

MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



2019 election results

The 2019 municipal election was held Tuesday, Nov. 5. There were five city council seats on the ballot - all four ward seats and a special election for one at-large seat. The winner of each seat is:

- **Ward 1:** Brian Kirk
- **Ward 2:** Rebecca Schack
- **Ward 3:** Brad Schaeppi*
- **Ward 4:** Kissy Coakley
- **At-Large Seat B:** Susan Carter

*Ward 3 City Council Candidate Mike Happe requested a recount because the margin between candidates was closer than .5 percent. The recount was held after the Minnetonka Memo went to print. Find results on minnetonkamn.gov/news.

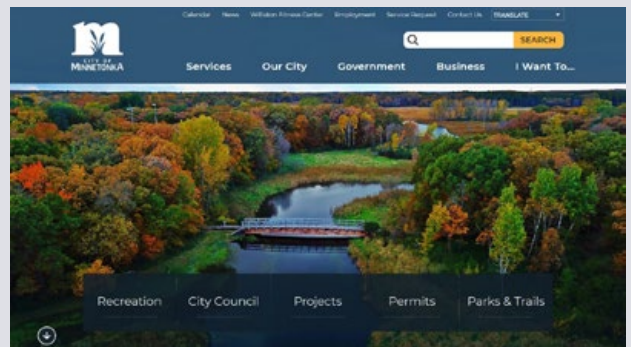


The four ward council members will begin four-year terms in January. The at-large special election winner was sworn-in in November and will complete the remainder of the current term, which concludes in December 2021.

Visit minnetonkamn.gov/elections for complete election details.

Rediscover Minnetonka at minnetonkamn.gov

The City of Minnetonka has moved to a new online home! Our new site - minnetonkamn.gov - is mobile-friendly and includes a new layout, improved content and several new features to make information easier to access. Explore minnetonkamn.gov to check it out!



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2020 budget summary and public hearing



In September, the city council adopted a preliminary property tax increase of no more than 7.76 percent for 2020.

The council will vote on adoption of the final 2020 budget and levy at its Dec. 2 meeting.

What does this mean for the average homeowner?

City property taxes for the median valued home in Minnetonka (\$378,500 for taxes payable in 2020) will increase by approximately \$95* next year.

What's new in 2020?

The proposed 2020 budget includes new bond payments for the police and fire facility improvements; funding to support the fire department's paid-on-call staffing model; a change to ensure the city's compensation structure is competitive in a tight labor market; an additional maintenance position to care for the city's expanding trails and parks and funds to support new sustainability efforts.

Learn more and provide input

To provide feedback on the 2020 budget:

- Submit feedback online at minnetonkamn.gov/request
- Attend the Monday, Dec. 2 city council meeting
- Call Finance Director Darin Nelson at 952-939-8253

Learn more about the 2020 budget at minnetonkamn.gov/budget.

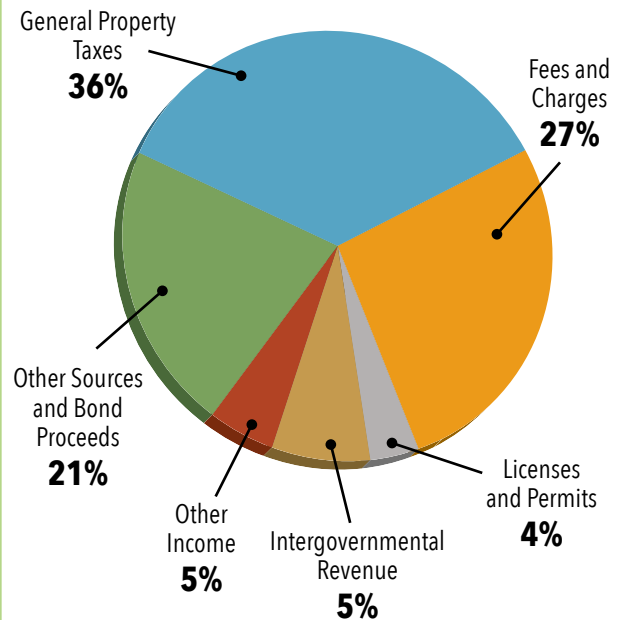
**The exact impact on specific properties will depend on the assessed market value of each home. These numbers do not include the proposed increase from other taxing jurisdictions such as the county and school district.*

