



Parks and Recreation

Presentation of 2026 Budget Proposal to City Council

Agenda

- Executive Summary
- 2025 Budget Recap
- Updates on Recent Initiatives
- 2026 Proposed Changes
- Budget History
- Spending Summary
- FTEs Summary
- Revenue Changes and Outlook
- Questions & Discussion





Executive Summary Parks and Recreation

Mission

To make Saint Paul a city that works for all of us, Saint Paul Parks and Recreation will facilitate the creation of active lifestyles, vibrant places and a vital environment.

Vision

Saint Paul Parks and Recreation will make Saint Paul a city that works for all of us by:

- Responding creatively to change.
- Innovating with every decision.
- Connecting the entire city.

2025-2026 Strategic Planning Goals

Community Health & Wellbeing

Creating opportunities for Saint Paul residents to foster their physical and mental health through access to year-round, high-quality recreational spaces, nature, public art, sports and physical fitness programs, and community events.

Race Equity & Accessibility

Strengthening partnerships between staff and community members to provide culturally relevant and low barrier access to outdoor amenities, recreational services, community events, youth development, and intergenerational programming to empower ALL residents to use and enjoy the city's recreational, educational, and natural assets.

Sustainability & Stewardship

Developing and maintaining climate resilient open spaces, parks, and recreational amenities through sustainable practices and partnership agreements that protect the land, water, air, animals, and people of Saint Paul.

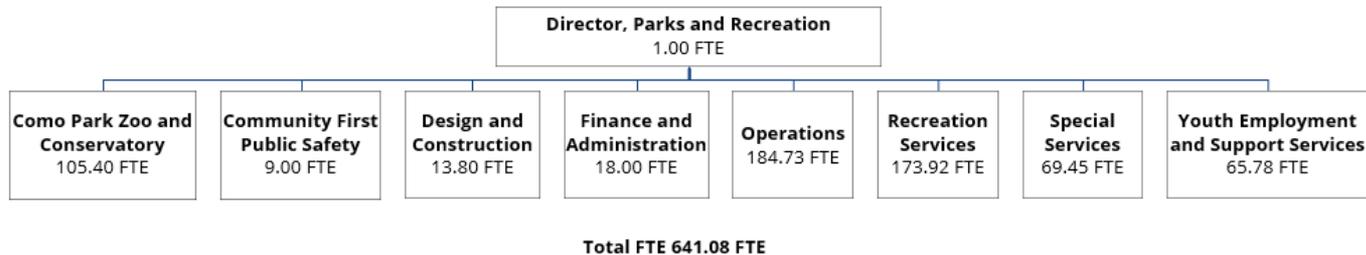


Services Provided

- Youth employment & support services
- Facility & park maintenance
- Forestry & environmental services
- After-school programming & childcare
- Como Park Zoo & Conservatory
- Contract services
- Park security
- Community First Public Safety
- Special events
- Community engagement
- Customer support
- Construction management
- Urban design & planning
- Awakenings
- Permits & rentals
- Indoor & outdoor recreation for all ages:
 - Aquatics
 - Ski
 - Golf
 - Fitness classes
 - Field trips
 - Arts & crafts
 - Environmental programming
 - Athletics
- And so much more!



Parks and Recreation Organizational Chart



Department Division Descriptions

The Parks and Recreation Department is managed by the **Parks Director** and includes the following department divisions:

- **Como Park Zoo and Conservatory** manages the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory, Como Zoo, Education Programming, Volunteer Management, Visitor Services, Reservations, Programs, Rentals and Permits, Maintenance and Facilities, and Marketing and Public Relations.
- **Community First Public Safety** manages the Awakenings intervention program, designed to help directly address inequities in the community, specifically amongst youth experiencing trauma.
- **Design and Construction** provides services that develop and preserve the City's open space system. This system includes parks, trails, recreational/athletic facilities, parkways, gardens, squares, plazas, wetlands, environmental preserves, and more.
- **Finance and Administration** manages Accounting, Budget Development, Internship Program, Internal Compliance and Auditing, Marketing and Public Relations, Technology and Data Systems, Customer Support, Permit Office, Accreditation, Department Budget Strategy Partnerships, Marketing, Administration and Finance, Technology, and Interdepartmental and Interdivision Relationships.
- **Operations** manages Contract Services, Harriet Island, Citywide Special Events, Support, Maintenance, Natural Resources, Forestry, Building Trades, **Parks Safety and Security**, and Emergency Management.
- **Recreation Services** manages community centers across the city that provide residents with a welcoming space to engage in a variety of activities designed to help participants learn, stay active, and socialize. Serving as community gathering spots, these spacious facilities contribute to the famously cohesive neighborhoods of Saint Paul.
- **Special Services** manages **Golf Operations**, **Ski Operations**, Contract Management, Services Partnership Administration, and **Aquatics**.
- **Youth Employment and Support Services** manages the Right Track program, HR Liaison, Accommodations, Administrative, LEP, and Training.

