

# BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING



MARCH 2021

PAGE 2

## A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER

stories of hope, challenges and resilience

PAGE 4

PAGE 6

PAGE 7



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## COVID-19 VACCINATIONS UNDERWAY AT THE CITY

In January, nurses from Bloomington Public Health began vaccinating emergency medical responders, emergency medical technicians and paramedics for Bloomington, Edina and Richfield. The first responders included firefighters and police officers who are at high risk of exposure to the COVID-19 virus. They were prioritized within the first phase of the vaccine rollout. Because there are limited doses of vaccine available, the COVID-19 vaccine is being distributed in phases.

The goal for the first, limited doses of COVID-19 vaccine is to immunize for impact. This means offering vaccine to those at highest risk of getting COVID-19, and those most at risk of severe disease and complications if they get COVID-19. All Minnesotans will eventually have access to the vaccine.

“We anticipate running clinics for the next several months on a regular, routine basis to get our different priority populations vaccinated,” Acting Public Health Administrator Nick Kelley said. “We can’t let our guard down. We have a few more months of hard work, making sure that we’re making the good choices to keep ourselves, our family members, and our community safe while we work to get vaccine out into the community so that it can protect everybody.”

For the latest vaccine information, visit [blm.mn/vaccine](https://blm.mn/vaccine) or call 952-563-4960.

## WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO GET VACCINATED

With so much information about COVID-19 out there, you may wonder why vaccination is important. Getting vaccinated is one of the best ways to protect you and your family. More people vaccinated means less disease in our community, and we can keep schools, businesses and other places open. COVID-19 vaccines are an important tool to help us stop the pandemic.

It’s understandable that some people are concerned about getting vaccinated. All COVID-19 vaccines currently available in this country have been shown to be highly effective at preventing COVID-19. A safety board approved every study, and the FDA carefully reviewed the data from every vaccine trial.

As for side effects, the possibility of a severe side effect is very rare — less than 0.5%. If mild side effects occur, they are a normal sign your body is building protection to the virus and will most likely fade in a few days.

You should get vaccinated even if you have had COVID-19. It is not clear how long a person is protected after they have had COVID-19.

For more information, visit [blm.mn/vaccine](https://blm.mn/vaccine) or call 952-563-4960 for a recorded message with the latest vaccination updates.

## CURBING COVID-19 FATIGUE

It’s been a year—many would say a long year—since COVID-19 became part of daily life in Minnesota. COVID-19 fatigue, the burnout from missing your friends, family and usual routine, is real and can harm your physical and emotional well-being.

Using a healthy approach to cope with stress will make you, your family and your community stronger. Here are some ways to ward off COVID-19 fatigue:

- Connect with other people: Call or have a video conference with a friend or two. Seeing someone’s facial expressions can help increase connection.
- Limit exposure to news or social media updates.
- Get out of the house and go outdoors. Even a few minutes of fresh air can help. Better still, if you can do so, take a walk or get some other exercise.
- Take time to unwind and do soothing activities: Listen to relaxing music, practice a few minutes of deep breathing, or take a bath. Let go of regrets about the past and put future worries out of your thoughts.
- Take care of your physical health: Stick to a regular routine, get enough sleep, eat healthy meals and avoid excessive alcohol.

For more information, visit [blm.mn/mhealth](https://blm.mn/mhealth) or call 651-201-3627. If you or someone you care about is in immediate danger, call 911.



MAYOR’S MEMO
HOMELESSNESS IN BLOOMINGTON

By Mayor Tim Busse

While homelessness is not a new issue, it is one that’s grown over the last few years. It’s a challenge that impacts not just our city, but our state and our nation.

In Bloomington, the issue became more noticeable due to COVID-19. Make no mistake, there have always been homeless people in Bloomington. With its social distancing and economic shifts, COVID-19 added to the challenges of homelessness and keeping people safe.

For many in our community, the cost of housing is a growing stress, and the housing insecurity they feel is difficult to contain. Rents and the cost of buying continue to rise, incomes don’t always keep up and increases in fixed benefits rarely keep pace with increased living expenses too often the end result is that adequate housing slips out of reach. Homeless individuals share a common thread—low income or lack of income altogether. Most people experiencing homelessness are living on an income below 30% of the area median income, which is \$21,000 for an adult or \$30,000 for a family of four.

This past year has led to an increased awareness of the unsheltered population in Bloomington and their needs. It has also jump-started the conversation of how to build housing capacity and other measures the City could take to help with homelessness and housing insecurities.

