishes to continue that form of community input even with the council now acting as the EDA. Therefore,

the council has established the Economic Development Advisory Commission (EDAC) to advise the council on certain economic development, housing and transit-related matters. Although the city council will request the advice of this commission, the council will remain the final decision maker.

The EDAC will include seven members, plus a non-voting council liaison. The purpose of the council liaison is to ensure a direct link to the city council. Consistent with other city advisory boards, appointments will be made by the mayor and confirmed by the council; members will serve for two-year terms with a maximum service limit of eight total years.

Membership of the EDAC will to the greatest extent possible include:

- One member with a legal background
- One member with a finance background
- One member with a development, architectural or real estate background
- One member with a social service/non-profit or housing background
- One member with a planning background
- Two members at-large
- One council liaison (non-voting)

The EDAC is not expected to have fixed meeting dates, but will meet as needed. The EDAC is expected to advise the council on various matters, generally within the areas of redevelopment, development finance, housing and transportation.

If you are interested in submitting an application for the EDAC, please visit www.eminnetonka.com for an application or contact Karen Telega at ktelega@eminnetonka.com or (952) 939-8211. ☺

Self-defense class for women is May 8

LEARN SITUATIONAL AWARENESS, AVOIDANCE and the basic defensive skill set — tools that any woman can use to avoid potentially dangerous situations. State-of-the-art self-defense technology, expert coaching and instruction make this class a must for every woman over the age of 15. Class is Saturday, May 8, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Williston Fitness Center. Cost is \$40 per person. Call (952) 939-8203 to register. ☺



Upcoming events for Minnetonka seniors

LOCATED AT THE MINNETONKA Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka, Senior Services offers a wide variety of classes, programs, and activities for active older adults. For more information, or to sign up for the free monthly newsletter, the *Minnetonka Script*, visit www.eminnetonka.com.

Defensive Driving Classes

Call the Minnesota Safety Center at 1-888-234-1294 to register.

Four-Hour Day Courses:

April 8 or 20, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Refreshments provided (no lunch).

Cost: \$20.

Grays Bay Hike

April 23, 9 a.m.

Meet and park at the Grays Bay Dam. Maps are available at the senior center.

Community Dance

April 30, 6:15 p.m.

Move your fee at the community ballroom dance. Music by John Kujda. Cost is \$13 per person. Registration required, call (952) 401-6800 or visit www.minnetonkacommunityed.org.



Health care: truths, myths and questions

THE MINNETONKA COMMUNITY Needs and Issues Group of the Minnetonka Senior Center is hosting a forum on health care May 17, 7 to 9 p.m., at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka.

Jan Malcolm, CEO of Courage Center and former state health commissioner, and Michelle Kimball, state director of AARP, will discuss current health care issues.

No charge, but money or food donations to ICA foodshelf are appreciated. Call (952) 939-8393 to register.

Farmers' Market returns this summer

GATHER UP YOUR SHOPPING BAGS and mark your calendar for the second year of the Minnetonka Farmers' Market, set for Tuesdays, July 6 – Sept. 28, from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Minnetonka Civic Center Campus, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka.

More than 40 local vendors have been accepted for this year's market, selling fresh and organic produce, frozen meats, handmade cheese, baked and canned goods, salsa, maple syrup, honey, dried handmade pasta, pet treats, fresh-cut flowers, bread,



barbecue sauce, handmade soaps and skin products, apples, and a variety of crafts. See you in July!

HOME mowing services now available for seniors

AGAIN THIS YEAR, HOUSEHOLD AND Outside Maintenance for the Elderly (HOME) is offering mowing services to seniors. To qualify, homeowners must be 60 years of age or older and live in Minnetonka. Services are provided on a sliding contributions scale, and there is no upper income limit for participation in the program.

All mowing is done by independent contractors who have been carefully screened before employment. Workers are assigned to clients for the duration of the mowing season, often well into the fall.

Mowers needed

HOME is hiring workers for these mowing jobs that are just around the corner. Candidates must be at least 16, able to pass a criminal background check and sensitive to the special needs of seniors.

If you are interested in being considered for a mowing position, or would like to request mowing services, contact Jeanne Swedberg, HOME West Program Coordinator at (952) 939-8363, or at jswedberg@eminnetonka.com.

Attend a May concert

THE MUSIC ASSOCIATION OF Minnetonka will present the following May concerts. All concerts are free but donations are always gratefully accepted. For more information, visit www.musicassociation.org.

Beethoven's Symphony No. 9

Minnetonka Symphony Orchestra and Symphony Chorus

Sunday, May 2, 7:30 p.m.

