



Friends of LAKE NOKOMIS

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

Your Nokomis Wish List

Capital Planning for Next Year Begins Soon

We've been compiling our wish list of investments we'd like to see made in the park, preparing to send them to Commissioner Kummer for consideration when next year's capital planning process starts. These are the items on our list so far:

- Repair the uneven, broken and sunken pavement on the
- Repair the blown out steps leading down to the park from the intersection of Woodlawn Boulevard and East 52nd Street
- Repair and update the exercise stations around the lake
- biking and walking paths.
- Landscape for the new concession, create more seating and improve lighting around the refectory building
- Outdoor shower at the main beach for rinsing off before and after swimming.

What's on your list? 💧

Food Vendor Selected

Citizen Advisory Council Recommends Selection of Sandcastle

The Citizen Advisory Council (CAC), composed of representatives from the Nokomis East Neighborhood Association, the Standish Erickson Neighborhood Association, the Field-Regina-Northrup Neighborhood Association, the Hale, Page and Diamond Lake Community Association, and the Friends of Lake Nokomis

met July 26 after interviewing the three vendors on July 12 that submitted proposals for concessions in Lake Nokomis' Refectory building at the main beach. The committee discussed the three proposals and the additional information provided during the interviews, and subsequently chose the Sandcastle proposal as the one best suited

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Proprietors Doug Flicker and Amy Greeley

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Invasive Species Prevention

DNR Increases Inspections of Boats

At its June 20, 2012 meeting, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) adopted an emergency resolution aimed at preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) from entering Minneapolis lakes.

The recommended actions in the resolution include requiring an inspection for AIS before a person launches any water-related equipment at the public boat launches on Lake Calhoun, Lake Harriet and Lake Nokomis. Inspectors will be on duty at each boat launch when people are most likely to launch boats. These hours are:

Monday – Thursday:

6 a.m. – 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Friday – Sunday:

6 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Watercraft launched via the public boat launch outside of these hours can be ticketed by park police. Inspection hours begin July 13 and will run through September 30, 2012. Friends of Lake Nokomis President, Steffanie Musich, clarified with the MPRB public relations office that canoeists and kayakers launching off the shore should not be ticketed for launching without inspection. They will, however, be subject to inspection should the DNR officer staffing the launch wish to inspect their watercraft. The focus of this initiative is watercraft being transported via trailer and entering the lake at the public boat launch. The Park Board does not want to punish lake users, but rather to protect the lake.

“The lakes are the crown jewels of our park system, so protecting them from aquatic invasive species is a very high priority for our Board,” said John Erwin, MPRB president. “We all can see the detrimental impact of milfoil on our lakes, and the Park Board is committed to ensuring that our lakes can be enjoyed for years to come by protecting them from new invasive species.”

The Minnesota Department of Natu-

ral Resources (DNR) has increased AIS inspections and enforcement throughout the state.

Under Minnesota law, it is illegal to transport invasive aquatic plants and animals, as well as water, from water bodies infested with aquatic invasives. Violators could face fines up to \$500. Some penalty amounts will double beginning July 1.

To help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species, anglers and boaters are required by law to:

- Drain bait buckets, bilges and live wells before leaving any water access.
- Remove aquatic plants from boats and trailers to prevent the spread of invasive species.
- Pull the plug on their boat and drain all water when leaving all waters of the state.
- Keep the drain plug out while transporting water-related equipment on roadways.

“Once an aquatic invasive species gets established, it’s very difficult—if not impossible—to eliminate it,” said Debra Pilger, Director, Environmental, Equipment and Volunteer Services. “That’s why it’s important to do everything we can to prevent aquatic invasives from entering in the first place.” Pilger added that the preventative measures approved by the Board are for 2012 only.

“We’ll be looking at a full range of long-term options for AIS prevention over the fall and winter,” noted Pilger. “We’ll talk with recreational users of the lakes, the DNR, and others to determine what we’ll do in the future to provide access to the lakes while we protect them from aquatic invasives.”

