



# Agenda

## Minnetonka Park Board

Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at 7 p.m.  
Virtual Meeting on WebEx

---

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

\_\_\_\_\_ Elliot Berman

\_\_\_\_\_ David Ingraham

\_\_\_\_\_ Korey Beyersdorf

\_\_\_\_\_ Ben Jacobs

\_\_\_\_\_ James Durbin

\_\_\_\_\_ Katie Semersky

\_\_\_\_\_ Chris Gabler

\_\_\_\_\_ Chris Walick

3. Reports from Staff

4. Approval of Minutes

A) February 3, 2021

5. Citizens wishing to discuss items not on the agenda

A) Neighborhood Restoration Update

6. Business Items

A) Adoption of the 2021 Park Board Strategic Plan

B) Park Signage

C) Bike Month Activities

7. Park Board Member Reports

8. Information Items

9. Upcoming Park Board Agenda Items

10. Adjournment

### Board Vision:

A city with outstanding parks and recreational opportunities within a valued natural environment.

### Board Mission:

The mission of the Minnetonka Parks & Recreation Board is to proactively advise the city council, in ways that will:

- Protect & enhance Minnetonka's natural environment
- Promote quality recreation opportunities and facilities
- Provide a forum for citizens interested in our parks, trails, athletic fields and open space.

Due to the COVID-19 health pandemic, the park board's regular meeting place is not available. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.021, park board members will participate in the meeting remotely via WebEx. Members of the public who desire to monitor the meeting remotely or to give input or testimony during the meeting can find instructions at <https://www.minnetonkamn.gov/government/virtual-meeting-information>.



**Minutes  
Minnetonka Park Board  
Wednesday, February 3, 2021**

**1. Call to Order**

**2. Roll Call**

Park Board Members Present: Elliot Berman, Korey Beyersdorf, Chris Gabler, David Ingraham, Ben Jacobs, Katie Semersky and Chris Walick.

James Durbin was absent.

Staff members in attendance: Carol HejlStone, Kathy Kline, Kelly O'Dea, Sara Woeste and Leslie Yetka. Information technology staff: Jeff Dulac and Gary Wicks.

Gabler called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

**3. Reports from Staff**

Recreation Director, Kelly O'Dea noted that an addenda was sent out today. He thanked Gabler and Walick for being elected to serve as the chair and vice-chair. O'Dea welcomed Byersdorf and Semersky to the park board and asked them to introduce themselves.

Beyersdorf has lived in Minnetonka for four years and moved from Florida for work. They have two kids, a 15 year old who goes to Minnetonka High School and a 12 year old that goes to Minnetonka Middle School West. She worked in television for most of her career which is why she moved here. Now she is on her own doing some graphic design and starting her own business. She is excited to get more involved with the city and looks forward to getting to know everyone.

Semersky has lived in Ward 4 of Minnetonka for the last eight years with her husband and two boys. Her sons are 10 and 13 years old. One attends Deephaven Elementary and the other attends Minnetonka Middle School East. She is an avid outdoor adventure and recreation enthusiast. That is what spurred her interest in this board. Her career experience is in marketing with a few large global companies in town. She is really happy to be joining the board and working with this great team and serving our community.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

Ingraham moved, Jacobs seconded a motion to approve the meeting minutes of January 6, 2021 as submitted. Beyersdorf and Semersky abstained. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

**5. Citizens wishing to discuss items not on the agenda**

Kayla DonFrancesco thinks we should have a skate park because she wants to have a skate community in our own city. She thinks it is kind of weird to go to other towns. When visiting other communities she feels as though they only like locals and thinks if Minnetonka

had a skate park that it would be welcoming to everyone. DonFrancesco thinks it would be a good addition to Minnetonka because it would affect her generation and future generations. She feels like skating is the new thing and that more people are starting to do it and are getting attracted to it.

Walick asked where she goes to skate around here.

DonFranscesco replied that she usually goes to Eden Prairie Skate Park or 3<sup>rd</sup> Lair, which is an indoor skate park. She feels as though it is hard to access because you have to drive about 10 minutes to get there and you have to pay even if you are a member. There are a lot of skate parks that are far away, but a lot of people can't drive there.

Else Goll has been a resident of Minnetonka since 2002 and is a mom of two skateboarders. She is a teacher at Minnetonka Middle School East and has been a teacher in the district for 15 years. Goll wanted to give a little education as a mom of skateboarders. She thinks it is important to know that it took a little time to be educated on what skateboarding means. Her son started as a preschooler and she quickly learned about the unique and wonderful skateboarding community. It was very hard to watch him get into what looks like complete chaos. As a four year old, there were all these adult sized people skating all around him. She very quickly realized that these people are very organized and cooperative. There is a lot of safety in mind and these really experienced skaters were giving her four year old equal time in the rotation. You have to take turns and be constantly aware of one another. There is a very cooperative element to skateboarding that if you weren't aware of it you wouldn't know. She loved how inclusive they were of her son, how they celebrated every small win he was having. He entered into a competition when he was about 11 years old and he was trying really hard to get his skill. He got it and all of his competitors lifted him up in the air and cheered for him. It warmed her heart to see all these people cheering for someone that just beat them at something. You wouldn't see a soccer team pick up a player from the opposite team after they just scored on them. Skateboarders are all part of this community and they care so much for each other and their achievements.