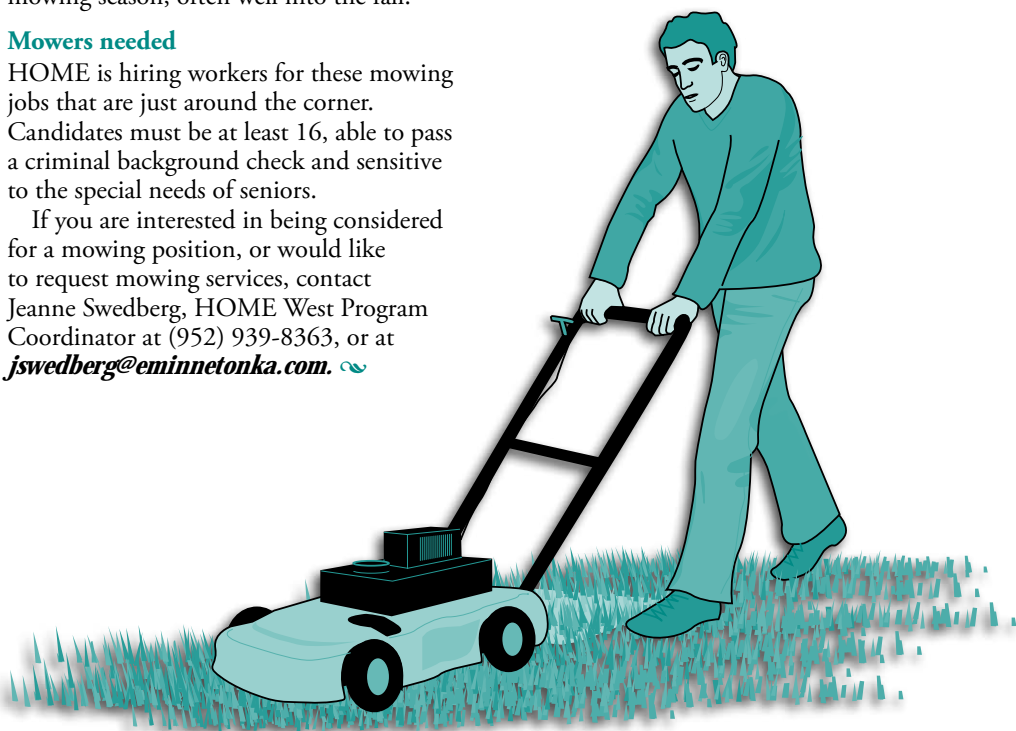
Wayzata Community Church

125 East Wayzata Blvd, Wayzata

Sunday, May 9, 7:30 p.m.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

7217 West Broadway, Brooklyn Park



Music in the Park starts June 8

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE 2010 Music in the Park series, set for Tuesdays, 7 to 8:30 p.m., starting June 8. All concerts take place at the outdoor amphitheater at the Minnetonka Civic Center Campus, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka.

Bring a blanket or chair and enjoy local performers playing a wide variety of music for the whole family. A special performance has been added to this year's Music in the Park line-up, with the Minnetonka Community Theatre performing "Free to Be You and Me" June 15. Three additional performances of "Free to Be You and Me" will be held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, June 15, 16 and 17, at 11 a.m.

Starting July 6, visit the Minnetonka Farmers' Market Tuesdays, 3 to 7 p.m., located adjacent to the outdoor amphitheatre. Come for the produce, stay for the music! See more about the farmers' market on page 4.

- **June 8:** **John Kujda Quartet**
(40's - 60's)
- **June 15:** **Minnetonka Community Theater** — "Free To Be You and Me" (Three additional performances of "Free to Be You and Me" will be held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, June 15, 16 and 17, at 11 a.m.)
- **June 22:** **Don King Blues Band and Friends** (blues)
- **June 29:** **Lee Engele Quartet**
(jazz vocal)
- **July 6:** **Lehto and Wright**
(Celtic, folk rock)
- **July 13:** **Eden Prairie Community Band** (variety)
- **July 20:** **Tom Hunter Quartet**
(blues, jazz)
- **July 27:** **Brio Brass**
(25 piece, brassy jazz)
- **Aug 3:** **Blue Feelin'**
(blues)

Sponsorships available

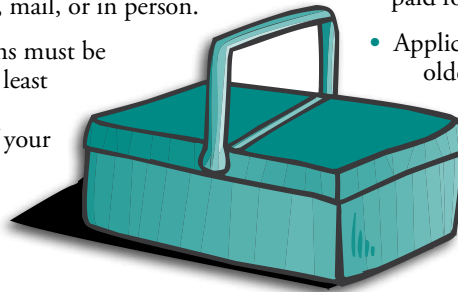
Are you interested in sponsoring a performance of Music in the Park? It's not too late! Contact Steve Pieh at (952) 939-8366 for details of how you can promote your business or organization by sponsoring an evening of music. ☺

Reserve your summer picnic shelter now

MINNETONKA FACILITIES STAFF RESERVE space at both Minnetonka and Hopkins picnic shelters, located in Burnes, Central and Valley parks in Hopkins, and Lone Lake, Gro-Tonka and Shady Oak parks in Minnetonka.

Park systems in both communities provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities to enhance your picnic. A description of each facility's amenities and hours of availability, fees, and application forms are available online at www.eminnetonka.com. Summer weekend dates fill quickly, so be sure to request your reservation as far in advance as possible. Guidelines are as follows. For more information, call (952) 939-8390.

- A permit is required to reserve a picnic shelter at a park facility for groups of 25 people or more.
- Picnic shelters can be reserved by phone, fax, mail, or in person.
- Applications must be received at least 7 days in advance of your requested date, and payment must be included.

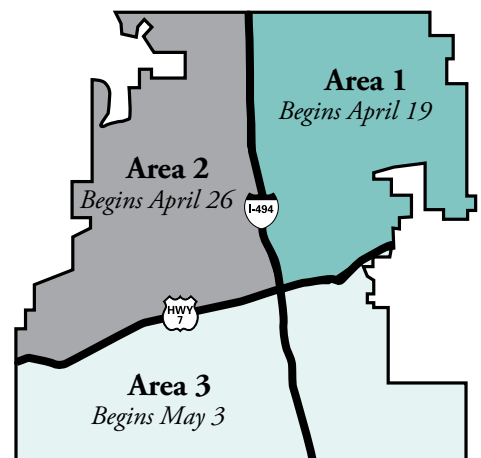


- Shelters are not reserved until payment has been received. Checks are payable to the Facilities Division, or you may use a credit card. Please include credit card number and expiration date.
- Reservations by phone at (952) 939-8390 or fax at (952) 939-8373 must be paid for with a credit card.
- Applicants must be 18 years of age or older to reserve a facility and at least 21 years of age to obtain a beer permit. Beer permit application must be submitted in person with a valid picture ID. ☺

Water main flushing starts April 19

MINNETONKA PUBLIC WORKS WILL flush water mains throughout the city from April 19 through May 7, weekdays from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. in most areas. See accompanying map to determine dates in your area.

- **Area 1** Begins April 19
 - **Area 2** Begins April 26
 - **Area 3** Begins May 3
- Flushing in the areas listed below will occur at these special times:
- **April 19** Ridgedale business area: 5:30-7 a.m.
 - **April 26** Minnetonka Industrial Road, Twelve Oaks Center, Carlson Parkway: 5:30-7 a.m.
 - **May 6** Opus, Beachside, K-Tel, Clearwater Drive, White water Drive, Culligan Way: 3 a.m. - 7 a.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. ☺

 2010 MINNETONKA RECYCLING UPDATE

Spring Leaf Drop-off Program

Public Works Facility

11522 Minnetonka Blvd., ¼ mi. west of Cty. Rd. 73
Enter on the west side of the building (near the Big Willow ball fields)

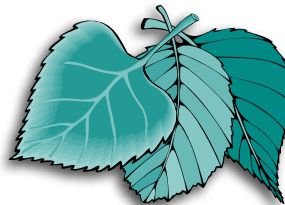
The Public Works facility at 11522 Minnetonka Blvd will be **the only** site accepting leaves and yard waste. During the busiest times there will be expanded drop-off days. In addition to the normal operating schedule, the site will be open Friday, May 7 and 14, from 12 to 6 p.m. and Sunday, May 9 and 16, from 12 to 4 p.m. You must present proper identification to verify you are a Minnetonka resident (driver's license, state I.D., or Minnetonka utility bill).

