

**Agenda
City of Minnetonka
Park Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 7, 2026
6:00 PM
Community Center - Minnehaha Room
14600 Minnetonka Blvd.**



Park Board Vision:

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

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes
 - A. [December 3, 2025 Meeting Minutes](#)
5. Citizens wishing to discuss items not on the agenda
6. Special Matters
7. Business Items
 - A. [Gray's Bay Marina Summary](#)
 - B. [2025 Athletic Field Use Summary](#)
8. Reports from Staff
 - A. [Information items](#)
 - B. [Upcoming Meeting Schedule](#)
9. Park Board Member Reports
10. Adjournment

**Park Board
Agenda Item 4.A
Meeting of January 7, 2026**



Title: December 3, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Strategic Plan Goal: N/A
Action Requested: Motion
Form of Action: Minutes

Summary Statement

Approve the December 3, 2025 minutes

Recommended Action

Motion to approve the minutes

ATTACHMENT(S):

[Minutes_December 3 2025_DRAFT](#)



Minutes Minnetonka Park Board Wednesday, December 3, 2025

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

Park board members present: Jennifer Christie, Anne Hanley, Erik Kowalski, David Ingraham, Brad Lehrman, Caleb Schultz, and Katie Semersky.

Staff members in attendance: Darin Ellingson, Matt Kumka, Sara Woeste and Leslie Yetka.

Chair Ingraham called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

3. Approval of Agenda

Hanley moved, Christie seconded a motion to approve the meeting agenda of December 3, 2025 as amended with an addendum. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

Hanley moved, Semersky seconded a motion to approve the meeting minutes of October 22, 2025. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

Christie moved, Lehrman seconded a motion to approve the meeting minutes of November 5, 2025. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

5. Citizens wishing to discuss items not on the agenda

There were none.

6. Special Matters

There were none.

7. Business Items

A. Parks, Open Space and Trail (POST) Plan Overview

Assistant Recreation Director Sara Woeste and Park and Trail Project Manager Matt Kumka gave the staff report.

Christie asked if the POST plan included the Marsh amenities. Woeste reported the POST plan was completed prior to the city acquiring the Marsh.

Hanley inquired if the POST plan would continue to be updated. Kumka explained this document was more a point in time and would not be updated, but rather would be redone in 15 to 20 years.

Schultz questioned if public interest was taken into consideration within the POST plan. Kumka reported a lot of the investment and work the city does refers directly to what the public wants. He stated staff takes the results of city surveys very seriously.

Christie commented on how plans may have changed in the community since COVID and she appreciated how the city worked to balance the needs and priorities of the community.

Ingraham asked how often staff reviewed the priorities within the POST plan. Kumka stated it would benefit staff to review the priorities when it comes to the city's parks.

Hanley suggested an addendum be created for the priorities and updated priorities within the POST plan. Staff Liaison/Natural Resources Manager Leslie Yetka explained the POST plan priorities would be revisited every five years.

B. Park Board Strategic Plan and 2026 Annual Work Plan

Staff Liaison/Natural Resources Manager Leslie Yetka gave the staff report.

Christie thanked staff for all of their efforts on the 2026 work plan.

Hanley inquired if Goal 3 Strategy 4 should be focused more on parks and not recreation. Yetka explained this strategy addresses the programming in city parks.

Semersky asked if the mission statement should be reconsidered to read: promote equitable and inclusive recreation. Yetka stated the mission statement could read: to promote equitable, high quality, and inclusive recreation.

Further discussion ensued regarding the value of protecting and conserving the park land in Minnetonka.

Ingraham stated the park board may be considering additional off leash dog areas in Minnetonka. Yetka reported this topic was still up in the air as the council wanted to review what happens in Purgatory Park before moving forward with additional off leash dog areas.

Hanley indicated she would like to hear more from staff about the restoration work volunteers were doing in the city's parks.

Schultz explained he met with staff in order to discuss his ideas for the coming year. He supported the park board further considering the areas of need within the community.

Christie stated she was of the opinion there was a great dispersion of parks in Minnetonka. She suggested Opus be looked at in 2026 and that another area of need be considered in 2027. She anticipated these would be large tasks and may not be able to be tackled all in one year.

Ingraham indicated he would like to know more about what the issue was for each area of need.

Semersky indicated she would like to learn about the problems or concerns in the three areas of need in order to be able to prioritize the park needs. She stated this could be for all three areas or just for Opus in 2026.

Christie explained it may benefit the city to have the needs identified in these areas in the event a landowner were to approach the city that wants to sell land in one of the areas of need. She reiterated that she would support looking into one of the areas of need in 2026.