Parks and Recreation also manages the Parks and Recreation Commission.



Rec Center Safety Incidents

- **Sept 2024 – Aug 2025** incident reports (avg. 30-45 incidents per month):
 - **424** submitted reports ranging from medical incidents to gun draws and drug use
 - **68** medical or accidents
 - **356** patron behavior
- Most common types of incidents:
 - Disruptive behavior (90)
 - Physical assault (64)
 - Theft (33)
 - Medical (31)
 - Verbal assault (25)
- Disruptive Behavior and Physical Assault are the most consistent challenges across locations



2025 Highlights/Recap

- #5 ParkScore ranking from Trust for Public Land -11 consecutive years as a top park system!
- Over 800 youth and young adults engaged in internships this summer; record interest with over 3000 applications!
- New play areas at Carty Park, Harriet Island, Duluth and Case, Wacouta Commons, and Taylor Park.
- Mica Park opened at Highland Bridge.
- Awakenings program has nearly doubled to 133 participants.
- Wakan Tipi Center construction well underway.
- In the past year, our Special Services sites (aquatics, golf & ski) have hosted nearly 190,000 visits.
- Successfully hosted the 2nd annual Minnesota Yacht Club festival at Harriet Island with over 100,000 attendees.





2025 Highlights

- In the past year, between special event permits, rec services, and Como Park Zoo & Conservatory, there have been 31,830 reservations at 487 rooms/locations totaling 161,495 reservation hours - an average of 18 rentals/events every day!
- Youth on Boards welcomed its fifth cohort of 19 young people in the summer of 2025.
- Saint Paul Youth Commission (SPYC) recruited a full commission of 22 young people representing 11 different districts in Saint Paul.
- Living Lands and Waters floating classroom barge at Harriet Island.
- Expanded Music in the Parks program, Melodies & Market on the Mississippi, Music, Music on the Mississippi, Yappy Hour, Folk Dancing, Yappy Hour and more.





2025 Highlights

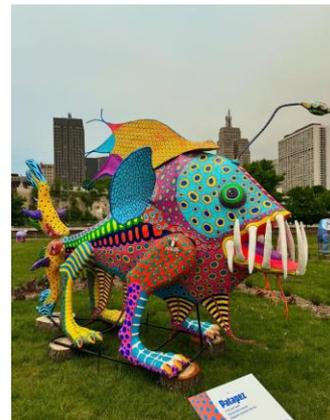
- Grand opening of Pedro Park!
- Grand opening of North End Community Center!
- Construction Underway for Sam Morgan and Fish Hatchery Regional Trails.
- Resurfaced courts at 13 locations.
- New soccer nets across entire system.
- Citywide bike parking infrastructure.
- So far in 2025, we've had 2,838 free youth swimming lessons participants, 141 Jr. lifeguards in training, and 62 adult swimming students.
- Launched Camp Phalen with water safety training, paddling, fishing, hiking, camping, cooking and all things outdoorsy at the lake staffed by youth lifeguards.





2025 Highlights

- Over 20 basketball teams went to Rec State Tournament.
- 16% increase in Rec Check participants.
- 22% increase in fitness center memberships.
- Over 90 spring volleyball teams (14% participant increase) and over 60 futsal teams (8% participant increase).
- Updated Rules & Regs with a focus on safety in Rec Center spaces.
- Interest and demand in our permit sites remain high, with 2,902 permits issued for 2025 events at 110 facilities.
- Alebrijes exhibit at Raspberry Island.
- Como's corpse flower reached record-breaking bloom in June. 64,000 people in 35 countries live-streamed the event.