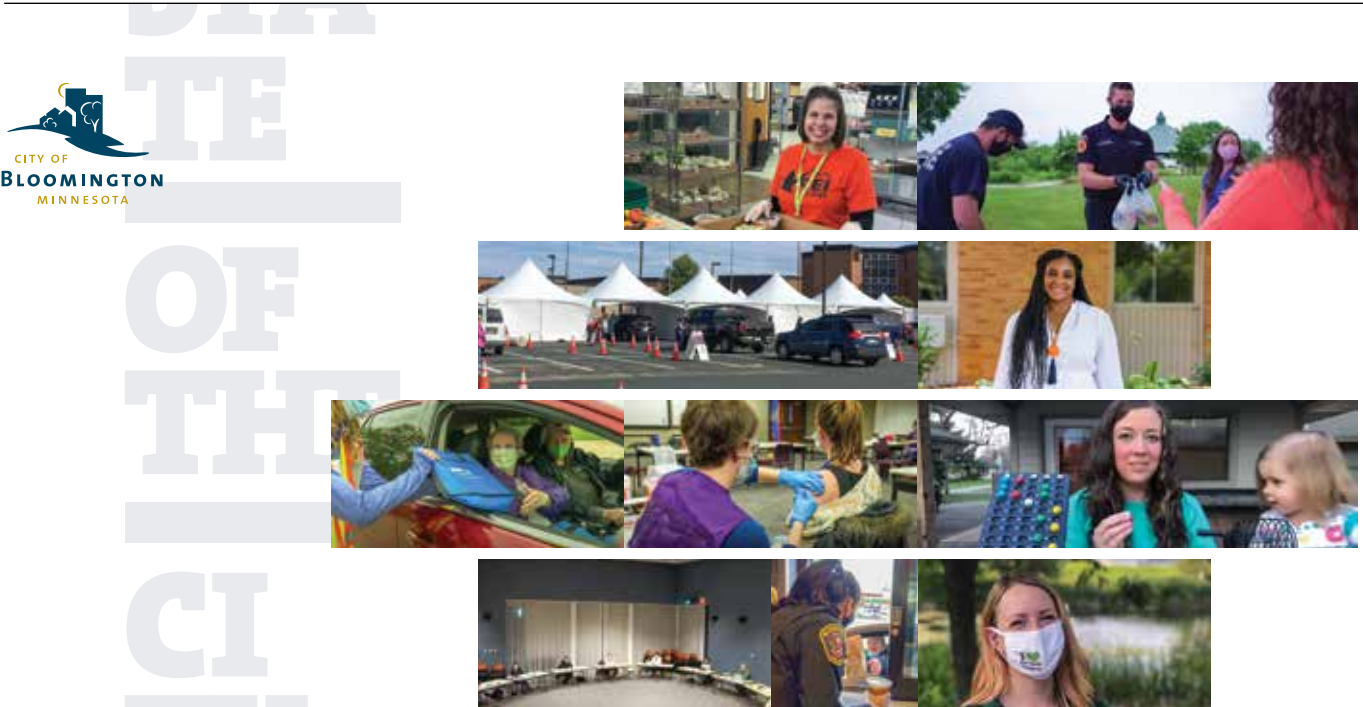
Our innovative opportunity housing ordinance is an important part of the City’s plan to address homelessness. While the ordinance encourages developers to build affordable housing, economic realities make these projects hard to finance. Developers face a lower return on investment when they build units which are the most affordable.

One recent success is a housing subsidy program that helps residents in need remain in their homes. Our partners at Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People provide rental subsidies to landlords so renters in financial stress can avoid eviction and keep from entering the homeless system. The Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority provided a financial contribution to VEAP to help fund the housing subsidy program.

These efforts are ongoing and continue to make a difference. Together we can promote housing security in our community.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Local nonprofit groups can always use a helping hand. Consider giving some of your time. Cash donations are another option if that is in your budget. Some groups have a need for donations of food, supplies and other staples. To find a list of nonprofits and other information, visit blm.mn/giveback or call 952-563-8700.



A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER

stories of hope, challenges and resilience

STATE OF THE CITY 2021

SAVE THE DATE: 2021 STATE OF THE CITY

The year 2020 was certainly memorable. The 2021 State of the City A Year Like No Other: Stories of Hope, Challenges and Resilience will highlight the stories of Bloomington people, businesses and organizations that held strong and came together in the face of uncertainty. During the 2021 State of the City, Mayor Tim Busse will share some of their stories. You’ll hear about essential workers, volunteers, emergency responders, community artists and more. You’ll also hear about how the City addressed budget challenges and what is planned for the year to come. This annual event is sponsored by the Bloomington Chamber of Commerce. Watch the event live online on Wednesday, March 24, 12 – 1 p.m. It will be streamed on YouTube and recorded for cable TV. For more information, visit blm.mn/2021soc.

