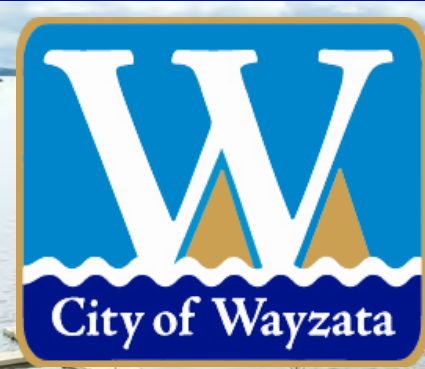


WAYZATA, MINNESOTA CITY MANAGER



MGT



THE COMMUNITY

The City of Wayzata—often called the “jewel of Lake Minnetonka” and the “Gateway to Lake Minnetonka”—is located just 11 miles west of Minneapolis along the lake’s northern shore. At just 4.7 square miles, it offers an exceptional range of amenities, resources, and civic engagement that far exceed its size.

Wayzata is a vibrant lakeside community with family-friendly neighborhoods, thriving businesses, expansive parks, abundant recreational opportunities, and exceptional scenic beauty. Residents value its walkability, charm, and strong sense of civic pride. The business community ranges from a quaint and active downtown shopping district to the corporate headquarters of Cargill, a global multinational company.

The community is a popular regional destination for those who come to enjoy the lakefront, boutique shopping experiences, and an array of dining options. Several annual events, including [James J. Hill Days](#), and the winter festival [Chilly Open](#), also bring many residents and visitors to the downtown lakefront.

The City recently completed two of the three major phases of the [Panoway](#) on Wayzata Bay project, transforming the public shoreline of Lake Minnetonka and enhancing the overall lakefront experience. This signature initiative expands public access to the waterfront and strengthens the connection between downtown Wayzata and Lake Minnetonka.

Beyond the lakefront, residents enjoy Shaver Park, Wayzata Beach and Marina, and the nearby [Wood-Rill Scientific and Natural Area](#)—141 acres of protected Sugar Maple “Big Woods” forest ideal for birding, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.

Wayzata also benefits from its proximity to two regional multiuse trails. The [Dakota Rail Regional Trail](#) is a 13.5-mile paved route managed by the Three Rivers Park District that follows the former Dakota Rail Corridor. The [Luce Line State Trail](#), is a 63-mile former railroad grade trail used for biking, hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, snowmobiling, and cross-country skiing. It stretches from the metro area into the rural landscapes of western Minnesota, providing a diverse outdoor experience for residents and visitors alike.

Wayzata is proud of its highly rated public schools. The [Wayzata Public School District](#) (ISD 284) serves eight western municipalities and enrolls approximately 13,339 students, making it the ninth-largest district in Minnesota. The district benefits from strong community support, demonstrated through multiple successful referendums over the past decade, funding infrastructure, safety, and technology improvements. In addition to the Wayzata School District, the community is served by several smaller private school options including the Blake School, St. Bart’s School and Redeemer Christian Academy.



THE ORGANIZATION AND THE CITY MANAGER POSITION

The City of Wayzata is a home rule charter city operating under a council–manager form of government. The City Council is composed of the mayor and four council members, each elected to four-year terms. Elections are held every two years in November of even-numbered years, with council seats staggered to ensure continuity in leadership.

The City has a Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) to support the City Council in advancing Wayzata’s housing and redevelopment goals in alignment with the Comprehensive Plan. The HRA is governed by a five-member board of commissioners appointed by the City Council.

The City Manager is appointed by the Mayor and City Council and is responsible for overseeing the operations, programs, and personnel of all City departments. The City Manager develops and implements the administrative rules and procedures necessary to ensure the effective functioning of each department and carries out all duties and responsibilities assigned by law, the City Charter, and City Ordinances.