Recent Investments

General Fund	Amount	FTE	Frequency	Year
Free Youth Sports	\$ 560,000	2.75	Ongoing	2025
Tree Planting/Urban Canopy	\$ 500,000	-	Ongoing	2025
Activation of Public Spaces (Downtown Invest)	\$ 165,000	-	<i>One Time</i>	2025
Public Art (Downtown Invest)	\$ 100,000	-	One Time	2025
Tree Trimming/Veg Management (Downtown Invest)	\$ 145,000	-	<i>One Time</i>	2025
CFPS Public Safety Budget	\$ 208,048	-	<i>One Time</i>	2025
North End Operating	\$ 1,074,425	11.33	<i>Ongoing</i>	2025
Utility Increase	\$ 416,856	-	Ongoing	2025
Highland Bridge (Ford) Operating - Fleet	\$ 23,460	-	Ongoing	2025
Free Swimming at Jimmy Lee - Additional Staff	\$ 102,000	1.80	Ongoing	2025
Reduce Health Insurance - Dept Reduction	\$ (364,175)		<i>Ongoing</i>	2025



2026 GF Proposed Changes

General Fund	Amount	FTE	Frequency
Rec Center AM Hours Reduction	\$ (54,457)	(0.80)	Ongoing
Joint Use Rec Center Weekday Night Hours	\$ (98,290)	(1.60)	Ongoing
Reduce Recreation Center Cleaning	\$ (59,031)	(1.16)	Ongoing
Eliminate Vacant Office Assistant I	\$ (71,055)	(1.00)	Ongoing
Eliminate Design Center	\$ (108,669)	-	Ongoing
Utility Increase	\$ 200,000	-	Ongoing
Total	\$ (191,502)	(4.56)	



Rec Center AM Hours Reduction

\$54,457	General Fund	Ongoing	.8 FTE
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To avoid the closure of any recreation center, the following locations will shift their opening hours from 9:00a to 10:00a:

- Highland Park
- Linwood
- Arlington Hills
- North Dale
- Battle Creek
- North End
- Frogtown
- Edgcumbe
- Oxford

Data from hourly use of buildings demonstrates less use between 9:00 and 10:00 compared to other hours throughout the day. At most sites, the use in the second hour over the first hour is nearly double and continues to increase throughout the day.





Joint Use Rec Center Weekday Night Hours

\$98,290

General Fund

Ongoing

1.6 FTE

To avoid the closure of any recreation center, the following locations will shift their closing hours on Mondays-Thursdays from either 8:00p or 9:00p to 6:00p:

- Hancock
- Highwood Hills
- Merriam Park
- Wilder

These centers see a significant reduction in use in the evening after rec check has ended for the day. Each site will still be able to host sports practices in the evening hours but will not be open for drop in use. This model allows us to lock the doors and have fewer staff on hand.





Reduce Recreation Center Cleaning

\$59,031

General Fund

Ongoing

1.16 FTE

- Reduce the frequency of Parks worker hours for cleaning inside recreation facilities, utilizing other onsite resources as available
- Focus will be first to target facilities with reduced hours, but all facilities will experience some level of impact





Eliminate Vacant OAI

\$71,055

General Fund

Ongoing

1.00 FTE

- Position was held vacant to help pay for staffing overlaps (FMLA/Paternity Leave/etc)
- Eliminating vacant FTE was prioritized over any potential staff layoffs
- Extended leaves and/or unplanned staffing disruptions will require department to not backfill thereby potentially causing programmatic and/or facility hour impacts.





Eliminate Design Center

\$108,669

General Fund

Ongoing

0 FTE

- Multi-department impact with funding source used to fund planning/design time without a dedicated project and/or funding source
- Requests for staff to engage prior to a project funding source being established will not be able to be accommodated without a separate funding source
- *Currently, design time is built into individual capital project budgets and funds the staff that are assigned to the project*
- Examples of past uses:
 - The Heights (\$57,000 in 2024, \$17,000 in 2023)
 - River Balcony/River Learning Center (\$27,000 in 2024)





Utility Increase

\$200,000	General Fund	Ongoing	0 FTE
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- Utility costs have increased by more than 40% over the last 10 years
- Parks and Recreation has been aggressive in advancing energy efficiency projects at it's 80 plus buildings and has seen some energy consumption reductions - but even with energy savings, lack of past budget increases resulted in a remaining budget gap
- Multi-year strategy to incrementally increase utility budget to match actual cost
 - 2024 budget included \$210k, and 2025 budget included \$416k
 - Expect utility costs to continue to rise due to inflation so future year deficits will need to be addressed through continued energy savings initiatives (Como Geothermal, lighting, etc.) and inflationary increases in base city budgets