If you have other means of handling your leaves such as collection by your garbage hauler or backyard composting, please use that option! All garbage haulers offer curbside collection of yard waste on the same day as your garbage collection for a reasonable fee (either an annual, monthly, per cart or per bag fee).

The garbage hauler yard waste collection programs typically run mid-April through mid-November. Check with your garbage hauler for details and see the article on proper bags required for curbside collection of bagged yard waste on facing page.

LEAVES — Truck and trailer loads of leaves will be accepted only at Minnetonka Public Works and only during brush drop-off hours on the following dates:


- **Mondays:** 12 to 8 p.m. April 12, 19, 26, and May 3, 10
- **Tuesdays:** 12 to 8 p.m. April 13, 20, 27, and May 4, 11
- **Fridays:** 12 to 6 p.m. May 7, 14
- **Saturdays:** 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 17, 24, and May 1, 8, 15
- **Sundays:** 12 to 4 p.m. May 2, 9, 16



Spring leaf drop-off ends Sunday, May 16.

The city leaf drop-off site is bag-free. Residents will unload and/or unbag their leaves and yardwaste onto the large bulk pile and take all empty bags home for reuse or disposal — including paper and compostable bags. Please bring proper equipment, like a stout pitch fork, to unload your truck or trailer load of leaves.

The suggested method is to use many layers of tarps between a foot or less of leaves. Use the tarp to gather up and move a small pile of leaves from your yard to your trailer or vehicle, continue using lots of small tarps until the vehicle is full. This makes unloading your leaves easier and faster at the site. All you need to do is flip off the tarps one at a time. Sticks and branches smaller than ½ inch in diameter are acceptable with leaves; anything larger goes to the brush pile. (See the brush drop-off article at top right.) **Loads of leaves must be covered during transport!**

Information about composting and yard waste management is available from Dean Elstad, at (952) 988-8430. 




Brush drop-off opens April 12

The brush drop-off program for Minnetonka residents is open Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Mondays and Tuesdays from noon to 8 p.m. starting Monday, April 12. Brush drop-off will end November 20, 2010.

The brush drop-off site will be closed on the following three holidays: Memorial Day, May 31; Independence Day (observed), July 5; and Labor Day, September 6.

Branches up to 12" in diameter will be accepted. Proof of Minnetonka residency is required to drop-off brush (driver's license or utility bill).


Please note: trash, grass, loose leaves, dirt, sod, lumber, fencing, or wood scraps are not accepted. No brush will be accepted from commercial tree or lawn services.

Call (952) 988-8430 during business hours or leave a message anytime. 


Chemicals and your yard

Many residents are reducing their use of chemicals on lawns and gardens in favor of safer alternatives. In addition, many lawn care companies now use non-toxic treatments. Consider these non-toxic alternatives:

- Create healthy soil by leaving clippings on the lawn and mulching leaves in the fall.
- Water infrequently but deeply to promote deep root growth.
- Mow high, 2–4 inches, to discourage weed growth. Keep mower blade sharp.
- Aerate lawn in spring or fall.
- Pull weeds by hand. After weeding gardens, apply a thick layer of mulch.
- Learn to live with some weeds.

If you do use pesticides, read the product label and follow all precautions. Mix and use only at the recommended strength and apply only where needed. Don't spray on windy days. Look for synthetic pyrethroid products (instead of organophosphates or carbamates). For more information find a copy of the EPA's "Citizen's Guide to Pest Control and Pesticide Safety" at www.epa.gov/oppead1/Publications/Cit_Guide. 

Keep streets and storm drains clean

Minnetonka City Ordinances prohibit blowing and/or leaving grass clippings or other organic materials in the street. Please mention this to your lawn service. 

Paper or compostable plastic bags now required statewide for yard waste

A NEW STATE LAW, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2010, requires that yard waste set out for curbside collection in the metro area is placed in compostable bags — either paper or compostable plastic bags. Plastic bags are no longer allowed for yard waste. **This law does not apply to your regular garbage.**

Bags must be either 30-gallon Kraft paper leaf bags or compostable plastic bags, both of which are now available in almost all stores. The compostable plastic bags must state somewhere on the box that they “meet ASTM D6400 standards for composting” and are “compostable.” Don’t be fooled by companies trying to sell “biodegradable” or “degradable” plastic bags — they do not meet state law requirements. Compostable plastic bags are usually clear or tinted an opaque shade of green, white or pink (see picture).

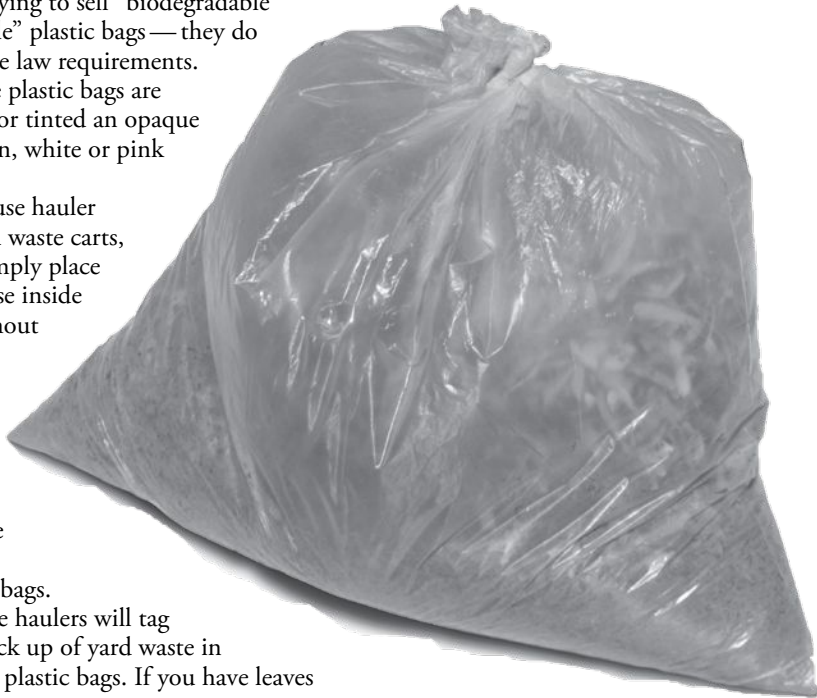
If your refuse hauler provides yard waste carts, it’s best to simply place materials loose inside the carts without bags. If you choose to place bagged yard waste into the cart, be sure to use acceptable compostable bags.