WAYZATA BY THE NUMBERS

Population: **4,363**

Square miles: **4.70** square miles

3.10 square miles of land

1.60 square miles water

Median Home Value: **\$1.15** million

Median Household Income:

\$125,344

Demographics:

White Alone, not Hispanic or Latino:

87.12%

Asian alone: **3.28%**

Two or More Races: **6.62%**

Other races: **2.18%**

Black or African American: **0.8%**





The City is organized into seven departments: Administrative Services, Community Development, Fire, Police, Public Works, Wine & Spirits, and the Bar & Grill. The Administrative Services Department, led by the Deputy City Manager, includes Finance, Human Resources, Communications, and Motor Vehicle services. The Fire Department operates as a fully paid-on-call department with 27 members currently serving; Wayzata Police also serve the neighboring community of Long Lake.

The City employs 176 staff, increasing to approximately 200–210 with the addition of seasonal employees and staff at the Bar & Grill. This workforce is represented by three collective bargaining units.

The City maintains a strong financial position, with a proposed 2026 General Fund budget of \$9.18 million and total funds of \$24.03 million. S&P Global Ratings has assigned the City its highest “AAA” rating. Despite its modest size, the City benefits from a substantial \$3.4 billion tax base.

In August 2024, City leaders updated the [2024-2026 Strategic Plan](#), reaffirming a commitment to resident-centered service, operational excellence, and long-term fiscal stability. The plan is anchored by 3 strategic priorities:

- **Diversifying Revenue**
- **Achieving and Sustaining Operational Excellence**
- **Preserving the Community's Character & Safety**

KEY PRIORITIES & OPPORTUNITIES

- Guide the responsible evolution of the downtown lakefront in a way that preserves the City's welcoming, small-town identity while thoughtfully accommodating regional tourism and its associated opportunities.
- Identify funding sources and successfully advance Phase 3 of the Panoway on Wayzata Bay project.
- Explore shared service partnerships with neighboring jurisdictions to enhance efficiency, responsiveness, and fiscal stewardship.
- Evaluate and advance options for modern, efficient public safety facilities and operations that meet the current and future needs of police and fire services.
- Navigate challenges related to short-term rentals and redevelopment disputes.
- Explore alternative funding sources to support the increased demand for public services driven by the community's expanding regional draw.



CANDIDATE QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

The City is seeking experienced candidates who are effective communicators, strategic thinkers, and collaborative leaders. The following education, experience, management, and leadership criteria have been identified by the City of Wayzata as important skills and abilities for the successful candidate to possess and demonstrate.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in public administration, business administration, or related field.
- At least 7 years of public sector or non-profit administrative and managerial experience.
- Minimum of 4 years as a city manager or administrator or as an assistant in a larger community.
- Strong fiscal background, including management of complex, multi-million-dollar budgets, long-term financial planning and capital improvement budgets.
- Exceptional communication skills.

Desired Qualifications:

- Master's degree in public administration, business administration, or related field.
- Experience in redevelopment, strategic planning, and enterprise funds.

The Ideal Candidate Will Be:

- A confident and seasoned leader able to foster positive, collaborative relationships with the city council, staff and key stakeholders.
- A strong fiscal steward with demonstrated financial acumen.
- Forward-thinking with the ability to anticipate community needs and emerging trends.
- Adept at navigating a highly engaged community and committed to being responsive and accessible.
- A clear, consistent, and approachable communicator.
- An innovative problem-solver with the ability to navigate nuanced, multi-faceted issues and identify practical, community-centered solutions.
- A collaborative, service-oriented manager that reinforces a strong team environment and supports staff across all levels of the organization.



COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

The 2025 salary range is \$142,978 - \$182,485, (salary range is under review; the City is engaging in a class and comp study to be completed in 2026). The City of Wayzata provides a comprehensive benefits package including City contributions to a defined benefit plan (PERA), medical insurance, life insurance, sick and vacation accruals. Voluntary benefits include: long- and short-term disability, dental, vision, supplemental life and 457 and tuition reimbursement. Residency is not required.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications are accepted through the end of the day on January 4, 2026. Interested candidates should apply online with resume, cover letter and contact information for five professional references at www.MGT.com. Confidential inquiries may be directed to either Pam Dmytrenko, Tel: (612) 747-7714 or Ellen Hiniker, Tel: (651) 338-0531, MGT Approved Independent Executive Recruiters. Interviews with the City of Wayzata are expected to occur mid-February 2026. The City of Wayzata, MN is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

