

## Minneapolis offers some of the best parks in the nation

Written by  
Monday, 17 June 2013 12:00

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Minneapolis was recently named the nation's best big city for public parks by the Trust of the Public Land. In the organizations 2013 ParkScore® Index, Rating Park Systems in the 50 Largest U.S. Cities, Minneapolis unseated San Francisco as the nation's top park system. Senator Jeff Hayden (DFL-Minneapolis) is honored to see his community rated so high, but isn't surprised by the rating.

"Minnesotans take great pride in their communities and healthy and safe parks are just one aspect that makes our city great," said Sen. Hayden. "Back in 2008, voters overwhelmingly approved a constitutional amendment that dedicated funding for the outdoors. This has led to many improvements for our local parks, as well as regional and out-state parks."

Minneapolis was the first big city to receive a perfect "5 park bench" rating by the organizations ParkScore Index. The ParkScore ratings are based equally on three factors: Park access, which measures the percentage of residents living within a 10-minute walk of a park; Park size, which is based on a city's median park size and the percentage of total city area dedicated to parks; and Services and investment, which combines the number of playgrounds per 10,000 city residents and per capita park spending.

"This is a wonderful achievement, but we should continue to look for ways to improve," said Sen. Hayden. "I am always open to discussing ideas with constituents on how to improve our communities. This goes beyond parks of course, but they are a great asset to Minneapolis families and we should continue to invest in them."

If you would like to contact Sen. Hayden on this issue, or any legislative concern, his office can be reached at (651) 296-4261 or you can contact him via email at [sen.jeff.hayden@senate.mn](mailto:sen.jeff.hayden@senate.mn).