Historical Budget-to-Actual

General Fund - Budget/Actual

Year	Adopted Budget	Revised Budget	Actual	Variance (Revised vs Actual)	Variance %
2021	\$ 39,563,374	\$ 40,205,812	\$ 40,083,983	121,829	0.3%
2022	\$ 41,118,438	\$ 40,341,117	\$ 38,487,616	1,853,501	4.6%
2023	\$ 43,443,557	\$ 47,761,914	\$ 46,560,745	1,201,169	2.5%
2024	\$ 46,455,241	\$ 49,950,502	\$ 51,234,340	(1,283,838)	-2.6%

Notes

- * \$1,900,000 added to Parks GF Budget in 2022 Year End resolution
- * \$1,731,310 added to Parks GF Budget in 2023 Year End Resolution
- * \$1,301,096 added to Parks GF Budget in 2024 Year End Resolution



Revenue Overview – Government Funds

Revenue Source	2022	2023	2024	23 Vs 24 Variance	Notes
Charges for Services	\$ 2,930,564	\$ 3,191,260	\$ 3,322,474	\$ 131,214	Includes Recreation, Como Campus Fees, Citywide, and Muni Fees (Rentals, Classes, Food, etc.)
Contributions	\$ 2,327,587	\$ 2,328,321	\$ 2,274,620	\$ (53,701)	Includes primarily Como Voluntary Donations
Intergovernmental Revenue	\$ 1,275,869	\$ 2,189,710	\$ 1,451,291	\$ (738,419)	Regional Park O&M (Operations & Maintenance) funding from the Metropolitan Council – One time increase in the State General Fund appropriation for 2023.
Total	\$ 6,534,020	\$ 7,709,292	\$ 7,048,385	\$ (660,907)	



Revenue Overview – Enterprise Funds

Revenue Source	2022	2023	2024	23 Vs 24 Variance	Notes
Charges for Services	\$ 3,290,533	\$ 3,615,349	\$ 4,159,384	\$ 544,035	Primarily Golf Fees. This also includes Park Permit and Facility Rental Fees as well as some lease revenue from partner organizations
Total	\$ 3,290,533	\$ 3,615,349	\$ 4,159,384	\$ 544,035	

Activity Performance: Fund Overviews by Activity

Accounting Unit Name
Seasonal Swimming

Accounting Unit
10041620

Division
Special Services

Committed to by Activity Manager
Amanda Smith

Fund
General

Fiscal Year
2025

Accounting Unit Name
Street Tree Maintenance

Accounting Unit
10041412

Division
Operations

Committed to by Activity Manager
Tom Hagel

Fund
General

Fiscal Year
2025

Accounting Unit Name
Indoor Swimming

Accounting Unit
10041625

Division
Special Services

Committed to by Activity Manager
Amanda Smith

Fund
General

Fiscal Year
2025

Accounting Unit Description and Purpose:
Indoor aquatic facilities, staffing, and programs at Great River Water Park have upwards of 100,000 guests per year, staffed by 300+ seasonal hires. Our most essential and quintessential program is swim lessons, which we conduct over 4,000, eight session, lessons of per year. To make sure that every young person in the City of Saint Paul can learn to swim, we have two robust programs which ensure cost never keeps a child from taking lessons with us. First, we have an incredible booster club at Great River Water Park, which will cover up to 75% of the cost of swim lessons (family pays \$15 instead of \$60) that usually awards a couple hundred scholarships each year. Secondly, out of our operating budget we will reduce the swim lesson cost by 50% if scholarships have all been exhausted. While neither one of these programs makes swim lessons completely free, there is nowhere else a child can get two weeks of quality lessons for a similar price. While swim lessons are mostly catered to children, whole families take advantage of our open swims that allow them to use the giant slides and other play features. Water aerobics and lap swim are two daily programs that are mostly utilized by adults looking to stay healthy and fit while participating in group and community recreation. Each of these groups has their own needs and desires that we try to meet and each of them has a passionate group of participants that rely on these programs that greatly impact their quality of life.