2020 City Budget Overview

Here's how we're funded

Projected 2020 Revenue

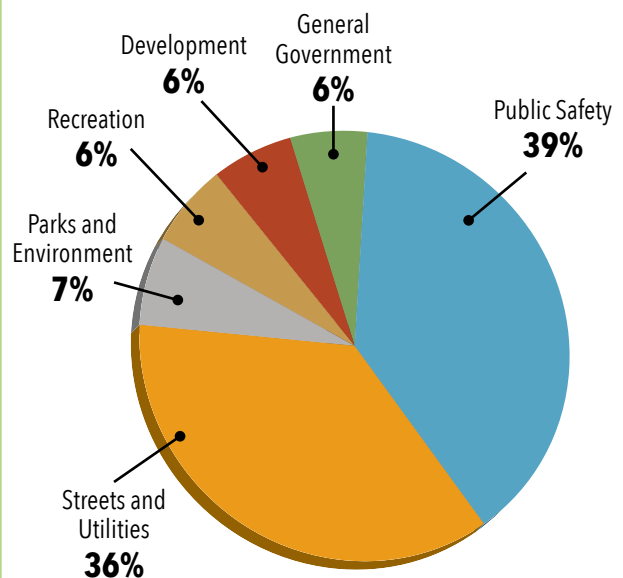
Property taxes make up approximately one-third of the city's expected revenue in 2020.



Here's how it's spent

Projected 2020 Expenses

The city spends 75 percent of its budget on essential services: public safety, streets and utilities.



Get ready for winter snow removal

Please keep the following items in mind as winter weather approaches:

- **Plowing operations typically begin between midnight and 4 a.m.** (but it can vary).
- **Above-average snowfalls may require a multi-day operation** to clear (in this order) streets, parking lots, sidewalks, trails and ice rinks.
- **Snow removal takes place in three steps:** a first pass to provide access, full-width plowing and cleanup.
- **Snow cleared from your property must remain on your property.** Don't push it into the street or onto sidewalks and trails, and ensure it won't interfere with traffic or plows.
- **The city will repair damage to curbs and sod caused by city snowplows.** Mailboxes damaged by direct contact with city snowplows will also be repaired. Damage to private improvements (fences, sprinklers, rock gardens, etc.) in the right-of-way are the responsibility of the property owner.
- **Place curb markers to show plows the edge of your lawn or driveway.** These are available for free at city hall. Try to install before the ground freezes.



- **Plowing will result in snow at the end of your driveway.** Unfortunately, this is unavoidable and clearing the driveway is the property owner's responsibility. Plows will try to evenly distribute snow in cul-de-sacs when possible.

- **Set garbage and recycling cans behind the curb line** so they don't interfere with plows.
- Visit minnetonkamn.gov/snowplowing for full details about snow plowing in Minnetonka. Call public works at 952-988-8400 to learn more or ask questions.

Winter parking reminders

- Vehicles can't be parked on a public street between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m., or in one place for more than six hours.
- Parked vehicles and trailers can't interfere with the removal of snow, sleet, slush or ice and may be towed at the owner's expense.
- Visit minnetonkamn.gov/parking to learn more. Call Minnetonka Police at 952-939-8500 with questions or concerns.



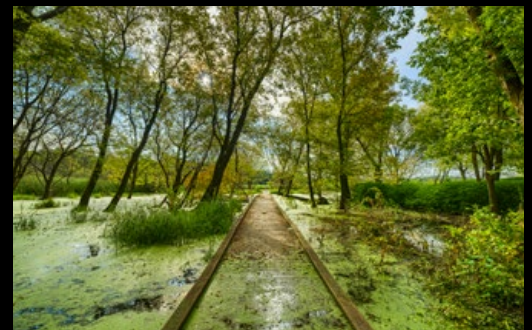
2019 Minnetonka Photo Contest winners



First Place – Jeff Larson



Second Place – Barry Svee



Third Place – Chris Murphy

Winners were chosen by the city's Facebook fans. To view all winners and submissions, visit [facebook.com/cityofminnetonka](https://www.facebook.com/cityofminnetonka).

