

# **Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board**

## **Superintendent's Report 2004**

**Honoring Our Past  
Preparing for the Future**



## Greetings from Superintendent Jon R. Gurban

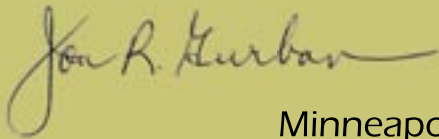
Despite some difficult times I am pleased to report that our park system continues to be one of the most vital and important assets of our community.

In 2004 we honored our past by recognizing achievements that cumulatively have created the best urban park system in North America. We deeply respect our history. At the same time, however, we need to challenge the old, comfortable ways of doing things to see if we can be better.

We have many challenges and opportunities before us. I'm confident the repositioning and restructuring our organization is presently undertaking will serve us very well as we look to the future.

We are very grateful to the many volunteers, mentors, and partners who so unselfishly give of their time and resources so that everyone may enjoy our fabulous park system. THANK YOU!

The year contained many highlights! A reflection also of the outstanding efforts of a staff committed to serving this community.



Minneapolis Parks & Recreation....Yours to enjoy!





# Mission

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, on behalf of all current and future citizens of the City of Minneapolis, shall strive to permanently preserve, protect, maintain, improve and enhance the City's parkland and recreational opportunities.

It is our belief that the parks and positive recreational experiences offer individuals and communities the fullest opportunity to maximize their potential.

## Environment

Make the Park and Recreation system an outstanding example of balance, sound conservation, and ecological practice that leads the way for a healthy environment.

## Recreation

Ensure recreational opportunities that contribute significantly to the quality of life for Minneapolis residents.

## Community

Foster a sense of community, which promotes respect for, and participation in, community life.



## PRESIDENT

JON OLSON

## VICE PRESIDENT

JOHN ERWIN

## COMMISSIONERS

ROCHELLE BERRY GRAVES

WALT DZIEDZIC

BOB FINE

MARIE HAUSER

CAROL A. KUMMER

VIVIAN MASON

ANNIE YOUNG

## SUPERINTENDENT

JON GURBAN

## SECRETARY TO THE BOARD

DON SIGGELKOW

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

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# Organizational Highlights in 2004

## **To better serve the citizens of Minneapolis, the MPRB...**

- provided services and facilities for 18,000,000 park visits.
- developed an organizational restructuring plan. The new geographically-based, multi-disciplinary teams are designed to more readily meet the changing needs of an increasingly diverse population.
- established the Foundation for Minneapolis Parks. The Board of Trustees includes Frank Quilici, Trent Tucker, William Weisman, Mike Lupient, and Don Siggelkow.
- advanced the move toward sustainability with the installation of the park system's first solar array computer and electrical converter at Matthews Park and the replacement of a flow-through water system with a re-circulating pump in the Seven Pools pond at Thomas Lowry Park.
- restored the Lake Harriet Bandshell with the generosity of area businesses and the hard work of volunteers.
- broadcast board meetings live on cable television for the first time beginning in September.
- implemented a pilot program for online park reservation and program registration.
- installed a new system of identification and direction signage as well as information kiosks throughout the Grand Rounds.
- increased awareness of cultural diversity through a demographics workshop, a presentation on Latino culture, and the development of a diversity council in the Recreation division.
- introduced skate parks into the park system.
- acquired Edward C. Solomon Park, 40 acres of new parkland.
- streamlined interdepartmental communication and response time through the creation of the "Goodwill Trio," a prototype multi-disciplinary team.



# Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

- 170 parks
- 17 lakes
- 3 outdoor pools
- 2 waterparks
- 62 wading pools
- 10 supervised beaches
- 49 recreation centers
- 1 administrative office building
- 4 operations service centers
- 7 golf courses
- 3 golf learning centers
- 55 miles of parkway
- 43 miles of bike pathways
- 43 miles of walking pathways
- 8 historic sites
- 2 bird sanctuaries
- 34 skating rinks
- 183 tennis courts
- 4 dog parks
- 3 skate parks
- 12 gardens
- 7 fishing piers
- 5 boat launches
- 600 full time employees
- 1,000 part time and seasonal employees
- 5,000 volunteers



# Environmental Operations

In addition to monitoring the environmental health of our parks, Environmental Operations also maintains the many gardens that beautify our open spaces, and works to educate the public to guide it toward environmental responsibility.

## 2004 Accomplishments

- attained a phosphorous level in Lakes Harriet and Calhoun equal to that of the days before Europeans settled the area through the successful implementation of a combination of strategies including storm water ponds, grit chambers, increased street sweeping, alum treatments, and public education.
- set up a Beach Information hotline to keep swimmers up to date on lake water status.
- managed 130 prairies, wetlands, forested areas, and shorelines.
- created a sixteen-foot native wetland buffer around Webber pond.
- initiated restoration of 20 acres of native prairie in North Mississippi Regional Park.
- supported environmental educational programming for 3,825 participants at the Carl W. Kroenig Center at North Mississippi Regional Park.
- completed the installation of outdoor, self-directed, hands-on interpretive elements at North Mississippi Regional Park.
- connected 6,200 children, ages 4-14, with the natural world in their own neighborhoods in 1,040 hours of educational programming through the Neighborhood Naturalist Program.
- provided over 20 programs and staffed the Martha Crone Visitors' Shelter with over 1,000 volunteer hours at Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary.
- developed an educational outreach program to enlist the support of the public in improving water quality.