MOTOR VEHICLE SERVICE OPTIONS NEARBY

The Bloomington Motor Vehicle Office is closing on March 31. Here is a list of nearby offices where you can renew your license, purchase tabs and more. Some motor vehicle services are also available online at dvs.dps.mn.gov.

SOUTHDALE DVS

1225 Southdale Center, Edina
612-348-8240

RICHFIELD DVS

6700 Portland Avenue, Richfield
612-861-9730

EAGAN DEPUTY REGISTRAR AND DRIVER’S LICENSE AGENT

3932 Cedar Grove Parkway, Eagan
651-406-4764

BURNSVILLE DEPUTY REGISTRAR AND DRIVER’S LICENSE AGENT

1101 West County Road 42, Burnsville
952-891-7850

BRIEFING

Volume 29, Number 03

The Briefing, published monthly by the City of Bloomington, is mailed to residents and businesses. Direct comments and requests for Braille, larger print or computer file to Communications Administrator Janine Hill, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3071; PH 952-563-8819; MN Relay 711; FAX 952-563-8715; Email: jhill@BloomingtonMN.gov
Website: BloomingtonMN.gov

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EXECUTIVE STAFF

Table with 2 columns: Name/Title and Phone Number. Rows include Jamie Verbrugge (City Manager), Kris Wilson (Assistant City Manager), Diann Kirby (Community Services), Lori Economy-Scholler (Finance), Ulie Seal (Fire), Amy Cheney (Information Technology), Melissa Manderschied (Legal), Ann Kattreh (Parks and Recreation), Mike Hartley (Police), Karl Keel (Public Works), and General phone number.

The City of Bloomington complies with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its services, programs, or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs, and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations. For more information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3027; 952-563-8733. Upon request, this information can be available in Braille, large print, audio tape and/or electronic format.





## DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH LOOP FOR SENIORS

A new independent senior housing complex is proposed in South Loop at 8131 34th Avenue South. The age-restricted, six-story building would include 146 units and redevelop an existing surface parking lot along the Minnesota River Bluff. Plans include two levels of underground parking, some of which would be shared with the office building at 8101 34th Avenue South. Minnetonka-based Roers Companies is the developer. Construction could begin as early as this spring. For more information, call 763-285-8808 or visit [blm.mn/slsenior](http://blm.mn/slsenior).

## PROPERTY VALUATION NOTICES ON THE WAY

Bloomington property owners can expect to see estimated market value notices from the City via the U.S. Postal Service in mid-March.

Overall, residential value increased 7%, while some individual property values saw an increase of 15 – 25% or more. On the whole, commercial property values have declined about 5% with most properties in the hospitality industry seeing much larger decreases. Apartment values decreased 2 to 2.5%, depending on the sector. Overall, industrial values increased approximately 3%.



“The Assessing Division encourages property owners to review their 2021 valuations,” Residential Appraisal Manager Jennifer Blumers said.

If you would like to appeal your value, you need to show clear and convincing evidence that your 2021 valuation is incorrect, including private appraisals or comparable property sales search from the Hennepin County website. If you have questions about appealing your value after collecting supporting documentation, contact the Assessing Division at 952-563-8722. Visit [blm.mn/propertyinfo](http://blm.mn/propertyinfo) or call 952-563-8722 for more information regarding process and deadlines. By the time you receive your proposed tax statement in November 2021 or property tax statement in March of 2022, you will no longer be able to appeal your 2021 value.

**County property tax statements**

Hennepin County will begin mailing property tax statements for 2021 in early March. Visit [blm.mn/state-tax](http://blm.mn/state-tax) to find out if you are eligible for a Minnesota property tax refund.

## PORTLAND AVENUE LEGACY PROJECT UPDATE

The cities of Bloomington and Richfield hosted a virtual kick-off meeting on February 24 to reboot the Portland Legacy Project. At the kick-off, the design team provided a project overview, initial findings for the opportunities and constraints for redevelopment in the area, and our preliminary ideas for revitalization.

They also discussed the online platform that will be open for public review and comment for the next three weeks on the project website. To learn more about the Portland Avenue Legacy project and watch a recording of the February 24 meeting, visit [blm.mn/plan/portland-legacy](http://blm.mn/plan/portland-legacy).

Input and ideas shared online will be summarized in an illustrated report the design team will prepare that lays out a clear vision for revitalizing the area and identifies specific strategies to implement the vision.

## AT YOUR SERVICE: DANIELLE BIRKHOFFER

Housing and Redevelopment Authority Office Assistant Danielle Birkhofer puts her passion for helping people to work every day as the first point of contact in the HRA office. Birkhofer processes paperwork that helps residents attain, maintain or improve housing directly such as the Housing Choice Voucher program, Rental Homes for Future Homebuyers program, the Housing and Rehabilitation Loan program and more.