Else Goll added that being a middle school teacher and wanting to bring skating to her middle schoolers, she started the Minnetonka Skateboarding League four years ago. She thought she was bringing skateboarding to her kids and she actually ended up bringing her kids to skateboarding because there was no place for them to go in their community. She has been collectively getting parents to run carpools and go in different ways because their school doesn't have transportation. The cost for transportation is prohibitive to kids being able to participate. There is a real focus on especially middle and high school age kids to be in team sports. They are expensive and you need your parent to put it all together, pay for it and transport you. Skateboarding is something you can pick up and do. She watched her kids who were not participating in team sports have an immediate sense of belonging, which is a school board goal for Minnetonka. It's that inclusive culture that was really centered on creativity and being supportive to one another that changed lives. As the leader of this Minnetonka Skateboard League you are going to be hearing from other kids that have written in and are calling in tonight because we want to see a skate park in our parks. We love our Minnetonka parks and it should reflect the people that live here. There is an immediate need in our community. She has on average 50-60 kids signed up and that is only students at Minnetonka Middle School East. We haven't really roped in the high schoolers or the Minnetonka Middle School West kids and if that happened it would probably be bigger than what she could manage. Skateboarding is an Olympic sport, it was supposed to launch in Tokyo in 2020 so it is only going to grow and isn't going anywhere. If

you go to skate parks in Eden Prairie, Plymouth, Mound, St. Louis Park, Minneapolis and other surrounding communities, there are a variety of things going on throughout the day. There are kids on scooters in the mornings that evolve into middle schoolers and eventually high schoolers later in the day. It really brings a modern age to our parks, vibrancy and it is a one-time investment and there are a lot of matching grants and funds for us. City of Skate is willing to work with us to help make it happen. Unlike a lot of other things we have in our parks, there is not any maintenance. It is investing in our youth and really helping to foster creativity, problem solving, patience, cooperation and perseverance which are all qualities that as a teacher and a mother she strives to install in all her kids.

Bridger Goll has skated for eight years and he has always enjoyed the community. It is where he has made friends and met his idols. Whenever a new skater or pro skater gets a new trick, everybody treats them as if they just got a huge trick. People respect your turn even if you are a little kid learning how to go down a ramp. Pros will respect that and give you your turn. He would love to bring that community to Minnetonka. Since a lot of people can't drive, we need one in our city to be accessible to the youth. A lot of people will be graduating in five years, and we have to get it done now. It would also benefit the BMXers, rollerbladers and scooters.

Carmen Papp is a student in the Minnetonka Middle School Skateboard League. As Else Goll mentioned, we are partnering with City of Skate to attempt to get a new skate park in Minnetonka. Our skateboard club is actually one of the largest clubs in the school with so many people willing to give it a try. It's a really important social event for a lot of kids where they can try new things out of their comfort zone. It is such a great and supportive community. Papp really believes that Minnetonka needs a skate park as an active and accessible location for kids to get to walk and bike to, a place to get off their screens and get outside and hang out with friends and practice a sport they love. The designated place needs to be easy to access. It would make a safer environment for a lot of kids and a lot of people who are out there skateboarding along streets, sidewalks and other places that are not ideal. Unlike many other sports facilities like basketball courts and baseball fields, skateboard parks actually require little to no maintenance. Importantly, most skate parks around here are really far away or indoors making it more of a COVID risk than an outdoor park. Papp believes that a skate park would be the perfect addition to our city to support outdoor youth engagement.

Gabler thanked all of the speakers and added that 50-60 kids in the club is impressive. He asked what City of Skate is.

Else explained that City of Skate is a nonprofit organization that helps to build professionally designed skate parks in communities. They assist with finding grants and federal and state monies to help fund these parks. They actually have about 18 skate parks that they have helped get approved in the city of Minneapolis. Minneapolis is doing a huge push on skate parks right now and they are becoming these centers of amazing community and are in areas that needed some vibrancy returned. City of Skate is a nonprofit and she knows they have already been in contact and started a conversation with O'Dea. They are a great partner and all they want is to help make it happen.

Walick commented that what they are doing is awesome. He thinks the skate park idea is great. There is a current skate park at Glen Lake and he saw in some emails that it is terrible. He questioned what makes that skate park bad.

Else Goll said she will speak from the perspective of what she has heard from her skaters. She took her son there once and it was terrifying. It was not designed by skaters and as a result it won't be used. It's one of those things where she thinks obstacles and ramps were put on asphalt and then people can say, "Nobody went to skate there, I guess people don't want skate parks." Unfortunately, it just wasn't designed to actually work well for skating. If you go to other cities you will see that the parks that are always busy are these beautiful smooth poured concrete parks rather than this metal like material. They are not suited well for skating so as a result people just don't use it.

Kayla DonFrancesco agrees with Else Goll. She feels like the park is rather dangerous for a lot of people especially younger children trying to learn. From her experience, the ramps kind of lift up a little bit at the ends. When you are trying to go up and try a trick on the ramps, they lift up and they make you trip and fall forward. Her brother also skates and last time they went there he hit his face really hard on the side. She feels like it is not a safe environment which is why nobody wants to use it. It is a rather lower-end skate park.

Bridger Goll added that it is literally just two ramps and a box in the middle set onto asphalt. It is not a good park and like DonFrancesco said, you can clip the edge. It is just not a good park in general.

Else Goll thinks the big idea for us to get this right as a city is to partner with someone like City of Skate to have a well-designed skate park. It will be enticing for skaters to come and ride and actually be safer if it is done well.

Jacobs asked if that is a good location for a park and if it is a good size.

Else Goll said it is too small. She thinks you want to go big on a skate park and if you observe any of the quality skate parks, they are constantly busy. If there are only one or two ramps, that could get old after about 15 minutes. If you take the time to go there, you would probably like to stay one or two hours. For it to be well done it would have to be big enough that there is enough challenge to it. She thinks the location is great because of the visibility. If we have a skate park, we would want to have it in a place where people driving past can see the young kids out there and demonstrating what a cool sport it is. She thinks it is something that people enjoy watching so she thinks the location is great. She isn't sure about the size of that location but there are a lot of parks that don't have a lot of activity going on. She is sure in this large city that they could find something.

Ingraham asked from a footprint perspective, how big is a good park and how much parking would be needed to support that kind of park.

Else Goll said 12-15,000 square feet would be ideal. If you go to the Eden Prairie Skate Park near the high school, it is at Round Lake. People are biking, walking and riding up on their skateboards so they don't need a lot of parking. It is located in a pedestrian friendly space and it is near trails and by a school. Goll thinks it is all about location, if it is located somewhere that is kind of removed from pedestrian and bike access then you will need way more parking because people will be driving there. If you are strategic, there is the Lake Minnetonka Regional Trail (LRT) and all the middle school kids could hop on the trail after school and ride down to the skate park near the trail. She thinks parking would become less of an issue that way.

Ingraham asked if the Round Lake Skate Park in Eden Prairie is a good size skate park to view as an example.

