Dear Friends,

Great parks help bring communities together, creating real connections. These connections grow even deeper when people are asked to give back to those parks. As the primary philanthropic partner for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, the Minneapolis Parks Foundation has witnessed that the simple act of contributing time and money to our parks — participating in a neighborhood clean-up day, serving as a youth athletics coach, setting up a small monthly donation, or becoming a major donor — helps people feel invested in their community and connected to others.

How can we harness that power of generosity to grow an even better park system in Minneapolis? It’s a question we’ve been exploring in new ways this year, as we mark our 20th anniversary and launch a new Strategic Plan to guide our priorities. While we know Minneapolis parks are widely used and treasured by the public, only a relatively small number of park users become park contributors. In a city where philanthropy and generosity are ingrained in our culture, and where our parks are seen as critical to our health and wellbeing, there remains tremendous opportunity to expand how people contribute to our parks.

Changing that equation could have enormous benefits, not only for parks, but also for people. As we’ve seen at the Water Works Park and Pavilion, combining community support with public funding can elevate what’s possible. And as we heard from the record-setting number of supporters who joined us for our Posters for Parks Show, the act of giving — no matter the amount — makes us feel happier in the moment, more hopeful about the future, and connected to something greater than ourselves. (Coincidentally, many of the same benefits that come from spending time in a park!)

As we look ahead to formally launching a capital campaign to support a transformation of North Commons Park, we’re grateful to the individuals, corporations, and foundations whose support in 2022 helped strengthen our case for the value of investing in the public realm. With your generosity, you’re helping the Minneapolis Parks Foundation provide a service to our region and connecting the power of philanthropy to the promise of the parks. Thank you!

Tom Evers
Executive Director

Sarah Duniway
Board Chair

Minneapolis Parks Foundation
Guiding Principles

While celebrating all the varied benefits of Minneapolis’s nationally renowned and locally treasured system, the Minneapolis Parks Foundation focuses on elevating the capacity of our parks to deliver the following outcomes.

- **Advance equity and cultural inclusion:** When all people have access to valued parks and public spaces, feel welcome, and see themselves reflected in those spaces, a community is healthier, safer, and happier.
- **Foster community health and well-being:** Parks provide healthy air, water, and soil, and places to play and exercise, on both the individual and community level. Parks also provide places where we can learn about our neighbors and form new and deeper connections.
- **Deepen connections to the natural world:** In our increasingly urbanized world, maintaining places of natural beauty, respite, and awe helps us maintain our humanity.
- **Strengthen climate change resiliency:** Cities must adapt and develop new methods to protect and restore natural systems and clean water and to mitigate the economic impact of climate change.
- **Spark economic vitality:** Thriving parks and public spaces can attract investment and bring prosperity to the broader community without sparking displacement.

Scan to learn more about how our Strategic Plan will guide our work through 2027.
Emerging slowly from the COVID pandemic in 2022, parks remained the place to
Find Community on Common Ground

In September 2022, and after a two-year delay, Reimagining the Civic Commons held Studio 6 in Minneapolis. The convening of nearly 150 place-making practitioners from 11 other cities around the U.S. was just one of several events hosted by the Minneapolis Parks Foundation that highlight the role parks play in fostering human connections to each other and the natural world.

In-person Walks Got People Talking
In 2022, the Parks Foundation added three new tours to our Walk & Talk Event Series. Farview Park to the 26th Ave N Overlook, Hall’s Island Restoration, and Lake Nokomis drew capacity in-person participation and were also tapped more than 600 times as download-and-go self-guided tours. Altogether, the Parks Foundation has compiled eight unique experiences—many featuring the knowledge of experienced guides—that traverse our beautiful and fascinating park system.

Amazing Sunrise
Nearly 250 people gathered under the big tent in September 2022 for our annual breakfast benefit, Sunrise on the Mississippi. Minneapolis Parks Superintendent Al Bangoura shared his vision for Minneapolis parks, saying, “Because parks offer something for everyone—like nothing else in our society—it’s not enough to be good enough, we have to be amazing.” Donors responded in kind: Rising to a standing ovation, and contributing more than $130,000 to help us support transformative parks projects and programs.