# Forestry

The Forestry division ensures the trees lining our streets and shading our parks receive the care they need to flourish.

## 2004 Accomplishments

- planted 125 trees with the help of over 200 volunteers at the Arbor Day “Restoring our Past / ReLeaf for the Future” celebration at Olson Memorial Highway & Penn Avenue N. in collaboration with Minnesota Department of Transportation, Committee on Urban Environment, the Harrison Neighborhood Association, and Northside Residents Redevelopment Council.
- removed over 5,300 trees from boulevards and other public property due to Dutch Elm Disease, the third highest number since the late 1970s.
- facilitated the removal of nearly 5,000 diseased trees from private property.
- initiated the Forestry Vision Team.
- assisted the US Forest Service in the collection of data that will result in the publication of a municipal tree resource analysis for Minneapolis trees.
- improved information technology capabilities to manage condemned private trees and the Tree Application program that monitors new tree planting.

## Forestry Awards

- 24<sup>th</sup> consecutive “Tree City USA Award” from the National Arbor Day Foundation.
- “Tree City USA Growth Award” for the ninth consecutive year for extraordinary achievements in urban forestry.
- “Innovation Award,” which recognizes unique achievements that serve as a model for other programs, was presented for the creation and distribution of the “You’ve Got a New Neighbor” video.





# Planning

The Planning division oversees capital improvements and land acquisition. It monitors trends, manages projects, generates long-range master plans, secures grants, facilitates citizen participation in the planning process, establishes and maintains working relationships with funding agencies, and represents the board on a variety of interagency committees.

## 2004 Accomplishments

- introduced skate parks into the park system with skate parks at Armatage Park, Creekview Park and Elliot Park.
- acquired forty acres of new parkland, which was named Edward C. Solomon Park to honor the late commissioner.



- rehabilitated eight miles of bike and pedestrian pathways around Lake Nokomis and Cedar Lake, and along William Berry Parkway and West River Parkway.
- completed the Victory Memorial Parkway Master Plan.
- repaired a major slope failure in the Mississippi River Gorge at 34th Street.
- restored parkland prone to flooding around Lake of the Isles using a cutting-edge engineering strategy called "surcharging."
- rehabilitated athletic fields at Armatage Park and Marshall Terrace.
- completed landscaping at Longfellow Gardens.
- completed the updating of five playgrounds with innovative, safe, and accessible new equipment.
- rehabbed tennis courts at Armatage Park and North Commons Park and a volleyball court at Marshall Terrace.
- crafted an agreement with Minneapolis Off-road Cycling Advocates to create off-road cycling trails as a pilot project at Wirth Park.
- directed the installation of the new signage and information kiosks along the Grand Rounds.
- administered over \$2 million in grants, \$2.2 million in net debt bonds and the city's capital levy.





# Community and Citywide Recreation

The Recreation division provides places, spaces and programs for individuals and groups in every community to gather, meet and strengthen friendships, learn new skills, create unforgettable memories and stay physically fit.

## 2004 Accomplishments

- served 1.7 million people in programs at the neighborhood parks and issued 3,000 permits for community groups to access space at the neighborhood parks, serving another 306,702 people.
- provided quality school-age care services for neighborhood families in seventeen parks during the school year and 20 parks during the summer through Recreation Plus+.
- provided structured instruction and homework help in computer labs in twelve neighborhood recreation centers.
- engaged 9,363 youth between the ages of 9 to 14 in fourteen sports through the Youth Sports League and another 1,000 in clinics and sports demonstrations.
- taught 2,264 people how to swim, sail, canoe and kayak; staffed ten beaches, two waterparks, and three outdoor pools for 99,633 swimmers.
- scheduled 2,787 games at the Leonard H. Neiman Sports Complex and another 1,338 games on other regional park fields.
- coordinated 1,169 adult sport teams, which served a total of 15,608 individuals.
- provided movies, plays and concerts in the parks for 114,560 individuals.
- partnered with community organizations to host over 60 celebrations at parks throughout the city.
- hosted a total of 15,764 children at Halloween parties at all recreation centers.
- held the 13th annual Black History event, enjoyed by 600 youth and families.
- engaged 800 youth in playing games, sampling food, listening to music, and watching dances from an array of cultures at the second annual Peace Games, a national initiative promoting fellowship and cultural learning among youth. Sixteen agencies co-sponsored the event.
- provided leadership experiences, skill building, recreation, and mentoring relationships for 8,500 youth at eighteen parks and an additional fifteen parks during the summer, through the Youthline Outreach Mentorship Program and the Girls' Program.
- provided extended recreation program hours during the summer evenings for youth ages 12-18 for eight weeks through the Phat Summer Program.
- partnered with Concordia Language Villages to introduce children and teens to world languages and cultural learning in the Village Park program.

