Parks & Recreation

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

1. Roll Call
   ___ Nelson Evenrud
   ___ Cynthia Kist
   ___ Peggy Kvam
   ___ Chris Gabler
   ___ Marvin Puspoki
   ___ Elise Raarup
   ___ Madeline Seveland

2. Approval of Minutes
   A) September 2, 2015

3. Citizens wishing to discuss items not on the Agenda

4. Business Items
   A) Community meeting on 2015-2016 outdoor ice rink operations &
   B) Consideration of potential changes to outdoor ice rink operations for the 2015-2016 season
   C) Update on the pet waste reduction campaign

5. Park Board Member Reports

6. Information Items

7. Upcoming Park Board Agenda Items

8. Adjournment
1. Roll Call

Park Board members in attendance included Nelson Evenrud, Chris Gabler, Cindy Kist, Peggy Kvam, Madeline Seveland, and Elise Raarup. Staff members in attendance included Darin Ellingson, Dave Johnson, Mike Pavelka and Perry Vetter.

Chair Raarup called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

Kvam noted some typos in the draft document including the spelling of a name and the date of the Tour de Tonka event.

Evenrud moved and Kist seconded a motion to approve the meeting Minutes of August 5, 2015 as amended. All voted “Yes”. Motion carried.

3. Citizens Wishing to Discuss Items Not on the Agenda

None

4. Business Items

A. Submittal of a petition requesting a new park in the Robinwood Neighborhood

Dave Johnson, Recreation Services Director, reported that in late July, 2015, staff received a resident request from the Robinwood neighborhood asking the city to consider adding a park in the Robinwood neighborhood. Johnson explained that the Robinwood neighborhood is located south of Minnetonka Boulevard and west of County Road 73, and is included in Neighborhood Park Service Area (NPSA) 13.

Johnson noted that residents supporting the project presented staff with three possible locations for the addition of a park. He indicated that following a review of the three parcels presented by the neighbors, staff has determined that only one parcel, located in the cul-de-sac at the end of Royzelle Lane was suitable as a possible park location. Johnson reported that the parcel is .86 acres in size and was conveyed to the city by a plat developer in 1959 with the restriction that it be used for public purposes exclusively. Johnson explained that a park development would meet this restriction. He concluded by noting that if converted to a park, the property would only allow for the placement of a park in the mini park classification.

Johnson indicated that the neighborhood has since circulated a petition and he introduced Heather Markert, 11503 Friar Lane, who represents the neighborhood. Markert presented a petition to the park board that included 31 resident names who support a park in the Robinwood neighborhood, noting that neighbors were not looking for a large park, just something that could accommodate play equipment for
children and possibly some benches and picnic tables. She noted that the only options for a park without crossing a major roadway was Orchard Park which is located a considerable distance away. Markert was accompanied by Molly Howard, 11618 Friar Lane and Julie Menk, 11326 Friar Lane.

Darin Ellingson, Parks and Streets Superintendent, informed the park board that approximately .3 acres would be available for park related equipment given that the northern portion is in a flood plain. He provided illustrations of how play equipment in similar sized parks would fit on the site, noting that while it would be tight it looks to be feasible and would be one of the smallest mini-parks in the city, Ellingson indicated that he felt a small set of play equipment with benches and tables would fit on the site. Ellingson also showed an aerial map that indicated Orchard Park, the only other neighborhood park in NPSA 13, was approximately .75 miles away from the proposed site. Ellingson closed by noting that staff had conducted a review of all available city properties located in NPSA 13 and concluded that the initial three brought forward by the neighborhood were the only possibilities.

Raarup asked Markert if neighbors near the proposed location had been informed of the request for a park on that site. Markert indicated that she thought most of the impacted neighbors were at the Neighborhood Night Out event for their neighborhood where the petition was circulated. She noted that one neighbor indicated that he had previously tried to get a park placed on the location when his kids were younger but he no longer had an interest. In addition, one neighbor was supportive and one was at the event and did not express any concerns. Raarup asked if the neighborhood currently used Orchard Park and Markert indicated that she did not due to the distance and felt others did not as well. Howard and Menk concurred.

Seveland asked if parking, more specifically a handicap spot, would be required. Ellingson noted that Elmwood Stand, a similar sized mini park did not have parking. He reminded the park board that mini parks are placed with the intent of them being utilized by residents in close proximity to the park and not destination parks. Ellingson suggested that parking would not be provided for a mini park such as the one being considered. Seveland indicated that she felt the need existed for a park in NPSA 13 and while she felt Orchard was relatively close, she was concerned about the lack of a safe access to the park from the Robinwood neighborhood.

Raarup commented that she had concerns that the site, totaling .3 acres in buildable space, seemed tight for park purposes. However she felt it was doable.

Kvam concurred with Raarup that the site seems small, but felt the amenities being requested seemed possible.
Kist noted that she drove by the location prior to the meeting and noticed several children playing in the immediate area without a park. She felt that a park was needed and on her initial look at the property did not feel like there were trees on the property with considerable value. She liked the fact that the location seemed to be very walkable for residents in the neighborhood.