Warm Reception on a Winter’s Day
The Next Generation of Parks Event Series got off to a bright and bold start in 2022, featuring Ambreen Tariq for a two-part talk-then-walk in February. Founder of @BrownPeopleCamping, Ambreen is an adventurer, activist, and author of the semi-autobiographical children’s book, Fatima’s Great Outdoors. Her in-person walk at North Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park was our first face-to-face event since March 2020—bringing together a diverse audience to share a chilly-in-temperature but warm-in-spirit afternoon.
ADVANCE EQUITY AND CULTURAL INCLUSION

FOSTER COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLBEING

DEEPEN CONNECTIONS TO THE NATURAL WORLD

Charting a New Course

Now in its second year, People for Parks Fund grants are helping to introduce new parks users to new pastimes

With the wind in our city’s sails, the imagery and iconography of Minneapolis has long been connected to the sport of sailing. But with people of color making up fewer than one percent of sailing participants worldwide, the signature symbol of leisure in the City of Lakes leaves many residents out of the picture.

But sailing enthusiasts at the Minneapolis Sailing Center (MSC) believe a sea change is possible. With help from a People for Parks Fund grant from the Minneapolis Parks Foundation, the MSC—one of the largest and most diverse sailing schools in the Midwest—invited more than 500 kids and grown-ups to climb into keelboats on Bde Maka Ska and experience the freedom and fun of learning how to sail. With a series of four Free Sailing Sunday events held throughout the summer, the Minneapolis Sailing Center also combined forces with groups like Outdoor Afro MN, Urban Ventures, Inner City Ducks, and Outdoor Latino MN to remove barriers and bring people of color together to discover what’s possible with your hand on the rudder and the wind at your back.

“The core goal of this project is not a quick fix or one-time opportunity, but part of a longer culture change in our organization and the sport of sailing,” says Ted Salzman, MSC’s Executive Director.

MSC’s sailing outreach initiative was just one of nine exciting parks projects made possible in 2022 by the People for Parks Fund, the Minneapolis Parks Foundation’s grant program aimed at supporting community-driven ideas for making our parks more equitable and inclusive. Funded by donations and proceeds from...
our popular Posters for Parks Show, the program distributed more than $48,000 in its second year to MSC, Armatage Neighborhood Association, Cultural Wellness Center, Friends of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, Friends of Lake Nokomis, Urban Bird Collective, and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. Though the competitive grant process yielded a wide range of pitches—from communal bike tours through our city’s parks and neighborhoods and extending invitations to wider audiences in the city’s Winter Bird Count, to free swim lessons, and yoga and wellness classes with an Afro beat—the common denominator is about connecting people to each other through our parks.

“One thing we’re really excited about is supporting so many great programs for BIPOC youth,” says Marsha Yang, a member of the People for Parks Advisory Committee that selects each year’s grantees. “We’re now starting our third grant round, and the great ideas we’re getting from the community tell us the word about the People for Parks Fund is really getting out there.”

Parks Foundation board member Jasmine Russell, who chairs the People for Parks Fund Advisory Committee, says that seeing how people are using the parks at ground level is inspiring. “Sometimes philanthropy can seem very high level, like only certain people have access to it, but the People for Parks Fund has become a bridge that creates more direct connection between the Parks Foundation and the people who use the parks every day,” she says. “There’s a different energy when you’re directly connected with people who use the park, and the best part is they’re coming up with great ideas for making them even better.”

With a week-long online sale following a festive opening at Royal Foundry Craft Spirits, Posters for Parks sold more than 1,000 numbered prints, while helping to raise $48,000 to support the artists and the People for Parks Fund. Mark your calendar for 2023’s event, coming October 14 at the Royal Foundry.
ADVANCE EQUITY AND CULTURAL INCLUSION
FOSTER COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLBEING
SPARK ECONOMIC VITALITY

Reconnecting Through North Commons

Could parks be the cure for fragmented communities?

While the social distancing demands of the pandemic may be dwindling, the public health impacts of persistent loneliness and social isolation are drawing growing alarm. In fact, a new U.S. Surgeon General’s report finds that Americans are lonelier than they’ve ever been, and warns that a lack of social support can have long-term health impacts equivalent to smoking 15 cigarettes a day.

But the problem of loneliness can depend on where you live. As a recent community health needs assessment from North Memorial Health discovered, adults living in Minneapolis were nearly three times as likely as those in outer ring suburbs to report that they feel isolated. Some 25 percent of adults in the city reported that they rarely or never get social or emotional support—a rate nearly 50 percent higher than adults from the city’s inner ring suburbs. Could parks be part of the solution?