Else Goll thinks it would be a great place to look at. She would suggest going a little bit larger than that. St. Louis Park went way too small on their skate park and she thinks their skate park would be way too small. She thinks Eden Prairie is a good start but if you go big than it will be used. There won't be any quiet space and once you see all the skaters and scooters, you will see that you need space to move for it to be safe, challenging and entertaining.

Kayla DonFrancesco said if you have ever looked into skating, you might know there is a lot of different types of skating. There is street skating, there is park skating, there is freestyle and there is a lot of different branches that come off of just skating. She thinks there should be a lot of options and that requires a rather bigger park. She thinks that a decent size park would be definitely ideal.

Else Goll said Kayla's point was a really good point that we have kids who ride street, which is a little more of a freestyle look. There is bowl skating which looks kind of like a drained swimming pool and that is really cool. The Mound Skate Park has a bowl and that is really fun to ride. There is also vert ramp which looks kind of like a half-pipe and that is a different type of skating as well. The more variety you have in your obstacles, ramps and bowls, the more fun it will be and the bigger success it will be in the end.

O'Dea said these questions are great questions. He asked the park board that if they are wanting more information about a skate park then they should direct staff to work with City of Skate and interested residents. That way it can be on the agenda as a business item and staff can bring back more information and have some answers for you.

Gabler said it is worth following up on, staff should work them.

O'Dea appreciated the callers and staff will bring it back to the park board.

## **6. Business Items**

### **A. Route recommendation for the Eagle to Bryant Lake Regional Trail**

Park and Trail Planner, Carol HejlStone gave the report.

Associate Planner with Three Rivers Park District, Maggie Heurung gave a brief overview and PowerPoint of where they are at with the project.

Regional Trail System Manager with Three Rivers Park District, Danny McCullough asked for questions about the engagement process.

Ingraham said that they got the Toole design memorandum and it mentions that the design is before the public engagement. Did the public engagement reinforce what is on the design or were there any questions about that.

McCullough responded that it did support what their route recommendation was.

McCullough showed a PowerPoint of the trail alignment through Minnetonka.

Ingraham thinks they have done a great job. He is very familiar with Baker Road and they ended up kind of where he thought they would. The difficult intersections that they mentioned, are really difficult intersections. He added that Rowland Road to Baker Road is so weird. When turning right from Rowland Road to go north on Baker Road, you will want to make sure there is plenty of room on that corner for the trail. This is because people tend to encroach as close as they can to the corner to try and make it. Ingraham asked when they drop into the clay trail that exists today, he sees them staying on Rowland Road and kind of dropping right onto the trail. That surprised him because he thought they would take that arch on the existing trailhead. There is a big storm culvert right next to that tunnel that you are going to use. He figures that would be a lot more work than just curling around the existing trail.

McCullough replied that they have looked at it and have been working pretty close with HejlStone and other city staff on this project. McCullough explained that this is a masterplan and they can only analyze so much. A masterplan will generally give us the general cost estimation, some concepts and they will want to know which side of the road the trail is going to be on. They don't get into the weeds about a lot of geometric details in a masterplan. They realize there are a lot of options in this area. They actually went out and looked at this public works property to see if they could utilize it. They decided to hold off for now about recommending a direct route through the city park. The city park seems to be in transition with a new mountain bike trail and new trailheads so they want to be respectful of that. They can tackle some of that in the future when they start designing and building.

Director of Planning for Three Rivers Park District, Kelly Grissman concurs with what McCullough said. They would look to the city to provide them with some additional guidance as to how they would like to see them maneuver through this area and help them set some parameters as to where they maybe could have some impact or route the trail and also maybe areas that are absolutely off the table. Since they don't have any construction funding or design funding in the immediate future, they want to come back and revisit this once they have a better understanding as to the long-term use of the park and how some of the recent improvements may have changed that visitation pattern.

Walick asked with previous projects if there was extra communication or outreach with property owners that are affected by this. He added that people have a way of being very protective of their space so he questioned if there is generally any negative reaction once the project starts.

McCullough replied that they generally have pretty good feedback. When they are constructing a trail through a residential area they have to give notice. They are required to do that but they also work closely with the city to get the word out that the project is coming. They work with homeowners on all sorts of things, however, there might be some things that are in the road right-of-way that might have to be moved, shifted or removed. They want to be good neighbors and they want to work with the neighbors. They have countless examples of working with residents on these projects to find common solutions. The biggest thing they hear when they implement something like this is privacy. If they have to plant trees and screening, they will do that.

Gabler noted that the intersection at Baker Road and Excelsior Boulevard is bad and he doesn't see the county improving it. He asked if traffic signals would be a possibility.

McCullough responded they won't get into the details on what should be done at this intersection with the masterplan. However, they will identify the need for an enhanced or safer crossing. There is a possibility that this whole entire intersection could get reorganized or reconstructed. If at that time, they would place the regional trail crossing where it is safest. Unfortunately, they have to show existing conditions. Another benefit of shifting the trail to the east is utilizing the existing crossings. While the existing crossings might not be ideal, hopefully those crossing will remain and a regional trail would follow that route with better signalization and better geometrics at the intersection.

O'Dea said Three Rivers Park District will take this to the city council in February.

## **B. Consideration of the 2021 Park Board Strategic Plan**

O'Dea gave the report and asked the board for suggestions. He explained that the city council updated the city's strategic plan and made some big changes. Those changes included some things regarding diversity, equity and inclusion and also sustainability. Staff tried to reflect some of those changes with our strategic plan.

O'Dea went through all of the recommended changes to the vision, mission, goals and objectives. He asked for comment on each one.

### **Vision and Mission:**

Walick said they look great. They are general but in a positive way.

Ingraham agreed that they look really good.

### **First Goal: To protect natural resources and open space**

Ingraham thought they were good changes and aligned more with what the board would do versus what staff would do. The board aids in decision making and not management so he thought those were some good changes.

### **Second Goal: To renew and maintain parks and trails**

Ingraham asked why rules was dropped under objective seven. He knows they set rules this year but he wasn't sure if there wouldn't be ongoing review of them depending on how the mountain bike was doing.

O'Dea said he would have to look back at what we were going to bring back.