Thank you to all our talented photographers and to everyone who voted!

Winter-Spring recreation program registration begins Dec. 3

Registration for winter-spring recreation programs begins Tuesday, Dec. 3 at 8 a.m. Visit

minnetonkamn.gov/recreationbrochure to check out the program options and choose from hundreds of activities, including fitness classes, arts and crafts, kids' programs and sports leagues. There is something for everyone!

Visit minnetonkamn.gov/register to register online, or call 952-939-8203 (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.)

Want the program guide?

Call 952-939-8203 or email recservices@minnetonkamn.gov to request a printed copy of the program guide. It's free for Minnetonka and Hopkins residents and \$3 for non-residents.

Outdoor skating rinks scheduled to open Dec. 14

Outdoor skating rinks with warming houses are available at the following Minnetonka and Hopkins parks.

- **Minnetonka:** Boulder Creek, Covington, Glen Lake, Gro Tonka, McKenzie, Meadow and Spring Hill
- **Hopkins:** Burnes, Central, Harley, Interlachen, Oakes and Valley

Visit minnetonkamn.gov/outdoor-ice-rinks for more information, including holiday and winter break hours. Call the weather hotline at 952-939-8355 for conditions, closings and updates.

Outdoor Skating Rink Hours

- Monday-Thursday: 4:30-9 p.m.
- Friday: 4:30-9:45 p.m.
- Saturday: Noon-9:45 p.m.
- Sunday: Noon-7 p.m.



Don't miss this fun, musical winter festival

Join the Music Association of Minnetonka for its Winter Festival. Enjoy hot beverages, desserts and performances by the Minnetonka Symphony Orchestra, Civic Orchestra, Senior Chorale, Chorus a la Carte and Youth Choirs.

Saturday, Dec. 7

3 p.m.

Minnetonka Community Center

\$5 at the door



Ski at Glen Lake Golf Course

Glen Lake Golf Course offers a 2.5-kilometer cross-country skiing trail that features a fun and challenging groomed trail for all ages and skill levels.



Schedule

The course is scheduled to be open from Dec. 14 through March 15, but the schedule is weather-dependent. Please note trails are not lit.

The trails and golf center (rentals, concessions, restrooms) will be open:

- Monday-Friday: 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Saturdays, Sundays, holidays: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Passes

Season (\$30) or daily (\$6) passes are required, and sold on-site or at city hall. Visit threeriversparkdistrict.org to learn more about season passes. Three Rivers Park District passes are honored at Glen Lake Golf Course.

Learn more about the Minnetonka Fire Department

Q: How many fire stations are in Minnetonka?

A: Five. Station 1 is staffed with full-time staff during business hours and 24-7 by our paid on-call duty crew. The other four are not regularly staffed but house gear and equipment to help us respond quickly to emergencies.

Q: How many staff members are full-time?

A: 11 - Fire Chief, Deputy Chief, Assistant Chief of Emergency Management and Planning, Assistant Chief of Fire and Life Safety, Training Chief, Fire Inspector, Training and Recruitment Captain, Operations Technician, two Public Educators and an Administrator.



Q: How many fire trucks and other vehicles do you have?

A: We have eight fire engines, one tower truck, two ladder trucks, one air supply truck, three light-duty medical and rescue trucks, two specialty vehicles to fight grass and trail fires, two boats, one water rescue unit and two utility vehicles.

Q: Do you use CPR to save lives often?

A: We saved four lives in 2018 by performing CPR on a patient during cardiac arrest.

Q: Do firefighters work 24-hour shifts?

A: No. Minnetonka Fire is staffed primarily by paid on-call firefighters. They're paid when they train, work shifts and respond to service calls. Each work a minimum of five shifts each month, varying from three to eight hours. Some link several shifts together to work longer shifts.