That’s one of the questions the community of North Minneapolis has been asking as it explores plans for a major transformation of North Commons Park. One of the oldest and most established parks in the city, North Commons serves one of the youngest and most diverse communities in the state—including nearly 12,000 youth who live within a one-mile radius. As the Minneapolis Parks Foundation prepares to launch a capital campaign in support of North Commons, the nonprofit fundraising partner of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board has also been meeting with a host of neighbors and nonprofits, parks users, and community youth groups to listen and learn more about how parks programs can help promote the overall health of the community.

“When we look at the social determinants of health, we know that our environment is important, so that’s why we’re signing on and saying, ‘Yes, we want to be a part of collaborating with the parks,’” says Sherrie Simpson, Director of Planning, Communication and Engage-
ment at NorthPoint Health. “Having safe outdoor spaces is good for our mental health and wellbeing, and the parks are trusted places where people show up to be part of the fabric of a neighborhood.”

Over the last year, community engagement sessions with other community partners have yielded new ideas for addressing neighborhood needs, from hosting community food shelves and kids’ dental clinics, to offering makers’ spaces for carpenters and mechanics, to hosting career training events at North Commons. “This community is so creative about what parks can be,” says the Minneapolis Parks Foundation’s Director of Projects, Vicky Soukaseum, a North Minneapolis resident and frequent North Commons visitor. “As we hear more about what communities want to see in their space, the power of partnership is expanding our thoughts and opening the door for creativity and transformation.”

It’s an approach that resonates with Bank of America, whose support helps make the Parks Foundation’s growing community engagement work possible. “Through our charitable giving, Bank of America is focused on racial equality, economic growth, social justice and environmental sustainability and we see all of those elements at work in what the Minneapolis Parks Foundation is doing for the community,” says Karen Trouba, Senior Vice President, Market Manager, Bank of America. “Parks are a great equalizer because everyone has access to parks—they contribute to community health and wellbeing, but they also provide opportunities for people to connect to others in meaningful ways. Supporting the Minneapolis Parks Foundation has been a great partnership for Bank of America, because it allows us to live our values by investing in sustainable change in our communities.”

Investing in Equity: A Campaign for North Commons

As the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board continues its work in North Minneapolis, creating a community-driven design for North Commons Park, the Minneapolis Parks Foundation has been meeting with parks supporters in preparation for a major capital campaign set to launch in 2023. “Based on our feasibility studies, we’re seeing a great deal of interest from donors who want to be part of building a next generation park at North Commons,” says Jennifer Downham, the Parks Foundation’s Chief Development Officer. With early support from the WEM Foundation, Bank of America, and Parks Foundation Board Members, more than $11 million in donations and commitments has already been successfully secured for the project. As the Parks Foundation prepares a public announcement of the campaign, donations toward the effort are also being matched dollar for dollar, up to $250,000, thanks to a generous challenge grant from the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation. To learn more about how you can support the promise of parks in North Minneapolis, email Jennifer at jdownham@mplsparksfoundation.org.
Reconnecting to the River

Parks users are continuing to discover two hidden gems on the Mississippi River

Since its opening, Water Works is well on its way to becoming the cornerstone of the city’s downtown park system, catering to an ever-changing list of community needs.

“We’re seeing different groups using the park in different ways and at different times, from people who exercise here in the morning, or who bring a book in the afternoon, or come for a concert at night,” says the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board’s Erica Chua, Recreation Supervisor for the city’s downtown parks. This season, she’s planning an even more robust set of programs, from live theater events to community chess tournaments and movies in the park. “It’s still a hidden gem that we want people to discover.”

Making sure that Minneapolis residents know all about their newest park assets has also been a focus for Shawn Lewis, Project Coordinator at the Minneapolis Parks Foundation, which led the RiverFirst Campaign behind Water Works and the Great Northern Greenway Overlook. “North Minneapolis has had its back to the river for so long, that when you take young people biking in the area, or to visit the new Overlook, they often say they had no idea the river was so close to them,” says Lewis, who is working closely with the Great Northern Greenway Coalition and other community groups to get the word out. “Our goal is to connect people to the river, so they can enjoy it in new ways.”

