Minnetonka's natural resources are its distinguishing feature, and the one feature the city's residents cherish most. From the headwaters of Minnehaha Creek to the many wetlands and forested areas, Minnetonka provides a cornucopia of natural beauty amid a major metropolitan area. More than 20 percent of the city's land area is wetlands and lakes, with more than 400 acres of maintained parkland in 30 parks; 33 miles of trails; and 1,000 acres of natural public open spaces.

Minnetonka Trail System

The trail system connects all of Minnetonka's cultural and commercial activity centers and many of those in adjoining communities. It also directly connects to several regional amenities including transit facilities, Bryant Lake Regional Park, and the Three Rivers Park District's combined 27-mile Lake Minnetonka and Minnesota River Bluffs LRT Trails (formerly the Southwest Regional LRT Trails). Nearby French Regional Park and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' Luce Line Trail are readily accessible via adjoining community trails.

Trails are located off road wherever possible and follow the city's three major creek corridors; Minnehaha, Nine Mile and Purgatory. The trails wind through many city parks and natural open space areas, providing access to wetlands, lakes, marshes and woodlands. Users of the trail system experience much of the natural environment characteristic of Minnetonka.

Throughout the height of the season, trails are patrolled regularly by Minnetonka Police Department personnel on bicycle and in special police vehicles. In addition, Three Rivers Park District Rangers patrol the Three Rivers LRT Trails from April through November.

Trail Facilities

Restrooms and drinking fountains are available at each of the five community parks - Civic Center, Meadow and Purgatory (all year), Big Willow and Big Willow (seasonally).

Terrain and Traffic

Trails are usually eight feet wide and provide ample room for two-way traffic. Surfaces are either compacted crushed limestone or asphalt, depending on the area and terrain. At some uncontrolled intersections with major roadways, the trail will cross the road via a pedestrian underpass or overpass to minimize conflicts with traffic. For your safety, yield to motor vehicles at intersections and obey all traffic signs and basic rules of the road.

Trail Maintenance

Much of the trail system is plowed during the winter months, making it usable throughout the year. Cross-country skiing and snowmobiling are not allowed.

For full details and updated park and trail regulations, visit www.eminnetonka.com or call Minnetonka Public Works at (952) 988-8400

Big Willow Park ★★

Located between Minnetonka Boulevard and Cedar Lake Road, just west of the Minnetonka Public Works facility, Big Willow Park's 95 acres makes it the smallest of the city's five community parks. Big Willow's striking features include views of Minnehaha Creek, expansive open spaces and extensive trails along with community athletic fields, a play area and a canoe launch.

Civic Center Park ★★

Located in the center of the city, just north of Minnetonka City Hall, the Civic Center Park's 146 acres features a soccer field, play equipment, trails, canoe launch on Minnehaha Creek and an outdoor amphitheatre.

Meadow Park ★★

Located in north central Minnetonka, Meadow Park is a large 110-acre community park, with the majority of the site dedicated for natural areas. Trails cross the park through the natural areas and wetlands. The park boasts many amenities, from a tot lot and play equipment to tennis and basketball courts and two all-season hockey rinks.

Lone Lake Park ★★

Located in south east Minnetonka, Lone Lake Park is a large 146-acre community park, offering a large natural area along with community park features; soccer fields, tennis, horseback and basketball courts; tot play area; picnics and shelter and open picnic areas; discos; and 1.7 miles of trails. This area was formerly used as a small ski area, so there are lots of great hills.

Purgatory Park ★★

Located in the southwest corner of Minnetonka, Purgatory's 151 acres makes it the largest of the city's five community parks, with views of Purgatory Creek, expansive open spaces and extensive trails. A 1.2 mile trail loop that starts at the parking lot offers scenic views of the numerous ecological areas of the park, including wetlands, woodlands and prairies.