Schultz commented the Opus area was already being considered and noted he would like the park board to investigate each of these areas in more detail because the residents in these areas were under resourced. Yetka stated staff has a lot of existing information on the areas of need that could be passed along to the park board. Kumka explained the issues within these areas could be rail corridors and wetlands which made it difficult for the city to create new parks.

Schultz stated he would appreciate reviewing this information on the areas of need. Yetka suggested the park board take a deep dive into this information in quarter two in 2026.

Schultz suggested if the park board were to proceed in this manner that quarter three have a space set aside for implementation and further discussion for the park needs for these spaces.

Schultz explained in his time on the park board he had not recalled hearing about a playground overhaul for an accessible playground. He wanted specific reports regarding the accessible features within new or renovated play areas in Minnetonka.

Street and Park Operations Manager Darin Ellingson reported the city replaces two playgrounds each year. He noted in 2026 the city would be renovating

Sunrise and Groveland. Yetka explained in quarter three of 2026 the city would be updating the trail maintenance plan and park investment plan.

Christie stated it was her understanding all park equipment met ADA requirements, which was why this topic was not further discussed. Ellingson reported this was the case.

Schultz questioned if woodchips were ADA accessible. Ellingson explained woodchips were an accessible surface as was poured rubber.

Schultz challenged the park board to further consider how accessibility should be defined rather than just meeting ADA requirements. He wanted to see the city providing accessible features in play areas, which means the poured rubber would be required. He stated he was a parent to young children who visits parks all the time and he believed the city could do better in this area. He recommended that going forward, all playgrounds be full accessible in design because this would be more inclusive.

Ingraham stated he would like to better understand what Boardmember Schultz would like to see within a renovated park and asked staff to speak to how parks are currently being updated. Ellingson explained the city currently rebuilds parks by replacing the play equipment within the concrete surround. He indicated the city did not typically change the location of the trails or parking lots. He noted the city generally replaces wood chips and stated the parks have transfer platforms.

Christie commented she believed this was a high priority that should be looked at when master planning was completed. She suggested future quotes include an RFP with various levels of accessibility in order to allow the park board to consider a range of options for future park renovations. She did not believe this topic needs a separate item within the work plan, but rather can be considered when parks are renovated.

Schultz stated he was of the opinion parks were being missed.

Ingraham reiterated that only two parks are renovated each year.

Schultz recommended the two parks slated for renovation in 2026 have three different RFP's with one being all inclusive, one being 50% and one being ADA compliant.

Ellingson explained staff does not hire a consultant for each playground design, but rather works with a playground vendor to replace the equipment based on price and the space available. He noted he typically receives two different concepts for the park board to consider.

Schultz requested staff pursue at least one concept that was fully accessible and a concept that had accessible variations.

Ingraham asked if funding for 2026 had already been allotted. Ellingson reported this was the case, noting funding was already allocated for playground replacements for the next five years. He stated \$200,000 was allocated for each of the park replacements (Wilson and Orchard) that would be completed in 2026. Yetka explained the park board could discuss the park investment fund earlier in 2026 in order to address the levels of service that should be provided to the community.

Schultz supported the recommendation noting his idea was high level and could change the manner in which the park board approaches playground renovation projects. He asked that the ADA accessibility audit be made a high priority for 2026. Yetka indicated this audit would require the city to hire a consultant.

Schultz suggested a CIP request be made in six months and that this audit be completed in 2027. He stated if this item were moved to a high priority, perhaps staff could pursue grant funding to assist with this audit.

Lehrman explained he appreciated Boardmember Schultz's advocacy efforts but he did not agree with rebalancing or realigning all of the park boards other medium range priorities.

Kowalski agreed noting park safety and climate action were other items that may be higher priorities than accessibility.

Schultz reiterated that the city's vision was to have inclusive parks.

Lehrman indicated the city's vision or strategy differed from the tactics that were pursued by the city. He feared that Boardmember Schultz was conflating the park board's strategies and tactics. He commented further on how the park board had to be sensible when it came to balancing priorities for the community because there was only so much funding available for park improvements.

Schultz thanked Boardmember Lehrman for his comments. He indicated he was sharing a piece of information that would help inform the park board. He did not believe the park board could understand how it was doing without the ADA audit information.