Evenrud expressed concern that neighbors living next to the parcel will have concerns and the park board needs to hear from them. He felt the neighborhood was in need of a park within a reasonable distance.

Hearing no further comments, Gabler moved and Seveland seconded a motion to direct staff to schedule a neighborhood meeting to receive input from residents regarding the potential addition of a mini park on the city owned lot on the cul de sac at the end of Royzelle Lane. All voted “Yes”. Motion carried.

Johnson reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule and suggested that the neighborhood meeting not take place until January 2016 due to other commitments the board had leading up to that date. He added that a January 2016 meeting still provided adequate time for the park board to make a recommendation that could be included in the park board’s review of the 2017 – 2021 CIP review in March 2016.

B. Review of the Burwell Use Policy

Perry Vetter, Assistant City Manager, provided a historical record of how special events on the Burwell property have been managed in the past noting that in 1981 Council Policy 11.6 – Use of the Burwell Property was adopted establishing the conditions for use and reservation guidelines for the Burwell property. He explained that the property is classified as parkland and has the designation as a National Historic Site. Vetter added that the home (restored to its 1894 condition), adjacent structures and related grounds are the primary focus of this policy. Since its establishment and last amendment in 2003, a number of significant improvements have occurred to the property and surrounding parkland.

Vetter explained that several willing open space acquisitions have occurred which have expanded the size of the park to its current 16 acres, more than half of which is passive. In addition, Vetter noted that the area has been under natural resource stewardship for invasive species since 2005 and was a focus of the Upper Minnehaha Creek Corridor initiative that began in 2009.

Vetter noted that the improvements completed have resulted in the park area, now referred to as Minnetonka Mills Park, becoming very popular and in demand for private events. He added that the improvements have been extremely well received, and both public visits to the park and guided tours have increased exponentially.
Vetter noted that staff has received an increase in requests for private use of the site—primarily weddings and wedding receptions. Prior to the improvements fewer than three private use requests were received annually and were typically small-scale events requiring minimal city resources, often handled by volunteer tour guides. Most recent permit applications have primarily been to host weddings at the site for groups and include requests to install tents, amplify music, serve alcohol and provide logistical coordination with surrounding institutions to utilize cross parking agreements.

Because the policy did not anticipate such an increase in use requests, Vetter reported that staff asked the council to consider implementing a moratorium on private use of the site which the city council approved in March, 2015 and would remain in place until the end of 2015. Vetter explained that this moratorium allowed staff to conduct an analysis of the type, size, and scope of private use of the site that would not conflict with its surroundings. He noted that analysis has been completed and the logistical roles of providing for reservations, event coordination and site support have been determined.

Vetter introduced Moranda Zimmer, Projects and Innovations Specialist, who oversees operations at the Burwell House and surrounding property.

Zimmer and Vetter proceeded with a review of the staff recommended changes to City Council Policy 11.6 relating to Burwell site use. Significant aspects of the policy include:

- No permit is required for filming or photography conducted solely for personal or family use or for news purposes. A permit is required for all commercial requests.

- Fees for use of the site will be included on the permit application so the policy does not have to be revised when rates change

- Events may only be scheduled Thursday – Sunday; with no more than one event per week and no more than two events per month

- Private uses must be limited to 50 people or less

- Permit holder is responsible for disposal of all catering waste, materials and products.

- Serving of alcohol is allowed only under the approval of the city by a special use permit. Permits will only be granted for beer or wine in non-glass containers. Permit holders must also hire an off-duty Minnetonka police officer.

Vetter noted that many of the conditions recommended by staff, such as the 50 person limit, were put in place due to parking limitations of the site and the potential
for traffic in the area to be significantly impacted if larger groups or more events were permitted.

Kvam questioned the amount of dates and frequency that permits would be allowed and asked what staff’s reasoning was. Vetter responded that it was the intent of staff to provide as much public use of the park as possible. He felt that reducing use from four times per month to two would increase general visits to the park by residents and visitors.

Kist followed-up Kvam’s question by suggesting that logistics in general (lack of rest rooms, parking) justified cutting guests limits from 100 to 50, and monthly events from four to two as proposed by staff.

Seveland agreed with staff’s recommendations related to group size and commented that the 50 person limit will attract groups looking for a smaller venue.

Johnson noted that the Minnetonka Park system provides existing venues at Lone Lake Park and the Civic Center for larger events.

Kist commented that any possible future expansions to the Glen Lake Activity Center might also provide event options at that facility.

Raarup asked if staff had a financial goal related to event revenue at the Burwell and Minnetonka Mills Park. Vetter indicated that for events, the goal from staff’s perspective was to not lose money when events were held there.

Gabler commented that it seemed like the restrictions in place made it easier than simply having to say “no” to several event requests. Vetter indicated that staff’s intend was to create a use balance that the site could reasonably accommodate.

Gabler asked the question why use of alcohol was even being recommended by staff. Vetter noted that not all staff were in favor of allowing, however the decision was made to include in the final draft for the park board to review. Johnson noted that alcohol is allowed at Lone Lake Park where several special events occur each summer. He noted that both picnic shelters at Lone Lake can accommodate up to 175 people. The park board discussed alcohol further and decided to support the staff recommendations noting that this can always be reviewed at a later time.

