

# minnetonka memo

A Newsletter from the City of Minnetonka  
April 2009

## Silver Skates Ice Revue is April 30 – May 2

MINNETONKA ICE ARENA'S ALL SEASON SKATING SCHOOL PROUDLY presents the 35th Annual Silver Skates Ice Revue, "WSK8.FM." More than 250 skaters from Minnetonka and surrounding areas are featured this year. Show times are:

**Thursday** April 30, 2009 6:30 pm  
**Friday** May 1, 2009 6:30 pm  
**Saturday** May 2, 2009 2:00 pm

Admission is \$6 for adults, \$4 for school-aged children and free for pre-school children. Senior citizens and individuals with special needs are granted free admission to the Saturday performance. We look forward to entertaining you! Don't forget to bring a coat or blanket, as it does get cold in the ice arena.

### Skating lessons start June 8

Interested in skating lessons? Summer skating lessons for both youth and adults are held Monday evenings beginning June 8, 2009. Call the Minnetonka Ice Arena at (952) 939-8310 for more information and for a registration brochure, or visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) and download a brochure on the Ice Arena page. ☺



*Don't miss this year's Silver Skates Ice Revue!*

## Caring Youth recognized at March reception

TWENTY-THREE CARING YOUTH WERE RECOGNIZED THURSDAY, MARCH 12, AT THE Minnetonka Community Center during the 2009 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](http://www.eminnetonka.com). ☺



**This year's winners (nominators in parentheses) are:** Jennifer Ashley (*Stages Theatre Company*); Katie Baratto (*St. John's the Evangelist*); Zahra Bashir (*Hopkins Community Coalition: One Voice*); Kathryn Bauer (*American Diabetes Association/Girl Scouts*); Peter Bauer (*City of Minnetonka/Boy Scouts*); Hannah Borowsky (*Children's Hospitals and Clinics of MN & Global Volunteers*); Nolan Bryant (*Speak the Word Church*); Patrick Buggy (*Keep the Drive/The Allstate Foundation*); Julie Christensen (*Oak Knoll Lutheran Church*); Laura Ford (*ICA Foodshelf*); Nicole Halverson (*Faith Presbyterian Church*); Katarina Hondlik (*Mentoring Peace Through Art*); Sam Jacobson (*All Saints Lutheran Church*); Amelia Kimball (*Presbyterian Homes-Beacon Hill*); Michaela Mahin (*Blankets for Peace*); Sharon Mendoza (*St. Therese Southwest*); Leila Mohsenian (*Invisible Children/Better World Books*); Sara Olson (*Minnetonka United Methodist Church*); Eshaan Rao (*CommonBond Communities*); Stacie Regep (*We Can Ride Inc.*); Lauren Vickers (*Golden Valley Library*); Allison Weisman (*CommonBond Communities*); Frieda Yeung (*Westwood Hills Nature Center*).

# Flashpoints

## From the Minnetonka Fire Department



**I**N FIREFIGHTING LINGO, A FLASHPOINT is the temperature at which combustible materials burst into flame. The flashpoints in this quarterly feature, however, are not so volatile — rather, 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.

### Fire department turns 50

In May, the Minnetonka Fire Department celebrates 50 years of the tradition of “service before self.” The fire department was established by city ordinance on May 7, 1959, and started with a chief, an assistant chief, a fire marshal, about 20 firefighters, and a single pumper truck housed in the public works garage. Now, the Minnetonka Fire Department is one of the best in the state, with nearly 80 paid-on-call firefighters based out of five fire stations around the city.

### Recreational fires

All recreational fires (campfires) within the city of Minnetonka require a burning permit from the city, which can be obtained by visiting [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). Once issued, the permit does not have to be renewed annually, but may be cancelled by the fire department at any time.

### Recycling fire extinguishers

If you have an expired or empty residential fire extinguisher, recycle it at Minnetonka Fire Department Station 1, 14550 Minnetonka Boulevard, Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. It will be sent to a local extinguisher servicing company for proper recycling.

### Calls for service

During January and February 2009, the fire department responded to nearly 300 calls for service. The department’s duty crew now handles most of the regular calls, while about 40 paid-on-call firefighters report for every structure fire.

Significant events included a residential structure fire on Oak Knoll Terrace North; a search for two missing children, who were quickly located; and a carbon monoxide incident at an apartment building.

### Fire training

The average Minnetonka firefighter attended more than 45 hours of training during the first quarter of 2009, a little more than three hours per week. This quarter’s training included:

- A presentation on new vehicle design features and how they affect extrication techniques used by emergency personnel.
- A presentation by the Minnetonka Police Department on assisting with law enforcement rapid-entry teams.
- Annual SKYWARN refresher, with a National Weather Service meteorologist presenting severe weather spotting information.

### CodeRed

The city is in the process of implementing a reverse 9-1-1 system that can call residents

in case of significant emergencies. As a Minnetonka resident, you have the ability to add email addresses or cell or other phone numbers to the system, so that you can receive information via email or text message as well as by phone. You may also opt out of notifications if you so choose. Visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) to update your information.

### Fire alarm fee reminder

The Minnetonka Fire Department is primarily a paid-on-call fire department; therefore, significant non-payroll costs are associated with response to fire alarm calls. A \$250 charge is incurred for each fire department response to an automatic fire alarm *except* fire sprinkler water flow alarms. There will be no charge for residents reporting a fire alarm sounding when it is reported through the 9-1-1 system. ☺

## Severe Weather Awareness Week starts April 20

**E**ACH DAY OF SEVERE WEATHER Awareness Week, April 20-24, focuses on a different topic. Take the time to ensure you and your family are ready for these severe weather events.

### April 20

*(Thunderstorms, Lightning and Wind)*  
Thunderstorms, hail, straight-line winds, and lightning cause extensive damage across Minnesota each year.

### April 21

*(Severe Weather Warning Systems)*  
Weather information, advisories, watches and warnings are prepared by the National Weather Service in Chanhassen. The three most common methods of passing on this information are the Emergency Alert System (through local media); NOAA’s all-hazard weather radio; and outdoor warning sirens (tornado warnings).

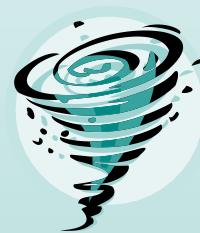
### April 22 (Heat)

High summer temperatures can quickly cause medical heat issues such as heat cramps or exhaustion or heat stroke. Children and the elderly are especially

susceptible to these potentially life-threatening situations.

### April 23 (Tornado Drill Day)

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



### April 24 (Flash Floods)

On average, five flash floods occur every year in Minnesota, most of them in June. As you may recall, southeastern Minnesota was hit hard by flash flooding in August 2007. Half of flash flood fatalities occur in vehicles. ☺

## Attend a meeting on the Minnetonka Mills corridor development initiative

**T**RADITIONALLY, THE DEVELOPMENT process works like this: a developer visits city hall and applies for a permit, then neighbors receive notice of the intended development and a date for public hearing. At this point, plans are often complete and neighbors are asked to provide input on designs that are already under consideration. Once the public hearing is held, a decision is made.

For the community's historic Minnetonka Mills area, the city is trying a new planning process. This spring, before any developer application or designs are submitted, the city of Minnetonka will partner with the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) through the Corridor Development Initiative to explore new ways to consider development for the Minnetonka Mills area north of Minnetonka Boulevard.

The Corridor Development Initiative (CDI) is a proactive process to assist in the planning, design, and development along major corridors. The idea is to engage residents in playing an active part in directing development by first providing education on market realities and financial considerations of development. Then, residents can more effectively participate in shaping development goals.

All residents are invited to participate in any or all of the following CDI workshops, set for April, May and June.