Christie was of the opinion the city was including the various components of the multi-interested citizens and the ADA components. She indicated the city could ask for more information when it came to playground designs to address Boardmember Schultz's concerns. She stated she was comfortable with the action plan that covers those pieces and did not support a special project at this time. She commented if the park board were to open up the ADA topic, then all medium range topics would have to be reassessed. She discussed how the park board had to work to balance between costs and tradeoffs in all park improvement projects.

Hanley spoke in favor of Boardmember Christie's comments. She explained playground renovation projects have a limited footprint and if all items were made to be handicap accessible, there would be fewer components going forward. She supported the city making several playgrounds throughout the community fully accessible versus making every small park in the community fully accessible.

Kowalski commented on a seminar he attended regarding historical park development that addressed how making parks fully accessible impedes the enjoyment of other children. He advocated for having accessible parks, but recommended parks be renovated based on the needs of the people who visit the park.

Schultz discussed the toolkit he forwarded to each of the park board members. He reviewed the items within the toolkit and asked what the members thought of this information.

Christie indicated she had not had the time to review all of the information and she did not want to rush in to committing to this toolkit. She did not want to make this another requirement for the city but would take it into consideration.

Hanley reported most of the toolkit information was oriented towards young and fit individuals versus the elderly. She stated if the city were to have a consultant to address this matter, this would cost the city an additional \$30,000 to \$60,000.

Ingraham thanked Boardmember Schultz for passing this information along to the park board members. He discussed how much of the information was included in the city's POST plan, under different terms.

Lehrman agreed noting this was toolkit was well designed. He did not believe the city needed to create a new template because the park board members would work to address inclusion and equity in all projects going forward.

Semersky thanked Boardmember Schultz for passing this information along noting it helped her visualize the information he has been communicating. She anticipated some of the concerns Boardmember Schultz had would be addressed when the ADA audit was completed.

Kumka stated ideas from the toolkit could be incorporated into the Big Willow plan but noted staff was addressing many of these items already. He commented on how the city could be better at trail mapping, noting this would assist folks in wheelchairs.

Schultz moved, Christie seconded to approve the Park Board Strategic Plan and 2026 Annual Work Plan with the changes as discussed. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

C. Opus Area Improvements

Park and Trail Project Manager Matt Kumka gave the staff report.

Hanley asked where the signs would be located. Kumka reported the signs would be placed along the trails.

Hanley suggested not all signs be installed at nine feet but that the signs be visible for all individuals. Kumka indicated he would bring this up to the sign consultant.

Hanley requested staff look into using yellow lights within Opus in order to minimize light pollution and the impact on insects at night.

Semersky stated the city does not typically light trail systems. Kumka reported these trails had tunnels which would require lighting and there would be a great deal of traffic at the light rail station. Street and Park Operations Manager Darin Ellingson explained there was an existing lighting system in place that needed to be improved.

Lehrman suggested safety call buttons be considered along this trail system. Kumka indicated this could be taken into consideration.

Christie asked if Hennepin County would be contributing to this project. Kumka stated Hennepin County would not be assisting the city with this project.

Further discussion ensued regarding the proposed park land within Opus.

Hanley recommended secure bike parking be considered adjacent to the light rail station.

8. Reports from Staff

A. Information Items

Street and Park Operations Manager Darin Ellinson gave the staff report on the Glen Lake hockey lights. He reported the new concrete bases had been replaced and the new poles had been installed.

B. Upcoming Meeting Schedule

O'Dea and Woeste gave the staff report.

9. Park Board Member Report

Schultz stated he visited the Cullen Nature Preserve yesterday where he had a discussion regarding future trail segments.

Ingraham welcomed Erik Kowalski to the park board.

10. Adjournment

Lehrman moved, Semersky seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hannah Aleman". The signature is written in dark ink and includes a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Hannah Aleman
Public Works Administrative Manager

**Park Board
Agenda Item 7.A
Meeting of January 7, 2026**



Title: Gray's Bay Marina Summary

Strategic Plan Goal: To provide quality athletic and park recreational facilities and programs

Related Strategy: N/A

Action Requested: Informational

Form of Action: Report

Summary Statement

The Park Board will receive the 2025 Gray's Bay Marina Summary.

Recommended Action

Receive the report and provide feedback.

Background

The Gray's Bay Marina facility opened to boat launchers on March 24 and slip holders on April 2. The site was staffed beginning May 12 for gas sales and waste pump-out service.

Marina operations notes:

- Attendants were on site starting May 12
- Hours of operation at the gas dock covered prime hours
- Permanent restrooms were open to the public during staffed hours and biffies were available at all times.
- 23,926 gallons of gas were sold

In October, renewal leases for the 2026 season were sent to existing slip holders. The slip fee is \$4,400. There were three slip vacancies at the end of 2025 and staff filled these vacancies using the waitlist which currently stands at 179.