Walick added that he sees the word metrics and that is a very broad term to him in terms of people. That could be people following the rules and also the impacts of people not following the rules. He feels it would be kind of rolled under there.

Assistant Recreation Director, Sara Woeste thinks that when it was presented to council and the park board that the recommendation was to bring it back to review the annual metrics. She does not think there is any reason we couldn't review the rules as part of that. When we presented the metrics to you, she doesn't think it listed the rules specifically but staff can certainly add that.



Semersky commented that her understanding is that the new Ridgedale Park is a really big project and she noticed only Lone Lake was specifically called out. She asked if Ridgedale is big enough where it needs its own objective. She said it was crossed out of objective six and that the wording looks like it was for last year.

HejlStone said the design process for the new park at Ridgedale, which is now officially named Ridgedale Commons. The design is complete and we are out for bid on that project. It would be eliminated from the list because we are in a different phase of that effort.

Semersky wanted to confirm that it doesn't need to be reworded for this year's priority because there is nothing else you need from the board this year.

HejlStone replied not at this time. As those needs arise we would certainly look at adding those to the list in future years as needed.

**Third goal: To provide quality athletic and recreational facilities and programs**

Semersky asked if anything about safety should be incorporated in this section just given the year that we are in. She asked if that is something to pay extra attention to.

O'Dea responded that he thinks she is right and we would have to think about how to word it. He asked people to let him know if they have specific examples.

**Fourth Goal: Enhance long-term park board development**

Gabler and Walick thinks it looks good.

O'Dea said we will bring this back in March and changes can still be made.

**C. Recommend Park Board Member to Sustainability Commission**

O'Dea commented that the city approved a sustainability commission. The interviews for the sustainability commission were this past Monday at the city council meeting. Part of the make-up of that commission is going to include one member from the park board. He asked if anyone was interested.

Jacobs thought Durbin was interested.

O'Dea replied that Durbin asked a few questions but he never confirmed that he was interested.

Ingraham said he would be interested if nobody else is. He expressed that there may be others that have expertise or interest that are better qualified. He recommended O'Dea to talk to Durbin and if he is not interested, he would be happy to be the park board representative.

O'Dea responded that he will talk to Durbin and if he is not interested than he will recommend Ingraham. O'Dea asked if the board supported that plan and they indicated they were.

Gabler asked what the sustainability committee is.

O'Dea said city council has discussed sustainability for over the past year.

Berman added that he had a little background information because he advocated for it on behalf of the Minnetonka Climate Initiative and the Hopkins Earth Club. It really is just to advise the city council on any projects that they are doing and how to make them more sustainable for the future. It also thinks about how we can incorporate environment and make things better without producing more trash or producing more energy usage. Also how do we go from sustainable energy in our buildings and our public buildings in Minnetonka and how can we encourage those programs. Just to build a more sustainable Minnetonka for the future environmental wise and gas wise.

## **7. Park Board Member Reports**

Gabler said that the pickleball courts at Lone Lake Park are exceptionally popular. A couple of people have approached him to see if they can get them lighted. Older folks tend to use them during the day but then after work more people want to use them. He was told that it gets dark and people still want to play.

O'Dea verified that the courts are very popular. People were out there in November when it snowed and people were shoveling the courts to play. He thinks when we get into lighting fields, it is something to discuss and look into. That is a process to go through but there are a lot of pickleball players and the courts are definitely busy.

Ingraham assumes that lighting the courts would be another area of interest for the Friends of Lone Lake.

O'Dea noted that whenever you talk about lighting at parks, people that live close have concerns with that.

Ingraham gave compliments on the Yeti hunt. He couldn't believe how big that was. He doesn't know how many people actually submitted their things in the end but every park benefited from a lot of interest. Plus, a lot of families got out and did things so it was great.

O'Dea believed we had about 150 entries each week so it was very popular.

## **8. Information Items**

### **Gray's Bay Marina Summary**

O'Dea gave the report.

### **2020 Athletic Field Use**

O'Dea gave the report.

**Recreation Services 2021 Summer Brochure**

Woeste gave the report.

**Ridgedale Commons and Crane Lake Preserve**

HejlStone gave the report.

**9. Upcoming Park Board Agenda Items**

O'Dea mentioned that in April we have scheduled the 2022-2026 Capital Improvement Plan. That is being pushed back so it will likely happen at the June 2, 2021 meeting. That is a city decision to tie it to the strategic profile and some other things city wide. That gives us the opportunity to potentially move some things into March or April. As we heard, the skate park seems to be a popular item right now. O'Dea thinks they all received an email from Mrs. Holm regarding the neighborhood restoration project. She would like 15-20 minutes to talk about that. Those are two things that will likely be added onto the schedule in the next couple of months.

Gabler asked if the skateboard park would be added to the March meeting.

O'Dea said he will connect with them. He was thinking March or April would be appropriate.

**10. Adjournment**

Walick moved, Jacobs seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kathy Kline*

Kathy Kline  
Recreation Administrative Coordinator

**Minnetonka Park Board Item 6A  
Meeting of March 3, 2021**

<b>Subject:</b>	Adoption of the 2021 Park Board Strategic Plan
<b>Park Board related goal:</b>	Enhance Long-Term Park Board Development
<b>Park Board related objective:</b>	Annually assess the park board strategic plan
<b>Brief Description:</b>	The park board will review park board strategic plan mission, vision, goals and objectives and implement desired changes for 2021.

### **Background**

In 2001, the park board worked with an independent consultant to establish a process for developing and annually refining a strategic plan. As a result of this endeavor, board members developed goals, objectives and specific action steps designed to meet the board's mission and vision developed earlier in the process.

Attached is the draft 2021 Park Board Strategic Plan. Updates have been made by staff to reflect input provided by the park board at the February 3, 2021 meeting. The park board will consider adoption of this document at the March 3, 2021 meeting.

### **Discussion Points**

- Does the park board desire any changes to the 2021 Strategic Plan

**Recommended Park Board Action:** Review the 2021 draft Strategic Plan and consider adoption.

### **Attachments**

1. 2021 Strategic Plan - Draft

**Minnetonka Park & Recreation Board  
2021 Strategic Plan - DRAFT**

**Vision for Minnetonka Park and Recreational Facilities**

An inclusive city with outstanding parks and recreational opportunities within a healthy natural environment.