### Workshop I: Gathering Information

**Tuesday, April 14, 6–8 p.m.**  
ICA Food Shelf Meeting Room  
12990 St. Davids Road

### Workshop II: Development Opportunities — Block Exercise

**Tuesday, May 19, 6–8 p.m.**  
ICA Food Shelf Meeting Room  
12990 St. Davids Road

### Workshop III: Developer Discussion

**Tuesday, June 2, 6–8 p.m.**  
ICA Food Shelf Meeting Room  
12990 St. Davids Road

### Workshop IV: Framing Recommendations

**Tuesday, June 16, 6–8 p.m.**  
ICA Food Shelf Meeting Room  
12990 St. Davids Road

For more information contact Julie Wischnack at (952) 939-8282 or [jwischnack@eminnetonka.com](mailto:jwischnack@eminnetonka.com) or Elise Durbin at (952) 939-8285 or [edurbin@eminnetonka.com](mailto:edurbin@eminnetonka.com). ☺

## Commercial I and I inspections to start

**M**INNETONKA PUBLIC WORKS IS concluding its residential infiltration and inflow (I and I) inspections and radio-read water meter installations, bringing to an end a two-year effort to reduce the flow of clear water from Minnetonka homes into the Met Council's sanitary sewer and waste treatment systems.

However, this marks only the mid-point of the city's overall five-year I and I effort. Next on the list: inspections of Minnetonka's 1,500 commercial and industrial properties, slated to kick off in May and conclude by 2010.

**Commercial property owners and occupants are invited to attend an informational meeting on the I and I inspection program Wednesday, April 15, at 10 a.m.** in the Council Chambers,

Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka.

Property owners and occupants are also being notified of this meeting via mail.

Consulting firm Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc. (SEH) will conduct the commercial I and I inspections, and as with the residential inspections, will be looking for sump pump or clear water discharge into the sewer system. If issues are identified, SEH will work with the property owner and/or management to help fix the problem. SEH will contact properties in advance to set up inspection appointments.

For more information about the commercial and industrial I and I inspections, contact Minnetonka Public Works at (952) 988-8400. ☺

## Understanding trees and power lines

**A**LTHOUGH OFTEN MISTAKEN FOR CITY of Minnetonka crews, Xcel Energy and its contracted tree companies, Asplundh Tree Expert Company and Wright Tree Service, perform tree pruning and removals to provide clearance along power lines. As they would with an individual property owner, Xcel Energy contacts the Minnetonka city forester when they seek to remove trees on city-owned properties. However, while the city may be aware that Xcel's contractors are working in Minnetonka during a certain time period, city staff is not informed about specific work on private properties.

Tree contractors take many variables into account when deciding between pruning or entirely removing a tree. Trees along lines are pruned routinely every four to five years, with trees selected for pruning based on current and future potential to affect electric reliability and/or public safety. Another consideration is the amount of voltage conducted by the line. As a general rule, the greater the voltage, the more clearance is required. Other factors may include the number of customers exposed in the event

of an outage, and the types of customers (such as hospitals). The potential for line sag also must be kept in mind when evaluating nearby trees. Lines can heat up, expand, and sometimes sag during peak energy demand periods such as heating in winter and cooling in summer.

Power companies such as Xcel are regulated by state and federal entities such as the Public Utility Commissions and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Depending on the type of power line, regulators require power companies to perform trimming and removal, or "vegetation management," operations in accordance with established codes and standards. Since the power outage in the northeastern United States in August 2003, which left 50 million people without power, regulatory agencies have imposed stricter guidelines for keeping lines clear of trees.

For more extensive information about Xcel Energy's procedures for tree pruning near power lines and information on where to plant trees to avoid power lines, visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) or call Emily Barbeau, city forester, at (952) 988-8400. ☺

## Health and fitness expo set for April 19

**G**ET A JUMP START ON YOUR HEALTH this spring by attending the Community Health and Fitness Expo Sunday, April 19, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Lindbergh Center, 2400 Lindbergh Drive, Minnetonka. Sponsored by Hopkins Public Schools and Hopkins-Minnetonka Recreation Services, you'll experience everything the Lindbergh Center has to offer! Take part in fitness class demos and wellness activities, learn about community offerings, and much more. Bring the whole family for a day of fitness and fun — it's free! For a complete schedule of events, visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com). ☺

# Discover Big Willow Park's trails

**L**OCATED BETWEEN MINNETONKA BOULEVARD AND CEDAR LAKE Road, just west of the Minnetonka Public Works facility, Big Willow Park's 95 acres make it the smallest of the city's five community parks. Big Willow's enticing features include views of Minnehaha Creek, expansive open spaces and extensive trails along with community athletic fields and a play area. More than two miles of formal trails and other paths meander through the park, with the northern section of the park a natural area with trail connections to Mayflower, Hilloway and Meadow parks.

## Park history

In the 1880s, Big Willow was the site of St. Albans Mill, a flour mill located in the north section of the park on Minnehaha Creek and was served by a railroad spur. Later, Adam Hannah was the owner of the property where Big Willow Park and the Minnetonka Public Works facility are now located. He built a home on the site in 1913 for his wife and three children. After his death in 1929, his daughter Mary R. E. Hannah lived in the house until she died in 1967. The city had already purchased some of the property in the 1950s, and acquired the rest after Hannah's death.

Big Willow Park's grand opening was celebrated July 23, 1977, and was the result of a joint project between the Minnetonka Jaycees and the city of Minnetonka, funded by a federal grant. The park had already been recognized in 1976 by Jaycees International, when it was named the best environmental project in the United States. Current Minnetonka Mayor Terry Schneider was a member of the Jaycees at the time, and played a prominent role in the Big Willow Park development. A standout feature of the park while it was being developed — and which is still there — was a large willow tree on the west side of the marsh, thus the name "Big Willow."

## Big Willow's trails

Big Willow's 2.3 miles of trails are mostly surfaced with crushed limestone in the natural areas and paved with asphalt on the hilly areas and around the athletic facilities in order to prevent erosion. During the winter season, trails are plowed after a snowfall of two inches or more.

### The north-south connecting trail

Just off the parking lot, west of the athletic fields, visitors can access the trail that crosses to the north side of Minnehaha Creek, then follows the creek until it passes under the railroad tracks into the north section of the park, ending at Cedar Lake Road (0.8 mile).

### The west spur trail

After crossing Minnehaha Creek, the west spur trail heads west and ends at Plymouth Road (0.4 mile) or turns south to Bridge Street



(0.5 mile). Along Bridge Street there is access to the Minnetonka Mills area, the Burwell House, and the Regional LRT Trail.

### The southern east-west trail

The trail segments along the south side of the park connect Big Willow Park with the Mills area to the west (0.5 mile) and access to the Regional LRT Trail. To the east the trail connects to trails along County Road 73 (Hopkins Crossroad) to the north (0.6 mile) and Oak Ridge Road to the south (1.4 miles).

## If you go

- Park is open 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- The park is accessible by car from Minnetonka Boulevard. The parking lot holds 10 vehicles, with one handicapped space. Additional parking is available near the public works facility.
- Seasonal restrooms and drinking fountain are located on the west side of the public works facility.
- Dogs must be on a leash (no longer than 6 feet) on the trails, in the formal areas of the park, and in the parking lot. Dogs may be under voice command and in view of owners at all times in the undeveloped areas of the park. Please pick up after your pet. Muttt Mitt dispensers are available along the trail.