Most refuse haulers will tag and refuse pick up of yard waste in unacceptable plastic bags. If you have leaves

from last fall in regular plastic bags, they must be changed to the required bags for curbside pick-up or brought and emptied at the city spring leaf drop-off site.

City of Minnetonka spring and fall leaf drop-off programs will continue to be “bag free.” Residents may empty bagged yard waste and take their bags home — no matter the type of bag — or bring truck or trailer loads of loose leaves to the bulk leaf drop-off site (see page 6).

If you have any questions, check with your refuse hauler or visit the city of Minnetonka Web site at www.eminnetonka.com.



About door-to-door sales in Minnetonka

WHILE SOLICITORS, PEDDLERS and canvassers are allowed in Minnetonka, for-profit sale of products or services requires a license from the city. The city does not endorse any specific product or service by the issuing of this license.

Charitable organizations conducting door-to-door sales or solicitations do not need a license, unless they pay their solicitors. However, the city requests that charitable organizations register with the city.

Every resident and business has the right to prohibit peddlers and solicitors from their property. If you post a sign on your home or

business that prohibits solicitors, they are not permitted to approach your property.

A current list of licensed solicitors, peddlers and canvassers, as well as the charitable agencies that have registered, is available on the city Web site at www.eminnetonka.com. Click on Community Development, then Licenses, then Solicitors, Peddlers and Canvassers.

If you have a complaint about a door-to-door salesperson or soliciting party, please immediately contact the Minnetonka Police Department at (952) 939-8500.

Take an express bus to Twins games!

WHY DRIVE TO TARGET FIELD WHEN you can take an easy ride instead? Avoid downtown parking and take an express ride from Minnetonka to the ballpark!

Park for free at the Park & Ride Ramp at I-394 and County Road 73. From there it’s a straight shot on new bus route 679 to the Ramp A/7th Street Transit Center, just steps from the new Target Field.

A roundtrip ride is \$5.25 per person on weekdays, \$4.50 on weekends. Buy an Event 6-Hour Pass at the Park & Ride lot or use your Go-To Card.

Buses leave the Park & Ride ramp roughly every 15 minutes for two hours before every game. Hop on, ride downtown and cheer the Twins on to outdoor victory! After the game, head back to Ramp A for your return trip. Buses leave every 15 minutes for an hour after the last out.

For details, visit www.metrotransit.org/twins or call (612) 373-3333.

Primary election is August 10; election judges needed

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND MAKE a mental note — Minnesota’s traditional September primary election is moving to the second Tuesday in August, in order to meet a federal mandate to assist military and overseas voters get their votes counted.

This year’s state primary is set for August 10. The date of the State General Election remains the same — November 2.

A federal law change requires that absentee ballots for military and overseas voters be available at least 45 days prior to an election. To meet this timeframe the state legislature passed a bill signed by the governor moving the state primary up a month. Absentee ballots for the state primary will be available to all voters June 25.

Election judges needed

Serving as an election judge is a great way to meet your neighbors and protect one of our most cherished freedoms — the right to vote. Judges ensure that the voting process goes smoothly and honestly, and are needed for both the state primary and the state general election. This is a paid opportunity and training is provided. For more information visit the city Web site at www.eminnetonka.com or call Laura Ronbeck at (952) 939-8219.

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April 2010



PRESORTED
STANDARD
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CITY OF MINNETONKA

A publication of the city of Minnetonka
14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, MN 55345 • (952) 939-8200
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday–Friday

Mayor Terry Schneider.....(952) 939-8389 Home: (952) 934-9529tschneider@eminnetonka.com Meetings with the mayor may be scheduled by calling (952) 939-8211.	Council <i>At Large:</i> Dick Allendorf... (952) 933-6231 dallendorf@eminnetonka.com Amber Greves... (952) 931-3960 agreves@eminnetonka.com <i>Ward 1:</i> Bob Ellingson... (952) 931-3065 bellingson@eminnetonka.com <i>Ward 2:</i> Tony Wagner... (952) 512-1817 twagner@eminnetonka.com <i>Ward 3:</i> Brad Wiersum... (612) 817-3713 bwiersum@eminnetonka.com <i>Ward 4:</i> James Hiller... (952) 974-1003 jhiller@eminnetonka.com
City Manager John Gunyou.....(952) 939-8200	Minnetonka Mike(952) 939-8586 mike@eminnetonka.com
Newsletter Editor Jacque Larson.....(952) 939-8200	POLICE-FIRE: Emergency 9-1-1
E-mail: comments@eminnetonka.com	Non-emergency (952) 939-8500 or 9-1-1
Internet: www.eminnetonka.com	

ECRWSS
POSTAL PATRON

Calendar

City of
Minnetonka

April
2010

Call (952) 939-8200
for meeting
locations.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Call (952) 939-8200 for meeting locations.
				1	2	3	1 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
							15 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	5 Local Board of Appeal and Equalization, 6:15 p.m.; City Council, 6:30 p.m.
							19 Local Board of Appeal and Equalization (<i>reconvene</i>), 6:15 p.m.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	26 Community Commission, 6:30 p.m.
							29/30 Silver Skates Ice Revue (<i>see page 1</i>)
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	May 1 Silver Skates Ice Revue (<i>see page 1</i>)
25	26	27	28	29	30	1	12 City Council study session, 6:30 p.m. (<i>Topic: utility rates</i>)
							13 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.

All meetings listed above are open to the public. Meeting dates and times are subject to change—please check www.eminnetonka.com for the latest information.

Minnetonka City Council and Planning Commission meetings are broadcast live on cable channel 16, and replays are available Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays at noon, or anytime via videostream at www.eminnetonka.com. Agendas for council meetings are available on the city's Web site by the Friday afternoon prior to the meeting, and planning commission agendas are available by the Monday prior to the meeting.

Staying informed about city projects

THE CITY REGULARLY RECEIVES applications for projects that require planning commission and/or city council approval. Information on these, as well as many other city projects, is regularly updated on the city's Web site. If you'd like to stay informed, visit "MyMinnetonka" at www.eminnetonka.com—click on "MyMinnetonka" under "Top Picks." Through MyMinnetonka, you can learn about new projects in the city; provide online feedback on projects during their approval process, and receive email updates on projects. Planning commission meeting agendas are posted the Monday prior to the meeting. Visit www.eminnetonka.com for information.