Evenrud noted that he was supportive of the recommendations and restrictions developed by staff.

Kvam noted two description “housekeeping” additions to the policy that provided consistency but did not change the scope of the policy. Vetter indicated the additions would be included.
Hearing no further questions or input, Evenrud moved and Kvam seconded a motion to adopt recommended changes to City Council Policy 11.6 relating to use of Minnetonka Mills Park and the Burwell Policy as presented by staff, insert “housekeeping” items reviewed, and forward the park board’s recommendation for city council consideration. Evenrud, Kist, Gabler, Kvam, and Seveland voted “Yes”; Raarup voted “No”; motion carried on a 5-1 vote.

C. Recreation Services Summer Programming Report

Ann Davy, Recreation Services Programming Division Manager, provided an overview of the 2015 summer program offerings noting that the department’s summer brochure was published in late February and registration began on March 2. Davy noted that the traditional summer programs that Hopkins and Minnetonka residents have come to expect were offered in addition to some new programs intended to attract participants of all ages.

Davy reported that in 2015 registrants were introduced to RecTrac, a new registration software package purchased to manage registrations, financial reports, memberships, and rentals for all divisions of Recreation Services. Davy explained that RecTrac went live on May 4, 2015 and, despite some challenges, staff made the transition as easy as possible for those wanting to register for summer programs.

Davy reported that overall participation numbers for participants and teams totaled 6,132, down slightly from the previous year but still very strong. She specifically highlighted two camps; Jidana Day Camp and Horseback Riding Day Camp, overall teen programming, Music in the Park series, and senior Yoga. In addition, Davy reviewed a program summary that was included in the meeting packet which provided totals for over 43 programs offered in 2015; as well as comparisons to 2014. These programs were broken down in categories of youth, teen, adult and senior.

Raarup commented that she has some challenges with the new RecTrac program. Davy responded that many of the initial problems were caused by the fact that staff was working with two systems RecTrac and Class© due to migration and not all information being able to come over from the old system.

Evenrud praised Davy for her development of well-rounded programs and activities for participants of all ages and more specifically for the fall soccer program his children are currently participating in. Johnson commented that Davy not only supervises the division she is responsible for, but is also an active program provider who is responsible for many of her department’s largest programs including adult softball, youth soccer and adult volleyball.

The board thanked Davy for her report and her provision of quality community programs.
5. Park Board Member Reports

Raarup referred to a recent article she read on how cities are investing in splash pads for their park systems and the interest these facilities are generating. She reminded the board of her interest into the addition of splash pad features in the Minnetonka park system.

6. Information Items

Ellingson reviewed information included in the meeting packet that indicated there are no other options for a park in the Meadow Ridge neighborhood. Ellingson reminded the board that they had reviewed a request for a park in this neighborhood that was brought forward by residents in March of 2015 who has signed a petition. The park board had directed staff to see if alternative parcels were available for the board to consider, citing concerns by neighbors living adjacent or near to the property.

7. Upcoming Park Board Agenda Items

Johnson noted that the park board’s recognition of volunteers is scheduled for November 4, adding that, at this time, that there is no regular meeting scheduled for November 4. Johnson also noted that the joint meeting with the city council has been moved to December 2.

8. Adjournment

Raarup gaveled adjournment of the meeting at 9:16 p.m.
Minnetonka Park Board Item 4A & 4B
Meeting of October 7, 2015

| Subject: | 4A: Community meeting on 2015-2016 outdoor ice rink operations  
| Park Board related goal: | 4B: Consideration of potential changes to outdoor ice rink operations for the 2015-2016 season  
| Park Board related objective: | To provide quality athletic and recreational facility and programs  
| Brief Description: | Annually review policies related to the operation and management of parks to determine if changes are required  
| Brief Description: | Staff will present a proposal for changes to the outdoor ice rinks warming houses for the 2015-2016 season. |

Background

The city of Minnetonka has historically maintained ice rinks and warming houses at eight locations that include Boulder Creek, Covington, Gro Tonka, McKenzie, Meadow, and Spring Hill Parks; as well as, the use of two Hopkins School District locations at Gatewood and Glen Lake Elementary Schools. A map of these locations is included as an attachment. One unstaffed location at Knollway Park is also maintained.

At the April 8, 2015 park board meeting, staff proposed to the park board for consideration a plan to eliminate the warming house at Gatewood Elementary School due to historically low attendance, as well as, the lack of having a permanent warming house. In place of a permanent warming house, the city has rented a construction trailer that does not meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements, and has other challenges related to utility access. The park board requested that a community meeting be held to receive resident input prior to a final recommendation being forwarded to the city council.

Summary

Staff has developed the following three recommended changes to outdoor ice rink operations for the 2015 - 2016 season:

1. Staff recommends eliminating the Gatewood Elementary School warming house for a two-year trial period due to the following reasons:
   - The lack of a permanent warming house facility and the need annually to rent a trailer.
   - The lack of ADA compliance with stairs that lead into the trailer.
   - Utilities to the trailer are inefficient and not user friendly for the seasonal staff or Public Works.
Historically low attendance. The average daily attendance of five skaters over the years 2013 – 2015 ranks last among the eight ice rink locations with warming houses.