## Don't miss...

- Look for the group of willow trees for which the park is named, about 500 feet north of the small parking lot on Minnetonka Boulevard.
- In the northeast section of the park, look for the original cut for the railroad spur that served St. Albans Mill. A bridge abutment still stands next to the creek.
- A 2.8-mile loop starts at the small parking lot and heads north through Big Willow Park to Cedar Lake Road, east along Cedar Lake Road to County Road 73 (Hopkins Crossroad), south to Minnetonka Boulevard, and west again along Minnetonka Boulevard back to the small parking lot.
- The city's natural resource division is restoring the wooded section north of the railroad tracks by removing buckthorn and protecting native species. ♻️

# Natural Resource NOTES

SPRING 2009



ECOSYSTEM

## ec-o-sys-tem [ee-koh-sis-tuhm]

—noun.

a natural unit consisting of all plants, animals and micro-organisms in an area functioning together with all of the non-living physical factors of the environment.

(Source: [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com))

The city of Minnetonka has many remnant ecosystems, specifically woodland environments, and for a developed community of just over 50,000 people, that is something about which residents can be proud.

The city of Minnetonka is trying to promote and protect these ecosystems by controlling buckthorn and garlic mustard; educating area residents and businesses about woodland environments; and offering native trees as part of the tree sale in order to reforest and promote native species.

In the following articles, learn about the city's historical woodland cover; the different types of remaining woodland ecosystems; where to view those ecosystems; and how trees can support quality of life.

## THE VALUE OF PROTECTING NATURAL RESOURCES

Minnetonka residents value the natural resources in this community, but is it possible to assess the true value that trees and clean water have on our lives? Trees help reduce energy costs by protecting homes from winter winds and summer sun; increase privacy between homes and buildings; and clean the air we breathe. Wetlands capture and clean storm water runoff, while wetland plants help prevent soil erosion and absorb water into the ground.

Beyond those benefits, natural resources provide a sense of permanence and history. Look at a 200-year-old oak tree, and you are seeing a tree that for 200 years stood in one place while the world around it changed. Similarly, every wetland, lake, or creek represents an ecosystem that has developed over hundreds or thousands of years.

We are very fortunate in Minnetonka to still enjoy some of the natural resources of our past along with the

recreational and aesthetic benefits that they provide—and it is up to all of us to help protect them into the future.

Follow these tips to ensure our natural resources will be around well into the future:

- **Install and maintain proper sediment and erosion controls** when conducting construction, grading, or other soil-disturbing activity in your yard.
- **Keep paved surfaces clean.** Material tracked or washed into the street will empty into the nearest storm drain and water resource.
- **Protect your trees** from equipment, construction materials, or other activity that can cause soil compaction by fencing off the critical root zone, the area 1.5 feet from the trunk for each inch of trunk diameter. For example, the CRZ of a 10" diameter tree is the area 15 feet from the trunk.

Need more information? Contact the city's natural resources division at (952) 988-8400. Read on to learn more about protecting Minnetonka's natural resources!

VALUE

MINNETONKA'S

# ECO-SERIES:

## Academy of Walks and Talks



Are you ready to plant a tree? Do you have a mystery woodland plant that you think may be garlic mustard? Want to walk in wetlands, and learn more about these spongy environments? If so, join us for one of the following workshops or volunteer opportunities and expand your knowledge of the natural environment.

### Tree Planting Clinic

April 14, 6–8 p.m.

Attend a free city-sponsored tree planting clinic Tuesday, April 14, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Big Willow Park. Meet in the Minnetonka Public Works parking lot, 11522 Minnetonka Boulevard, then walk to the planting site in the park. You'll learn planting and pruning tips to ensure the health of your tree throughout its life span. Registration is required for this event and limited to 30 people. For more information or to register call Emily Barbeau, city forester, at (952) 988-8400.

### Celebrate Arbor Month

May 14, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Celebrate Arbor Month at a mulching and tree care event Thursday, May 14 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. in Glen Moor Park. This event focuses on the importance of long-term maintenance of trees, rather than on planting alone. Learn tree care and pruning tips to apply in your own yard. Have fun digging in the soil while enhancing the environment in this community park. Snacks and planting supplies will be provided. Participants will receive a Tree City USA t-shirt, tree seedlings, and tree care information packets. Dress for the weather, and bring your gardening gloves, your questions and your fresh spring air enthusiasm! This event is free and all ages are welcome. Questions? Call Emily Barbeau, city forester, at (952) 988-8400.



A young family helped at last year's Arbor Month event.

### Got garlic mustard?

May 6 and June 4, 6:30 p.m.

Learn about this very invasive woodland herb that is widespread throughout Minnetonka. This year, the city's garlic mustard workshop is scheduled twice during the plant's peak season. A slide show and talk will be presented from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., followed by a walk in the Minnetonka Civic Center woods to look at the real thing from 7:30 to 8 p.m., weather permitting. Learn this plant's life cycle and how it looks in its many stages of growth, as well as control methods and the most critical period for removal. Handouts provided. Registration is required. Call (952) 988-8400.

**Location:** May 6 — Boards and Commissions room, Minnetonka City Hall and June 4 — community room, Minnetonka Community Center.

### More to come...

Watch future editions of the *Minnetonka Memo* for more walks and talks.

### Did you order a tree? Pick up is April 24 and 25!

If you ordered trees through the city tree sale, be sure to pick them up April 24 or 25! This year, trees must be picked up on the designated pick-up dates or they will be planted in Minnetonka parks. You may choose either date to collect your pre-ordered trees. If you will be out of town or do not have an appropriate vehicle, your neighbors or family members may pick up the trees on your



Garlic mustard

# ECO-SERIES

## Join a spring plant walk

Take a guided plant walk in a Minnetonka park where native habitat restoration is underway. Walk with the city's restoration specialist and look for wildflowers. See new native woody plantings and remnant native shrubs that are being restored. Learn about restoration practices the city is using and how to identify the invasive bad guys. Wildlife and ornamental benefits of some native trees and shrubs will be included. RSVP is required and limited to 15 for each walk. Call Minnetonka Public Works at (952) 988-8400.

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



Park	Date	Time	Meeting Place
Purgatory	Thursday, April 30	5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Picnic parking lot, 17315 Excelsior Boulevard
Big Willow	Thursday, May 7	5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Big Willow parking lot at Minnetonka Public Works, 11522 Minnetonka Boulevard
Jidana	Thursday, May 14	5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Parking lot, 3333 Jidana Lane
Lone Lake	Thursday, May 21	5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Lower parking lot by swings, 5624 Shady Oak Road

## Rain garden workshops April 16 and 29, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

The cities of Minnetonka and Eden Prairie and the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District and Metro Blooms are partnering to host two rain garden workshops on April 16 and 29. Learn the benefits and design characteristics of rain gardens, and meet with a consultant to start designing a rain garden for your own property.

### Workshop I: April 16, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Eden Prairie City Center, 8080 Mitchell Road, Eden Prairie  
Heritage Rooms I/11

Presented by Rusty Schmidt, Waterdrop Innovations

### Workshop II: April 29, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka  
Council Chambers

Presented by Gregg Thompson, Association of Metropolitan Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Pre-planning will be required to meet with the consultant. You will receive your homework after you register for the workshop. Workshops are free but to reserve a seat and receive your homework please RSVP to Minnetonka Public Works at (952) 988-8400. Please indicate which workshop you hope to attend.

behalf, but be sure to give them your confirmation postcard to present to city staff. Confirmation postcards will be sent to participants two weeks prior to the event as an additional reminder.

If it is a warm spring, and you notice that trees in your yard are already leafing out, City Forester Emily Barbeau recommends you bring a tarp or sheet to cover the canopy of your new trees. This helps prevent water loss through the leaves as they travel down the road in an open truck bed or trailer.