She also answers an array of questions about housing assistance and points people toward community partners that can help them, including organizations like HOME Senior Community Services, VEAP, Cornerstone for Domestic Violence and the Hennepin County’s Office of Multicultural Services.

“Connecting with our community through the HRA means so much to me,” Birkhofer said. “I get to interact with great people and hear their individual stories, which allows me to serve and support them in unique ways. Right now I’m especially motivated to work and alleviate worries that have come along with the pandemic.”



## COUNCIL INVESTS IN NEIGHBORHOODS

In early 2021, the City Council invested \$600,000 of strategic priority funds into the Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority’s home improvement loan program. This marks an investment in neighborhoods and existing housing stock, which falls within the City Council’s priority of focused renewal. To read more about the HRA home improvement loan program, *see page 5*.



## CITY AWARDS GRANTS TO LOCAL NONPROFITS

The City’s Community Outreach and Engagement Division awarded eight social service grants to local nonprofit organizations in 2021. These grants make it possible to leverage services to leverage the work of these organizations and make their services more widely available for Bloomington residents.

Applications are reviewed by a cross-departmental team of City staff to ensure services do not duplicate but complement City services, while ensuring equitable access to services.

This year, the following nonprofit organizations received social services grants: Action Care Community Clinic, Bridging, Cornerstone, HOME Line, Meals on Wheels, Oasis for Youth, Senior Community Services and VEAP.

## PARKS AND REC PROGRAM SIGN-UP OPENS APRIL

Summer Parks and Recreation program registration begins April 12 and 13. Look for a feature story with details in April. Visit [blm.mn/parksrec](http://blm.mn/parksrec) for more information.





# A YEAR IN REVIEW: HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Despite challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, it’s been a busy year for the Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority. HRA’s purpose is building and renewing the community by providing housing services, promoting renewal and guiding growth. HRA focuses on housing creation and preservation, neighborhood revitalization and homeownership. HRA achieves its goals with the assistance of federal, state and local support. In this spread you’ll learn about new housing projects, direct services that help residents find and retain stable housing and additional facts about housing in Bloomington. For more information, visit [blm.mn/hra](http://blm.mn/hra).

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Housing is affordable when rent or mortgage costs are equal to 30% or less of a household’s income. The HRA’s affordable housing goals include promoting the development of new affordable housing and preservation of existing naturally occurring affordable housing while furthering private market development.

### 2030 GOAL: PRESERVE NATURALLY OCCURRING AFFORDABLE HOUSING

There are 4,602 naturally occurring affordable housing (NOAH) rental units in 94 apartment buildings throughout Bloomington. HRA is developing community engagement strategies to improve communications with property owners and tenants to preserve NOAH units. Considering the economic impacts of COVID-19, the preservation of NOAH property is more crucial now than ever. HRA is leveraging sources for development activities that assist in the stabilization of NOAH units, such as acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation and new construction.