View the FAQ document that has been posted on our website for answers to potential questions regarding the Board’s resolution. 💧

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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.

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Food Vendor Selected

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to serve the needs of the park users and the residents of the surrounding neighborhoods.

The proprietors, the husband and wife team of Doug Flicker and Amy Greeley, are residents of the Long-fellow neighborhood and think of Nokomis as their neighborhood lake. Their experience running Piccolo, a small restaurant in the East Harriet neighborhood, has shown they know how to make a small space work as a successful and functional restaurant. At several times during the interview with the CAC they expressed their desire to work as partners with the Park Board on the remodeling of the building and the development of the landscaping plan for increased outdoor seating. Their hope is to utilize green building techniques, including the use of recycled materials, to bring the existing building up to code while retaining the early 20th-century charm of the structure. Ms. Greeley shared her desire to see the space around the refectory become a community gathering space where people would come to eat and spend time together, "I want the concession to be a welcoming and comfortable space where people will want to gather with friends, have a family outing, or stop to refresh when biking or walking the lake," she said.

When questioned about the rationale behind the menu included with the proposal, Mr. Flicker explained that he designed the menu to be a place he'd want to go to for a meal, "I was happy to see that the Lake Nokomis survey, which we also took as residents, really represented what we wanted to see in the Concession. I think the diversity of food is really important." The proposed menu takes the diverse beach user group and the demographics of the surround-

ing neighborhoods into account and provides a little something for everyone. The survey and their proposal in its entirety is posted on Google documents and is linked to off of our website's projects page: www.friendsoflakenokomis.org/projects

The zero-waste approach that the concession is taking towards the food preparation and distribution is exciting to see. The food preparation process attempts to ensure that nothing goes to waste, for example, the watermelon rinds left over from making the watermelon salad are used to create the watermelon agua fresca. Flatware will be made from reusable or com-

postable material. The baskets and plates will be made of compostable bamboo, and will be collected along with food waste by a local waste management company for composting. In addition to recommending the approval of the negotiated contract with the Sandcastle proprietors, the CAC is also recommending that the first year's share of the concession's revenue be utilized for landscaping, hardscaping, and outdoor seating improvements, including shade structures, in the area of the park surrounding the refectory prior to the beginning of the 2013 operating season. 💧

What's Next in the Process:

- **MPRB contract negotiations with Sandcastle proprietors**
- **Presentation of the contract and CAC recommendations* to the MPRB commissioners, to be presented by FLN CAC member Steffanie Musich**
- **Sandcastle and MPRB Planning Department work on building renovation and grounds improvements.**
- **Application to the City of Minneapolis for Beer and Wine license.**

**Recommendations:*

1. *That the MPRB moves forward to approve the contract with Sandcastle (including approval to begin beer and wine license process).*
2. *That they earmark the first year's percentage of revenue towards grounds improvements surrounding the refectory, with improvements to take place prior to the projected opening date in April of 2013. Grounds improvements were discussed to be landscaping, seating, shade structures (pergolas, umbrellas, or the like) and hardscaping.*

Grants Available for Clean Water Stewardship Projects

Concerned about protecting our lakes, wetlands, and streams? Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) can help. Since 1998 the MCWD has been providing grants through the Cynthia Krieg Watershed Stewardship Fund, which supports projects that improve water quality through community service and involvement, education, and innovation. A healthy community is important to healthy waters and polluted stormwater runoff is the biggest water quality problem in Minnesota and across the country. In developed areas, rainwater runs off roads, parking lots and roof-

tops, carrying dirt, fertilizer, pesticides, and other harmful material into lakes, streams, and wetlands. The Cynthia Krieg Stewardship Fund allows MCWD to partner with local communities, schools, civic groups, non-profit groups, and others to engage citizens in activities that protect and provide clean water. Examples of previously funded projects include development and production of educational materials, videos, and guides; restoration projects along water bodies; holding workshops or developing training programs, and innovative demonstration projects that

involve and educate the community. Funded activities must result in water quality improvement and/or greater public awareness of ways people can protect local lakes, streams, and wetlands. Project proposals are due by September 26, 2012. Grant requests are limited to \$25,000, and funded activities must take place within the boundaries of the MCWD. For more information, contact Leslie Yetka, MCWD Education Manager, at (952) 641-4524 or LYetka@minnehahacreek.org or visit <http://minnehahacreek.org/grants/cynthiakrieg>. ♡