## Help monitor Minnetonka's wetlands

If you have ever wanted to wade in a wetland or discover the plants and animals that live in the murky shallows, we want you! The city of Minnetonka has partnered with Hennepin County for the eighth year to implement the Wetland Health Evaluation Program within the city. This project uses biological criteria to identify the health of different wetlands within the community.

Adult volunteers work in the field on a team with other city residents to study the biological health of Minnetonka's wetlands. You do not need a science background or any previous monitoring experience to participate. Volunteers work under the direction of a team leader and receive training on the wetland monitoring protocols as well as plant and insect identification. The time commitment is approximately a total of 40 – 50 hours from May through August. This includes training, fieldwork, and lab work. All equipment is provided (some waders may be available). Just show up and learn!



If you are interested in volunteering for the Minnetonka Wetland Health Evaluation Program, contact Aaron Schwartz, natural resource specialist, at (952) 988-8422 or by email at [aschwartz@eminnetonka.com](mailto:aschwartz@eminnetonka.com) for more information.

### Pick up details

#### Minnetonka Public Works

11522 Minnetonka Boulevard

Follow the signs to the east driveway  
(recycling drop-off center)

Friday, **April 24**, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saturday, **April 25**, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m..

**Questions?** (952) 988-8400

## Seeing the forest for the

# TREES

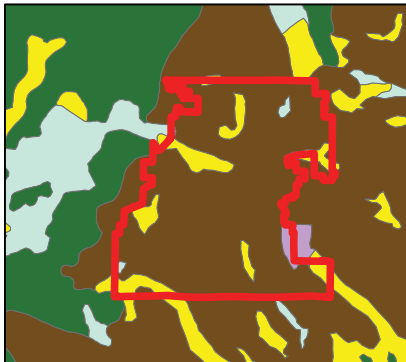
## Minnetonka's Changing Landscape



Minnetonka is located within a small subsection of the eastern broadleaf forest — an area that extends from Minnesota to Arkansas — called the “big woods.” Originally, the big woods was a dense, moist woodland area dominated by oaks, basswood, sugar maple, and elm; however, very little of the original big woods remains today.

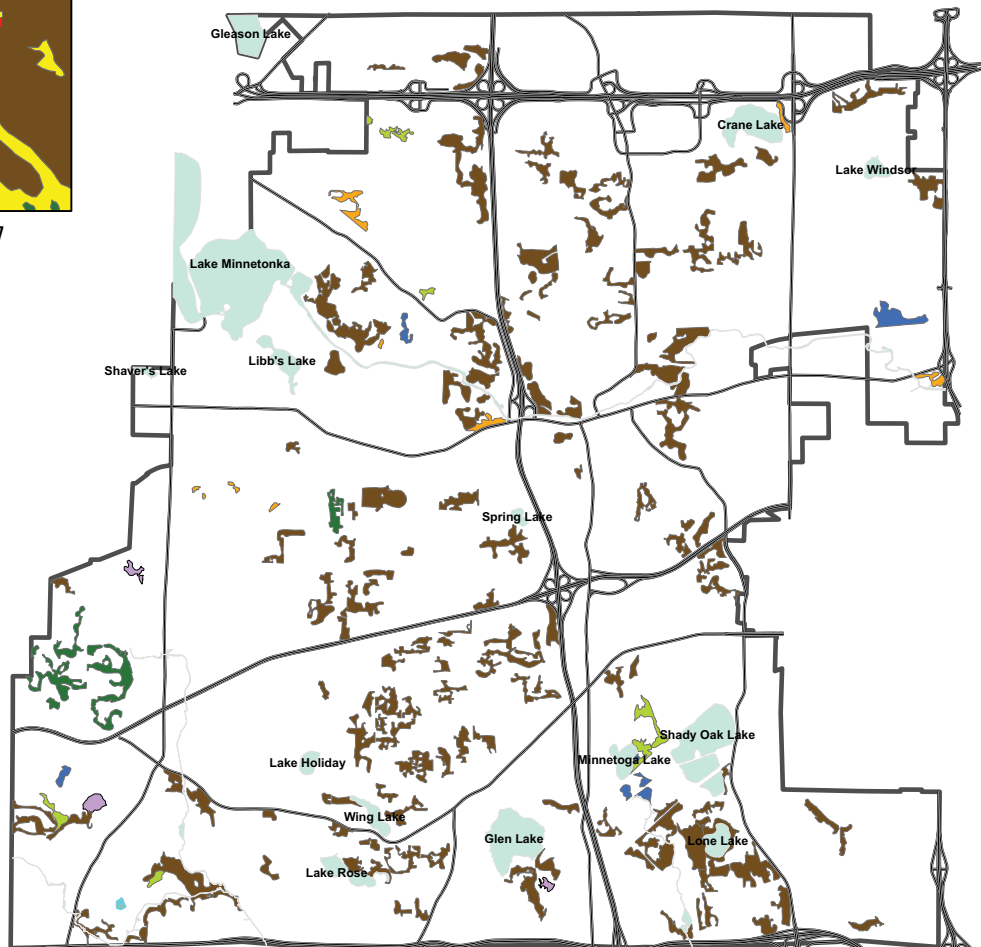
Much of the big woods were removed to allow for agricultural use, but in Minnetonka, tree removal has been the result of development such as the construction of roadways, homes, business, and other urban services. Minnetonka's woodlands also have been affected by the introduction of invasive species, non-native pests and diseases (such as Dutch elm disease), as well as by gradual tree removal by individual property owners seeking to modify their yard or expand their homes or businesses.

As the city strives to maintain its identity as a wooded community, the remnant patches of original forest as well as those individual remaining trees become ever more valuable. Although it took many hundreds of years for these woodlands to form, it only takes a few days or hours to remove them. A look into the past may teach us much about how we can direct our future.



Public Land Survey, 1847-1907

*These maps show the changes in landscape from the late 19th century (at left) to today (below). The colors on the map show the type of landscape: color blocks appearing next to the descriptions of each of these landscapes, on the page at right, serve as a key. You can see the dramatic shift in the amount of forest in Minnetonka from the 19th century to today.*



Public Land Survey, 2008

Past &  
Present



# FOREST

## Disturbed forest

**Description:** Created when bare soil was exposed during farming, construction, grading, mining or digging, disturbed forest sites usually have fast-growing tree species whose seeds found their way to the site.

**Tree species:** American and Siberian elm, cottonwood, green ash, boxelder

**Understory:** Invasive species and weeds are common, such as buckthorn, non-native honeysuckle, prickly ash, willow, sumac and dogwood, as well as garlic mustard, motherwort, burdock, creeping Charlie, wild grape and woodbine

**Animals:** Wild grape may attract song birds and raccoons, squirrels and deer also visit or live in disturbed forest.



## Oak woodland brushland & mesic oak forest

**Description:** These two types of oak forests once dominated Minnetonka's landscape but now exist only in remnant patches. Many oak forests in Minnetonka have been altered and degraded from oak wilt disease, invasive non-native species like buckthorn that have replaced native shrubs, lack of fire which can reduce oak regeneration, and overgrazing from deer. Oak woodland brushland areas have a canopy more open than a forest but less open than a savanna, with trees and shrubs adapted to the well-drained, dry and gravelly soils. Mesic oak forests have a more closed canopy and are characterized by tall deciduous trees 60 feet or higher that lack lower branches. Trees and shrubs are adapted to a moderately moist habitat.

**Trees:** Oak woodland brushland includes red, white, bur and northern pin oaks and aspen. Mesic oak forests include red, white and bur oaks.

**Understory:** Oak woodland brushland includes American hazelnut, junberry and chokecherry, with saplings from the canopy as well as black cherry and red cedar. Mesic oak forests include saplings from the canopy and fire-sensitive species such as basswood, green ash, bitternut hickory, big-toothed aspen, butternut, northern pin oak, black cherry, paper birch, American elm, boxelder and red maple. Shrubs might include ironwood, chokecherry, prickly ash, American hazelnut, prickly gooseberry, red-berried elder, nannyberry, junberry/serviceberry and pagoda dogwood.