Revealing Unseen Stories

Water Works Park and Pavilion was created as a space for celebrating the power of the Mississippi River and our relationship to it as people—from many cultures and backgrounds, and with many different stories to tell. In 2022, we began elevating unseen stories through a new multimedia project. A video and an interactive map explore the relationship of Dakota culture and language to this special place and allows visitors to hear the language spoken. And a companion video reintroduces Reiko Weston, whose Fuji-Ya Restaurant graced this space for more than a generation, ultimately leading to the riverfront rebirth we enjoy today.

Scan to watch the videos and experience the StoryMap.

Accolades for Water Works

Water Works has been recognized nationally and internationally, including these recent awards:

- TIME 100 Most Influential People of 2023: Sean Sherman, The Sioux Chef and NATIFS
- 2022 American Society of Landscape Architects: Award of Excellence for Water Works at Mill Ruins Park
- 2022 James Beard Award for Best New Restaurant: Owamni by The Sioux Chef
- 2022 American Institute of Architects: Honor Award for Water Works Pavilion
Thank You, Donors

Thanks to your generous support this year, the Minneapolis Parks Foundation continues to help people feel invested in our community and connected to others by provided opportunities to give back to our parks. Since 2003, contributions from individual and institutional donors like those recognized below has totaled nearly $29 million for transformative parks. Thank you!

### Institutional Supporters

**$50,000 and above**
- Bank of America
- Charitable Foundation

**$10,000 – $49,999**
- Ameriprise Financial
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- The Quaker Hill Foundation Inc.

### Individual Supporters

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- Duane and Mary Alice Krohnke
- Leighton Ladd
- June Prange and Carolyn Schurr**
- Bill Wojcik
- Anonymous (4)

**Gifts realized**

---

**Horace Cleveland Circle**

Recognizing the significant contribution of donors who have made cumulative general operating gifts of $50,000 or more.

- Sue Bennett
- David Dayton and Mary Bolla
- Judy Dayton
- Martha Gabbert
- Richard Erickson and Bonnie Bottoms
- Steve and Sam Boren King
- Mary McCarthy and Brian Zelikson
- Greg McNeely
- Elizabeth Redleaf
- Paul and Mary Reyelts
- Dr. and Mrs. Paul L. Trump
- Frank and Frances Wilkinson
- Angus and Margaret Wurtele
- Anonymous

**Heritage Oak Society**

Recognizing donors who have thoughtfully included the Minneapolis Parks Foundation in their estate plans.

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- Jayson Drake
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- Marvin Gilman**
- Rick Groger and Don Yager
- Jocelyn Hale and Glenn Miller
- Gary Hektner
- Steve and Sam Boren King
- Duane and Mary Alice Krohnke
- Leighton Ladd
- June Prange and Carolyn Schurr**
- Bill Wojcik
- Anonymous (4)
continued from page 9

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John and Nancy Lindahl
Alice McGuigan and Dale Olson
Theodore and Judy Nagel
Russ Nelson
Emily and Will Nicoll
Carla Pardue
Jim and Donna Peter
# 2022 Financial Statements

## Balance Sheet 12/31/2022

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</tbody>
</table>

| Temporarily Restricted (Programs) | $995,893 |
| Permanently Restricted (Endowment) | $436,163 |

| Total Net Assets      | **$2,596,707** |

## Income/Expense Statement (Unrestricted) 2022

### Income

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>901,792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Grants</td>
<td>89,161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising Events</td>
<td>135,413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment &amp; Other Income</td>
<td>38,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,165,116</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Expense

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Expenses</td>
<td>777,569</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core Mission-Support Services</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance, HR, Board, Operations</td>
<td>244,736</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development</td>
<td>202,436</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expense</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,224,436</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Change in Net Assets     | **($59,625)** |

## Investments in Minneapolis Parks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Investment Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>$496,560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>$3,001,341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>$4,748,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>$6,377,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>$526,824</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>$503,285</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Investments from 2018 to 2020 include payments to MPRB for two successfully completed parks: Water Works and 26th Ave N Overlook.*

## Sources of Income

- **54%** Individuals
- **17%** Special Projects
- **16%** Foundations
- **8%** Government
- **4%** Corporations

## Expenses

- **63%** Program
- **17%** Fundraising
- **20%** Management & General
The Minneapolis Parks Foundation transforms human lives through parks and public spaces by aligning philanthropic investment and community vision.