

History of the People for Parks Fund

The Minneapolis Parks Foundation's People for Parks Fund advances under-supported projects and programs in our city's award-winning public parks. We are the catalyst for connecting community-driven ideas and funding that nurture stewardship, community and enjoyment of our parks.

1977

People for Parks is founded. After losing 31,000 trees in 1977 to Dutch Elm disease, People for Parks was created to allow concerned citizens and businesses to help fund the replacement of these beautiful elms.

1979

People for Parks is reorganized. It opens its membership to everyone, expands its board beyond former park commissioners and announces it will seek donations, grants and sponsors for a variety of recreational programs.

1986

Lake Harriet Bandshell. People for Parks raises funds for the benches that seat 900 people, the permeable pavers on which the benches now sit and the sound system wiring.



1995

Earth Day clean-ups begin. The organization starts contributing to watershed clean-ups throughout the Minneapolis parks system. In some years, as much as 7 tons of garbage are removed from park grounds.

2005

Comeback. After a brief period of low activity, a group of community members revitalizes People for Parks. It now serves as a grassroots organization that meets needs within the park system identified by park board staff and concerned citizens.

2016

Posters for Parks. People for Parks partners with LoveMplsParks.org to hold the first-ever Posters for Parks Show.

The event features local artists who sell pieces inspired by the beauty of Minneapolis parks. Half the proceeds go toward supporting the work of People for Parks.



2017

Root Beer Run. People for Parks holds its first Root Beer Run at Boom Island Park. It serves as an active, family-friendly Mother's Day event that has grown in popularity over the past several years.

2018

Nature Play Area Grant. People for Parks approves one of the largest grants in its four-decade history to create an interactive nature play space near the Carl W. Kroening Interpretive Center in North Mississippi Regional Park.

2020

A new era. People for Parks combines with the Minneapolis Parks Foundation under a single entity. In the process, the People for Parks Fund is created. Volunteers will lead its efforts to support community-driven projects in the city's parks.