Q: How often do you hire new firefighters?

A: We hire a new group every year. It takes more than a year to fully train and prepare a new firefighter. We're currently recruiting a new class. Learn more about the Minnetonka Fire Department and apply online at minnetonkamn.gov/fire.



Q: How many calls did the fire department respond to last year?

A: We responded to 3,621 calls for service in 2018.

Q: Do you only respond to fires, or other emergencies as well?

A: In addition to fires, we respond to calls for medical and rescue assistance, hazardous conditions and false alarms. We also provide aid to neighboring communities.

Apply to serve on a board or commission

Do you want to get involved in local government? Apply to serve on one of Minnetonka's boards or commissions!

We're currently seeking applicants for the following positions:

- **Economic Development Advisory Commission**
- **Park Board** - includes one student position
- **Planning Commission**
- **Senior Citizen Advisory Board**

Apply before Jan. 3

Visit minnetonkamn.gov/boards-commissions to learn more and apply online before Jan. 3. To ask questions, contact McKaia Ryberg at mryberg@minnetonkamn.gov or 952-939-8211.

Join our citizen academy to learn more about Minnetonka

Do you want to learn more about your city and how it operates? Sign up for the 2020 Minnetonka Citizen Academy!

The academy is a free program held every-other-year that gives residents a behind-the-scenes look at the city and its operations.

Sessions are held each Tuesday from Jan. 28 to March 3 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at city hall.

Register by Jan. 17

To register, visit minnetonkamn.gov/register or call 952-939-9203.

Visit minnetonkamn.gov/news or call 952-939-8200 to learn more.



In each issue of the *Minnetonka Memo*, our planners answer a common question to help residents and businesses learn more about the planning process and available city resources.

Question:

How can I determine where my property lines are?

Answer:

Residents often assume their property lines are along the fence, trees or utility lines. This isn't always true. A survey is the most accurate way to locate your property lines. Check with the city to see if we have a survey on file. If not, you can hire a surveyor. If you're applying for a city permit, a survey is required. Learn more at minnetonkamn.gov/permits.

The city also has a metal detector loan program to help residents and contractors find property stakes and utility lines. Stop by city hall to borrow a metal detector for 24 hours.

Have a question?

Do you have a planning or zoning question? Email us at zoning@minnetonkamn.gov, call 952-939-8290 or visit minnetonkamn.gov/planning for more information.

Apply for home improvement and purchasing loans

The City of Minnetonka seeks applicants for a home improvement loan program and another that assists first-time homebuyers.

Minnetonka Home Loan Enhancement program

This program offers low-interest home improvement for Minnetonka residents through the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE). Loan amounts range from \$2,500 to \$15,000 with a 10-year term and a three percent interest rate. Income and asset limits apply.

Visit minnetonkamn.gov/homeloans to learn more about program guidelines - including loan terms, property eligibility and eligible improvements - and how to submit applications to the CEE.



Welcome to Minnetonka loan program

The city partners with the CEE to offer low-interest loans to assist first-time homebuyers with down payments and closing costs. Loans are up to \$15,000 with a one percent interest rate and the homebuyer must contribute at least 25 percent of the total down-payment or closing costs; income and asset limits apply.

Visit minnetonkamn.gov/welcometominnetonka to learn more about loan terms, eligible properties, additional requirements and how to submit applications to the CEE.

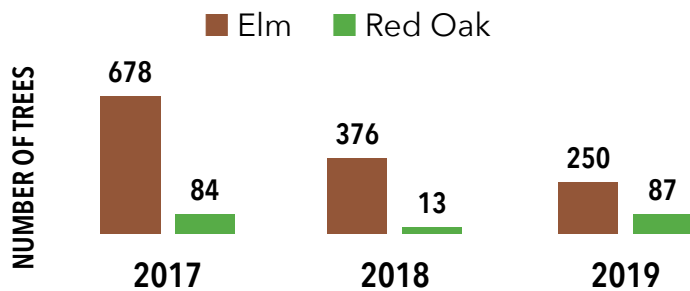
More information

Contact Economic Development Coordinator Rob Hanson at rhanson@minnetonkamn.gov or 952-939-8234 to learn more or ask questions.