**The Mission of the Minnetonka Park & Recreation Board is to proactively advise the City Council, in ways that will:**

- Protect and enhance Minnetonka's natural environment
- Promote quality inclusive recreation opportunities and facilities to meet the needs of all residents
- Provide a forum for citizen engagement regarding our parks, trails, athletic facilities and open space

**Goals and Objectives (order does not reflect priority)**

**Goal To protect natural resources and open space**

- Objective 1: Provide feedback to assist staff in decision-making regarding open space
- Objective 2: Review and provide feedback on natural resources planning efforts
- Objective 3: Review and provide feedback on strategies to enhance natural resources & open space
- Objective 4: Promote the city's efforts of protecting and enhancing the community's natural resources by creating awareness and supporting educational opportunities
- Objective 5: Provide guidance in balancing the protection of natural resources with providing quality recreational opportunities and facilities

**Goal To renew and maintain parks and trails**

- Objective 1: Participate in the park & trail projects process and make recommendations to the city council
- Objective 2: Conduct an annual review of park dedication fees
- Objective 3: Identify areas of the city that are deficient of adequate park or trail amenities
- Objective 4: Review the city's Trail Improvement Plan and consider trail projects that will encourage outdoor recreation and improve mobility in the community
- Objective 5: Review conditions of park facilities, fields and amenities to inform park investment plan projects and priorities
- Objective 6: Review and provide feedback on updated wayfinding and park signage
- Objective 7: Review annual **rules and** metrics report of Lone Lake Park Mountain Bike Trail and make recommendations to staff and city council
- Objective 8: Review conditions of city trails to inform trail rehabilitation and priorities

**Goal To provide quality athletic and recreational facilities and programs**

- Objective 1: Perform an annual review of the Gray's Bay Marina operations plan
- Objective 2: Anticipate, review and respond to community needs not previously identified
- Objective 3: Review policies related to the operation and management of park facilities to determine if changes are needed. **Continue to provide safe accommodations following Covid guidelines**
- Objective 4: Ensure that park amenities, recreational facilities and programs address future community needs and changing demographics
- Objective 5: Conduct a review of the athletic field fee schedule developed for 2021 and make recommended adjustments for 2022
- Objective 6: Offer a full range of programs for people of all ages, ability levels, and economic and cultural backgrounds ensuring all have the opportunity to participate
- Objective 7: Responsibly maintain our parks, trails and recreational facilities, while fairly balancing user fees with general community support

Goal            **Enhance long-term Park Board development**

- Objective 1: Review and recommend Capital Improvements Program for 2022-2026 related to parks, trails & open space
- Objective 2: Increase community and city council awareness of park board projects through the online project page and community outreach
- Objective 3: Encourage board member involvement in annual park board and city related activities such as the farmers market
- Objective 4: Participate in, review and provide feedback on the updated Parks Open Space and Trails (POST) plan
- Objective 5: Continue to explore new ideas and strive to build community for those who work, live and play in Minnetonka
- Objective 6: Actively explore and enhance partnerships/engagement opportunities with other agencies including the City of Hopkins
- Objective 7: Annually assess the park board strategic plan

**Minnetonka Park Board Item 6B  
Meeting of March 3, 2021**

<b>Subject:</b>	Review Park Signage Plan
<b>Park Board related goal:</b>	To renew and maintain parks and trails
<b>Park Board related objective:</b>	Participate in the park & trail projects process and make recommendations to the city council
<b>Brief Description:</b>	The park board will review a plan to develop park sign standards and new interpretive signage plan.

**Background**

The park board reviewed an update on park signage on October 7, 2020. During the update, staff provided information on the types of park signage (monument/entrance, rules/park regulations, educational/interpretive), current condition of signage, and replacement and maintenance information. Based on park board feedback, staff is now undertaking an effort to develop sign standards for any new or updated signage as it is needed in city parks, as well as a sign plan for phasing in new interpretive signage, beginning in Lone Lake Park. The sign overall plan is as follows:

Part I – Engage with a consultant to draft sign design standards (layout, branding, materials etc.), including park wayfinding, rules/regulations, monument signage, and interpretive signage that can be used as signs are developed or replaced over time in city parks.

- Timeline: March-May, 2021
- Approximate costs: \$28,000

Part II – Interpretive Signage: implement a phased approach to creating and/or replacing interpretive signage in multiple city parks:

Phase I – Create and install 12-14 educational signs at Lone Lake Park

- May-August, 2021 – create signage themes and messaging; work with graphics designer to apply sign standards
  - Gather feedback from friends of Minnetonka parks group(s) and other interested stakeholders on appropriate themes and messaging for topics such as:
    - Big Woods and tree diversity, climate resilience
    - Pollinators (rusty patched bumble bees; monarchs) life cycle and benefits
    - Benefits of pollinator lawns (demonstration area)
    - Soil health and water quality
- September-October, 2021 – Fabricate and install signage
- Approximate costs: \$7,000-\$10,000 (dependent on materials)

Phase II – Create and install 12-14 educational signs at Minnehaha Creek Headwaters, Purgatory, and Big Willow parks

- January – May, 2022 – create signage themes and messaging; work with graphics designer to apply sign standards
  - Gather feedback from friends of Minnetonka parks group(s) and other interested stakeholders on appropriate themes and messaging for topics such as:
    - Prairie habitat
    - Stormwater runoff and green infrastructure benefits
    - Oak woodlands and restoration
    - Watersheds and waterways
    - Fish and waterfowl
- June – September, 2022 – Fabricate and install signage
- Approximate costs: \$7,000-\$10,000 (depending on materials)

Phase II – Create and install 12-14 educational or historical interpretive signs at Burwell House plus additional parks identified by staff

- January – May, 2023 – create signage themes and messaging; work with graphics designer to apply sign standards
  - Gather feedback from Minnetonka historical society, friends of Minnetonka parks group(s) and other interested stakeholders on appropriate themes and messaging for topics
- June – September, 2023 – Fabricate and install signage
- Approximate costs: \$7,000-\$10,000 (depending on materials)

All development, installation, and maintenance costs for new or replacement signage will be funded by the Parks and Natural Resources operating budgets. For new park monument signage, development and replacement will at a later time as part of a separate and larger project. Development of standards will take place as part of this signage project, but implementation will be done separately and funded as a new CIP item which will be reviewed by the Park Board at the time of CIP review.