A history of Minnetonka's parks and trails

AFTER A LONG WINTER, MANY Minnetonka residents are anxious to hike or bike the city's trails and parks. Learn more about the history of Minnetonka's parks and trails system Tuesday, May 4, at 7 p.m. when the Minnetonka Historical Society hosts a presentation by Dean Elstad, city of Minnetonka parks and trails inspector, and Bob Hill, public service worker. The presentation will take place in the community room at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard. Cookies and beverages will be served, and a drawing will be held for a free Minnetonka Mills history book.



Bridge at Big Willow Park.



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

Natural Resource NOTES

SPRING 2010

WELCOME TO THE 2010 NATURAL RESOURCE NOTES!

This year's theme: diversify your landscape!



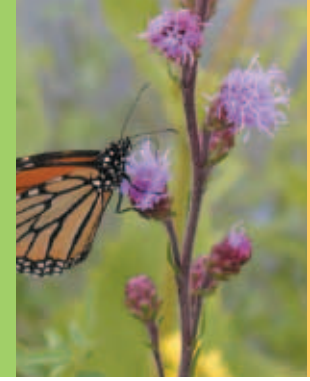
Photo by Dana Kromer

Human landscapes have replaced much of the natural world – 95% of nature has been turned in to cities and suburbs (54%) and farmland (41%)*. Since birds and other wildlife rely on native plants for food, shelter and nesting habitat, they are increasingly dependent on humans to provide those resources.

Why are diverse native landscapes important to nature? If you think about it, woodlands aren't made up of one species of flower or tree, and your yard shouldn't be either. Native plants and animals have co-evolved over time and rely on each other for pollination, food, reproduction and survival. Diversity is required to maintain the needs of all the different species in the local food web so they can survive.

Because native plants have evolved here and are adapted to the growing conditions, they generally require less care and attention while providing a great ecological benefit.

**From "Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens," by Douglas Tallamy.*



WHY NATIVE PLANTS MATTER

Humans are dependent on plants. Plant fibers provide clothing, building materials, and paper. Fruits and crops feed humans and livestock. Old and new, plants provide fuels like coal and ethanol. Plants are processed for medicines and industrial products as well as for perfumes and cleaning supplies. It's hard to think of a product used in daily life that does not rely on plants.

Many of the benefits of plants are free of charge and invaluable to human life. Plants are responsible for the oxygen we need to survive, and they also help clean the air we breathe, improve water quality, prevent erosion, buffer the climate, and provide habitat for wildlife. Plants beautify our surroundings for recreation, relieve our stresses, and offer us a great view.

Each of the plant species we use is native to somewhere in the world, is adapted for that environment, and is often part of a specific ecosystem composed of other plants or animals. If we lose a plant species, we may risk losing the other species that depend on it as well as the benefits it and the other species provide us. When we introduce a new species, we may gain some new benefits but also may harm some of the plant species we already value.

Protecting native species and the benefits they provide is not difficult when each of us recognizes that we can all be good stewards of the land on which we live. Maintaining a diversity of native plants in the environments for which they are adapted helps promote the longevity and the benefits of native ecosystems.



Photo by Michael J. Andert

Can you imagine Minnetonka without trees?

LOOK FOR FUTURE ARTICLES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR FOR MORE NATIVE PLANT INFORMATION!

NATIVES!

WHY NATIVE PLANTS?

WHY DOES IT MATTER WHETHER OR NOT YOU USE NATIVE PLANTS IN YOUR LANDSCAPE?

A staggering one-third of U.S. birds are in danger due to native habitat loss. Native bird populations and their habitat companions will continue to decline unless we restore the native plants they need for survival in our suburban ecosystems. It's not too late, and fortunately, restoring native plants in a human landscape is easy to do.

Douglas Tallamy, professor of entomology at the University of Delaware, teaches that all plants are not created equal, particularly in their ability to support wildlife. Most native plant-eaters, especially beneficial insects that are food for native birds and other wildlife, are unable to eat non-native plants such as alien honeysuckles, non-native maples and a long list of others. Why is this? Through millions of years, plants and animals have co-evolved, changed, and adapted, resulting in beneficial relationships that allow co-existence, in balance, in the web of life. This means that native insects eat native plants; the native insects are then eaten by the native birds, and so on.

Most non-native plants were introduced to this country in part due to their pest-free garden success, and many have next to no value for the native insects and birds that eat them. Tallamy asks, "Rather than plant a species that has little to no value for native insects, birds and wildlife, why not plant native species that support up to 30 times more species in the food web?"

An example of a tree that has **not** co-evolved with North American insects, birds and wildlife is the Norway maple. Introduced to the Philadelphia arboretum in 1756, this large shade tree has in its 250 years on the continent provided little or no benefit to native insects and birds compared to native maple trees. However, the Norway maple now displaces native trees in several habitats.



Choke cherry *Prunus virginiana*

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO INTRODUCE NATIVE PLANTS

- Reduce the turf footprint in your yard and plant native species in groupings. A perfect place is along a fenceline, a privacy hedge, or an existing woodland edge.
- Include vertical layers in the plantings: trees, shrubs, wild flowers, grasses and sedges. Native fauna depend on the layers from the ground to the tree canopy.
- Plantings in wide groups provide better shelter and breeding habitat for common native bird species. Longer and wider is better, and so are non-linear edges.
- Provide organic wood mulch to the whole grouping of plants. Allow leaves to remain on the ground where they fall in non-turf areas—just like nature.
- After decades of insect and bug phobia, we can adapt our landscape maintenance to tolerate beneficial insects feeding on our plants. Remember, most insects provide important food for birds and a host of animals.
- Learn the alien insects that threaten our native plants, and target control measures only to specific pests known to be harmful. Use pesticides only as a last resort.
- Plant natives as though life depends on it – it does!



**STOP PRUNING OAKS NOW!
GO TO EMINNETONKA.COM
FOR MORE INFORMATION.**



Photo by Deb Hamilton-Attendorf

DID YOU KNOW?

- By planting a wide diversity of native plants, you can support more species in your home habitat and minimize the effects of a pest outbreak.
- Nearly all upland nesting songbirds rear their young on insects and caterpillars, not seeds or berries.
- Most insects are specialists, eating only one related group of plants. Fewer insects are generalists, eating many species of plants.
- Plants can tolerate some insect feeding. Healthy plants can withstand up to 30 percent defoliation without causing stress.