The City’s Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) includes funding to partner with the Hopkins School District to upgrade youth athletic fields on District property, possibly at Gatewood Elementary. If so, an option for building a permanent warming house facility could be reviewed at this time. In the meantime, staff is recommending that ice still be maintained at Gatewood and outside benches for public use be provided. It should also be noted that Glen Lake Elementary and Boulder Creek Park are both 1.6 miles from Gatewood and provide a total of three hockey rinks and a general skating area.

2. Staff recommends extending ice rink operating hours by approximately 24 hours per week. Staff is recommending that closing times for all locations be extended on Fridays from 9 p.m. to 9:45 p.m.; Saturday times at Glen Lake Elementary School, Gro Tonka Park, Meadow Park and McKenzie Park be extended from 9 p.m. to 9:45 p.m.; and that all locations be extended from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Sundays.

3. Staff recommends that the park board consider eliminating the unsupervised general skating rink at Knollway Park. While staff is not present at this site, use appears to be low and eliminating this site would allow for more attention to be provided at the other maintained locations. Because a meeting notice was not mailed directly to residents in close proximity to Knollway Park, staff recommends that the park board direct staff to develop a plan for collecting neighborhood input before developing a recommendation.

Discussion Points

- Does the park board support staff’s recommendation to eliminate the Gatewood Elementary School warming house location for a two year trial period?

- Does the park board support staff’s recommendations for extending outdoor ice rink warming house hours?

Recommended Park Board Action: Review the report and provide direction or recommendations to staff for the 2015/2016 season.

Attachments

1. Minnetonka Warming House Schedule
2. Map of Minnetonka outdoor rink locations
3. October 7 Neighborhood Meeting Notice
Legend

× Warming House

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You are invited…
The Minnetonka Park Board invites you to a community meeting to discuss proposed changes to the operation of the warming house at Gatewood Elementary School for the 2015–2016 season.

Please note that this is the only notice that you will receive for this meeting. You are receiving this notice because you reside within 600 feet of the warming house location. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity – getting involved in the community meeting process is the best way to provide input. If you would like to be kept informed and can’t attend the meeting listed above, please contact the staff noted at the bottom of this letter.

What is being proposed?
At the April 2015 Park Board meeting, staff proposed a plan to eliminate the warming house at Gatewood Elementary School but to continue maintaining ice at the location. The primary reasons for eliminating the warming house include:

- Historically low attendance
- The current warming house is a rented trailer that does not meet ADA requirements
- The current warming house is not designed to be used as a warming house facility

The park board requested that a community meeting be held to receive input prior to a final recommendation being forwarded to the city council.

What happens at the meeting?
The purpose of this public meeting is to obtain community input regarding all facets of outdoor ice rink operations, including the removal of the warming house at Gatewood. The community meeting will be followed by a regular park board meeting where final recommendations will be considered by the park board and next steps will be determined.

Will there be future meetings?
The park board will make final recommendations at the Oct. 7 meeting and forward them to the city council for future consideration in November or December. An exact date is not known at this time.

Questions?
If you have questions, comments or concerns regarding this community meeting, please contact Program and Park Services Manager Jenny Garvey at jgarvey@eminnetonka.com or 952-939-8374 or Recreation Services Director Dave Johnson at djohnson@eminnetonka.com or 952-939-8360.
Minnetonka Park Board Item 4C
Meeting of October 7, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject:</th>
<th>Update on the Pet Waste Reduction Campaign</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Park Board related goal:</td>
<td>To Protect Natural Resources and Open Spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brief Description:</td>
<td>Review Progress of the Pet Waste Reduction Campaign</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Background

Minnetonka resident Larry Wade attended the park board’s April 2014, meeting to discuss his concerns about the amount of pet waste left in the city’s parks and on trails by dog walkers.

To illustrate his concern, Mr. Wade indicated that he picked up about 200 pounds of pet waste between March 15 and 27, 2014. In response, the park board directed city staff to work with Mr. Wade to explore opportunities and options to address this issue.

Staff met with Mr. Wade in the summer of 2014 to identify opportunities for education and outreach. At the October 1, 2014, park board meeting staff outlined potential components of a Pet Waste Reduction Campaign and asked the park board for their feedback and direction.

Summary

Since the presence of pet waste in the parks and trails seems to be more of a problem in the winter and early spring, campaign events targeted those seasons. Education and outreach efforts took place throughout the year in order to:

- Increase stewardship of parks, trails, and waterways.
- Encourage a community norm promoting the idea that good neighbors clean up after their pets.
- Educate rather than regulate pet owners, because staff believes that people want to do the right thing but do not always have the facts to inform their actions.

