



Friends of LAKE NOKOMIS

We envision a harmonious coexistence of the urban community and the environment created around the lake.

Pond Hockey Championships!

The 2012 U.S. Pond Hockey Championships returned to Lake Nokomis on January 20th. Lasting for three days, this event

brings thousands of participants and spectators to our lake and this year was no exception. Curious about the Golden

Shovel? Read its story here: <http://www.uspondhockey.com/page/show/238164-story-of-the-golden-shovel> 



2012 U.S. Pond Hockey Championship participants and spectators on Lake Nokomis

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Friends of Lake Nokomis

5665 Woodlawn Boulevard
Minneapolis, MN 55417

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www.friendsoflakenokomis.org

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Sponsor a Newsletter

This newsletter was sponsored by our founding members—thank you all for joining us! If you would like to sponsor a future newsletter please contact us via e-mail.

Friends of Lake Nokomis is the official publication of the Friends of Lake Nokomis, a nonprofit corporation, and is published four times a year.

Logo design by Doc Czypinski.

Newsletter design by
Kirsten Uhlenberg

Trail Planning Underway

The planning for the Three Rivers Park District Intercity Regional Trail is well underway, with the latest plans available for review on the project's website: <http://www.threeriversparks.org/about/planning-and-construction/planning-projects/current-initiatives/intercity-rt-mp.aspx>

The cost of this trail planning and construction is being funded by a federal Surface Transportation Program grant that was awarded to the Three Rivers Park District. Future maintenance and trail upkeep will be the responsibility of the City of Minneapolis and Minneapolis Park and Recreation board as laid out in agreements between the Three Rivers Park District and the city and MPRB. The cost of this upkeep and maintenance will be the responsibility of the Three Rivers Park District.

The current plan calls for off-street bicycle and walking paths to be built along the western edge of Cedar Avenue. It proposes changes to be made to the intersection of Edgewater Boulevard and Cedar Avenue to narrow Edgewater and extend it into Cedar Avenue to increase drivers' visibility of traffic coming from both directions in order to increase the safety of pedestrians and wheeled traffic utilizing the new trail and to provide drivers with increased ability to judge when they should enter the flow of traffic.

Changes will also be made to the Y where drivers can continue on Cedar Avenue towards Hope Lutheran Church and the 5/8 Club or they can continue on County Road 77 towards Richfield and the Mall of America. These changes will better distinguish where the traffic lanes are and hopefully slow the traffic continuing to travel on Cedar Avenue parallel to the new trail where sidewalks currently exist.

The ICRT planning team asks that you share your comments about the trail project through one of the following options:

Write a letter:

**Three Rivers Park District
Attn. Intercity Regional Trail
3000 Xenium Lane
Plymouth, MN 55441**

E-mail:

ICRT@threeriversparkdistrict.org

Once public comment is gathered, a final plan will be decided upon sometime during 2013/2014. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2014.

Not addressed in the plan is the issue of safety for pedestrian and wheeled trail users at the intersection of Cedar Avenue and East Lake Nokomis Parkway. ♦

Concession Planning



Lake Nokomis concessions building

Our president, Steffanie Musich, was appointed by Park Board Commissioner Carol Kummer to the Community Advisory Committee tasked with getting a concession up and running in the concessions building at Nokomis'

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Concession Planning

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Main Beach. The committee started meeting February 23rd and expects to begin the Request for Proposal process in late April.

There are several opportunities for public input on the project:

- A community survey will be available until April 7 at the Lake Nokomis Community Center, at Nokomis East Neighborhood Association and on the park board's website project page: <http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=13>

40&SearchID=364800.

- An Open House to discuss the project with the Community Advisory Committee is scheduled to be held at the Lake Nokomis Community Center on March 22nd.

For updates, subscribe to our e-mail list by sending us an e-mail with "Subscribe" in the subject line and follow us on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/FOLakeNokomis>) or Twitter (@NokomisFriends). ♦

Upcoming Events

Thursday, March 22

Lake Nokomis
Restaurant Community
Advisory Committee
Open House

Saturday, April 21

Earth Day Clean Up



Litter Patrol

Beginning in June, we will be coordinating Sunday morning litter patrols at the Main and 50th Street Beaches. During the week, this work is performed by maintenance staff. There is limited staffing in the parks on the weekends, and with the heavy use our beaches see as the third most visited park in the Minneapolis park system, there is a need for litter to be removed from the beach areas during the weekend. If your group of neighbors or your family would like to volunteer to perform this task one Sunday during the summer, please let us know by e-mailing friendsoflakenokomis@gmail.com or calling Volunteer Coordinator Steffanie Musich at 612-708-5962 so we can get you on the calendar, viewable on our website www.friendsoflakenokomis.org. We extend a hearty thank you to the families of our Board Members for volunteering a Sunday a month this summer! ♦

Sailboat Buoy Applications

Application submission season for Nokomis Sailboat Buoys started on February 1, 2012!

The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board annually issues permits for 370 sailboat buoys on Lakes Calhoun, Harriet and Nokomis. All watercraft being used on the lake must have a current Minnesota Watercraft License from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Electric trolling motors are allowed, gas powered motors of any kind, are not permitted.

The public drawing will be held Tuesday, April 12, at Lynnhurst Recreation Center, 1345 Minnehaha Parkway West.

- Lake Harriet - 6:30 p.m.
- Lake Calhoun - 7:30 p.m.
- Lake Nokomis - 8 p.m.

Seasonal permits are \$450 for Minneapolis residents and \$550 for non-Minneapolis residents.

To be included in the April 10th drawing, **all permit applications must be received by midnight on April 6, 2012.** Applications received after the deadline will be considered for assignment after drawing assignments have been made.

Based on the layout of the buoy grid, the MPRB recommends that sailboats stored on Minneapolis lakes be 22 feet or less. Accommodations can be made for boats under 30 feet upon request.

Applications and maps showing the buoy layout on the lake are available on the MPRB website: <http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=1204> ♦

The Blue Heron

by William Scofield

Have you seen a bird by the lake that looks like a scrawny, blue pterodactyl? That's the blue heron! The blue heron is the most common and largest heron in North America. They grow from 3.2 to 4.5 meters and are typically seen near the shores of marshes, ponds, or streams. Females produce 2-7 eggs, which both parents protect and incubate. Blue herons eat fish, shrimp, crab, insects, rodents, and other small creatures. "It is frequently seen near rivers like the Mississippi, the Minnesota, and their tributaries," says Jason Abraham of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Strange Facts

- Herons have a high number of rod-type photoreceptors in their eyes, which allow them to see in the dark.
- A colony of herons is called a heronry.
- The oldest blue heron, on record, was 24.
- Because of a specially shaped neck vertebrae, blue herons can curl their neck into an S-shape for a better flight profile and to quickly strike prey at a distance. 💧



Photo credit: George Gentry/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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Minneapolis MN 55417