

# MINNETONKA MEMO

A publication from the City of Minnetonka



## City refreshes vision, mission and more

Throughout the second half of 2020, the Minnetonka City Council engaged in a strategic planning process to ensure the city's vision, mission, guiding principles and strategic priorities are aligned and accurately represent where Minnetonka is now, and where it's headed.

The result is an updated strategic profile that reflects both who we are as a city and an organization, and what we aspire to be. The refreshed vision and mission are included below, and all items can be found at [minnetonkamn.gov/our-city/about-minnetonka](http://minnetonkamn.gov/our-city/about-minnetonka). Stay tuned for more information on the city's strategic priorities and key strategies as they're enacted throughout 2021.

### VISION

Minnetonka is an inclusive community committed to excellence where all residents, workers and visitors are welcome in a beautiful, sustainable place, supported by quality, dependable city services.

### MISSION

Provide **quality public services**, while striving to preserve and enhance the distinctive character to make Minnetonka a **special place for everyone**.

## Don't miss our new sustainability webinars

Do you want to help make Minnetonka more sustainable, improve your energy use and find ways to save money on bills? Our new "Sustainable Minnetonka Webinar Series" is here to help!

Starting in January, our Energy Action Team will host a webinar on the first Tuesday of each month to share information and tips to help us all be more sustainable. Each month, we'll enlist experts to cover a new topic that will benefit residents, as well as our community.

Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/green](http://minnetonkamn.gov/green) to learn more, register for webinars and subscribe to email/text updates.

### Home energy efficiency the easy way

Tuesday, Jan. 5 | 6-7 p.m.

Learn ways to make your home more energy efficient, more comfortable and less expensive. Register at [minnetonkamn.gov/green](http://minnetonkamn.gov/green).

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# 2021 utility rates

In December, the Minnetonka City Council voted to adjust residential and commercial utility rates for 2021. The adjustments ensure the city's continued exceptional utility service delivery, and fund necessary improvements to the city's utility infrastructure.

## 2021 residential utility rates - billed quarterly

	2020	2021
<b>Water (per 1,000 gallons)</b>		
Tier 1 (0-18,000 gallons)	\$3.19	\$3.31
Tier 2 (18,001-40,000 gallons)	\$3.63	\$3.77
Tier 3 (40,001-70,000 gallons)	\$4.54	\$4.71
Tier 4 (70,000+ gallons)	\$6.31	\$6.55
<b>Sewer</b>		
Base fee	\$70.98/quarter	\$73.65/quarter
Usage fee (per 1,000 gallons)	\$2.52	\$2.61
<b>Stormwater</b>		
Single family, 2-3 family, residential (unit/month)	\$7.29	\$7.51
<b>Recycling</b>		
Residential monthly rate	\$4.58	\$6.60

Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/utilitybilling](http://minnetonkamn.gov/utilitybilling) for commercial rates and more information.

## Why do utility rates increase?

- Funds from utility fees help the city proactively improve and replace important infrastructure, including water and sewer mains. Due to aging infrastructure, the city averages close to 50 water main breaks each year, which result in damage, service interruptions and expensive repairs. Improving and replacing this infrastructure keeps service running smoothly, avoids major headaches and is more cost-effective for all involved.
- Storm sewer rate increases help fund storm water-related infrastructure improvements, typically done in conjunction with street reconstruction projects, and federal water quality mandates.
- Recycling fees cover increasing collection and processing costs, as well as operation of the city's yard waste collection site, which is available to all residents.

## More information

Visit [minnetonka.gov/utilitybilling](http://minnetonka.gov/utilitybilling) to pay your bill online, find rates and find more information. Contact Finance Director Darin Nelson at [dnelson@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:dnelson@minnetonkamn.gov) or 952-939-8200 to ask questions or learn more.

## Reduce water consumption

Minnetonka residents pay a base fee for water and sewer utilities, and incur additional charges based on usage. If you want to save money and help the environment, check out these ideas to reduce your water consumption.

- Don't let water run when brushing teeth or shaving.
- Use a dishwasher instead of handwashing, and only run the dishwasher when it's full.
- Showers account for 30 percent of home water use. A low-flow shower head and shorter showers can make a big difference.
- Fix leaks. A constantly dripping faucet can waste up to 20 gallons a day.
- Don't use running water to thaw foods.





## Register your alarm system

All homeowners and businesses must register alarm systems with the Minnetonka Police Department and pay a \$20 fee each year.