Staff has undertaken a number of initiatives, the following outlines the 2015 Pet Waste Reduction Campaign efforts:

- Focus group – Planned a focus group to gather input from seniors who walk their dogs in Minnetonka parks. Event was cancelled due to low registration.
• Pet Waste Pick-Up event – Organized a pet waste pick-up event in Purgatory Park to educate dog walkers about the relationship between pet waste and water quality and produced and distributed a flyer to promote the event (see attachment). The event was held on March 14, where staff provided information about pet waste and water quality and encouraged walkers to pick up after their own pets as well as collecting waste they found in the park. During the two-hour event, 134 pounds of pet waste was collected by approximately 50 park visitors. (Residents Larry Wade and Grace Sheely collected an additional 84 pounds of waste in other parks during the week prior to this event.) The event was covered on the front page of the Star-Tribune’s West Metro section, on two television news programs and mentioned on a morning radio program (see attachment). Additionally the message “Protect Minnetonka’s natural resources. Pick up after pets.” ran on the city’s electronic reader board during the week prior to the event.

• Education and Outreach: Community Survey – Reviewed and updated Community Survey questions related to water quality; submitted new questions addressing dog owners and perceptions about the problem of pet waste in Minnetonka. Results of the survey indicate that:

  - Among respondents who said that city services were “fair” or “poor,” 3% listed pet waste pickup as an improvement that would increase their rating.
  - 40% indicated that they were most concerned about water quality as a threat to the city’s natural amenities.
  - 2% said that they had picked up pet waste in the past year to reduce pollutants from entering surface waters.
  - 32% replied that they had noticed a problem with pet waste in Minnetonka’s parks, open spaces, and along trails.
  - 30% had dogs.
  - 98% of dog owners say they pick up after their dogs in parks and on trails; of those, 74% pick up because they see it as their responsibility. The remaining 2% who do not pick up after their pets believed that either the waste will eventually go away or that it is a natural fertilizer for the environment.

• Education and Outreach: Minnetonka Memo – Published Memo articles in February, March, and July to highlight different aspects of the campaign (see attached).

• Education and Outreach: Website – A “Pet Waste and Water Quality” page was added to the website (see attached).
• Education and Outreach: Electronic Billboards – In January and February, a “Pick-Up the Poop” banner ran on Clear Channel electronic billboards in Minnetonka.

• Education and Outreach: School Education – Contacted Fortin Consulting (contracted by the city to provide water resource education to 4th and 5th grade students in Minnetonka and Hopkins schools) requesting an emphasis on pet waste as a water pollutant. Contacted elementary teachers in Minnetonka’s elementary schools to gauge their interest in doing a service-learning project related to pet waste. Visited Clear Springs Elementary School and, along with the educator from Fortin Consulting, presented information about pet waste and water quality to 5 classes of 4th and 5th graders (approximately 100 students). Introduced service-learning project in which students produced art to remind Minnetonka park users about the need to pick up pet waste (see attached sample).

• Education and Outreach: Parks – In May, the students’ artwork was collected, reviewed and 6 pieces were selected to “advertise” the pet waste reduction campaign. Over the summer, a template was created to frame the art and highlight the campaign slogan, “Doo Your Part! to protect surface waters in Minnetonka.” Signage was made from each of the 6 designs, and the signs were mounted in five parks: Big Willow, Jidana, Victoria-Evergreen, Headwaters, and Purgatory (2).

• Education and Outreach: Agency Partners – Contacted the four watershed districts in Minnetonka and the Freshwater Society (which runs the Master Water Steward program) requesting that they include a short item about pet waste and water quality on their own websites; three of the districts (Nine Mile Creek, Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek, and Bassett Creek) enthusiastically accepted.

• Education and Outreach: Business Partners – Designed a button and cards (using student artwork) to promote the campaign. Distributed sets of cards to local pet-related businesses, including: 4 pet food stores, 2 pet daycares, and 6 veterinary clinics. Revisited the business partners displaying campaign cards, and restocked as needed. Heard a number of comments about resident and staff reaction to the cards:
  • “Kids pick them up and show their parents—it gets them talking!”
  • “We love these cards! So cute and clever!”
  • “A woman took 4 and said she was going to give them to friends at the park.”
• Education and Outreach: Park Stewards – The idea of a park steward program was introduced in the flyer for the pet waste pick-up event, but staff did not actively pursue it this year.

Goals for 2016 include:

• Hold at least one focus group meeting to gather feedback that can strengthen the program by identifying residents' attitudes about pet waste, targeting their concerns, and avoiding emphasis on issues that are not significant in Minnetonka.

• Schedule at least one organized pick-up event in Purgatory or another park.

• Continue all existing components of Education and Outreach.

• Reconnect with elementary schools to broaden the campaign’s reach among young people in Minnetonka.

• Involve watershed districts more closely in promotion of the campaign’s goals; collaborate on events and passive or active education efforts.

• Explore how a park steward program might be structured and managed (possibly training resident dog walkers as volunteers and/or working with the Master Water Steward program); include information in focus groups and/or Memo to gauge interest.

• Identify incentives that might be used to acknowledge residents who are picking up after their pets (e.g., discount coupons to local pet-related businesses, magnets, pens, pet waste bag holders), perhaps involving park stewards.

Discussion Points

• Are there specific components of the Pet Waste Reduction Campaign that the park board likes or dislikes?

• Are there suggested changes to any components of the Pet Waste Reduction Campaign?

• Are there other ideas/activities that should be included in this campaign?