The marina was closed for the season October 31. The boat launch remained open until December 1 when ice formed on the bay. At that time the entrance gates to the parking lot were closed for the winter season. Winter access to Gray's Bay (ice fishing, snowmobiles, etc.) is available from the causeway directly north of the County Road 101 bridge.

With nearly all expenses accounted for, revenues (\$284,324) have exceeded estimated expenses (\$221,679) by \$62,645. This estimated balance will remain in the escrow fund, which has a projected 2025 year-end overall balance of \$1,073,861.

**Park Board
Agenda Item 7.B
Meeting of January 7, 2026**



Title: 2025 Athletic Field Use Summary

Strategic Plan Goal: To provide quality athletic and park recreational facilities and programs

Action Requested: Informational

Form of Action: Report

Summary Statement

The Park Board will receive the 2025 Athletic Field Use Summary.

Recommended Action

Receive the report and provide feedback.

Background

The city of Minnetonka provides athletic fields for a variety of community and city sponsored programs. Field fees were originally established in 2010 by the park board to streamline field reservations, process fees, and generate funds for operational maintenance and future capital projects (67% of revenue assigned to general operations and 33% to a capital fund for future upgrades to fields).

In 2025, field hours reserved totaled 4,653 compared to 4,135 in 2024.

2025 field fee revenues totaled \$49,137 compared to \$47,359 in 2024, the most collected since fees were established (Attachment - 2025 field use summary). Sales tax accounted for \$1,600 of total collected revenue leaving net revenue at \$47,537. The amount allocated to the capital fund for future field improvements was \$15,687.

Fees are set to increase approximately 10% for the 2026 season. The fees were last increased in 2023.

ATTACHMENT(S):

[2025 Field Use Summary](#)

City of Minnetonka 2025 Athletic Field Use

Dedicated Field	Non-city Rental Use Hours			City-sponsored Programs Use Hours			Revenue		
	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
Big Willow Baseball - Reg	541	524	582	0	0	0	\$17,601	\$16,194	\$17,768
Big Willow Baseball - Yth	0	176	89	35	35	20	\$0	\$3,352	\$1,631
Big Willow Soccer	77	92	81	138	141	131	\$1,571	\$1,863	\$1,589
Big Willow Softball	0	0	0	1092	838	1143	\$0	\$0	\$0
Civic Center	579	543	484	306	322	302	\$9,308	\$8,605	\$7,051
Guilliams Softball	332	345	379	0	0	0	\$3,334	\$3,235	\$3,702
Lone Lake Soccer	140	272	296	306	306	250	\$3,399	\$5,912	\$9,189
Glen Lake Futsal Court	143	96	84	0	0	235	\$2,145	\$1,440	\$1,260
TOTAL	1812	2048	1995	1877	1642	2081	\$37,358	\$40,601	\$42,190

Non-Dedicated Field	Non-city Rental Use Hours			City-sponsored Programs Use Hours			Revenue		
	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
Gro Tonka	167	180	182	164	192	299	\$1,296	\$1,436	\$1,344
Oberlin	48	41	56	64	32	40	\$944	\$837	\$1,118
TOTAL	215	221	238	228	224	339	\$2,240	\$2,273	\$2,462

Designated Field Complex	Non-city Rental Est. Use Hours	Revenue		
		2023	2024	2025
Big Willow Youth BB	1560	\$1,815	\$1,815	\$1,815
Glen Lake Youth BB	1200	\$850	\$850	\$850
Guilliams Youth BB	700	\$1,335	\$1,335	\$1,335
Glen Lake Youth SB	325	\$485	\$485	\$485
TOTAL		\$4,485	\$4,485	\$4,485

TOTAL REVENUE ALL FIELDS	\$44,082	\$47,359	\$49,137
	Sales Tax		(\$1,600)
	Net Revenue		\$47,537

Est. Capital/Operations Revenue Allocation

Allocated to Operations (67%) \$31,850

Allocated to Capital (33%) \$15,687

**Park Board
Agenda Item 8.A
Meeting of January 7, 2026**



Title: Information items

Strategic Plan Goal: N/A
Action Requested: Informational
Form of Action: Other

Summary Statement

The following are information items to be shared by staff.

Farmers Market Season Summary

The 2025 Minnetonka Farmers Market was held at a new location, The Marsh, and experienced increased weekly attendance from the 2024 season, which was held at Ridgedale Commons. Average attendance was approximately 711 visitors at each market, up from 556 last year. There were no weather cancellations throughout the season, but air quality alerts and high temperatures likely affected attendance on some dates.