### New in 2021!

The city has partnered with a new alarm administrator – CryWolf Services – for alarm system registration, payment and monitoring. Now you can register your alarm system, pay online and find resources such as FAQs and tips to prevent false alarms.

### Register and learn more

Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/alarm-registration](https://minnetonkamn.gov/alarm-registration) to learn more and register your system. Call 952-939-8500 to ask questions.

## Apply to serve on the charter commission

The Minnetonka Charter Commission is seeking applicants to fill two positions in early 2021. The commission oversees the city's charter, which is similar to a local constitution, and meets each November (and as-needed).

Applicants must be a Minnetonka resident and a registered voter. Commissioners serve four-year terms. The commission considers, recommends and proposes appropriate charter revisions and amendments, balancing the best interests of city government and residents.

### How to apply

To apply, submit a letter of interest to: City of Minnetonka Legal Department, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka, MN, 55345. Please include your name, address, education, experience (including community involvement and volunteer experience) and why you're seeking appointment.

All letters received will be submitted to the Hennepin County District Court chief judge, who will make the appointments. The application deadline will be posted online when it is determined.

Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/charter-commission](https://minnetonkamn.gov/charter-commission) to learn more and find the application deadline.



## MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

### MONDAY, JAN. 18

City of Minnetonka offices will be closed Monday, Jan. 18, 2021 to observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day and celebrate his life, impact and legacy.

Dr. King's contributions and vision inspire our diversity, equity and inclusion efforts within our organization and throughout our community. Learn more at [minnetonkamn.gov/DEI](https://minnetonkamn.gov/DEI).



## Multi-use mountain biking trail update

Initial construction is complete for the new multi-use mountain biking trail at Lone Lake Park and the trail is open for certain uses when conditions allow. Trail finishing work will continue into spring and early summer to address several remaining items. Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/LLP-MBT](http://minnetonkamn.gov/LLP-MBT) to learn more.

### Winter trail use

The trail is open - when conditions allow - for winter use, which includes fat tire biking and snowshoeing. Hiking isn't allowed when the trail is snow-covered because it creates divots and ruts that harm the trail.

Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/LLP-MBT](http://minnetonkamn.gov/LLP-MBT) to check trail conditions prior to each use, as they change rapidly. The trail is closed to all users when trailhead gates are closed.

When using the trail this winter, stay off the trail when it's thawing or isn't frozen, don't leave ruts or deep tracks, use tires at least 3.5 inches wide and adjust your tire's air pressure to the conditions. Thank you for your help to care for and maintain this new amenity!

## Boards and commissions applications due Jan. 1

Do you want to make a positive impact in our community and get involved in local government? The deadline to apply to serve on one of Minnetonka's boards and commissions is Friday, Jan. 1, 2021. We're seeking Minnetonka residents to fill the following openings:

- **Sustainability Commission - New!**

- o Five adults, two young adults under 25 (one must attend Minnetonka, Hopkins or Wayzata High School)

- **Park Board**

- **Senior Advisory Board**

Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/boards-commissions](http://minnetonkamn.gov/boards-commissions) to learn more and apply online. Contact McKaia Ryberg at [mryberg@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:mryberg@minnetonkamn.gov) or 952-939-8211 to ask questions or request application assistance.

## Christmas tree disposal options

Minnetonka residents have two options for live Christmas tree disposal.

- Check with residential garbage collectors for tree pick up and recycling options. There may be an additional fee.
- Trees are accepted at the city's brush drop-off site, open Saturdays in March, 7 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Public Works facility (11522 Minnetonka Blvd.). Until then, plant Christmas trees in a snowbank as a habitat for birds.



## Caring Youth award nominations due Feb. 10

If you know a young person in grades 7-12 who cares for others through volunteering or other activities, consider nominating them for a 2021 Caring Youth Award.

Nominees must live in - or volunteer in - Minnetonka, Hopkins or Golden Valley, or attend school in Minnetonka or Hopkins. They must be nominated by the organization they serve.

The nomination deadline is Wednesday, Feb. 11. For more information, including nomination guidelines and forms, visit [minnetonkamn.gov/caringyouth](http://minnetonkamn.gov/caringyouth) or contact Hopkins Schools Youth Programs Coordinator Lisa Walker at [Lisa.walker@hopkinsschools.org](mailto:Lisa.walker@hopkinsschools.org).

Nominees and winners will be recognized at a virtual awards ceremony on March 11, 2021. A link will be sent to all nominees and nominators.



# Featured Recreation Programs

Our recreation team is continually adding and adapting safe, active and engaging programs for our preschool, youth, adult and senior residents, including the featured programs listed below.

Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/register](http://minnetonkamn.gov/register) to learn more, browse program offerings and register online. Please note, programs are subject to change or cancellation based on the state's response to the ongoing pandemic.

## SNOWventures

**January and February**  
**4:30-6 p.m., two days a week**  
**Course number: 2152702**  
**Select Hopkins/Minnetonka park locations**



Participate in a variety of fun winter-themed activities, arts and crafts, group games and more! This is primarily outdoors, social distancing will be enforced and participants will be split up by age and ability if possible.

## ESports Gaming

**Jan. 13-Feb. 16**  
**Ages: 7 and older**  
**Cost: \$75**  
**Course number: 2041501**

ESports leagues are the perfect safe and socially-distant event for winter 2021! Compete in this five-week secure, monitored online league from your home on your on console. Register to play up to three of the following games weekly: FIFA Soccer, Fall Guy, Rocket League, NBA 2K and NFL Madden Football. Competitions are scheduled based on your availability.

## Personal Defense and Safety Training

**Jan. 12**  
**5:30-7:30 p.m.**  
**Course number: 2010701**  
**Minnetonka Community Center**

Learn principles to defend yourself and avoid problematic situations, with practical responses to escape from threats and stay safe. This class will not have contact, with social distancing and masks required.



## After-school Outdoor Winter Adventure

**Tuesdays, Jan. 5-26: Gro Tonka Park**  
**Tuesdays, Feb. 2-23: Valley Park**  
**4:30-6 p.m.**  
**Course number: 2152701**

Enjoy the best of Minnesota winter outdoor activities, including snowshoeing, cross country skiing, ice games and more! Social distancing will be enforced.



## Ski at Glen Lake Golf Course

Glen Lake Golf Course offers a 2.5-kilometer, natural snow, 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. 12 through March 14, 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 are sold on-site or at city hall. Visit [threeriversparkdistrict.org](http://threeriversparkdistrict.org) to learn more about season passes. Three Rivers Park District passes are honored at Glen Lake Golf Course.

## DID YOU KNOW?

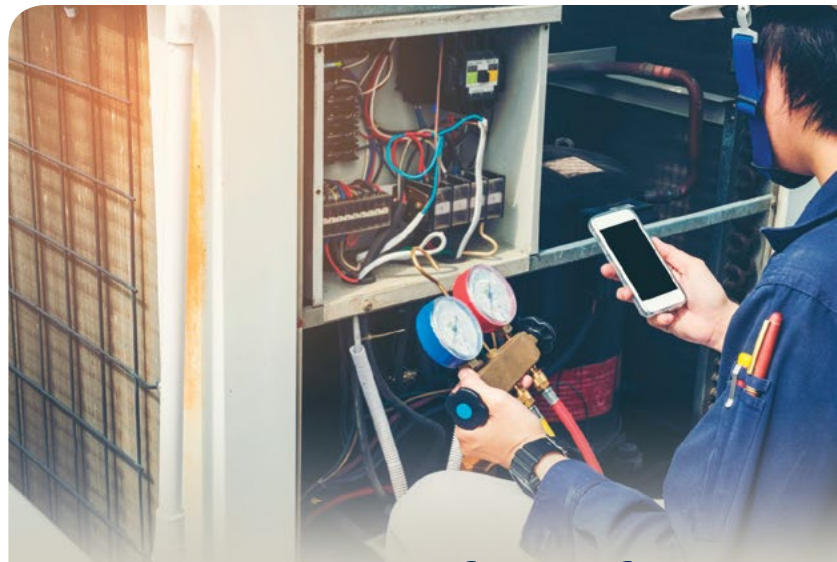


### Recreational fire permits must be renewed annually.

Permits are free, valid until Dec. 31 each year and must be applied for or renewed online. Natural gas and propane fire pits and fireplaces do not require a permit.

When you complete the online application, request a copy of your submission and print or save the emailed copy of the permit for your records. If you don't receive the email, check your junk and spam folders or complete the form again.

Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/firepermit](http://minnetonkamn.gov/firepermit) to apply or renew. Call the fire department at 952-939-8598 with questions.



### Practice winter fire safety

Thanks to COVID-19, we've spent more time than ever indoors, and that will only increase as we head further into another Minnesota winter. Fires tend to spike in the winter due to increased time (and cooking) indoors and the need for indoor fires and heaters. Follow these tips to keep your home safe and fire-free this winter.