Recommended Park Board Action: Review and comment on the information presented.
Attachments:
1. Pick-up event flyer
2. Star-Tribune newspaper article about pick-up event
3. Examples of Minnetonka Memo articles
4. Copy of website text
5. Sample student artwork promoting the campaign
DO YOU WALK YOUR DOG IN MINNETONKA’S PARKS OR ON ITS TRAILS?

We want to hear from you!

The City of Minnetonka is starting a new campaign to educate dog owners and others about the relationship between pet waste and water quality.

The Center for Watershed Protection emphasizes that “pet waste programs are by far the most cost-effective management practice for reducing nutrients in runoff.” Did you know that pet waste also carries pathogens—bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can sicken people, pets, and wildlife? Cleaning up after pets is a neighborly thing to do, keeping our community cleaner and more beautiful.

We’d like to connect with residents who are willing to take a leadership role in our parks to tackle this problem. You might:

- Meet with Natural Resources staff to learn about the negative impacts of pet waste on water quality
- Help us brainstorm creative ways to reduce pet waste in our parks
- Become a “park steward” at your favorite park, helping to educate other dog owners and encouraging their efforts to reduce pet waste in public spaces
- Join us for a pet waste pick up event.

How much pet waste is produced every year in Minnetonka?

No one knows!

JOIN US FOR A PET WASTE PICK-UP EVENT

Sat., March 14th
10:00a.m. – noon
at Purgatory Park,
17315 Excelsior Blvd.
(meet at main parking lot)

City staff will provide snacks. You bring boots, plastic bags, a scooper—and your pooch!

Have questions or suggestions?
Contact Minnetonka’s Natural Resources staff at 952.988.8407
ill takes mat campaign nance

Survey finds neighborhood wards lacking

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**Win Cities + Region**

**Section B • Thursday, Mar. 12, 2015**

**Contractor had checkered past**

Gerard Roy, charged with forgery, won contracts for coveted projects despite his criminal history.

**By NEME NELSON nelson.nem@startribune.com**

Contractor Gerard Roy consistently had good references and the lowest bid. It won him construction contracts for coveted public projects, from a Scott County regional park to part of the Metro Transit Green Line. But last month Roy, 33, was charged in Scott County with five counts of forgery for allegedly fabricating surety bonds — documents ensuring that a contractor will complete a job and pay subcontractors and suppliers. It's the latest chapter in a history of criminal activity, short-lived business ventures and financial failures stretching back more than 20 years.

Roy admits that he fabricated bonds. He did it, he said, to get job contracts and provide work for people he met in prison. "Due to my criminal record, I can't get performance and payment bonds," he said. "So I created my own."

It worked until a subcontractor who hadn't been paid for work at Casco Lake Regional Park tried to make a claim against one of the bonds. Investigations are underway, but in the meantime, there are unfinished projects and people waiting to be paid.

Roy's current company, RSI Associates Inc., declared Chapter 11 bankruptcy Feb. 19, revealing estimated debts of as much as $51 million owed.

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**Minnetonka is the latest city trying to find ways to curb the pet-waste problem.**

By KELLY SMITH kelly.smith@startribune.com

Dogs No. 2 is becoming Minnetonka's No. 1 priority this weekend.

Like most cities, the western suburb requires pet owners to pick up pet waste outside their own property. But when residents collected 200 pounds of poop at city parks in less than two weeks, the city decided to take its duty against dog poop more seriously.

This spring, the city is launching a new pet-waste pickup campaign, starting with the effort Saturday of researching just how big the poop problem is in its parks.

"Is it a perceived or real problem in Minnetonka? If they collect 200 pounds of poop, then I'd say we have a problem," said Jo Colleran, the city's natural resources manager. "Pet waste is an environmental issue because of bacteria and nutrients washing into water. And it's just gross ... it's this community norm."

Minnetonka is following other educational campaigns in cities like nearby Waconia, which used to encourage dog owners with...
MUCH ADO ABOUT DOO-DOO

DOG WASTE A GOOD IDEA

It’s “Poo-lution Prevention Program,” offering free dog bandannas in exchange for taking a clean-water pledge. In the Puget Sound region in Washington, a water pollution campaign included the catchy public service announcement spoofing the 1990s R&B song, “No Diggity,” pleading, “Dog doody, we’ve got to bag it up.”

In Maine, Portland has an annual “April Stools Day” for picking up dog waste. And in Boston, a suburb even proposed DNA testing of dog feces to track down offenders.

Most cities are more traditional, with ordinances requiring pet owners to pick up pet waste on public land. But in Minnetonka, that law hasn’t been enough.

Larry Wade, a resident and naturalist, was skidding frozen Minnehaha Creek last winter when he found that some dog owners just weren’t doing their doo-doo duty.

“There was way too much out there,” he said. “I sort of lost it.”

WHAT TO HELP?

What: Purgytory Park pet waste cleanup
Where: 10 a.m. to noon Saturday Where: Purgytory Park in Minnetonka
Details: Volunteers can bring boots, plastic bags, scoopers and pets to the event, which will clean the park and weigh the pet waste.