Top 3 Attendance Days: 7/1, 8/5, 6/10

Year	Attendance	Weekly Average	Best Day
2025	12,808	711/market (18 markets)	918 attended 7/1/25
2024	9,447	556/market (17 markets)	775 attended 7/16/24
2023	11,077	738/market (15 markets)	925 attended 7/18/23
2022	11,581	724/market (16 markets)	1091 attended 8/23/22
2021	11,541	721/market (16 markets)	800 attended 7/20/21
2020	11,107	653/market (17 markets)	1,005 attended 8/4/20
2019	7,728	483/market (16 markets)	705 attended 7/30/19
2018	7,215	481/market (15 markets)	724 attended 7/17/18

Vendors:

- Each market had an average of 35 vendors. Community organizations were invited to participate on four market dates, the third Tuesday of each month.
- 63 vendors and 13 community organizations participated in the 2025 farmers market season.
 - 30 new vendors and 33 returning vendors

Product Overview:

- Farm Produce - a variety of seasonal fruits, vegetables, microgreens, herbs and cut flowers
- Proteins – organic beef, pork, chicken, lamb, goat, duck, rabbit and goose
- Eggs – chicken, duck & quail

- Value-added/Pantry – honey, maple syrup, salsa, hot sauce, BBQ & other sauces, mixing syrups, fresh juices, coffee beans, pickled & canned goods, jams, jellies, hummus, tea
- Baked Goods and Confections – cookies, variety of breads, pretzels, caramels, scones, cakes, pies
- Ready to eat – Pad Thai, fried rice, egg rolls, dumplings, tea, juice, coffee, kettle corn, Dole whip soft serve
- Other – dog treats, soaps & botanical self-care products, candles, greeting cards & art, pottery, home décor, other crafts

Power of Produce Club:

- Program was for children ages 4-17. Each PoP Club participant received a \$2 produce coupon every time they checked in.
- 592 youth participated in the program throughout the season, down from 667 in 2024.

Challenges:

With The Marsh being a new site, one challenge was not knowing what to expect - how the space would work, how the change would be accepted by the vendors and customers, etc. Construction along Minnetonka Boulevard affected traffic flow and accessibility throughout the season.

Plans for 2026 season:

Move market stalls to the north side of the parking lot, increase parking accessibility and incorporate community organizations weekly.

Winter Market:

The winter market was held, on Saturday, December 13 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Attendance was up from approximately 500 last year to 547 this year. There were 34 vendors, 3 community groups and live music. Comments were positive from both vendors and attendees.

Glen Lake Park

Park planning is underway for Glen Lake Park. The Minnetonka Matters page is live and surveys are available for both the general park redesign and a survey specific to the skate park. Staff hosted a pop-up open house event on December 16th at Unmapped Brewing and gathered feedback from representatives of various community organizations that use the park and the Glen Lake Activity Center. City staff are working to coordinate alternative community space reservations for those organizations that will be affected by the removal of the activity center building. Additional open houses and outreach events are being scheduled for January. Conceptual parks plans will be made available for the park board and community to review later this winter.

Recommended Action

None.

**Park Board
Agenda Item 8.B
Meeting of January 7, 2026**



Title: Upcoming Meeting Schedule

Strategic Plan Goal: N/A
Action Requested: Informational
Form of Action: Other

Summary Statement

Upcoming Park Board meetings and other city meetings/activities listed below.

Upcoming meeting schedule:

Day	Date	Business Items (Subject to Change)	Special Notes
Wed.	2/4/26	• Chair and Vice-Chair Appointments • Big Willow Park Master Plan • Cullen Nature Preserve Master Plan	
Wed.	3/4/26	• Three Rivers Park District (TRPD) - Bryant Lake Trail • Park Investment Plan and Trail Maintenance Plan overview • Natural Resources Division updates	Update from TRPD staff
Wed.	5/6/26	• Glen Lake Park Plan • Park areas of need review- Parks, Open Space and Trail (POST) Plan	
Wed.	6/3/26	• 2027-2031 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)	

Additional meeting dates: Aug. 5, Sept. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 4, Dec. 2

Other meetings and activities to note:

Day	Date	Description	Special Notes
W,F,Sa,Su	Thru April	Sauna in the Park	Shady Oak Beach
Su	Feb. 1	Kids' Fest	Minnetonka Community Center

Recommended Action

None