- **Have your furnace and fireplace inspected annually.**
- **Be safe in the kitchen** – Never leave the kitchen while cooking, keep flammable items away from the stove and, if there's a fire, cover it with a tight-fitting lid and turn off the heat.
- **If you must use space heaters, use them safely.** Only plug them directly into the wall, keep them away from flammable items and only use them when you're awake and in the same room.
- **Ensure smoke alarms are working properly** on each level and in each bedroom.

## 2021 Home Remodeling Fair canceled

The 2021 West Metro Home Remodeling Fair has been canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The fair, a free event held each February to help Minnetonka, Golden Valley, Hopkins and St. Louis Park residents embark on home remodeling projects, plans to return in 2022.



Stay tuned to [homeremodelingfair.com](http://homeremodelingfair.com) for updates, helpful remodeling tips and more.



# Help our community forest continue to grow

Have you recently had to remove a diseased or dying tree from your property? Could your yard use some additional shade or greenery? Would you like to help the environment and enhance our community forest?

You're in luck. The city's annual tree sale is right around the corner!



Each February, we host an online sale to offer a variety of trees to residents at a reduced cost. Since 2007, our sale has added nearly 17,000 young trees to our community forest.

Stay tuned to [minnetonkamn.gov/NREvents](https://www.minnetonkamn.gov/NREvents) and look for complete tree sale details in the February Minnetonka Memo.

## Numerous benefits

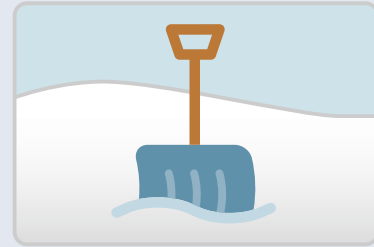
Urban trees provide a wide range of benefits in yards, in the wider community and to the environment. Beyond aesthetics, privacy and wildlife values, trees produce cooling shade and block freezing winds. They absorb stormwater to reduce soil erosion and limit harmful impacts of runoff. Trees also take in carbon dioxide, use it to make leaves and wood, and release oxygen to benefit the environment.

## Think tree diversity

If you're planning to plant a tree this year, please help us enhance tree diversity to ensure our community forest is:

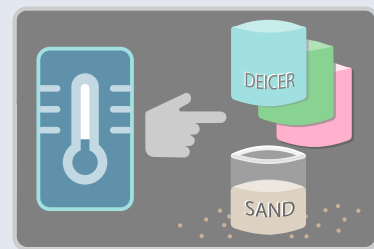
- Made up of many different species, rather than many individuals of a few species.
- More resistant to diseases and pests.
- An essential source of food, shelter and nesting space for pollinators and wildlife.
- Better able to withstand drought, heat, storms and other climate risks.

# PLEDGE TO BE SALT SMART



## 1. Shovel

Clear walkways before snow turns to ice. Apply salt only if needed.



## 2. Select

Salt doesn't melt ice below 15°F. Use sand for traction when it's too cold, or a different de-icer.



## 3. Scatter

Use salt only where critical. Aim for three inches of space between salt granules.



## 4. Sweep

Clean up leftover salt, sand, and de-icer to save and reuse as needed.

Graphics courtesy [cleanwatermn.org](https://www.cleanwatermn.org)

## City of Minnetonka Calendar

- 1 New Year's Day, city offices closed
- 4 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
- 6 Park Board, 7 p.m.
- 7 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 9 Winter Farmers Market, 9 a.m.
- 11 City Council Study Session, 6:30 p.m.
- 12 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
- 14 Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.
- 18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day, city offices closed
- 21 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
- 25 City Council, 6:30 p.m.

City meeting will be held virtually until further notice. Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/virtual-meetings](http://minnetonkamn.gov/virtual-meetings) to learn how to participate remotely. Watch meetings live and on-demand at [minnetonkamn.gov/tv](http://minnetonkamn.gov/tv).

For up-to-date information, visit [minnetonkamn.gov/calendar](http://minnetonkamn.gov/calendar) or call 952-939-8200.



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## Drive-thru the Minnetonka Winter Farmers Market

Jan. 9, Feb. 13 | 9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Minnetonka Community Center | 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.



In 2021, the Minnetonka Winter Farmers Market is a drive-thru experience to keep shoppers safe and socially distant. Pre-order your items or shop in-person with contactless pickup from the safety of your vehicle!

Visit [minnetonkamn.gov/farmersmarket](http://minnetonkamn.gov/farmersmarket) to learn more, place a pre-order, become a vendor and subscribe to updates.

Follow the city on social media for market highlights.



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