

NEWS

St. Paul: Groundbreaking this week on upgrades for slate of North End parks



Several parks along Maryland Avenue are undergoing significant renovations, which will continue for months to come. Workers get started Wednesday, June 20, 2018 on a pair of multi-use synthetic turf fields at Sylvan Park, 77 Rose Avenue West; shown, and plantings are starting at Willow Reserve, 1260 Arundel Street in St. Paul. (Tad Vezner /

Pioneer Press)

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As summer kicks in to full gear, three St. Paul parks along Maryland Avenue in the city's North End are undergoing significant renovations that will continue through the season.

Construction began this week on both Sylvan Park and Marydale Park, near the corners of Sylvan and Dale Streets, respectively.

The Sylvan project is far larger, both in price and scope.

The \$1.5 million renovation includes putting in a pair of multi-use synthetic turf fields, a new play area to replace the one built in 1994, and new benches and landscaping.

Marydale Park will get a new playground, at a cost of \$280,000.

Both projects are expected wrap up by late September.

Finally, the Willow Reserve — a 23-acre, wooded, bird and wildlife area at the corner of Arundel Street — is continuing its ecological upgrades thanks to the Capitol Region Watershed District.

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With most of the invasive trees now removed, this year there will be a series of plantings: wild flowers, grasses, trees and shrubs native to the region. The \$200,000 project is set to wrap up by the end of next year.

Additionally, the district said the city is applying for a state grant that would cover a boardwalk around the edge of the property — or at least the parts where there's no dry land. That grant application is pending.

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Tad Vezner

Tad Vezner covers the city of St. Paul, Ramsey County and sometimes the Capitol for the Pioneer Press. He has been with the paper since 2006. He can be reached at 651-228-5461.

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[St. Paul has a \\$1 million fix for Wabasha Street rock slide](#)

June 21, 2018, 7:54 am

St. Paul Public Works will begin construction next week of a stacked-rock retaining wall along the Wabasha Street bluffs. The plan is to safely reopen the West Side street to traffic along the roadway where a rock slide previously occurred. The stretch of Wabasha between Plato Boulevard and Cesar Chavez Street has been closed to vehicles and passers-by since late April, when...

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Minnesota State higher education system to weigh leaving downtown St. Paul offices

June 20, 2018, 6:30 pm

The Minnesota State higher education system will explore moving its 300 administrative workers out of downtown St. Paul in 2022. It costs the system around \$2.5 million a year to lease 89,000 square feet inside Wells Fargo Place for the chancellor, system office divisions, information technology workers and the board of trustees. Rep. Jim Knoblach, R-St. Cloud proposed a bill...

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Bloomington native Pete Docter promoted to chief creative officer for Pixar Animation

June 20, 2018, 8:28 pm

LOS ANGELES — Walt Disney Studios chairman Alan Horn said Tuesday that Jennifer Lee and Minnesota native Pete Docter are taking over for former Disney animation and Pixar chief John Lasseter, who is departing Disney at the end of the year following misconduct allegations. Both Oscar-winners and veterans of the Walt Disney Co., Lee, who co-directed “Frozen,” has been named chief...

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South Dakota twins reunited 74 years after WWII deaths at Normandy

June 20, 2018, 9:43 am

COLLEVILLE-SUR-MER, France — For decades, he was known only as Unknown X-9352 at a World War II American cemetery in Belgium where he was interred. Today, he has recovered his identity — and was reunited with his twin brother in Normandy, where the two Navy men died together when their ship shattered on an underwater mine while trying to reach...

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Grand Rapids school bus driver apparently fell asleep before May crash

June 19, 2018, 10:16 pm

LENGBY, Minn. -- The driver of a Grand Rapids school bus that crashed and injured a dozen students last

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Minnesota's diversity growth continues, Census figures show

June 21, 2018, 10:13 am

Minnesota continues to grow more diverse, according to population estimates released by the U.S. Census Bureau on Thursday. The latest data showed that populations of people of color have increased faster in Minnesota than the rest of the nation since 2010. Meanwhile, the state's white population growth remained relatively stagnant. The change can be seen in the ethnic communities emerging...

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