**Look for:** Eastern grey tree frogs and black-capped chickadee

**Find it:** Visit Big Willow Park to see examples of oak forest — see page 4 of this *Memo* for more information. A good example of a mesic oak forest can be found west of the lake at Lone Lake Park.



## Maple basswood forest

**Description:** Maple basswood forests are characterized by a variety of shade-tolerant, fire-sensitive, deciduous tree species. Mature trees are straight with narrow crowns greater than 60 feet tall.

**Trees:** Dominant trees are basswood and sugar maple but mesic species such as slippery elm, red oak, bur oak, green ash, white ash and black ash may be found as well.

**Understory:** Includes saplings from the canopy species, as well as bitternut, black cherry, and ironwood. The shrub layer of the understory includes primarily tree seedlings and herbaceous plants.

**Look for:** Scarlet tanagers, a bird whose breeding male appears bright orange-red with black wings, need at least two to six acres of maple basswood forest for nesting, and so are very sensitive to forest fragmentation

**Find it:** A portion of Reich Park has characteristics of maple basswood forest, but most of the remaining remnants in Minnetonka are located on private property around Sparrow Road, Woolman Drive and Priory Lane.



## Tamarack and willow swamps

**Description:** Tamarack and willow swamps are Minnetonka's two types of forested wetland communities.

**Trees:** A tamarack swamp is dominated by tamaracks, a deciduous coniferous tree. Black spruce, paper birch, and red maple might also be found. The dominant species in a willow swamp include black willow and speckled alder.

**Understory:** The tamarack understory includes saplings from the canopy and the large shrub or small tree layer can include speckled alder and red osier dogwood. A willow swamp is seasonally flooded and has scattered-to-dense shrub cover. The willow swamp understory includes dogwood and several smaller willow species.

**Look for:** Wood frogs, woodpeckers, yellow-bellied sapsuckers and porcupines.

**Find it:** While walking the trail south of Minnetonka High School, look for the tamarack swamp located directly south of the trail near Tamarack Circle. From this same trail you can view a willow swamp located to the west of the Minnetonka High School softball fields, in the middle of the cattail marsh.



## Lowland and floodplain forests

**Description:** Lowland and floodplain forests are characterized by tree species that tolerate occasional flooding or periodically wet soils.

**Trees:** Both forest types are typified by silver maple, elm, and cottonwood, but lowland forests also may include some trees found in dryer areas such as oak and basswood.

**Understory:** May be sparse in areas with frequent or severe flooding and may often include climbing plants such as wild grape, moonseed, Virginia creeper, and hog peanut as well as a few tree seedlings and saplings

**Look for:** Dead and decaying trees found in floodplain forests are an important source of food and shelter for songbirds. These forest types often serve as corridors for wildlife and historically were used by early settlers for travel along waterways. Lowland and floodplain forests may harbor kingfishers, blue-gray gnatcatchers, yellow-throated vireos, red-shouldered hawks, woodchucks, red fox and salamanders, or even an occasional crawfish burrow.

**Find it:** View remnants of lowland and floodplain forests along Minnehaha Creek — look along the north side of Minnetonka Boulevard, just east of city hall; or east of Lake Minnetoga, along the north side of the public trail that runs southeast of the lake.



# Know your

# WOODLAND

## Wildflowers & Ground Covers

The six native species featured here fare well in shady woods with average soil moisture; spread by seed or underground rhizomes (roots) to form patches or ground covers; are good perennial replacement plants for garlic mustard; and are very low maintenance.

Each of these species can tolerate some sun as long as they have adequate moisture. These easy-to-grow plants will spread over time, and can be considered aggressive in a formal garden area. For that reason, most are recommended for woods or low-maintenance shady areas, and all are easy to grow from seed, division, or cuttings.

### Wild Ginger (*Asarum canadense*)



A native wildflower of moist, deciduous woods that can form a soft ground cover up to a foot tall. Fuzzy, round, heart-shaped leaves grow from a ground-trailing stem that spreads to form patches. Red flowers bloom at the soil line under the leaves in April and May. The flowers are pollinated and the seeds spread by ground insects. This plant can easily be propagated by dividing the rooted stems into sections (each with their own roots) in spring as the leaves are beginning to unfurl.

### Violets



More than 20 species of **violet** are native to woods and prairies of Minnesota. Common blue violet, Canada violet and downy yellow violet are easy to grow and will spread by seed on their own. When seed capsules begin to dry, seed is ripe and can be hand sown directly into new areas.

**Canada Violet (*Viola Canadensis*)** has a white flower and spreads by seed and underground rhizomes to form patches or a ground cover about a foot tall. It is very easy to propagate by division in the spring when the leaves are beginning to unfurl.



**Common Blue Violet (*Viola sororia*)** is a blue violet that grows in woods, meadows, and lawns. It grows into a three- to eight-inch mound of leaves topped with blue flowers from April to June.



**Downy Yellow Violet (*Viola pubescens*)** blooms April to May and can tolerate dry woodland soil.

If you have natural woods or shady spots on your property, you know that many such areas have been invaded with non-native invasive species. If you've been pulling garlic mustard or buckthorn and wondering what should be growing in its place, read on.

### Virginia Waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum virginianum*)

A native wildflower that grows up to two feet tall when in flower. Its pinnately-divided leaves grow to be about six inches long and bear white spots that resemble water drops, hence its name. Flowers bloom in May and June in a balled cluster of lavender to grayish-white bells with stamens that extend beyond the petals. Plants spread by self-seeding.



### Wild Columbine (*Aquilegia Canadensis*)

An erect woodland wildflower, up to two feet tall, bearing nodding red and yellow flowers in May. Flower spurs contain nectar that attracts hummingbirds and long-tongued insects. Wild columbine has attractive compound leaves that are divided into many three-part rounded lobes. The plant is drought tolerant and grows best in soils that aren't too rich. Plants are most easily spread by seed which can be collected from erect brown capsules in summer. Seeds that are immediately sewn can germinate quickly, but do best in fall or spring.



### Ostrich Fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*)

Grows to about three feet tall in moist gardens and woods. The plants are shorter in soil with less moisture and taller in soggy soil. Before leaves unfurl in the spring, they grow in a curled "fiddlehead" shape, at which stage they are edible. This fern spreads by underground rhizomes to produce a colony of many symmetric clumps.



### Woodbine/Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus inserta*)

A trailing woody vine that can be a ground cover or a climber. Property owners routinely rip woodbine out of their woods, mistaking it for the aggressive wild grape and unaware that it is a great native ground cover. The two native vine species can easily be distinguished by their leaves and tendrils. Woodbine has compound leaves with five leaflets, docile tendrils, and great fall color ranging from pinkish-orange in the shade to scarlet red in the sun.



In contrast, wild grape has large simple leaves and thick woody tendrils that can strangle small stems and cover trees and shrubs like a blanket, with a yellow to brown fall color. If necessary, woodbine can be pulled down easily when it climbs and encouraged to grow on the ground. When on the ground, the vine can root at the nodes with each rooted segment growing into a separate plant. To propagate, divide dormant vines into multi-node sections and plant one inch deep.



## Conserve energy and money: plant trees

Want to conserve energy and cut your home heating and cooling bills? Tree and shrub planting typically pays itself off in energy savings within seven to ten years. Get started with these guidelines.

### Guard against winter winds

To stop winter winds before they enter the house and to capture warm winter sunlight, plant trees or tall shrubs within 20 to 50 feet of west-facing windows. Evergreen species provide a double benefit of blocking winter winds while also providing summer shade.