### 2030 GOAL: DEVELOP 845 NEW AFFORDABLE UNITS

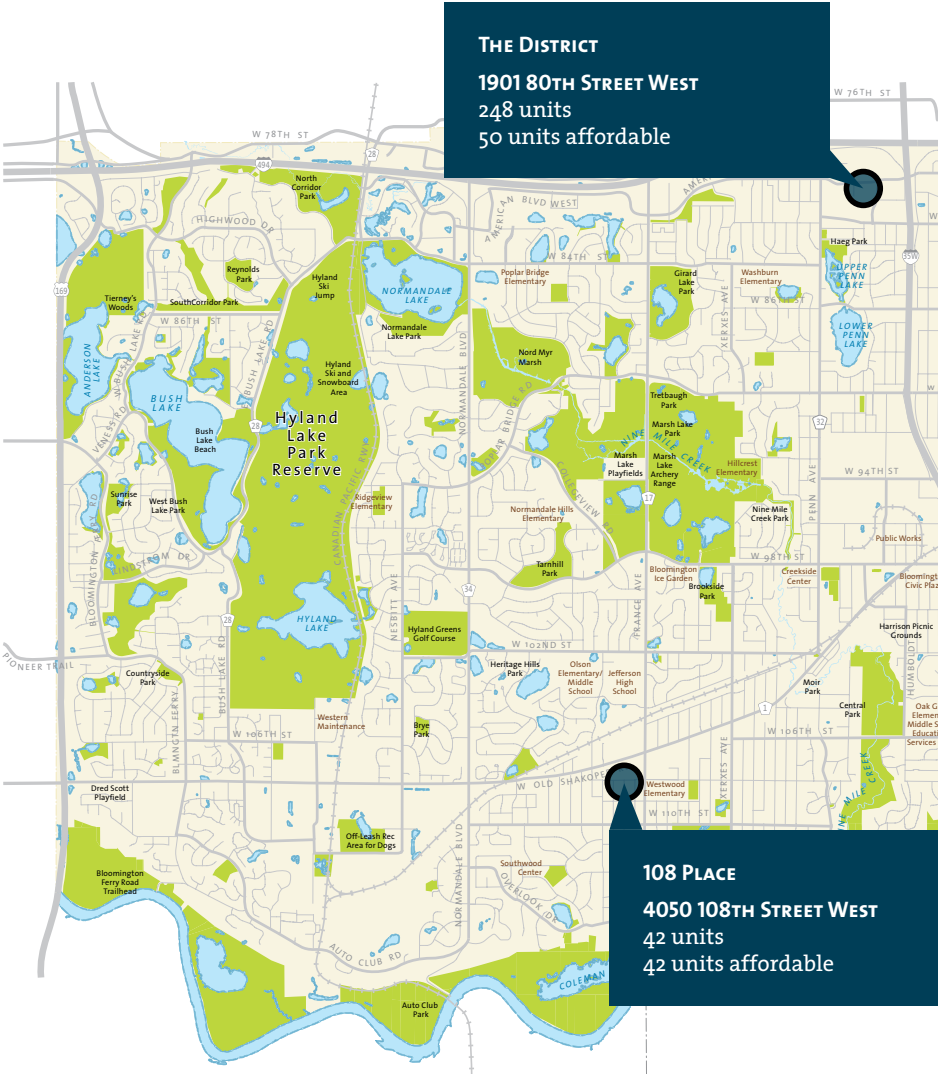
HRA is off to a strong start in supporting the need for both affordable and market rate rental housing in the City since the launch of the Opportunity Housing Ordinance and establishment of a \$15 million Affordable Housing Trust Fund in 2019.

WHAT’S AFFORDABLE? RENT BY INCOME LEVEL (PER MONTH)		
BEDROOMS	HOUSEHOLD EARNING \$30,000 A YEAR	HOUSEHOLD EARNING \$60,000 A YEAR
Efficiency	\$543	\$1,086
1 bedroom	\$582	\$1,164
2 bedroom	\$697	\$1,395
3 bedroom	\$806	\$1,612
4 bedroom	\$900	\$1,800

Source: 2020 Affordability Limits for Ownership and Rental Housing, Metropolitan Council.

#### WHAT IS AFFORDABLE?

Housing is considered affordable when rent or mortgage costs are equal to 30% or less of the tenant’s or owner’s post-tax income. The above graph shows rent that is affordable to household incomes of \$30,000 and \$60,000. See the “2020 cost to rent in Bloomington” graph to the right to get an idea of the current rental market in Bloomington.



## HRA’S NEW DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

With more than 1,600 residential units in the pipeline, it has been another busy year for new housing development in Bloomington. Of the 1,611 units in the pipeline, 1,321 are market rate and 290 are affordable. Take a look at four multifamily developments coming to the community in the map above.

### 108 PLACE

108 Place is a \$10.3 million apartment development located at 4050 108th Street West. 108 Place provides 42 units are affordable at 60% of area median income. The development was fully leased in the spring of 2020.

### THE DISTRICT

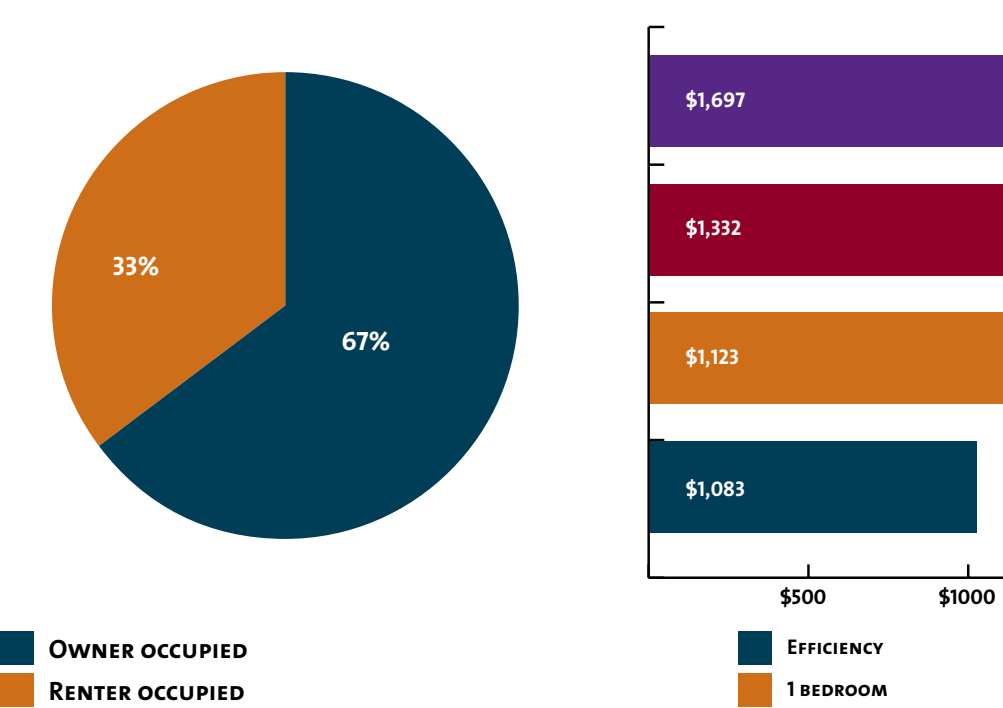
The District is a \$45 million mixed-income apartment development located at 1901 80th Street West. The District provides 248 units; 50 units are affordable at 50% of area median income and 198 are market rate units. It is the third phase of the mixed-use development at Penn Avenue and American Boulevard. Leasing is occurring now. Construction will be complete in spring 2021.

