MINNEHAHA CREEK MAP

GRAY'S BAY DAM AND WATER LEVELS

A variety of problems have caused the flow of Minnehaha Creek out of the water since the late 1980s. The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District has implemented a series of projects to address flooding issues on the creek, including the Gray's Bay Dam.

The dam is key to the management of the creek and its impact on the surrounding area. It serves to control the flow of water and prevent flooding in the area. The dam is a critical component of the overall flood management strategy for the creek.

MINNEHAHA CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) is the local unit of government responsible for managing and protecting the water resources of the area. The district includes Minnehaha Creek and associated tributaries. The MCWD also includes all 27 of the creeks and wetlands in Minneapolis and five counties.

MINNEHAHA CREEK GREENWAY

For much of the first half of the 20th century, Minnehaha Creek was viewed as a ditch for transporting water to the surrounding area. Later, during the mid-20th century, Minnehaha Creek was considered a junk heap where unwanted material was disposed of. This led to a decline in the health of the creek and its surrounding area.

In recent years, efforts have been made to restore the creek and its surrounding area. The Minnehaha Creek Greenway is an example of this restoration effort.

WATER QUALITY IN THE CREEK

While paddling, you may not see many fish in the creek, but this is because of the low levels of nutrients and dissolved oxygen. The creek is heavily impacted by upstream sources of pollution, and this has led to a decline in fish populations.

The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District is working to improve water quality in the creek. This includes reducing the amount of runoff from streets and lawns, as well as improving the health of the surrounding wetlands.

WATER QUALITY

The water quality of Minnehaha Creek is generally good, with low levels of dissolved oxygen and nutrients. However, there are some areas where the water quality is poor, such as downstream of the Gray's Bay Dam.

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STEWARDSHIP TIPS

Whether you live along the creek or are simply interested in protecting the environment, there are some simple steps you can take to help improve the health of Minnehaha Creek.

1. Redirect Runoff and Capture Stormwater
   - Plant rain gardens, swales, or filter strips to help capture and filter stormwater.
   - Use infiltration basins or swales to slow and soak up stormwater.

2. Keep Stormwater Clean
   - Avoid using fertilizers, pesticides, and other chemicals that could harm the creek.
   - Avoid discarding oily items, such as cooking oil, in storm drains.

3. Use Native Plants
   - Choose native plants for your garden that require less water and fewer chemicals.
   - Avoid using mulch made from non-native plants that could invade Minnehaha Creek.

4. Monitor Water Levels
   - Check water levels regularly and report any unusual changes.
   - Notify the district if you notice any signs of pollution or damage to the creek.

Learn more at: www.minnehahacreek.org/getinvolved
MINNEHAHA CREEK

WATER SAFETY
Let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return. Check the forecast, and prepare for rain even if there is only a small chance. Wear a life jacket. The law requires one life jacket per person on board.

Bridge:
- First aid kit
- Cell phones
- Drinking water
- Sanitizers
- Waterproof containers for storing valuables
- Quick-dry clothing

Scan ahead for hazards like overhanging trees, rocks, holes, and bridge supports. Portage around challenging sections. Do not swim within 75 feet of a rapid zone due to polluted run-off from streets.

Avoid icicles and take the smooth water shaped like a V near the downstream. "Drowning in Minnesota." (Source not at http://PaddlePA.)

TIME ESTIMATES
You may want to tackle the creek in stretches, especially if it is your first time. These are rough estimates and can vary widely based on conditions and paddling style.

| Section | Time
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Entire Creek</td>
<td>~1-2 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Geyser Bay to Target-Resolution (Minn)</td>
<td>~0.5 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle-Target-Resolution to Patricks Park (Minn)</td>
<td>~1-2 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Patricks Park to Longbow Lagoon</td>
<td>~1-2 hrs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PROPER CONDITIONS FOR PADDLING
Real-time flows for Ora are between 75 and 150 cubic feet per second (cfs). We do not recommend paddling when the creek’s flow is higher than 150 cfs. Conditions can change rapidly, especially after a rain. You can find the creek’s flow at www.minnecookreek.org.

ACCESS POINTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minnehaha Creek Headwaters</td>
<td>Lake Nokomis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burke Park</td>
<td>NE Hennepin St.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnehaha Park</td>
<td>E. 12th St.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longbow Park</td>
<td>E. 44th St.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

MINNEHAHA CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

ACCESS POINT

- 4 Access Point
- 4 Parking
- 3 Restrooms
- 1 Parking Access

END OF ROUTE: FALTER AHEAD
Note: All paddlers must land at the end points of the canoe route.

REPORTING DOWNED TREES OR OTHER OBSTACLES:
Contact the city where the tree or obstacle is located.

CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS: 911 or 311
CITY OF ST. PAUL: 651-296-6600
CITY OF HOPKINS: 952-939-3600
CITY OF EDINA: 952-381-3800
MINNEAPOLIS PARK AND RECREATION BOARD: 612-348-2500

STOP THE SPREAD OF AIS
Zebra mussels and other aquatic invasive species (AIS) have been found in Lake Nokomis and Minnehaha Creek. To avoid spreading them, you are required to:

CLEAN
- Drain water from boats and equipment
- Dry boats and equipment before entering a new waterbody

DRAIN
- Drain water from boats and equipment before leaving the water source

DRY
- Drain water from boats and equipment before entering a new waterbody

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