The retired Hopkins teacher blogged about it and, with friends, collected an estimated 200 pounds of poop in less than two weeks from some of Minnetonka’s 50 parks. He took the information to the city’s park board members, who were astonished by it, causing them to add a pet-waste pickup campaign to its 2015 goals.

“Minnetonka has some great parks, and the land can’t sustain that amount of waste,” Wade said. “It really ruins the experience.” If you’ve ever stepped in dog poop, it affects you. It’s every dog owner’s responsibility in a suburban area.

BE GOOD NEIGHBORS

On Saturday, volunteers will do just that, collecting dog poop at Purgytory Park, a popular 135-acre park where dog waste in undeveloped areas of prairie land and oak forests next to Purgytory Creek. The waste will then be weighed to literally see how big the problem is in the park.

Later this year, Colloran said the city may put up new signs about the law at parks and team up with local businesses like veterinarians and dog day cares to help get out the message.

She added that the poop problem becomes more of an issue in winter and early spring when more dog walkers seem to neglect poop scoop duty, thinking it will decompose.

Instead, it can pile up in parks and wash into nearby creeks and lakes, posing a bigger water-quality problem than wild animal poo due to the higher concentration of pets in one area.

“It’s an important issue as it relates to water quality,” she said. “We’re just trying to encourage people to be good neighbors.”

Kelly Smith • 612-673-4141
A publication of the city of Minnetonka
14600 Minnetonka Boulevard, Minnetonka, MN 55345 • (952) 939-8200
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday

Mayor
Terry Schneider ………... (952) 939-8389
Home: (952) 934-9529
tschneider@eminnetonka.com

City Manager
Geralyn Barone ………... (952) 939-8200

Newsletter Editor
Jacque Larson ………... (952) 939-8380

E-mail: ………... comments@eminnetonka.com
Internet: ………... www.eminnetonka.com
Minnetonka Mike ………... (952) 939-8588
mike@eminnetonka.com

POLICE-FIRE:
Non-emergency ………... (952) 939-8200 or 9-1-1
Emergency ………... 9-1-1

Call (952) 939-8200 for meeting locations.

S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 6 7
8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28

Call (952) 939-8200 for meeting locations.

4 Park Board, 7 p.m.
5 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
8 Kids’ Fest (see page 1)
9 City Council, 6:30 p.m.
10 Senior Advisory Board, 10 a.m.
11 State of the City, 7:30 a.m.
16 Presidents Day, city offices closed
19 Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m.
23 City Council study session, 6:30 p.m.
26 Economic Development Advisory Commission, 6 p.m.

Minnetonka City Council and Planning Commission meetings are broadcast live on cable channel 16 and via livestreaming on www.eminnetonka.com. Cable channel replays are available Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays at noon, or any time at www.eminnetonka.com. Agendas for council meetings are available on the city’s website by the Friday afternoon prior to the meeting, and planning commission agendas are available by the Monday prior to the meeting.

Calendar
City of Minnetonka
February 2015
Call (952) 939-8200 for meeting locations.

Minnetonka’s natural resources by picking up after pets

In Minnesota, about one in three households owns a dog. With more than two million households in the state, that adds up to a lot of poodles and a lot of pet waste. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, on average one dog produces about 274 pounds of waste each year. Now multiply that by hundreds of thousands of dogs. You can see why it’s so important for people to responsibly clean up after their pets.

Pet waste left in the environment does not simply disappear. Rainfall and spring snowmelt washes dog waste off lawns, sidewalks and other surfaces where it’s then carried directly into the nearest body of water. Waste left atop the ice sinks into lakes, creeks and wetlands. Bacteria and parasites found in pet waste pose a threat to the health of people and wildlife. Decaying pet waste also adds nutrients to the water, feeding bacteria that consume oxygen needed by aquatic plants and animals. That’s why pet waste contributes significantly to water pollution, especially in urban watersheds like ours.

You can help by bagging pet waste and depositing it in a proper trash receptacle. Picking up after your pet protects our environment—but it is also about being a good neighbor. Please, pick up after your pet!
When dog owners in Washington State were surveyed, about 90 percent said that their pets go in the backyard more than anyplace else. Yet barely half of those surveyed pick up poop on their own property. They may be unaware that pet waste is a form of pollution causing a host of health, environmental, and aesthetic problems.

Water-quality studies done in numerous states confirm that pet waste is a widespread problem:
- In urban areas, up to 95% of fecal matter in waterways comes from pets.
- Millions of E. coli bacteria are found in just one gram of pet waste.
- Pet waste is a top contributor to bacterial pollution in surface waters.
- During rainfall and snowmelt, pet waste is washed over the surface of the land to nearby storm sewers that lead, untreated, into lakes and streams. While E. coli bacteria are not themselves harmful, they may be accompanied by parasites (like roundworm) or disease-causing bacteria, including Giardia and Salmonella. Any of these can sicken people, pets, and wildlife.
- Poop also contributes nutrients to the water, causing overgrowth of algae and a decline in available oxygen as decomposing bacteria break down the waste and plants.