### VILLAGE CLUB

Village Club is a \$50 million apartment development located at 1900 86th Street East. Village Club will provide 172 units. 104 units will be affordable at 60% of area median income, 17 units will be affordable at 30% of area median income, and 51 market rate units. The development is currently under construction. Leasing is expected to begin in fall of 2021.

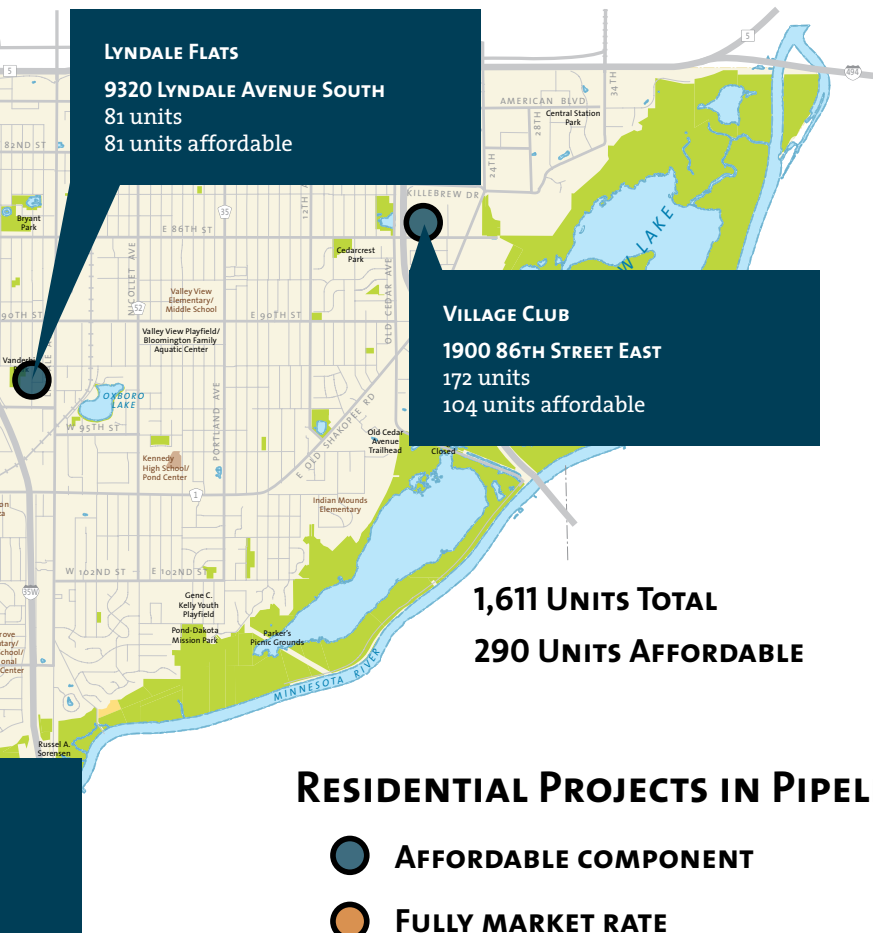
## BLOOMINGTON HOUSING AT A GLANCE

### HOMEOWNERSHIP VS. RENTAL





# HRA YEAR IN REVIEW



**LYNDALE FLATS**

Lyndale Flats is a \$20 million apartment development located at 9320 Lyndale Avenue South. Lyndale Flats will provide 81 units affordable at 60% of area median income. Construction will begin in early 2021.