If space allows, plant a windbreak — a row of evergreen trees spaced 10 to 20 feet apart, planted in rows perpendicular to the primary winter wind direction, usually running along the west and north sides of the property. Properly planted windbreaks help to prevent drafts and can reduce heating costs up to 20 percent.

If trees or windbreaks aren't possible, consider planting vines and shrubs next to your home, creating a blanket of air space that insulates your home in the winter and the summer.

### Keep it cool

If you've planted evergreens on the north and west side of your home to keep you warm in the winter, those same trees will shade your home from solar heat in the summer. One mature tree shading west walls and windows from the afternoon sun can reduce roof and wall temperatures by 20 to 40 degrees Fahrenheit, while air conditioning costs can be cut by up to 25 percent by strategically planting trees and shrubs.

To keep your house naturally cool, plant trees on the east side of your house as well as the west. When planting near windows on the east side of your house, be sure to select deciduous shade trees so you can reap the summer shade but also gain solar heat in the winter. Planting a tree or shrub near your air conditioning unit to block the sun may increase the unit's efficiency by up to 10 percent. Be sure branches and leaves do not restrict the unit's air flow.

Keep in mind that pavement reflects solar energy and will radiate heat to the walls of your home. Planting low shrubs and ground covers will help reduce the reflection of solar heat from roads, driveways and patios.

### Where not to plant

Avoid planting trees in front of windows on the south side of your home, since they will block solar heat in the winter and in the summer won't provide shade due to the angle of the sun. If you absolutely must plant a tree near your south windows, choose a tree with small leaves that will let in light, such as a honey locust or Kentucky coffee tree.

### More tips

- **Choose a tree or shrub** that will fit well in your unique space, light, and soil conditions, making sure it is a species resistant to most diseases and insects.
- **Plan for the mature height and spread of a tree**, and be sure it won't interfere with an overhead power line or the structure of your home.
- **Plant trees no closer** than 10 feet but within 50 feet of your home for energy savings.
- **Plant the tree at the correct depth.** Visit [http://www.forestry.umn.edu/extension/urban\\_com/Planting.html](http://www.forestry.umn.edu/extension/urban_com/Planting.html) for more information.
- **Plant a tree species with strong wood** since it will be close to the structure of your home. Prune the tree while young to promote strong branch structure.
- **Monitor trees near your home** in order to ensure their structure and safety. Ask a professional arborist if you need help with tree care or selection.

For more information about planting for energy conservation, visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).

## Water: keep it clean

You may not have a lake, creek or wetland on your property, but those waters are affected by anything that washes from your house or yard. Pollutants such as fertilizers, herbicides, antifreeze, oil, loose soil, pet waste, grass clippings and leaves may all be swept by runoff into the nearest storm drain, then on to lakes, creeks and wetlands, where they encourage weed and algae growth. Follow these simple tips to keep the green in your yard and out of the water:

- **Sweep up spills.** Spilled chemicals can be harmful to plants and animals, while fertilizers can encourage the growth of weeds and algae.
- **Dispose of yard waste properly.** Leaves and grass clippings leach nutrients into the nearest water resource as they decay, encouraging the growth of algae. Dispose of your yard waste through your waste hauler or use the appropriate drop-off sites.
- **Keep nutrients in your yard** by using a mulching mower. The nutrients in one year of grass clippings equal a single fertilizer application. Use compost made from yard waste in garden beds or tilled into the ground to rebuild depleted soils.
- **Capture and use storm water** with rain barrels and rain gardens. You can water your yard with rain barrel water and construct a rain garden that waters itself. Be certain to direct any overflow away from the foundation of your home and avoid redirecting runoff onto adjacent properties.
- **Cover exposed soil** with seed, sod or mulch. Raindrops erode exposed soil and leave sediment in streets, storm drains, and water resources. Covering exposed soil in the spring helps prevent larger problems later.
- **Pick up pet waste and litter.** Pet waste contains nutrients and bacteria, so scoop it up and dispose of it in the garbage, along with any litter you encounter.



# Staying vigilant in the search for GYPSY MOTHS

## MOTHS

### Gypsy moth control efforts resume in May

In May, the city of Minnetonka will continue its cooperative efforts with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) to eradicate a gypsy moth infestation within the city, located within a 303-acre area bounded by Highway 7 in the south, I-494 in the west, Kral Road to the north and Woodhill Road to the east. Residents who live in the control area were notified by mail and will receive a postcard prior to the May treatment.

Gypsy moth is a non-native invasive insect whose caterpillars rapidly eat the leaves of a wide variety of tree species, weakening tree health over time. The MDA continually monitors the population of gypsy moths throughout the state and takes action when necessary.

Gypsy moths spread from infested areas as hitchhikers on camping equipment, vehicles and firewood. The pest is established in many states in the northeastern United States, including eastern Wisconsin. The MDA expects the upcoming treatment to completely eradicate the moth in Minnetonka, but continued future monitoring is planned.

As global trade and travel have increased, so have the number of non-native tree pests and insects that threaten Minnetonka's forests. Continued vigilance, awareness and cooperation between federal, state, and local governments and citizens can help to slow the spread of these pests and protect the community forest now and for future generations. Early detection and rapid response to emerging non-native invasive pests can help to decrease the economic consequences of an infestation. To learn more about gypsy moth, visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com).



Gypsy moth egg mass

### Trees: Not just another pretty face

Trees are not just an attractive landscaping feature — they play a critical role in protecting the environment from the sometimes negative effect of water. Here's how:

**Extensive root systems** stabilize ground and prevent soil erosion, while also helping absorb rainfall.

The **tree canopy** helps intercept and absorb energy from rain drops, before they can hit the ground and erode the soil.

In wooded natural areas, **decaying leaf litter, bark and branches** on the forest floor help protect soil from erosion.

**Branches and stems** that fall into creeks and rivers help disperse the energy of moving water, while also creating a habitat for wildlife — resting pools for fish, hunting perches for birds, and basking areas for turtles.

**Trees growing along the shoreline** of streams anchor the banks and prevent erosion during increased water flow.

**Trees stabilize slopes** by minimizing the amount of surface runoff generated and by holding the slope in place with a massive root network. Mature trees provide better protection from erosion due to larger canopies and root systems.

**Trees help absorb excess nutrients** from storm water runoff, using them for their own growth and energy reserves. When trees die and decay, nutrients are released back into the surrounding soil, where they are then absorbed by growing trees, continuing the cycle.

#### Where does the water go?

Trees not only capture and absorb rainfall, but also can convert liquid water into water vapor. Some vapor is released through the leaves in a process called transpiration, while some water evaporates directly off the surface of the leaves. Both processes acting together are called evapotranspiration and can provide a cooling effect on a hot day.

## TREES

 2009 MINNETONKA RECYCLING UPDATE

# Spring Leaf Drop-off Program

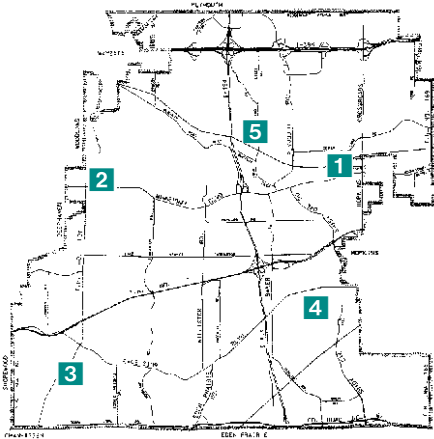
Minnnetonka residents may bring **bagged** leaves, yard and garden materials to one of five drop-off sites on the dates and times shown below. Brush larger than **½ inch** in diameter will **not** be accepted at leaf drop-off sites. (See the brush drop-off article.)