EXAMPLES OF BENEFICIAL NATIVE PLANT AND INSECT RELATIONSHIPS

Monarch butterflies feed and lay eggs on native milkweed plants, and Monarch caterpillars also feed on milkweed. The milkweed's "milk" (white latex) contains toxic compounds that are somewhat poisonous to many animals. Because the monarch species has co-evolved with milkweed, it absorbs and tolerates these substances. The toxins in the caterpillar and butterfly have become a survival mechanism, since it tastes awful to predators. Other butterflies have adapted colors to mimic the monarch and discourage predators – a bird will think twice before eating a viceroy butterfly, since it closely resembles the monarch.

Native oak trees have wildlife value that cannot be overstated. Acorn forage is essential for sustaining a long list of wildlife species over winter. Oaks provide leaf forage for 517 species of native moths and butterflies whose caterpillars are essential for native bird survival.

American basswood trees produce an abundance of nectar, attracting bees that make it into some of the highest value honey. In some parts of its range the basswood is known as the bee tree. With more natives come more bees for pollination in our gardens and landscapes.



Photo by David Callender

NATIVE TREES THAT SUPPORT VAST NUMBERS OF NATIVE LEPIDOPTERA (MOTH AND BUTTERFLY) SPECIES THAT ARE ESSENTIAL TO BIRDS:

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	MOTH & BUTTERFLY SPECIES SUPPORTED
Oaks	<i>Quercus</i> sp.	517
Willows	<i>Salix</i> sp.	456
Black cherry Choke cherry American plum	<i>Prunus serotina</i> <i>P. virginiana</i> <i>P. americana</i>	448 (all 3 species)
Paper birch River birch Yellow birch	<i>Betula papyrifera</i> <i>B. nigra</i> <i>B. allegheniensis</i>	413 (all 3 species)
Poplars (aspens & cottonwood)	<i>Populus</i> sp.	368

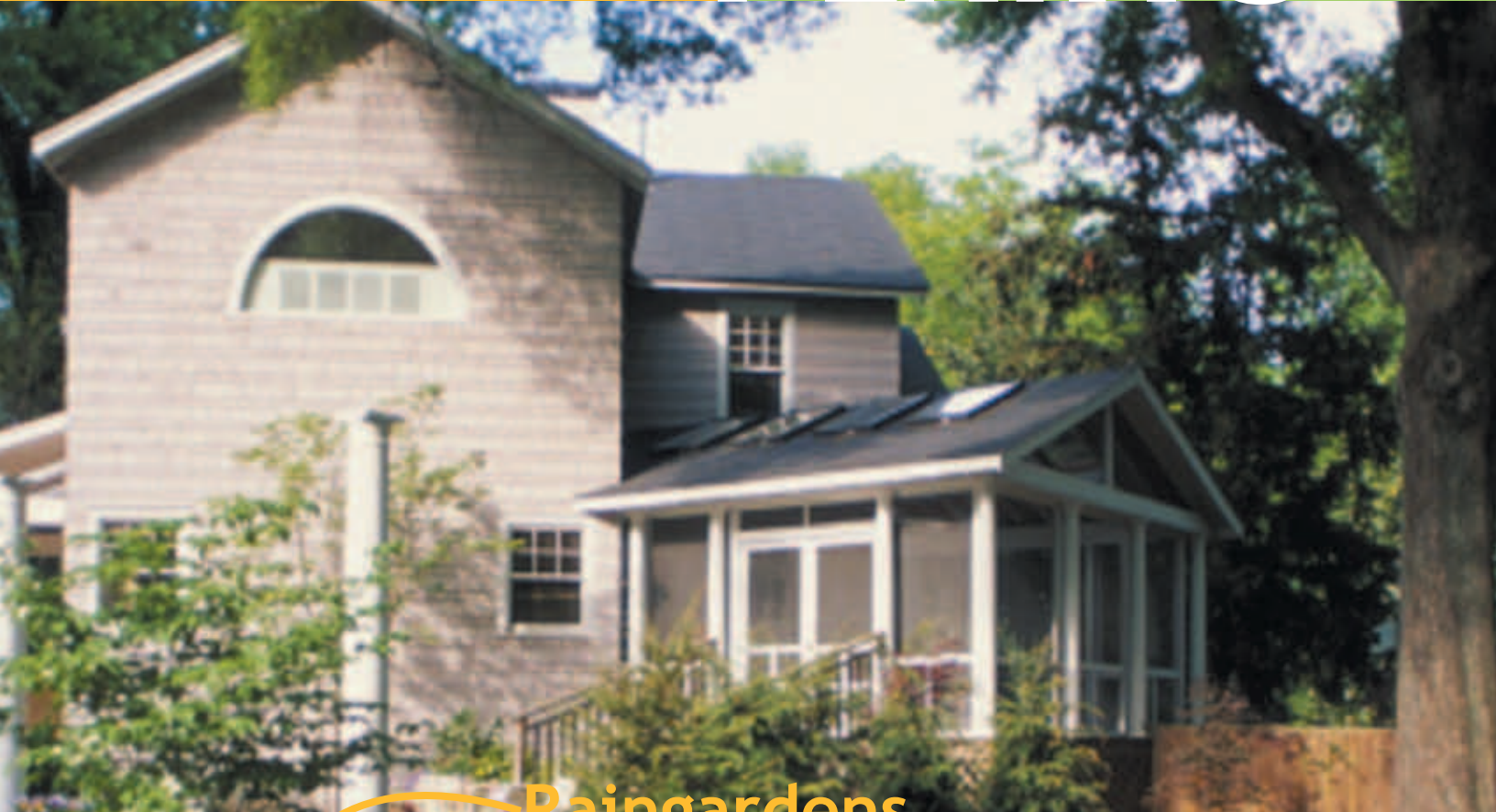
Table adapted from Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens by Douglas Tallamy, p. 126.

PLANTS TO AVOID AND EVENTUALLY REMOVE DUE TO THEIR INVASIVENESS AND LACK OF BENEFIT TO WILDLIFE:

COMMON NAME	SPECIES NAME	PLANT TYPE & APPROX. HEIGHT
Alien honeysuckles	<i>Lonicera tatarica</i> , <i>L. morrowii</i> , <i>L. maackii</i> , <i>L. X bella</i> , <i>L. fragrantissima</i> , and others	Shrubs (approx. 10 feet)
Norway maple*	<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Tree (40 feet)
Amur maple*	<i>Acer ginnala</i>	Small clump tree (20 feet)
Oriental bittersweet	<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	Woody vine (50 feet)
Japanese knotweed	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	Huge perennial (10 feet)

*Consider removing if near a woodland where its seedlings can reproduce. See many more species to avoid at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/index.html>

Native PLANTS



Raingardens

TURN RUNOFF INTO WILDFLOWERS!