## RENTAL HOMES FOR FUTURE HOMEBUYERS

The Rental Homes for Future Homebuyers program helps families save money for future home purchases. Eligible families of 3 – 6 members may apply for the program waiting list. The waiting list is approximately 3 – 5 years long and each year 3 – 5 new families enter the program.

Applicants accepted into the program rent one of 21 houses owned by the Housing and Redevelopment Authority. All the houses are three-bedroom single family houses located in Bloomington.

To help aspiring homeowners achieve their goals, HRA saves a portion of the their rent each month, and places it in escrow. After five years, those funds are used by the family toward a down payment to buy their own home. Over the period of five years, HRA works with families to set goals and prepare to purchase and maintain their own home.



## HOME IMPROVEMENT LOANS

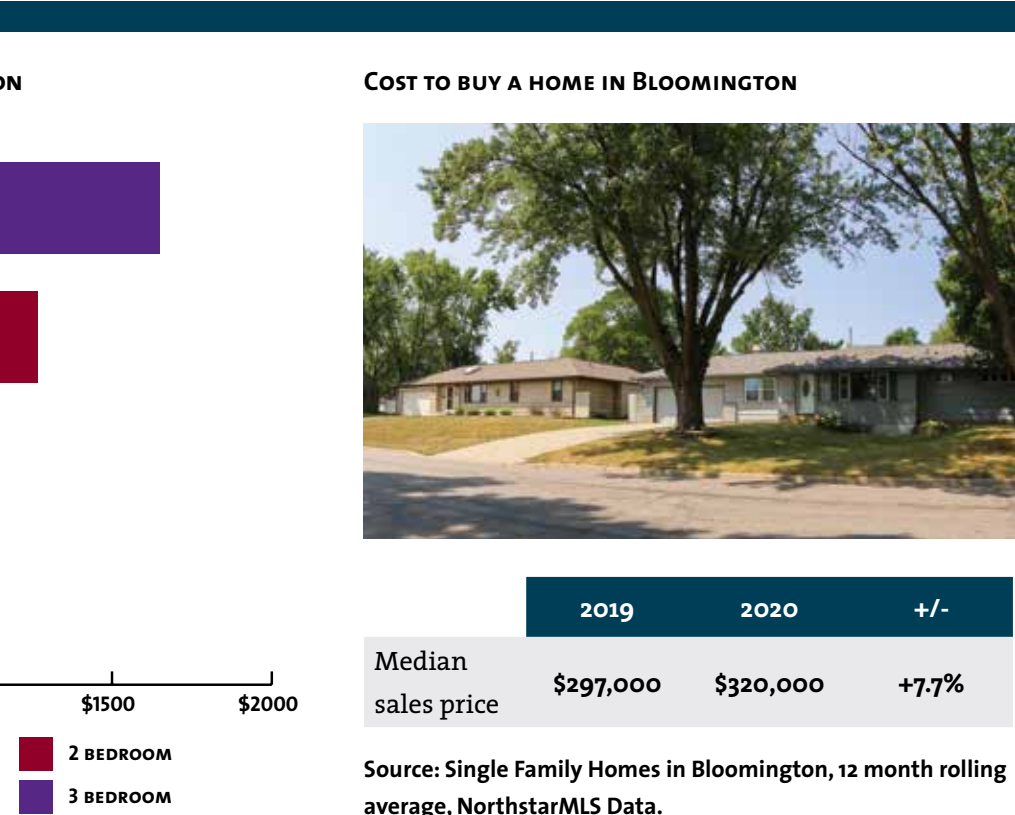
Bloomington HRA provides home improvement loans up to \$35,000 to eligible Bloomington owner occupants. Improvement loans are available at a 2% interest rate of accrual for 10-years with no monthly payment. The loan is deferred, requiring full repayment by the borrower when the home is transferred or sold, or is no longer the owner's principal place of residence. The purpose of the loan is to help Bloomington owner occupants make repairs correlating to health and safety such as energy efficiency, lead based paint abatement, external structure repairs and City Code compliance requirements. Adherence to the City Code may require heating, electrical and/or plumbing improvements. For more information or to apply for a loan, call 952-563-8937 or visit blm.mn/loans.

HOUSING REHAB LOANS BY THE NUMBERS	
73	Loans approved in 2020
1.5	Millions of dollars in investment in the community

## RENTAL ASSISTANCE

The HRA assists over 950 households within its rental assistance programs each month. The Housing Choice Voucher Rent Assistance Program, more commonly known as Section 8, is one of the HRA's biggest programs. Housing Choice Vouchers are specific to individuals and families. Project Based Section 8 is specific to housing units.