**Saturdays: May 2 and 9  
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

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 annual or monthly fee. The garbage hauler yard waste collection programs typically run mid-April through mid-November. **Check with your garbage hauler for details.**

## Saturday Leaf Drop-off Sites

- 1 Public Works Facility Parking Lot**  
11522 Minnetonka Blvd., ¼ mi. west of Cty. Rd. 73; **use west entrance.**  
Two areas: one for **bulk** leaf drop-off, one for **bagged** leaf drop-off; follow signs.
- 2 Groveland School Parking Lot**  
Minnetonka Blvd., east of Hwy. 101
- 3 Minnetonka Public Schools Service Center, North Parking Lot**  
5621 Hwy. 101
- 4 West Oaks Community Church Parking Lot**  
Excelsior Blvd. west of Shady Oak Rd., upper parking lot
- 5 Meadow Park Parking Lot**  
Oakland Road across from Stone Rd.



## BAGGED LEAVES — will be accepted at all sites on Saturdays, May 2 and May 9

City staff will assist residents with unloading bags of leaves on Saturdays. Residents will be asked to take empty bags home for reuse or disposal. **Please loosely tie bags for easy emptying.**

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

- **Mondays:** Noon to 8 p.m. April 13, 20, 27, May 4, 11
- **Tuesdays:** Noon to 8 p.m. April 14, 21, 28 May 5, 12
- **Saturdays:** 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 18, 25, May 2, 9, 16

Loads of leaves **must** be covered during transport!

Enter on the west side of the building across from the Big Willow ball fields. Residents will unload their own leaves onto the bulk pile — **(bring proper equipment to unload your own leaves).** Try using many layers of tarps between a foot or two of leaves to make unloading your leaves easier and faster.

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

## Brush drop-off opens April 13

The brush drop-off program for Minnetonka residents opens Monday, April 13, and will remain open through November 21. Hours are Saturdays, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Mondays and Tuesdays, noon to 8 p.m.

The brush drop-off site will be closed Memorial Day (May 25), Independence Day (July 4) and Labor Day (Sept. 7).

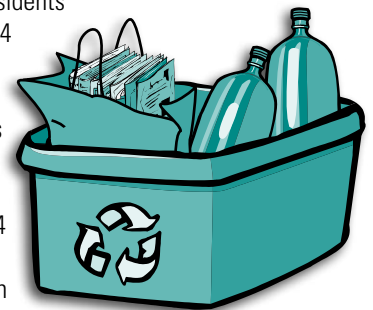
Branches up to 12" in diameter will be accepted. Proof of Minnetonka residency is required to drop-off brush (driver's license or utility bill).

**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.

For more information call Dean Elstad, recycling coordinator, at (952) 988-8430.

## Recycling and the holidays

Two holidays will delay recycling one day in 2009: Memorial Day (May 25) and Labor Day (September 7). The week of those two holidays, residents west of I-494 will have collection on Tuesdays and residents east of I-494 will have collection on Wednesdays.



## Keep streets and storm drains clean

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

### 845.010 Public Nuisances Affecting Peace, Safety and General Welfare.17.

Prohibits the intentional discharge of items such as leaves, grass clippings, solvents, antifreeze, oil, fireplace ashes, paint, and cement rinsings into a street, storm sewer system, or water resource such as a wetland, creek, pond or lake.

## Door-to-door sales in Minnetonka

**M**ANY LEGITIMATE ORGANIZATIONS go door-to-door to sell their products or ask for donations. However, there may be “enterprising” individuals whose goals are less than honorable. The city of Minnetonka Ordinance for Peddlers, Solicitors and Canvassers (Section 630) requires peddlers and solicitors to have a license.

When a peddler or solicitor knocks on your door, ask to see their license (a city-issued photo identification card). If the person is unable to produce the identification card, immediately call the Minnetonka Police Department at (952) 939-8500 and report the violation.

### Regulations are as follows:

- For-profit sale of products or services requires a license from the city. Only licensed peddlers and solicitors will have a photo identification card issued by the city. The city does not endorse nor research a specific product or service by the issuing of this license.
- Charitable organizations conducting door-to-door sales or solicitations do not need a license. However, the city does request that charitable organizations register at city hall, with proof of their tax-exempt status.
- 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.

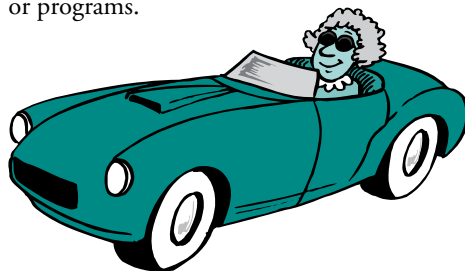
For more information, or to see a current list of city-registered non-profit and for-profit organizations, visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) and click on “Licenses” under “Most Requested” on the right side of the page — then scroll down to “Peddler.”



## Upcoming events for Minnetonka seniors

**D**ON'T MISS OUT ON THE FUN AND friendship at Minnetonka Senior Services! 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](http://www.eminnetonka.com).

Call (952) 939-8393 to register for events and classes, for more information, or to learn about volunteer opportunities. All class registration and payments should be directed to Minnetonka Senior Services. VISA or MasterCard are accepted. Payment must be submitted at the time of registration for classes, trips or programs.



### Defensive Driving Classes

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

#### Four-Hour Day Courses

Thursday, April 9, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
Thursday, April 23, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
Refreshments provided but no lunch.  
\$18 per course.

### Special Events

#### National Health Care Decisions Day

Thursday, April 16, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
Learn about why having a properly signed directive is important, then receive free help from local volunteer attorneys and social workers in completing a notarized Health Care Directive. Participants will leave with a completed Health Care Directive. Presentations at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Call (952) 939-8393 to reserve a spot for this free event.

#### Community Opportunities

Friday, April 17, 1 – 3 p.m.  
Learn about participating in educational, health, recreational and volunteer options at ICA, Williston Fitness Center, MN Senior Federation and Minnetonka Senior Services. Meet active volunteers, participants and

staff who can connect you to rewarding and meaningful involvement in the community. Enjoy videos and a wide variety of handouts about these organizations. Call (952) 939-8393 to reserve a spot for this free event.

#### Scrapbooking Club

Monday, April 20, 2 p.m.

If you like to scrapbook and want to share your ideas with others, join this 2009 planning meeting where the basics of starting a club will be discussed. If you are unable to attend but are still interested, contact Nicole at [ngorman@eminnetonka.com](mailto:ngorman@eminnetonka.com) or at (952) 939-8369.

#### Watercolor Workshop

Monday, April 6 and Wednesday, April 22

Call (952) 939-8393 for more information.

#### Garage Sale Around Lake Pepin

Friday, May 1, 8:15 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Cost is \$48 and includes boxed lunch, transportation and escort. Payment deadline is Friday, April 17.

#### Come Dance With Me

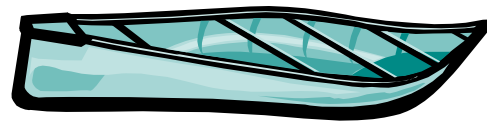
Friday, May 1, 6:15 – 10 p.m.

Dance to the big band sound of Dick Macko at the Eisenhower Community Center, 1001 Hwy. 7, Hopkins. All ages are welcome and encouraged to attend. Cost is \$10 per person and light refreshments will be provided. Register early, space is limited. Call (952) 401-6800 or visit [www.minnetonkacommunityed.org](http://www.minnetonkacommunityed.org) to register.

#### Canoe the Wetlands

May 7 & 11

Canoe the wetlands north of Gray's Bay. Call (952) 939-8393 for more information.



