

**The Official Civic Celebration of Minneapolis, Aquatennial,**

**Returns July 23 - 26**

MINNEAPOLIS (July 9, 2025) – The Minneapolis Downtown Council is proud to announce the 2025 lineup of events for the Minneapolis Aquatennial, the official civic celebration of the City of Minneapolis. The annual tradition returns Wednesday, July 23 through Saturday, July 26, 2025.

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

The bookends of this year’s schedule are Aquatennial’s longtime signature events:

* **Aquatennial Torchlight Parade** on Wednesday, July 23 at 7:30 p.m.

Along Nicollet Mall from 12th to 4th Street.

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

This year’s Grand Marshal is Gopher Men’s Hockey Coach, Bob Motzko. Motzko, one of the most accomplished coaches in American hockey today, will serve as head coach of the 2026 U.S. National Junior Team. The team will play in the 2026 IIHF World Junior Hockey Championship, Dec. 26, 2025 – Jan. 5, 2026, in Saint Paul and Minneapolis.

* **Target Fireworks** on Saturday, July 26 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 choreographed to music which will be simulcast live on KDWB.

Come early for Aquatennial Pre-Fireworks Festivities on West River Parkway beginning

at 4 p.m. The pre-party will feature fantastic live bands, Chameleon Markets, Mpls Craft and Vintage Markets featuring local entrepreneurs, Cars and Coffee Show, a fun-filled Kids Zone including Children’s Entrepreneur Market, and plenty of food and beverage options.

“Aquatennial is an exciting summer celebration for our community,” said Adam Duininck, president and CEO, Minneapolis Downtown Council. “This year’s Aquatennial lineup includes more than two dozen activities downtown, headlined by the Aquatennial Torchlight Parade on Wednesday and the Target Fireworks on Saturday night. Come downtown and enjoy all of the festivities while taking in all that our city has to offer—incredible dining, nightlife, performances, sports and more.”

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**2025 Aquatennial**

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 2025 Minneapolis Aquatennial\*. A full schedule of events can be found at [aquatennial.com/events](http://www.aquatennial.com/events). Check back for updates leading up to Aquatennial.

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 23**

* We are Water Exhibit – RSM Plaza ground level on Nicollet Mall, 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.

We Are Water MN is an interactive exhibit that invites visitors to explore the deep and personal connections Minnesotans have with water. Through powerful stories, historical insights, and engaging displays, the exhibit highlights the cultural, environmental, and economic significance of water in our state.

* Go Outside: Summer Sessions – Hennepin Government

 Center North Plaza, 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Enjoy a live performance, an Aquatennial activity, and more

* Loring Park Family Fun Night, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
* Twin Cities River Rats Waterski Show – West River Road on Mississippi River between

Broadway and Plymouth Avenues, 6:30 p.m.

* **Aquatennial Torchlight Parade – Nicollet from 12th to 4th Streets, 7:30 p.m.**
* Parks Movie Night “Wicked” sing along - Commons, 9 p.m.

**THURSDAY, JULY 24**

* We are Water Exhibit – RSM Plaza ground level on Nicollet Mall, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

We Are Water MN is an interactive exhibit that invites visitors to explore the deep and personal connections Minnesotans have with water. Through powerful stories, historical insights, and engaging displays, the exhibit highlights the cultural, environmental, and economic significance of water in our state.

* Concert at The Commons – Meat Raffle Ska, 7 – 9 p.m.
* Movie Night “Surf’s Up” with a Sing United performance before the movie

Target Field Station, 6:30 p.m.

* Twin Cities River Rats Waterski Show – West River Road on Mississippi River between

Broadway and Plymouth Avenues, 6:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY, JULY 25**

* We are Water Exhibit – RSM Plaza ground level on Nicollet Mall, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

We Are Water MN is an interactive exhibit that invites visitors to explore the deep and personal connections Minnesotans have with water. Through powerful stories, historical insights, and engaging displays, the exhibit highlights the cultural, environmental, and economic significance of water in our state.

* AlleyJam Skateboarding – Fair School Alley 10th & Hennepin 4 – 7 p.m.
* CorePower Outdoor Yoga Class - Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, 6 – 7 p.m.
* Minnesota Twins vs. Washington Nationals – Target Field, 7:10 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JULY 26**

* Twin Cities Carifest – West River Road between Plymouth and Broadway Ave,

10 a.m. – 10 p.m.

* We are Water Exhibit – RSM Plaza ground level on Nicollet Mall, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

We Are Water MN is an interactive exhibit that invites visitors to explore the deep and personal connections Minnesotans have with water. Through powerful stories, historical insights, and engaging displays, the exhibit highlights the cultural, environmental, and economic significance of water in our state.

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**2025 Minneapolis Aquatennial**

* Aquatennial Ambassadors Organization Coronation – Ted Mann Concert Hall, 4 – 6 p.m.
* Chameleon Market at Aquatennial – Chicago Mall between Guthrie Theater and Mill City Museum, 4 – 10 p.m.

Chameleon supports entrepreneurial success through networking/training, pop-ups, and brick-and-mortar shops. Join us to champion entrepreneurs in our network and discover great products from skincare to snacks, accessories to art, and more!

* Mpls Craft & Mpls Vintage Market – Chicago Mall between Guthrie Theater and Mill City Museum, 4 p.m. – 10 p.m.
* Children’s Entrepreneur Market at Kids Zone - West River Parkway 5 - 10 p.m.
* MN Cars & Coffee Show – West River Parkway near 3rd Ave. Bridge, 4 – 7 p.m.
* Fireworks Pre-Show – West River Parkway near Stone Arch Bridge, 5 – 10 p.m.

Entertainment Lineup:

* + - Jordan Johnston, 5 p.m.
		- Pullstring, 6 p.m.
		- Obi Original & The Black Atlantics, 7 p.m.
		- School of Rock (Plymouth), 8 p.m.
		- Dysfunktional, 9 p.m.
		- Kids Zone – Rondo Double Dutch, Funtime Funktions (glitter, tattoos, and spin zone), Amazing Balloons, Twin Cities Trapeze performances
* Minnesota Twins vs. Washington Nationals – Target Field, 6:10 p.m.
* **Target Fireworks – West River Parkway near Stone Arch Bridge, 10 p.m.**

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

**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, Cordia, Hennepin Healthcare, Stigma, iHeart Radio, Metro Transit, Renaissance Minneapolis Hotel, City of Minneapolis CEAP, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board. For more information, please visit [aquatennial.com](http://www.aquatennial.com) or call 612-376-7669.

**About the Minneapolis Downtown Council**

Founded in 1955, and one of the most historic central business associations in the nation, the Minneapolis Downtown Council 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://www.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://www.aquatennial.com/press).

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