Zebra Mussel Monitoring

The volunteer zebra mussel monitoring team, of Matt Hinrichs, and Steffanie and Matt Musich, has been out checking traps the last week of the month all summer. So far, their checks at the traps located on the northern fishing dock and the boat launch dock have yielded no evidence of zebra



Photo Credit: U.S. Geological Survey

mussels in Lake Nokomis. Unfortunately, during the June check of the sampling devices, the northern fishing dock's sampler was missing. If you see anyone tampering with these devices please inform them of their purpose and ask that they leave them suspended from the dock unmolested. ♡

Open Water Swimming on the Lake

At Superintendent Jayne Miller's bequest, the MPRB graciously organized an open swim program beginning in June and continuing through August 21. It provided lifeguards to patrol a column of swimmers taking advantage of the opportunity to swim from the main beach to the 50th Street beach on Tuesday evenings. The first week 18 swimmers showed up; in mid-July, the word got out

and 86+ swimmers were there making their way across the lake and back. It's a 600-meter swim each way, making for a great long distance swim for pleasure seekers and training athletes alike. Park visitor Noel Phillips was there training for a triathlon and said, "This is a great opportunity to get experience swimming in open water and knowing the lifeguards are there makes it a

lot less stressful of an experience." Let's hope there are funds for them to continue providing this opportunity again next summer! If you would like to thank the Park Board for offering this opportunity and provide encouragement for coordinating this again next summer, please email Mimi Kalb (mkalb@minneapolisiparks.org) or Jayne Miller (JMiller@minneapolisiparks.org) ♡

People Counter Results

Curious to see how people use the park? Check out the 2011 Parks Use report from the Met Council (<http://www.metrocouncil.org/planning/parks/ParksUseEstimate2011.pdf>).

According to their estimates 1,419,200 people visit the Nokomis and Hiawatha parks on an annual basis. Their numbers were collected in part

by the people counters we wrote about in our Summer 2011 newsletter (<http://www.friendsoflakenokomis.org/news.html>). ♦

Double Word Scramble

At the Water's Edge

Unscramble these words from the newsletter:

CETARFTARW ○ _____

AHWATHAI _____ ○ _____

MONOISK _____ ○ _____

RIUEFDLAG _____ ○ _____ ○ _____

ARTIRHE _____ ○ _____

SAETORRMTW _____ ○ ○ _____

NAOHULC _____ ○ _____

FILILOM ○ _____

BEAZR SULMES _____ ○ _____

SECSIONOCN _____ ○ _____

TECSLDANAS _____ ○ _____

BPCATSOLMOE MABBOO _____ ○ _____ ○ _____

REMNALTEWO _____ ○ _____

MORCHNA ○ _____

Take the letters that appear in circles and unscramble them for the answer to the puzzle:

Ft. Snelling Invasion

Emerald ash borers have been found at the Fort Snelling Golf Course. There are traps that are monitored throughout the park system to alert the forestry department of their presence in the park system. The forestry

department is working in conjunction with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to limit the spread of this invasive species of insect. To learn more about this insect and the park board's plan of action please visit the Emerald



Photo Credit: Howard Russell/US Forest Service

Ash Borer page on the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's website: Go to www.minneapolisparcs.org and click on "Caring for our Parks," then "Trees and the Urban Forest."💧

Upcoming Event

Buckthorn Bust

Saturday, October 27

10am -12pm

Scan this QR code with your smartphone for mobile access to our website.



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