Plant pest program protects Minnetonka's trees

The city's plant pest program limits the spread of Dutch elm disease (DED), oak wilt and emerald ash borer (EAB) in Minnetonka while preparing for new and emerging threats to our community forest.

DED and Red Oak Wilt Removals 2017-2019



Dutch Elm Disease has declined steadily thanks to Minnetonka's strong ordinance that requires removal of diseased elms within 30 days. Sixty-five percent fewer DED trees were marked this year than in 2017.

Oak Wilt frequently occurs in trees with fresh wounds - typically from storm damage or summer pruning - and spreads through shared roots to nearby trees.

Emerald Ash Borer has been confirmed in Minnetonka. Forestry staff scouts the city for early detection. We'll continue to remove small and unhealthy trees in parks and along streets to protect public safety.

For more information on the plant pest program, visit minnetonkamn.gov/natural-resources.

Natural resources celebrates volunteers

Volunteers contribute hundreds of hours and endless good-hearted energy to natural resources programs in Minnetonka each year. 2019 project highlights include:

- Arbor Day and Earth Day planting events were held at Victoria-Evergreen Park. Rotary Club members and Gobros.com employees added 20 trees (11 different species) to increase diversity and resilience in this park.
- The Mountain Bike Trail Advocates and Friends of Lone Lake Park cleared buckthorn and assisted with rain garden and prairie maintenance at Lone Lake Park.
- Geocachers volunteered monthly to help natural resources.
- Adopt-a-Spot volunteers maintained specific areas of parkland or monitored wildlife.
- Four wetlands were monitored for the Wetland Health Evaluation Program.

Thank you to all our 2019 volunteers!



MINNETONKA MEMO

City of Minnetonka Calendar

- 2** City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- 4** Park Board, 7 p.m.
- 5** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 10** Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
- 12** Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
- 16** City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- 19** Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 25** Christmas Day, city offices closed

All meetings are open to the public. Meeting dates and times are subject to change. Visit minnetonkamn.gov or call **952-939-8200** for the latest information. Meetings are available live and on-demand at minnetonkamn.gov/tv.



14600 Minnetonka Blvd.
Minnetonka, MN 55345
952-939-8200 | minnetonkamn.gov

Mayor
Brad Wiersum 612-723-3907
bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov

Council

At Large: Deb Calvert 612-205-5399
dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov

Susan Carter 952-381-4477
scarter@minnetonkamn.gov

Ward 1: Bob Ellingson 952-931-3065
bellingson@minnetonkamn.gov

Ward 2: Rebecca Schack 612-590-3735
rschack@minnetonkamn.gov

Ward 3: Mike Happe 952-607-8559
mhappe@minnetonkamn.gov

Ward 4: Tim Bergstedt 612-598-8544
tbergstedt@minnetonkamn.gov

City Manager
Geraldyn Barone 952-939-8200
gbarone@minnetonkamn.gov

Newsletter Editor
Matt Higgins 952-939-8200
mhiggins@minnetonkamn.gov

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Don't miss Burwell's annual HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Self-guided tours with Victorian holiday decorations and refreshments!

Where: Burwell House, 13209 E. McGinty Road

When: Sunday, Dec. 1 from 1-4 p.m.

Hosted by: Minnetonka Historical Society

Cost: Free (donations accepted)

Parking: St. David's Center, 3395 Plymouth Road. Handicap and limited parking is available at the Burwell House.



WINTER FARMERS MARKET



- Shop for local foods, crafts and gifts from 40+ vendors
- Photos with Santa • Face painting, live music and more!



Saturday, Dec. 14
9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Minnetonka Community Center
14600 Minnetonka Blvd.

For more details, or to become to be a vendor, visit minnetonkamn.gov/farmersmarket or email farmersmarket@minnetonkamn.gov.