Description of Services:
Lifeguard training, swim lessons, open swim, water aerobics, lap swim, adaptive recreation, facility rentals and special events are our main programs. Over the last 10 years, as we've worked to bring the new amenities at the Como Pool, Highland Park Aquatic Center and Great River Water Park online, we made sure that we kept our daily admissions at or below market rate for comparable water parks in the Twin Cities metro area. Along with keeping normal prices low, we also offer several programs to provide affordable access options throughout the summer, including: 52 Family Fun Fridays, senior discounts, free teen aquatic fitness, special group pricing to both internal and external youth programs, a free beach at Lake Phalen (where we also serve free meals twice a day), and several splash pads throughout the city. During the school year we have half-price Mondays and Wednesdays as well as 54 Sundays at Great River Water Park. While all of these things are great, teaching young people to swim is critical to protecting them around water.

Section Highlights:
1. Free Swim Lessons 2. Women's Swim Night provides equitable access to swimming facilities for women and girls who may otherwise not be utilizing these spaces due to religious beliefs or cultural practices 3. Lifeguard Training of over 300 people seasonally including a free program to encourage POC enrolling.

Performance Goals:
1. Maintain or increase program attendance. 2. Balanced budget at year's end. 3. No major accidents or incidents. 4. Outstanding and responsive customer service.

Future Needs:
1. Play features at all of the remodeled pools either need regular maintenance or they will begin to fail from age (elements at both Great River already need replacement or major rehab), lap pool gutters, flooring, and the slides are of particular concern 2. Staff salaries within the AFSCME unit have not kept pace with the rise of state minimum wage, making our positions less attractive. 3. The workforce budget has not changed with the remodels and now we require significantly more staff for the increased features and programs (see attached). 4. Lockers are not secure and patrons get regularly robbed.

Comments:
Membership and daily admission costs have risen sharply since 2013, most significantly in 2016. As a result in 2016 we saw a significant decrease in attendance even though the daily high temperature and minutes of sunshine were the highest of any year since Como's remodel. Prices have hit a tipping point and we will likely see more diminishing returns with any more increased prices.

Activity Data

	Budget	FTE's	Actuals
2023 Budget/Actual			
Expenses	\$ 832,500	10.64	\$ 915,941
Revenue	\$ 326,500		\$ 265,394

2024 Adopted Budget

Expenses	\$ 1,105,507	13.38
Revenue	\$ 123,810	

2025 Estimated Budget

Expenses	\$ 1,114,298	17.13
Revenue	\$ 273,500	

Last 5 Years Additions/Subtractions:
Free Swim Lessons in 2024, and Free Open Swim Sundays at GRWP

All Significant Additions Prior to the Last 5 Years:
1. Loss of drop slide due to deterioration (2014) 2. Replacement of diving board (2016)



Budget Summary: Spending

Fund	FY23 Adopted	FY24 Adopted	FY25 Adopted	FY26 Proposed	\$ Change	% Change
General Fund	43,443,557	46,455,242	50,018,716	52,537,099	2,518,383	5%
Grants	5,311,570	5,729,057	5,974,311	6,064,711	90,400	2%
Gen Gov't – Parks	-	-	4,083,812	3,405,849	(677,963)	-17%
Recreation Programming	5,048,859	5,131,572	5,181,521	5,335,506	153,985	3%
Como Campus	7,161,793	7,350,885	7,477,085	7,749,515	272,430	4%
Parkland Replacement	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	-	0%
Lowertown Ballpark	824,600	1,024,600	1,024,600	1,024,600	-	0%
Recycling & Solid Waste	-	-	-	403,382	403,382	0%
Special Services	4,482,439	4,794,610	5,077,818	5,149,148	71,330	1%
Supply & Maintenance	9,711,046	9,255,451	9,949,188	6,150,737	(3,798,451)	-38%
All Funds	76,183,864	79,941,417	88,987,051	88,020,547	(966,504)	-1%

**One-time catch-up costs are included in the General Fund (GF) due to the transfer of forestry staff back to the GF. This adjustment covers five years of COLA and contractual salary increases.*



FTEs Summary

Fund	Fund Description	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Change from 2025
		Adopted Budget FTE	Adopted Budget FTE	Adopted Budget FTE	Adopted Budget FTE	Proposed Budget FTE	
100	General Fund	323.88	329.88	344.68	370.21	400.35	30.14
200	Grants	60.23	66.23	68	70.5	69.98	(0.52)
211	General Gov't - Parks	-	-	-	17.55	17.55	-
260	Recreation Programming	31.29	31.29	31.29	31.29	30.29	(1.00)
261	Como Campus	58.37	58.37	58.37	58.17	58.17	-
645	Recycling & Solid Waste	-	-	-	-	2.50	2.50
660	Special Services	24.22	24.92	26.92	26.92	26.92	-
760	Supply & Maintenance	72.25	74.45	68.95	69.95	35.32	(34.63)
	Total	570.24	585.14	598.21	644.59	641.08	(3.51)
	ARP	24.93	28.93	26.03	-	-	-
	Total with ARP	595.17	614.07	624.24	644.59	641.08	(3.51)