Raingardens are an attractive and easy way to capture and absorb runoff from rooftops, downspouts, driveways, patios, and other impervious areas. It's important to remember that raingardens are not ponds or wetlands. Raingardens generally are designed and constructed to completely absorb water within a few hours, but not more than a couple days. Because the water that flows into a raingarden is absorbed into the ground, it is prevented from flowing across surfaces where it can pick up sediment, nutrients, and other pollutants that may pass into the street and eventually into a lake, creek, or wetland. Instead, this water helps plants grow and minimizes watering needs.



Veggie garden

REWARD YOURSELF WITH SOME FRESH VEGGIES AND HERBS!

A veggie garden is a great way to take advantage of pollinators you have attracted to your yard. Planting native wildflowers around your garden can help improve the production of flowering plants like squash, melons, eggplant, and strawberries. It can also add color around your cabbages. Although not native, some herbs like oregano, garlic, chives, parsley, and lavender are also good for pollinators. Don't forget the fencing (or plant some extras for your fuzzy friends).

Woodland Edge

PROVIDE FOR WILDLIFE BY PLANTING A TRANSITION ZONE.

Edge habitat is attractive to many wildlife species because it provides winter cover, protection from predators, nesting sites, and food in the form of fruit, nuts, seeds and greens. Along sunny edges, most plants will flourish, supplying a dense cover and yielding more flowers and food for pollinators and songbirds. This is a good place to plant a diversity of native species that provide the most benefit. See a list of suggestions in the article "Why native plants?" You have no woodland edge? Large groupings of woody plants of different heights, mulched throughout, will mimic a woodland edge.



Sunny Meadow

NEED A SPLASH OF COLOR IN YOUR NATIVE LANDSCAPE?

Plant a sunny meadow for a splash of color. In the summer, butterflies, bees and hummingbirds will be attracted to the pollen and sweet flower nectar, and in the winter this landscape component will provide interest. The deep-rooted plants help stabilize soils to prevent erosion and allow infiltration of water. That in turn will help reduce the amount of water that runs off your property, protecting your neighborhood wetland, creek or pond.



Shade Tree

THE BEST TIME TO PLANT A TREE WAS TEN YEARS AGO. THE SECOND BEST TIME IS TODAY!

Need a reason or two to plant a tree? Try these! Trees planted on the east and west sides of homes result in energy savings. Mature trees have been shown to increase property values. Trees benefit public health by improving air and water quality. Tree growth removes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and stores it, which is why trees and forests are often referred to as "carbon sinks." Wildlife are fed, protected, and attracted by trees. The cooling shade of trees ensures a longer life for paved asphalt and reduces the urban heat island effect. Need another reason not to put off planting? Recent U.S. Department of Agriculture studies have shown that the greatest economic and environmental benefits come from large, mature trees.



Use Native Plants

DON'T MOW TO THE EDGE!

Preserving native vegetation growing around lakes, creeks, and wetlands helps protect water quality, prevent erosion and provide wildlife habitat. Water runoff can be slowed and absorbed when passing through native vegetation, reducing the amount of sediment, nutrients, and other pollutants that reach the water. Planting native vegetation such as trees, wildflowers, shrubs, sedges, or other species around the water can help supplement existing vegetation, provide cover and food for birds or other wildlife, help prevent the negative effects of lawn care practices and provide an attractive view.

MINNETONKA'S

ECO-SERIES:

Academy of Walks and Talks



If you want to learn more about lawn care, or how to curb garlic mustard, or if you want to take a guided plant walk or wade in a wetland, the Academy of Walks and Talks is for you!

Talking Turf

April 13, 6:30 p.m.

Concerned about water quality, but still want your neighbors to be green with envy over your lawn?

Get tips on proper fertilizing, watering, weed control, and efficient mowing. Workshop presented in partnership with the Nine Mile Creek and Minnehaha Creek watershed districts. Registration required – call (952) 988-8400 or register online at www.eminnetonka.com. Location: Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka.



Garlic mustard

Got garlic mustard?

April 22, May 5, or June 3,
6:30 p.m.

Get a head start on garlic mustard this season by learning about this rapidly spreading invasive plant before it produces seed. If you attend the April or May workshop, you'll save time and money by pulling one stage of the plant at just the right time, eliminating the need to bag or use herbicide. Handouts provided. Registration is required – call (952) 988-8400 or register online at www.eminnetonka.com. Location: Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka.

Pick up rain barrels, compost bins

April 16 & 17

If you ordered a rain barrel or compost bin through the Recycling Association of Minnesota (RAM), don't forget to pick it up! Check your receipt or order confirmation for the correct pick-up dates and location, and don't forget to bring your receipt with you to the pick-up site. You must pick up your barrels or bins at the location you selected when you ordered. No refunds are available. Questions? Go to www.recycleminnesota.org.



Pick up dates are Friday and Saturday, April 16 and 17, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Minnetonka Public Works, 11522 Minnetonka Boulevard.

Did you order trees?

If you ordered trees through the city tree sale, be sure to pick them up April 30 or May 1.

When: Friday, April 30, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. or
Saturday, May 1, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Where: Minnetonka Public Works
11522 Minnetonka Boulevard
Follow the signs to the east driveway
(recycling drop-off center)

More information:

- Trees must be picked up on the designated pick-up dates. Trees that are not picked up are forfeited and will be planted in a Minnetonka park.
- You pick the date that works for you – Friday or Saturday.
- Keep your yellow confirmation postcard to present to city staff at pick-up. Confirmation postcards will be sent to participants two weeks prior to pick-up dates as an additional reminder.
- If you will be out of town, ask your neighbor, friend or family member to pick up the trees on your behalf. Be sure to give them your yellow confirmation postcard to present.

If we have a warm spring and you notice that trees in your yard are already beginning to leaf out, we recommend you bring a tarp or sheet with you to protect your new trees. This helps prevent water loss through the opening buds and leaves as they travel down the road in an open truck bed or trailer.

After planting, consider recycling your tree container pot at your local garden center. Check www.gardenminnesota.com for drop-off locations. Questions? Call Emily Ball, city forester, at (952) 988-8400.