**Staff Recommendation**

Recommend moving forward with the signage plan as presented.

**Recommended Park Board Action:**

The Park Board is requested to review the presentation and provide feedback.

**Attachment**

1. 5\_Item 6B - Park Signage with attachments: report from October 7, 2020



**Minnetonka Park Board Item 6B  
Meeting of October 7, 2020**

<b>Subject:</b>	Review Park Signage
<b>Park Board related goal:</b>	To renew and maintain parks and trails
<b>Park Board related objective:</b>	Responsibly maintain our parks, trails and recreational facilities, while fairly balancing user fees with general community support
<b>Brief Description:</b>	The park board will review the current park signage and give direction to staff

**Background**

There are three main types of signage in Minnetonka parks, including monument or entrance signs, rules signs (regulations, pets) and educational/interpretive. The attached sign inventory indicates types of signage and location. Below is a short description of each sign type:

Monument/entrance

These signs are intended to be a visible monument that names a park area. The signs are simple wooden signs that blend in well with the surrounding neighborhoods. Not all parks have a monument sign and due to the nature of the park there are no plans to install at those locations. Volunteers who participate in the city's Adopt-A-Sign program plant flowers around the signs and maintain them for the summer. The city has many volunteers who have participated in this program for a number of years.



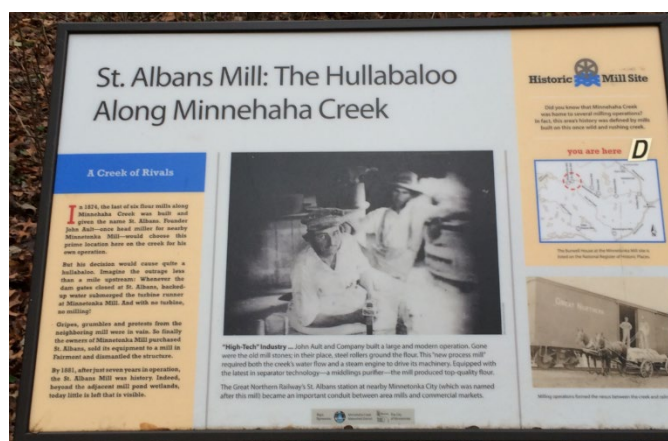
### Rules/park regulations

Park rule signage, including pet rules, are designed to alert park users to general park rules (e.g. no motorized vehicles on trail) as well as park-specific information. These signs are generally placed in a park at trail heads or in areas related to a high number of complaints.



### Educational/Interpretive

The city has educational or interpretive signage at five parks: Big Willow, Minnetonka Mills/Burwell House, Purgatory Park, Lone Lake Park, and the Minnehaha Creek headwaters (in collaboration with the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District). Information that is shared on these signs includes natural features of the area, restoration or management activities (e.g. invasive plants, stormwater runoff), and Minnetonka history.



### Condition of current signage

The monument signs are in good condition and get painted approximately every 3-5 years. The existing park rules signs are all very old and due to be replaced with updated language and new wood posts. The interpretive signs at Lone Lake Park were removed this year due to significantly deteriorating conditions.

### Replacement and maintenance schedule of signage

There are three monument signs that will have new posts made over the winter to be ready for installation in the spring. New monument signs will be installed at Boulder Creek and Linner parks. The monument signs will continue to be painted on the existing rotation. Park regulations signs will be added to most parks, based on use and complaints received by users. While it is nice to have uniformity between the parks, too much signage can lead to the parks appearing cluttered.

To replace educational signage, city staff would inventory the current status and content of existing signage, identify themes or narratives appropriate for the specific park area, develop content and graphics with a designer, determine sign type and construction needs, and manage for production and installation. Barring a change to very elaborate monument signs or educational signs, maintenance and replacement of park signage will be funded by the Parks and Natural Resources operating budgets.

### Staff Recommendation

Continue with the current schedules for monument signage. Further research educational and park rules signage and bring back to the Park Board.

### **Recommended Park Board Action:**

The Park Board is requested to review the presentation, provide feedback and give direction to staff regarding next steps.

### **Attachment**

1. City parks sign inventory

Park	Monument Signs	Park Rules	Pet rules	Interpretive	Park	Monument Signs	Park Rules	Pet rules	Interpretive
Big Willow	1	0	0	1	Linner	*	0	0	0
Boulder Creek	*	0	0	0	Lone Lake	2	0	0	12
Covington	1	1	0	0	Mayflower	1	0	0	0
Crane Lake	**				McKenzie	1	1	0	0
Cullen Smith	**				Meadow	1	1	0	0
Elmwood Strand	1	0	0	0	Mills Gazebo	0	0	0	1
Ford	1	0	0	0	Mills Landing	0	0	0	0
Glen Lake Athletic	1	0	0	0	Burwell	2	0	0	4
Glen Lake Station	1	0	0	0	Mini Tonka	1	0	0	0
Glen Moor	1	0	0	0	Minnehaha Creek Headwaters	0	0	0	9
Grays Bay Marina	1	0	0	0	Mooney	1	0	0	0
Green Circle	2	0	0	0	Oakhaven	1	0	0	0
Gro Tonka	2	1	0	0	Oberlin	3	1	2	0
Groveland	1	0	0	0	Orchard	1	1	0	0
Guilliams	1	0	0	0	Pioneer	1	0	0	0
Hilloway	1	0	0	0	Purgatory	1	2	3	0
Holiday Lake	0	0	0	0	Reich	2	1	0	0
Jidana	1	0	3	0	Ridgedale	**			
Junction	1	0	0	0	Robinwood	**			
Kelley Gardens	0	0	0	0	Spring Hill	2	0	0	0
Kinsel	2	0	0	0	Sunrise Ridge	1	0	0	0
Knollway	1	0	0	0	Tower Hill	0	0	0	0
Lake Charlotte	1	0	0	0	Victoria Evergreen	1	0	0	0
Lake Rose	0	0	0	0	Westwood	1	0	0	0
Libbs Lake Beach	1	1	0	0	Wilson	2	0	0	0
					Woodgate	1	0	0	0