The message is clear: Pet waste pollutes. Parks and trails are our community's shared "backyard." Bring a few plastic bags whenever you walk your pet in public spaces, and deposit the waste in a trash receptacle. Do the same at home, picking up after pets regularly—especially in late winter or before a predicted rainstorm. As the Southwest Florida Water Management District learned after completing a pet waste study, "Improved urban water quality also results in an improved economy, with better lakes for fishing and swimming."
Pet waste and water quality

Dogs are a vital part of many families. In Minnesota, about one in three households owns a dog. With more than two million households in the state, that adds up to a lot of poos — and a lot of poop.

What happens to pet waste?

Pet waste left in the environment does not simply disappear. Rainfall and spring snowmelt wash dog poop off lawns, sidewalks, and other surfaces. It is carried directly into the nearest body of water. Waste left atop the ice sinks right into lakes, creeks, and wetlands. Bacteria and parasites found in pet waste pose a threat to the health of people and wildlife. Decaying pet waste also adds nutrients to the water, feeding bacteria that consume oxygen needed by aquatic plants and animals.

Surveys conducted around the United States indicated that only 50 to 70% of dog owners pick up after their pets in public spaces. Additionally, about half of dog owners leave pet waste uncollected in their own backyards. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, one dog produces about 274 pounds of waste each year on average. As a result, pet waste is a significant source of water pollution — especially in densely populated urban watersheds like ours. For example, at a pet waste pick-up event held at Purgatory Park, participants picked up 134 pounds of poop in just two hours.

In 2015, the city of Minnetonka initiated a pet waste reduction campaign. The goals of the program are:
- to educate residents about the relationship between pet waste and water quality
- to encourage neighborly, environmentally responsible behavior among pet owners.
Picking up after your pet protects our environment—but it is also the neighborly thing to do, making our city healthier and more beautiful. You can make a big difference by always bagging your pet's pet waste and depositing it in a proper trash receptacle. For your convenience, MuttMitt stations are provided in all Minnetonka parks.

Getting the word out

Fourth and fifth grade students at Clear Springs Elementary School are helping the city teach residents about pet waste and water quality. Look for signs showing their educational artwork at MuttMitt stations in Big Willow, Headwaters, Jidane, Purgatory (north and east entrances), and Victoria-Evergreen parks.

Visit local pet-related businesses to pick up a card showing one of the six student drawings. Inside, you'll find helpful information about pet waste and water quality, and a Pet Waste Reduction Program button.
Visit local pet-related businesses to pick up a card showing one of the six student drawings. Inside, you’ll find helpful information about pet waste and water quality, and a Pet Waste Reduction Program button.

Questions?

Have questions about the pet waste reduction campaign? Contact the city’s Natural Resources division at 952-988-8407. Learn more about pets in Minnetonka parks here.
Pick up your dog's doo

Please pick up my doo, it's not good for me and you!

Limpia la caca de tus perros

Doo your part!

to protect surface waters in Minnetonka

A campaign led by the City of Minnetonka

Artwork contributed by students at Clear Springs Elementary School
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject:</th>
<th>Park Board Member Reports</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Park Board related goal:</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Board related objective:</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brief Description:</td>
<td>Park Board members will report on any park, recreation or natural resources items that have come to their attention since the last board meeting.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Minnetonka Park Board Item 6  
Meeting of October 7, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject:</th>
<th>Information Items</th>
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<td>Park Board related goal:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Park Board related objective:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brief Description:</td>
<td>The following are informational items and developments that have occurred since the last park board meeting.</td>
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**Annual photo contest**

Staff is asking the park board for assistance with the judging of the annual photo contest. Staff will have this year’s submissions on display so that park board members can choose their top three preferences in each of the categories prior to the start of the October 1 meeting. Forms will be provided.

The photos will be judged based on the following categories
- Lifestyle Minnetonka (cityscapes, people, activities)
- Natural Minnetonka (landscapes, plants)
- Wild Minnetonka (animals, pets)

Staff will compile the results and narrow the submissions further if needed. In addition, a People’s Choice Award will be chosen by attendees at the October 6 Open House. Winning photos will be published on the city’s website and the Minnetonka Memo. A certificate of appreciation will be presented to the winners at a future city council meeting.
Minnetonka Park Board Item 7
Meeting of October 7, 2015

Upcoming 6-Month Meeting Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Meeting Type</th>
<th>Agenda Business Items</th>
<th>Special Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>11/4/15</td>
<td>Regular</td>
<td>• Volunteer recognition event</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>12/2/15</td>
<td>Joint meeting with City Council</td>
<td>• Glen Lake Activity Center Feasibility Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>1/6/16</td>
<td>Regular</td>
<td>• Neighborhood meeting for the Robinwood neighborhood park request</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Park Board Strategic Plan</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Shady Oak Beach Operations Report</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Review of 2015 and 2016 Gray's Bay operations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>2/3/16</td>
<td>Regular</td>
<td>• Park Board Action Steps</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>3/2/16</td>
<td>Regular</td>
<td>• 2017 – 2021 CIP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>4/6/16</td>
<td>Regular</td>
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Other meetings and activities to note:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Special Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>10/6/15</td>
<td>City Open House</td>
<td>Civic Center 5 - 8 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Items to be scheduled:

- Review of pickleball concepts for Meadow Park