**2025 Adopted/Beginning FTE****644.59**

Description	FTE Impact	Fund
Forestry FTE Shift to General Fund	37.2	100
Shift 2.5 FTE's out of GF to F645	-2.5	100
Recreation Hours Reduction	-2.4	100
Office Assistant I Reduction	-1	100
Rec Maintenance Reduction (PW II)	-1.16	100
Right Track Budget Neutral (Technical)	-0.52	200
O&M FTE Conversion (Park Security)	-1	260
Shift 2.5 FTE's to Recycle & Waste Fund	2.5	645
Add 2 LOST (Common Cent) FTE's	2	760
Forestry SF Budget Neutral (Technical)	0.57	760
Forestry Shift out of Special Fund	-37.2	760

2026 Proposed Total FTE's**641.08****Change from 2025 Adopted****-3.51**



Personnel Budget

<i>Budget Year</i>	<i>FTE</i>	<i>Salary</i>	<i>Benefits</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Parks - 2025 Adopted</i>	644.59	\$ 40,507,641	\$ 17,143,112	\$ 57,650,753
<i>Parks - 2026 Proposed</i>	641.08	\$ 42,408,781	\$ 18,634,872	\$ 61,043,653
<i>Change</i>	-3.51	\$ 1,901,140	\$ 1,491,760	\$ 3,392,900
<i>% of Change</i>	-0.5%	5%	9%	6%



Common Cent Highlights To-Date

- New project website (completed, current and future): StPaul.gov/ParksCommonCent
- 2024-2025 deferred maintenance: **Over 100 parks projects totaling almost \$60M** completed (or near completion)
 - Have prioritized addressing our deferred maintenance backlog including our top department priorities (streamline conversion to geothermal at Como Zoo, 80 urgent deferred building, asphalt, field, athletic courts, play areas, water features, and downtown parks improvements)
- Facility Condition Index % - Goal - 10% (Good)
 - Pre-Common Cent Investments – 22% (Poor)
 - Current (pending completion of pending deferred projects) – 18% (Fair)
- Will continue investing CIB & Common Cent in deferred projects
- Prioritizing system-wide data updates and review in 2026



Common Cent – 2026

- Pending CIB decisions (Next critical deferred maintenance projects – focus on roofs/HVAC/failing park amenities)
- Hallie Q Brown/MLK Rec Center Roof (CIB match request)
- Highland Park Aquatic Pool Walls and Bottom Refinish (CIB match request)
- Jimmy Lee Rec Center Elevator/Roof/Flooring/Fixtures (Tentative - Pending state match request)
- Field Rejuvenation Projects
 - McMurray Fields (Cap Region Watershed District Partnership/Match), North Dale Rec Center, Groveland Rec Center, Merriam Park Rec Center, Baker Park
- Asphalt Projects
 - Hidden Falls, Conway, Phalen Rec, Valley
- Athletic Courts Projects
 - Hamline Futsal, Battle creek and Mounds court removal
- Play Areas
 - Victoria Park Universally Accessible
 - Pending Kaboom Partnership (Top priorities - Battle Creek, Newell, Orchard, Douglas)
- Major Project Support – River Learning Center (Pending state match)
- **Adding two FTE's in the LOST special fund to help manage the increasing volume of Common Cent projects*



Tree Planting / Urban Canopy - Overview

	2026 FUNDING	IDEAL/FULL FUNDING	VARIANCE - 2026 (POST PORT FUNDING) TO IDEAL/FULL FUNDING
GENERAL FUND	\$5,575,617.00	\$ 9,173,000.00	\$ (3,597,383.00)
CIB	\$330,000.00	\$1,800,000.00	\$ (1,470,000.00)
FED Grant*	\$325,600.00	\$325,600.00	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$6,231,217.00	\$11,298,600.00	\$ (5,067,383.00)
TREES REMOVED	2,120	2,120	-
STUMPS REMOVED	870	2,120	(1,250)
TREES PLANTED	1,150	4,150	(3,000)
TREES PRUNED**	10,500	21,000	(10,500)

