



## The Official Civic Celebration of Minneapolis, Aquatennial, Returns July 19 – 22

MINNEAPOLIS (July 18, 2023) – The mpls downtown council (mdc) is proud to announce the 2023 lineup of events for the Minneapolis Aquatennial, the official civic celebration of the City of Minneapolis. The annual tradition returns Wednesday, July 19 through Saturday, July 22, 2023.

All events are free, family-friendly, and open for all to enjoy.

The bookends of this year's schedule are our longtime signature events:

- **Aquatennial Torchlight Parade** on Wednesday, July 19 at 7:30 p.m.  
Along Nicollet from 12<sup>th</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> Street

Annually the largest nighttime event in Minnesota, the Aquatennial Torchlight Parade will fill downtown Minneapolis with great floats, displays, and marching bands through the heart of downtown.

The Aquatennial Torchlight Parade kicks off the 2023 Minneapolis Aquatennial on Wednesday, July 19.

This year's Grand Marshals will feature members of the Minnesota Lynx organization as we celebrate the 4-time WNBA champions' 25th anniversary season. They include President of Basketball Operations and Head Coach Cheryl Reeve, General Manager Clare Duwelius, and President of Business Operations Carley Knox.

- **Target Fireworks** on Saturday, July 22 at 10 p.m.  
Along the banks of the Mississippi on West River Parkway near the Stone Arch Bridge

The Target Fireworks, produced by the world-famous Zambelli Fireworks team, are considered one of the top five annual fireworks shows in the entire country. The fireworks will once again be synced to music this year.

Come early for Aquatennial Pre-Fireworks Festivities on West River Parkway beginning at 6 p.m.

“Aquatennial is an event for all with over two dozen free events and activities here in downtown Minneapolis,” said Leah Wong, vice president of external relations, mpls downtown council. “This beloved summer tradition brings us together for fun unforgettable moments highlighted by the Aquatennial Torchlight Parade and Target Fireworks. We continue to see more people enjoying all downtown offers and invite you to celebrate Aquatennial and all that makes Minneapolis so special.”

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Most of the events take place in the heart of the City of Lakes in downtown – from Loring Park and The Commons and along Nicollet and West River Road. The schedule and the proximity of the activities make Aquatennial a walkable and bikeable experience throughout the four days.

Here are some of the highlights of the 2023 Minneapolis Aquatennial\*. A full schedule of events can be found at [aquatennial.com/events](https://aquatennial.com/events). Check back for updates leading up to Aquatennial.

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 19

- Park Market: The Black Market – The Commons (425 Portland Ave. So), 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Go Outside: Summer Sessions (live music, giveaways, and more) – Hennepin Government Center South Plaza, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- Music in the Park: Spaghetti Monetti and The Sauce – The Commons, 12 p.m. – 1 p.m.
- USTA Cardio Tennis – Loring Park, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. | [sign-up link](#)
- Loring Park Family Fun Night, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- Aquatennial Torchlight Parade – Nicollet from 12<sup>th</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> Streets, 7:30 p.m.
  - Grand Marshals from the Minnesota Lynx celebrating the team’s 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- Movies in the Park: “Best in Show” – The Commons, at 9:15 p.m.

### THURSDAY, JULY 20

- Downtown Thursdays (food trucks, music, games, giveaways, and more) – Nicollet from Washington Ave. to 10<sup>th</sup> Street, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- Minne-Golf on Nicollet – Nicollet Mall, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- Music in the Park: Chemistry Set – The Commons, 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- Go Outside: Movie Night – “Legally Blonde” at Target Field Station, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
- Twin Cities River Rats Waterski Show – West River Road on Mississippi River between Broadway and Plymouth Avenues, 7 p.m.
- Minnesota Lynx vs. Los Angeles Sparks – Target Center, 7 p.m.

### FRIDAY, JULY 21

- Park Market: Indigenous Market – Water Works Park, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Alchemy 365 outdoor fitness class at Aquatennial, Mpls Sculpture Garden, 6 p.m. – 7 p.m.
- Twin Cities River Rats Waterski Show – West River Road on Mississippi River between Broadway and Plymouth Avenues, 7 p.m.
- Minnesota Twins vs. Chicago White Sox – Target Field, 7:10 p.m.

### SATURDAY, JULY 22

- USTA Cardio Tennis – Loring Park, 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. | [sign-up link](#)
- Upper St. Anthony Lock and Dam Open House – St. Anthony Falls Lock & Dam, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Twin Cities Carifest – West River Road between Plymouth and Broadway Ave 11 a.m. – 10 p.m.
- Canoe Rides and Fire Building with Wilderness Inquiry – Boom Island Park, 12 p.m. – 5 p.m.
- Minnesota Lynx vs. Las Vegas Aces – Target Center, 2 p.m.
- AquaJam Skateboarding – West River Parkway near Stone Arch Bridge, 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.
- City of Lakes Market – Chicago Mall between Guthrie Theater and Mill City Museum, 5 p.m. – 10 p.m.
- Mpls Craft Market – Chicago Mall between Guthrie Theater and Mill City Museum, 5 p.m. – 10 p.m.

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**2023 Aquatennial**

**SATURDAY, JULY 22**

- Pre-Fireworks Festivities – live music – West River Parkway near Stone Arch Bridge, 6 p.m. – 10 p.m.
- Kids Zone – Pre-Fireworks Festivities – West River Parkway near Water Works Park, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.
- Minnesota Twins vs. Chicago White Sox – Target Field, 6:15 p.m.
- Target Fireworks – West River Parkway near Stone Arch Bridge, 10 p.m.

More information available at [aquatennial.com](http://aquatennial.com) and follow along @Aquatennial on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for up-to-the-minute details.

**Volunteers Needed**

The Aquatennial relies on dozens of volunteers to help make the festival a success. Sign up online to be part of the Aquatennial Volunteer Program and assist with such events as the CenterPoint Energy Torchlight Parade and Target Fireworks. Perks include access to the partner viewing area at the Fireworks, a t-shirt, and other benefits. [aquatennial.com/volunteer/](http://aquatennial.com/volunteer/)

**About the Minneapolis Aquatennial**

The Minneapolis Aquatennial, the Official Civic Celebration of the City of Minneapolis, offers outstanding entertainment and activities in the City of Lakes for all ages. It is managed and produced by the mpls downtown council. Thank you to our partners, Target, CenterPoint Energy, Hennepin Healthcare, iHeart Media, Millenium Minneapolis, Minneapolis Recycling, City of Minneapolis, and the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board. For more information, please visit [aquatennial.com](http://aquatennial.com) or call 612-376-7669.

**About the mpls downtown council**

Founded in 1955, and one of the most historic central business associations in the nation, the mpls downtown council (mdc) is a membership-based entity that works to create an extraordinary downtown. The mdc connects and empowers people to make downtown a place everyone wants to be. For more information, visit [mplsdowntown.com](http://mplsdowntown.com).

**Social Media Channels**

Facebook - /aquatennial  
Twitter - @aquatennial  
Instagram - @aquatennial  
Hashtags - #Aquatennial

\*Event details subject to change.

**Media Note:**

Access to Aquatennial logos, images and press releases can be found at [aquatennial.com/press](http://aquatennial.com/press).

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