\* Denotes monument signs are made but not installed

\*\* Denotes future park. Sign will be installed when developed

**Minnetonka Park Board Item 6C  
Meeting of March 3, 2021**

<b>Subject:</b>	Bike month
<b>Park Board related goal:</b>	Provide quality athletic and recreational facilities and programs
<b>Park Board related objective:</b>	Offer a full range of programs for people of all ages, ability levels, and economic and cultural backgrounds ensuring all have the opportunity to participate
<b>Brief Description:</b>	City of Minnetonka participation in bike month activities and events

## **Background**

Since 1956, May has been recognized as National Bike Month. It is sponsored by the League of American Bicyclists and is celebrated in communities from coast to coast as a means to advance the movement to build a bicycle friendly America for everyone. National Bike to Work Week and Bike to Work Day are often cited as the month's flagship events, occurring the third week and third Friday of May, respectively.

With growing cultural awareness around health and wellness, sustainability and economic savings, bicycling is being seen by new and broader audiences as a simple solution to many problems, from improving health to increasing mobility options. Bike Month is an opportunity to come together with diverse community stakeholders to raise awareness, celebrate successes and inspire new riders.

As bicyclists become more comfortable with riding, the number and percentage of weekly trips taken by bike increase significantly. And people are more likely to bike for transportation if they have social support. Bike Month events, like Bike to Work Day, provide the opportunity to increase both community participation and comfort.

Proposed ways for the City of Minnetonka to host and participate in Bike Month activities include:

- Social media posts promoting biking and safety
- Encourage local businesses to offer promotions to customers who ride to their establishments
- A proclamation recognizing May as Bike Month
- A Bike Month 'parksport' activity encouraging people to bike Minnetonka parks
- A group slow-roll style bike ride with city officials
- A pit stop/energizer station on Bike to Work Day (Friday, May 21) at the trail adjacent to civic center campus

**Discussion Questions:**

- *Does the park board have any feedback or preferences about the activities and events for bike month?*
- *Do park board members have interest in participating in any of the proposed activities and events for bike month?*

**Recommended Action:**

The park board is requested to review and provide feedback on the proposed activities and events for Bike Month.



**Minnetonka Park Board Item 8  
Meeting of March 3, 2021**

<b>Subject:</b>	Information Items
<b>Park Board related goal:</b>	N/A
<b>Park Board related objective:</b>	N/A
<b>Brief Description:</b>	The following are informational items and developments that have occurred since the last park board meeting.



**Natural Resources Annual Update – 2020 Activities**

The Natural Resources Division of Public Works is responsible for activities related to:

- Habitat restoration and management
- Water resource protection
- Natural resource ordinance compliance during private development
- Urban forestry programs
- Natural resource education

The following annual update highlights staff accomplishments for 2020:

**Habitat Restoration Activities**

Over 310 acres of city land in parks and natural areas are actively being managed, with the goal of developing healthy ecosystems. Notable items include:

- Annual buckthorn, garlic mustard and weed control continues in highest value restoration areas by contractors, ICW crew, staff and volunteers.
- Volunteer coordination: Volunteer opportunities were canceled in the spring due to COVID restrictions, but resumed with social distancing in late May:
  - Local groups continue to provide the greatest benefit. Groups that were standouts in 2020 are Friends of Cullen Preserve, Minnetonka Mountain Bike Trail Advocates, Friends of Lone Lake Park, River Valley Church and Boy scout Troop 409
  - Adopt-a-Spot volunteers collectively contribute hundreds of hours annually working independently. Standout work has been done for more than a decade by long-term

volunteers at Kinsel and Lake Rose Parks bringing restoration to an invasive-free quality not achievable without them.

- Restoration activities continued around the Lone Lake Park pickle ball courts including:
  - Rain garden improvements
    - 608 wildflowers planted to benefit pollinators (including Rusty Patch Bumble Bee super-foods) and monarch butterfly favorites
    - 256 prairie grasses planted
  - Preparation for conversion to prairie in no-mow areas was completed by contractors, staff and volunteers. Conversion will take several years.
- Lone Lake Park plant survey completed by staff and botanist
- Native plant salvage over five weeks during mountain bike trail building at Lone Lake Park. Wildflowers, sedges and smaller woody plants were dug, planted, potted and stored for 2021 park plantings. Notable uncommon plants saved are spikenard, lily-leaved twayblade orchid and numerous winterberries. Preserving local genotypes of declining native plants is essential to ecological restoration and preservation of our habitats.
- 2020 was the fourth year of partial habitat restoration at the Cullen Nature Preserve.
  - Plant survey and list of existing species completed for “before-restoration” history
  - Photo-documented extensive herbivory by deer
  - Applications completed for two grants for expedited restoration would not have been possible without extensive work by and collaboration with the Friends of Cullen Nature Preserve
    - Hennepin Co. Good Steward Grant
    - MN DNR Conservation Partners Legacy grant
  - Restoration contractor removed 8.8 acres of buckthorn along the east and north sections and the ICW crew continued work along the sewer line.
- Between July and October, restoration staff responded to noxious weed complaints and worked to control many problem species including thistle, poison ivy and Japanese knotweed.
- Habitat management challenges:
  - New invasive species recently discovered in Minnetonka require new control measures on top of many invasive species controlled annually.
    - Hellborine *Epipactis hellborine*, an invasive orchid, has been found in three parks: Big Willow, Jidana and Lone Lake
    - Wild parsnip found along two county roads and MN Hwy 7
    - Common valerian in Hilloway Park
  - Garlic mustard and thistle expanded in some long-term control areas in 2020 due to ICW crew absence for months and cancellation of spring volunteer events during COVID restrictions.



- Herbivory by deer and rodents, besides deer antler rubbing continue to be a significant setback to restoration of native plants, causing the disappearance of wildflowers and much woody plant damage.