SPRING PLANT WALKS

PARK	DATE	TIME	MEETING PLACE
Big Willow	Wednesday, April 28	5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Big Willow parking lot at <i>Public Works SE of ball fields</i> 11522 Minnetonka Boulevard
Lone Lake	Thursday, May 6	5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Lower parking lot by new rain gardens, 5624 Shady Oak Road
Jidana	Thursday, May 13	5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Parking lot, 3333 Jidana Lane
Lake Rose	Thursday, May 20	5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Park entrance is a city strip of land between 5724 and 5732 Lake Rose Drive. Park on the street & meet between the houses.
Kinsel	Thursday, May 27	5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Main parking lot at 14017 Kinsel Road
Civic Center	Thursday, June 10	TBD	Native Plant Market & Eco Fun Fest (see the June <i>Minnetonka Memo</i>)

Take a spring plant walk

Take a guided plant walk in a Minnetonka park where significant habitat restoration is underway. At Big Willow and Lake Rose parks, see how the forest floor responds in the spring following an autumn controlled burn. Visit special areas in Kinsel and Lone Lake parks where volunteers have planted trees and shrubs. At the Jidana and Civic Center parks, find out what grows after buckthorn has been cut.

Observe restoration practices used by the city as well as wildflowers, wildlife and ornamental benefits of native trees and shrubs. Limit of 15 people per walk. Registration is required – call (952) 988-8400.

- Rain or shine. Wear appropriate outdoor clothing and sturdy footwear.
- Recommended: water bottle and notebook.
- Children are welcome, but must be accompanied by an adult.
- Meet on-site at location specified in table above.

Help monitor Minnetonka's wetlands

The city of Minnetonka has partnered with Hennepin County for the ninth year to implement the Wetland Health Evaluation Program (WHEP) in Minnetonka.

Adult volunteers work in the field on a team with other city residents to study the biological health of Minnetonka's wetlands. Science background or previous monitoring experience is not required. The time commitment is approximately 40 to 50 hours total from May through August, which includes training, fieldwork and lab work. All equipment is provided. Contact Aaron Schwartz, natural resource specialist, at (952) 988-8422 or at aschwartz@eminnetonka.com.



KEEPING THE WATERS CLEAN

Do you know where your runoff goes? As you watch the last remnants of snow melting in your yard this spring, think about where the water flows when it leaves your yard. Do you have a wetland, lake, or creek on your property that receives some of the water?



As water flows across patios, driveways, lawns, exposed soil, and other surfaces it can pick up any loose particles, chemicals, debris, or other items it encounters. These materials may wash directly into a water resource on your property or out into the street. Most runoff that enters the street usually is directed down the street or through a stormsewer system into the nearest wetland, lake, or creek. Any materials in that runoff can collect in the water, reducing flood capacity, releasing

nutrients that can promote the growth of algae and weeds, harming native plant and animal species, or making the water unsightly.

Although you may not always be able to enjoy the view from your window, we all effectively live on a lake, creek, or wetland when it comes to water quality. You can help keep your neighborhood waters clean by using the simple tips below.

- Fertilize only if needed. Have a soil test done before applying fertilizers. Consider organic and slow-release fertilizers or soil amendments such as composts that can help build the soil.
- Keep the clippings on the lawn. Direct your lawn mower to blow clippings back into your yard and sweep up any strays that end up in the street. Mulching mowers put nutrients back into your lawn - the equivalent of one fertilizer treatment per year.
- Clean up spills. Sweep up spilled fertilizer, pet food, or other materials that can wash into the street. Mop or sponge liquids and use absorbing compounds to soak up oils and grease so that you can dispose of them properly.
- Pick up pet waste. Bag up pet wastes and place them in the trash. Waste matter can contain nutrients as well as bacteria and other microorganisms that may be harmful to other animals.
- Adopt a storm drain (or curbline). Pick up leaves, sticks, and debris around the storm drain or along the curb as you clean your yard. Disposing of these materials properly keeps them out of the water and keeps the water flowing freely.

TAKING ACTION ON EMERALD ASH BORER

Emerald ash borer has been found in the metro area. The city of Minnetonka recently received a \$75,000 grant to begin planning and preparing for emerald ash borer. Here's how you can help!



- EAB is a wood boring beetle that feeds under the bark in an ash tree's living tissues. It starts out in larvae form and matures into the more familiar green metallic beetle.
- Females lay their eggs in the upper branches first. Baby EAB are called larvae, and are a good source of food for woodpeckers.
- The pathways made by EAB are winding and S-shaped.
- Feeding in the living tissues damages the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients throughout the tree, eventually killing it.
- EAB only attacks ash trees. All types of ash are affected, even if they are healthy.



- One sign of EAB is branch "blonding" where woodpeckers strip the ash bark of upper branches looking for larvae. This is one of the only obvious, outward signs that a tree is infested.
- In areas where the EAB is feeding, all ash will eventually succumb to attack unless they are chemically treated.



- The adult emerald ash borer beetle is about one-half inch long
- They leave D-shaped exit holes in bark when they leave the tree, but the holes are very hard to see unless you stare at the bark.
- Look for adults in June and July, around the same time black locust trees flower



- Symptoms of EAB are similar to construction damage or general decline. They are very subtle for several years.
- Eventually, the tree will die on top but will continue to produce epicormic branches, often called "suckers," because the roots are still alive.

DOS AND DON'TS OF INSECTICIDE TREATMENTS:

- Do consider hiring a certified arborist to evaluate the condition and health of your ash trees before treating.
- Do be aware there are soil drenches, soil injections, trunk injections, and bark and foliage sprays to control EAB. Some have been found to be more effective than others. Timing and placement is crucial to properly apply insecticides.
- Do prioritize and selectively treat your ash; only those that contribute significantly to your landscape should be treated.
- Do remember most treatments must occur every one to two years.
- Don't forget that trees larger than 15 inches in diameter must be treated by a professional; the homeowner products are not formulated for larger trees.
- Don't apply soil drenches on top of turf or mulch. They must be applied to bare mineral soil.
- Don't apply soil drenches near storm drains, streams or other water bodies due to water contamination concerns.
- Do get more tips at www.eminnetonka.com.

LEARNING MORE ABOUT EAB

Want to know more? Visit www.eminnetonka.com for links to a variety of web resources on emerald ash borer, including the following:

- How to identify trees now so you know if you'll be affected.
- How to plant several different tree species to anticipate later ash losses.
- When to consider insecticide treatments and how to follow the status of EAB.
- How to identify the symptoms of EAB.
- Learn more about St. Paul's infested neighborhood.

Support provided from the Outdoor Heritage Fund, a part of the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment, as appropriated in Minnesota Laws 2009, Chapter 172