### News from Senior Services

- Want to receive a weekly email notifying you of upcoming events at senior services? Call or email Nicole Gorman at (952) 939-8369 or [ngorman@eminnetonka.com](mailto:ngorman@eminnetonka.com) and provide your email address.
- Stop by the Mills Landing Gift Shoppe, 12810 Minnetonka Boulevard, to browse through a collection of homemade gifts. Hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit [www.millslandingshoppe.com](http://www.millslandingshoppe.com) or call (952) 933-5214 for more information.

## Donate to the Minnetonka Crime Fund

**T**HE MINNETONKA CRIME FUND IS A non-profit, tax-exempt community effort sponsored by citizens, businesses and civic organizations to assist the Minnetonka Police Department in crime prevention. The fund, which is separate from the police department, is solely supported by tax-deductible contributions from residential, retail, and commercial sources, as per section 501(c)(3).

The Minnetonka Police Department Crime Fund promotes strong community partnerships and is run by a volunteer board. While Minnetonka Police Chief Mark Raquet is a board member and makes recommendations to the committee based on department and community needs, the board of directors ultimately decides how funds are to be administered.

Minnetonka's crime prevention programs include CounterAct (a drug and violence prevention program for fifth graders); Minnetonka Night for Neighbors; Neighborhood Watch; ePrevent (community crime prevention updates); bike rodeos; File of Life; Halloween safety; and the I-394 Virtual Block Club. The Crime Fund also provides reward money for information leading to an arrest or conviction in a criminal case and for purchasing specialized crime prevention equipment.

Take a moment to consider how your tax deductible contribution can help our programs and the community. To contribute, please send donations to: The Minnetonka Crime Fund, PO Box 1255, Minnetonka, MN 55345. ☺

## Spotlight on the Charter Commission

**T**HE CITY OF MINNETONKA HAS SEVEN boards and commissions made up of residents appointed by the Minnetonka City Council. This year, each *Minnetonka Memo* features information about one of these boards and commissions. This month, we introduce the Charter Commission!

This commission, which can have up to 15 members, has the primary responsibility to review and recommend amendments to the city's charter.

The charter is the city's constitution and establishes the city's form of government and specifies certain rights and responsibilities. The commission's objectives in monitoring the charter include simplifying language, eliminating outdated provisions, conforming the charter to recent state laws, and analyzing whether there could be improvements to the existing city structure and operation. Meetings are held when necessary. Members serve four-year terms and are appointed by the chief judge of the Hennepin County district court.

For a complete list of Charter Commission members visit [www.eminnetonka.com](http://www.eminnetonka.com) — click on Your Government, then Boards and Commissions, then Charter Commission.

Applications are accepted year-round for openings that may occur on city boards and commissions. For more information about a specific board or commission, or for an application, contact Karen Telega at [ktelega@eminnetonka.com](mailto:ktelega@eminnetonka.com) or (952) 939-8211. ☺

## Summer Kid's Corner offers fun field trips

**T**HIS SUMMER, HOPKINS-MINNETONKA Recreation Services introduces a new 11-week active day program for kids. Based at Williston Fitness Center, the Kid's Corner summer program will offer field trips to the Science Museum of Minnesota, Pump It Up, Gale Woods Farm, Minnesota Zoo, St. Louis Park Aquatic Park, Grand Slam, Shady Oak Beach, Como Zoo, Crystal Cave, and a Minnesota Twins Game, as well as sporting activities and arts and crafts.

Kid's Corner will run Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., June 8 through August 21. Cost is \$135 per week, with

a minimum of 10 weeks required, and includes all field trips and activities. The program is for kids in grades 1 through 5. Look for the complete program description and registration information in the Hopkins-Minnetonka Recreation Services summer brochure. Call (952) 939.8203 for more information. ☺



## Water main flushing starts April 13: how this affects your water

**M**INNETONKA PUBLIC WORKS WILL flush city water mains weekdays from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. from April 13 to April 30. Please see the accompanying map to determine the dates in your area.

### Why flush water mains?

Waterlines are typically sized to provide fire flow, and so are larger than what is needed for daily consumption. Because the pipe diameter is larger, the water flow is slow and microscopic solids can settle and accumulate in the pipes. Opening the hydrants allows the water to flow faster and releases accumulations in the pipe. Periodic flushing of the pipes improves water odor, taste, and color, and maintains chlorine levels.

Aside from the dates listed on the map, flushing in the areas listed below will occur at the following times:

**April 13, 5:30 – 7 a.m.**

Ridgedale business area

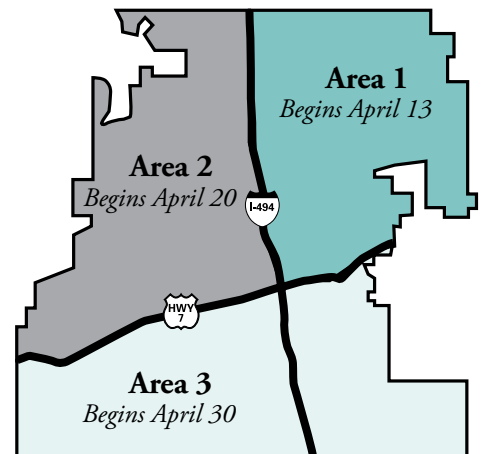
**April 20, 5 – 7 a.m.**

Minnetonka Industrial Road, Twelve Oaks Center, Carlson Parkways

**April 30, 3 – 7 a.m.**

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

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



# minnetonka memo

April 2009



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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**  
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..... Home: (952) 934-9529  
.....tschneider@eminnetonka.com  
Meetings with the mayor may be  
scheduled by calling (952) 939-8211.

**City Manager**  
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**Minnetonka Mike** ..... (952) 939-8586 mike@eminnetonka.com

**POLICE-FIRE: Emergency** ..... 9-1-1  
**Non-emergency** ..... (952) 939-8500 or 9-1-1

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## Calendar

City of  
Minnetonka

April  
2009

Call (952) 939-8200  
for meeting  
locations.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Call (952) 939-8200 for meeting locations.
			1	2	3	4	1 Park Board, 7 p.m.
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	20 Local Board of Review ( <i>reconvene</i> ), 6:15 p.m.; City council meeting, 6:30 p.m.
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	22 Boards and Commissions training, 7 p.m.
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	23 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
26	27	28	29	30			27 Community Commission, 6:30 p.m.
							30 Police Advisory Committee, 5:30 p.m.; Annual Neighborhood Watch Captain Event, 7 p.m.
							13 Council session, 6:30 p.m. ( <i>Topic: Jt. Mtg. with Community Commission; budget update</i> )
							14 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
							6 Local Board of Review, 6:15 p.m.; City council meeting, 6:30 p.m.
							2 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.

All meetings listed above are open to the public. Meeting dates and times are subject to change—please check [www.eminnetonka.com](http://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](http://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.

## NEW DEVELOPMENTS

The city regularly receives applications for projects that require planning commission and/or city council approval. At press time, no new projects were scheduled for April. 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](http://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](http://www.eminnetonka.com) for information.

## Historical society hosts free antique assessment

**T**HE MINNETONKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL HOST AN ANTIQUE ASSESSMENT Tuesday, May 5, at 7 p.m. at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka. Attendees are invited to bring in up to two antique treasures to have them assessed for free by Mark Thompson, who has been an appraiser, antique dealer, and estate sale manager for 22 years. Thompson specializes in American and country furniture and Scandinavian folk art, and is less knowledgeable about jewelry, coins, and stamps. Attendees may bring small items to the event, and photos of larger items, such as furniture. Refreshments will be served. For more information call the Minnetonka Historical Society at (952) 930-3962. ☺