### **Water Resource Protection**

- Annual release of insects for biological control of wetland invasive species purple loosestrife has occurred since 2006. Beetle populations fluctuate with environmental conditions and release sites adjust accordingly. Thirteen sites have been photo documented for the past six years, including in 2020.
- The city continues to monitor the health of Minnetonka’s wetlands using volunteers in Hennepin County’s Wetland Health Evaluation Program. Having monitored 34 sites to date. Due to pandemic-imposed restrictions, the county has temporarily stopped this program, and appears likely that the program will not resume until summer of 2022.
- The city obtained a grant through the Metropolitan Council to develop a rebate program for smart irrigation controllers. The intent is to conserve groundwater resources by reducing outdoor irrigation during summer months when demand is high. Staff reached out to numerous homeowners’ associations to offer irrigation audits, which will take place in 2021, and began planning a rebate program for private property owners who install WaterSense-certified smart controllers and/or sprinkler heads.

### **Development Review, Inspection and Compliance**

- Staff reviewed 352 permits including 44 new homes, 19 pools, 8 grading permits, and 7 commercial permits (HC Medical Examiner, Shady Oak Crossing, Fire/Police Addition, Chase Bank, Eagle Ridge Gym Addition, SWLRT Station, and Oakcroft Townhomes).
- Conservation easements were acquired over wetland buffer and tree preservation areas on 6 sites.
- Staff reviewed 15 wetland delineations and had around 200 responses to requests for information about wetlands.

### **Forestry Activities**

- Minnetonka’s annual tree sale has sold about 17,000 young trees since 2007, increasing the diversity and resilience of the community forest. In 2020, 456 buyers purchased 816 trees of 15 species.
- In 2020, 155 young trees of 30 different species were planted Minnetonka’s parks to improve species diversity of our urban forest and increase resilience to climate change.

- Forestry staff completed the Healthy Canopy grant through Hennepin County by removing ash trees in advance of emerald ash borer (EAB) and replanting in the same area as those removals. Tree planting was a part of the City’s Arbor Day celebration and sixth grade volunteers from The International Spanish Language Academy (ISLA) helped plant 30 replacement trees.
- For the third year in a row, staff conducted tree pruning in city parks. Proper tree pruning can extend the life of local trees by many years. In conjunction with this, the city also the second year of participating in a University of Minnesota conservation arboriculture study, designed to critically examine pruning techniques that lead to better tree health. Twelve trees in six different parks were evaluated and pruned as part of the study
- The rate of Dutch elm disease in Minnetonka has decreased by more than 75% since 2004, thanks to consistent implementation of the shade tree disease control ordinance which requires proper sanitation of diseased trees and wood. Overall, tree removal in 2020 consisted of:

<b>Species</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Location</b>		
		<b>Public</b>	<b>Right-of-Way</b>	<b>Private</b>
Elm	184	66	23	92
Oak	74	11	5	55
Ash*	485	258	227	--
<b>Risk/Hazard</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>1</b>

*\*Pre-emptive removal for EAB*

**Education Activities**

- Minnetonka continued its pollinator protection efforts through habitat restoration and protection, multifaceted public outreach efforts and events, partnership with other agencies, and long-range planning for sustainable practices on city properties. As part of participating in the Mayor’s Monarch Pledge(MMP) in 2020:
  - Natural Resources staff worked with the city attorney to amend the lawn maintenance ordinance, permitting pollinator lawns and pollinator meadows as lawn alternatives and providing signage where these installations are in public view. With this in place, the city has completed all 24 of the program’s action steps, becoming the ninth city in North America to reach Monarch Champion status.
- Staff worked with local watershed districts to promote smart-salting training to businesses, associations and other groups.

- Annual garlic mustard and buckthorn control workshops continue to draw on average 50-75 new residents who wish to learn best techniques and restore habitat on their private property. In 2020, the garlic mustard workshop was added as a video presentation on the city's YouTube channel.
- The city continued its partnership with watershed districts to promote Adopt-a-Drain, which encourages residents to clean local storm drains to reduce pollutants in runoff. Fifty new adoptions were added to 69 from the previous year (for a total of 264 storm drains) across Minnetonka's four watershed districts.
- New interpretive signage was installed in Lone Lake Park. This 20-post "Tree Trek" introduces visitors to tree diversity, function and ecosystem connections, and offers tips on maintaining these trees if planted on private property.
- Outreach covered topics related to stormwater reduction and surface water protection, soil health, water efficiency, tree diversity and preservation, planning for EAB and other pests and diseases, habitat restoration, invasive species control, pollinator and wildlife protection, community resilience, NR events, and more:
  - Monthly articles in the Minnetonka Memo newsletter
  - Monthly e-blasts reaching almost 2,400 readers, with an average of 33 percent engagement
  - Electronic highway billboards that changed approximately bimonthly
  - Social media promoting events and seasonal themes

### **Glen Lake Cross Country Ski Trail**

The groomed cross-country ski trails at Glen Lake Golf and Practice Center had approximately 2,000 skiers in their first month and have already exceeded the previous best revenue season. Daily and season passes are available for purchase as well as equipment rental for adults and youth. The City and Three Rivers Park District partner to provide this winter amenity to the community.

**Minnetonka Park Board Item 9  
Meeting of March 3, 2021**

<b>Upcoming 6-Month Meeting Schedule</b>				
<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting Type</b>	<b>Agenda Business Items</b>	<b>Special Notes</b>
<b>Wed</b>	4/7/21	Regular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural Resources Master Plan Update</li> <li>• Natural Resources Education and Outreach Plan</li> <li>• Skate Park Request</li> </ul>	
<b>Wed</b>	5/12/21	Regular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No meeting</li> </ul>	Tour to be rescheduled
<b>Wed</b>	6/2/21	Regular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of 2022-2026 Capital Improvement Plan</li> </ul>	
<b>Wed</b>	7/7/21	Regular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	
<b>Wed</b>	8/4/21	Regular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	
<b>Wed</b>	9/1/21	Regular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	

**Other meetings and activities to note:**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Special Notes</b>
<b>Sat</b>	3/16/2021	Summer Registration Begins	
<b>Sat</b>	4/3/2021	Drive-Thru Egg Hunt	Community Center parking lot
<b>Sat</b>	6/26/2021	Summer Festival	

**Items to be scheduled:**

Park Board Tour