*Federal Grant Allocated \$2M Over 5-Years, 80% to Forestry, remaining to natural resources

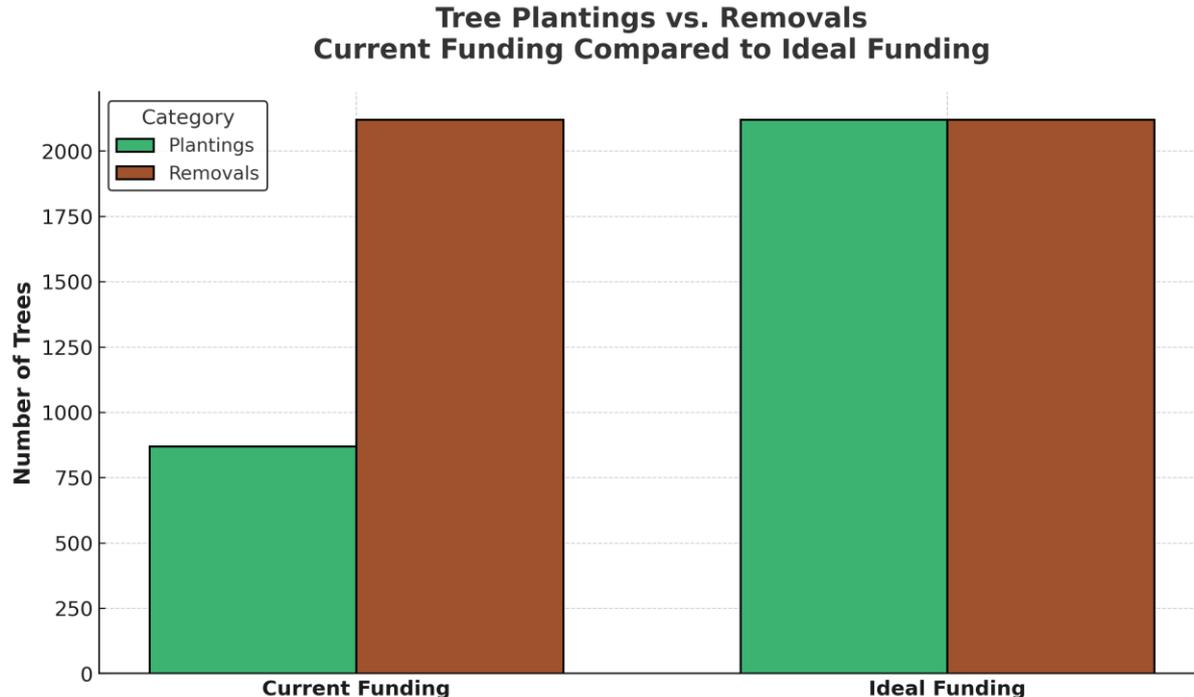
** Prune all trees within next 5 years to improve tree health



Tree Planting / Urban Canopy – Contd.

Current proposed budget (Forestry manages 115,000 public ROW trees): GF- \$5,575,617.00

**For comparison, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board manages a similar number of public trees with nearly 2x the funding levels and staffing capacity*





Downtown Park Activation

Creating Welcoming, Vibrant Green Spaces

Downtown parks attract visitors and residents. These public gathering spaces encourage people to stay, connect, and come back. As one of the best parks and recreation systems in the country, we take pride in the many opportunities to enjoy the outdoors downtown.

Together with our local businesses, community partners, and downtown ambassadors we featured events and activities to explore, play, enjoy music and art, and grab a bite to eat in our downtown parks, including:

- Kick it at Kellogg Mall Park
- Pedro Park Grand Opening
- Fitness, Movies, and Music in the Parks
- Alebrijes: Keepers of the Island
- UnRec
- by_a.thread :: downtown saint paul stories
- Food truck Wednesdays and Thursdays in Rice and Kellogg
- Mears Park summer block parties
- Lowertown Sounds and JazzFest
- And much more!

We look forward to expanding upon the success of this summer as we move into 2026!





Questions & Discussion

2025 Challenges & 2026 Tracking Items

- Public Safety
- Downtown Park Activation
- Impact to tree related needs with planned increase in street reconstruction/ lead pipe replacement projects



A large group of people of various ages and ethnicities are dancing in a circle on a paved area outdoors. In the background, there is a green lawn, trees, and a tall wooden structure. The scene is set during the day under a clear sky. The text "Thank You!" is overlaid in the center of the image.

Thank You!