# Special Events in the Parks

Thousands of people gather in Minneapolis parks every year for special events, ranging from the neighborhood ice cream social to an international Twin Cities Marathon.

- Fifty-one races with 66,962 participants  
Among the largest:
  - Twin Cities Marathon (8,000)
  - Aids Walk (6,000)
  - Arena 5K (5,000)
  - Marathon for Non-public Ed (5,000)
  - MS Walk (4,000)
  - Get in Gear (3,800)
- Minneapolis Aquatennial events at many park sites throughout the city (100,000)

- July Fourth Riverfront Celebration (100,000)
- GLBT Pride (100,000)
- Uptown Art Fair (400,000)
- Stone Arch Festival of the Arts (90,000)
- Freedom Jazz Festival (1,000)
- Festivals of Neighborhoods (3,000)
- Juneteenth (40,000)
- May Day (40,000)
- many more





# Maintenance

The Park Maintenance division strives to keep Minneapolis parks clean, safe, and beautiful. It also provides crucial support for numerous special events and projects throughout the year.

## 2004 Accomplishments

- provided logistical and trades support for the volunteer effort to refurbish the Lake Harriet bandshell.
- ensured that the 2nd Annual Minneapolis Loppet had enough snow, and that the course was usable for the race.
- installed a solar array computer and electric converter at Matthews Park, the first solar power conversion in a Minneapolis park building, in collaboration with the Seward neighborhood.
- conserved resources by replacing an existing flow-through water system with a recirculating pump in the seven-pools pond at Thomas Lowry Park.
- mowed over 3,000 acres of turf.
- constructed, painted, and installed new Grand Rounds signage and information kiosks.
- extended the life of tennis and basketball courts by repairing cracks and colorcoating. Extensive research led to the use of new sealants and colorcoating materials that prolong the life of the repairs.
- repaved and sealcoated sections of Minnehaha and Nokomis Parkways. Work was coordinated by Maintenance and performed by city crews. The special red rock used in the sealcoat lends the parkways their distinguishing pink color.
- installed new safety bases, designed to reduce injury to base runners, in softball and baseball fields throughout the park system.



# Park Police

Park Police provide public safety and assistance for all park system visitors and staff.

## 2004 Accomplishments

- served as School Resource Officers for the Minneapolis Public Schools.
- reduced traffic-related complaints through participation in the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Safe and Sober campaign and through the MPRB's Traffic Law Enforcement Initiative.
- joined the Twin Cities Security Partnership, a public/private partnership for a stronger, safer Twin Cities community, formed by Target Corp. and the FBI.
- partnered with the Minneapolis Public Schools and Hennepin County Health Department to obtain a federal grant to enhance school safety, health of students, and after school programming in our parks.
- increased police visibility in Minneapolis parks and interaction with recreation staff and park users.

## 2004 Awards

- Appreciation Award from Special Olympics Minnesota for support and involvement in the Law Enforcement Torch Run.
- In-squad video camera system for a successful participation in the 2004 Safe and Sober Campaign.



# Special Services

Special Services oversees the revenue-generating facilities of the Park Board. Operations include seven golf courses and three First Tee golf learning centers and junior golf instruction sites, 2,000 pay parking spaces, seasonal refectories (concessions), and special use permits.

Special Services also oversees the Parade Ice Garden, which features two full size hockey rinks and one practice rink, as well as the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden & Cowles Conservatory.

## 2004 Accomplishments

- generated \$1,404,064 for 272,100 rounds of golf played, an increase of \$405,522 over 2003.
- opened the Gross National First Tee Learning Center and began design work for the First Tee Learning Center at Meadowbrook golf course.
- issued 4,515 special use permits.
- provided 2,015 parking lot spaces through the the pay parking operation and 212 individual parking meters along parkways, generating \$291,575, up 26% from 2003.
- established the Foundation for Minneapolis Parks.
- dedicated the sculpture of Theodore Wirth and children. As part of Wirth-While-Weekend, ceremonies honored Minneapolis parks' longest-serving superintendent.
- initiated a Luxury Charter Boat service that booked 99 charter cruises on the Mississippi River.
- hosted 250,000 visitors to the Sculpture Garden.





**Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board  
Condensed Financial Report  
for the year ended December 31, 2004**

REVENUES	
Property taxes	\$ 34,131,193
Local Government Aid	9,738,525
Enterprise	9,312,848
Other revenue	4,289,873
Inter-departmental transfers	471,500
 TOTAL REVENUES	 \$ 57,943,939
 EXPENDITURES	
Maintenance Operations	\$ 16,980,855
Recreation	10,810,038
Enterprise	9,312,848
Forestry	8,053,602
Park Police	4,448,893
City-wide entity	3,179,046
Finance and Personnel	1,382,306
Planning	1,325,989
Environmental Operations	1,162,869
Administration	866,093
Transfer to capital	421,400
 TOTAL EXPENDITURES	 \$ 57,943,939



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