RENTAL ASSISTANCE BY THE NUMBERS	
550	Households assisted through Housing Choice Vouchers
405	Households assisted through Project Based Section 8
21	Households assisted through Rental Housing for Future Homebuyers







### CLEAN UP PET WASTE

Bloomington has beautiful lakes, rivers and streams but they require upkeep from everyone, including dog owners. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has identified Nine Mile Creek downstream of Marsh Lake and Purgatory Creek downstream of Starring Lake as impaired for bacteria. The problem stems from improperly managed pet waste as well as waste from geese, waterfowl and other wildlife. Picking up and properly disposing of pet waste can decrease bacteria which is carried by stormwater runoff into these creeks.

When you are out walking your dog, clean up and dispose of pet waste. Put pet waste into a trash can, which will be emptied and its contents incinerated. If you let your dog out in your yard, remove pet waste as it accumulates. Keeping up with it will avoid uncollected pet waste problems as the snow melts in the spring. It's the right thing to do for the environment and your neighborhood

Also, a City ordinance calls for dog owners and handlers to clean up after their dogs from any sidewalk, street, park, school, public place or private property.

### CITY CONSIDERING CURBSIDE ORGANICS

The City has begun considering how to offer curbside organics recycling to comply with Hennepin County Ordinance 13. The ordinance requires cities with more than 10,000 residents to make curbside organics recycling available in 2022.

The City recognizes that there is also a lot of community interest in making this service available. Interest in the organics drop-offs program has continued to grow. Over 1,650 residents signed up to divert their organics from garbage. Watch for more information regarding plans for curbside organics recycling in the Briefing in coming months.

In the meantime, visit [blm.mn/organics](http://blm.mn/organics) for a list of the current organics recycling drop-off locations in the city.



### A SNOWY SCENE

All is tranquil in this snow globe scene. A marbled sky fades from orange to blue to gray and back again forming bright layers that resemble stained glass. Below this show of light, the landscape almost glows. The view is from the south side of the Old Cedar Avenue Bridge looking northwest. The Minnesota River Valley provides beauty year-round. Residents and visitors alike take pride in the high caliber of parks throughout Bloomington. The abundance of natural areas contributes to our quality of life. Preserving these treasures requires ongoing care and planning. Environmental sustainability is a strategic priority for the City.

### EARTH ACTION HERO: KATRINA MOBERG

More time outdoors and less screen time is a good thing for Katrina Moberg. The Jefferson High School senior believes paying attention to nature is important. Her mission of protecting and preserving the environment drives a lot of what she does at home and at school.

“I want to make a positive impact on the environment,” she said. “It’s kind of a cliché, but we only have one planet.”

As a longtime proponent of recycling, Moberg is an advocate for minimizing waste and disposing of it in the best way possible. She and her family participate in the City of Bloomington’s organics recycling program.

“It’s so easy to compost and recycle,” she said. “So why not do it? It’s a lot easier than you might think.”

At her high school, she co-founded the student group Earth Corps. In one project, Earth Corps added composting containers to collect paper towels in school bathrooms. In another project, Moberg distributes bags to classrooms to collect compost discarded during a monthly doughnut and coffee sale. Other sustainable initiatives and activities include:

- Sunday Fun Day events which are outdoors and socially distanced.
- Virtual challenges for students to make Instagram videos to show how they are doing sustainable things at home.
- Environmental Racism Book Club to discuss racial inequities and sustainability.
- Youth Climate Justice Summit at the State Capitol to meet other sustainability supporters and state representatives.

Moberg’s work with sustainability is just beginning. She plans to study environmental engineering at college. From her unyielding passion for the environment and success with Earth Corps, there’s no limit to what she can achieve.

To learn more and sign up for the City organics drop-off program, visit [blm.mn/organics](http://blm.mn/organics) or call 952-563-8760.



### PREVENT SPRING FLOODING AROUND YOUR HOME

Spring means melting snow and spring rains. All this water can lead to flooding—even in areas far from ponds, wetlands and streams. While the City and other agencies watch for large flooding risks, you can take steps to prevent small flooding issues around your home.

1. Direct downspouts into lawns and point them away from buildings. Avoid directing water to driveways or sidewalks where water can freeze and become a safety hazard.
  2. Make sure water is not blocked by snowbanks. Snowmelt and water from early spring rains can create pools around buildings if it becomes blocked by snow in downstream areas. Think about shoveling a small path along the low points of your yard and extend it all the way to your house. This will give snowmelt and rain water a place to go and prevent pools. Remember that water follows the path of least resistance.
  3. Keep storm drains clear of debris, snow and ice.
- For more information, visit [blm.mn/water-resources](http://blm.mn/water-resources) or call 952-563-4870.







## ARTISTRY PRESENTS *UNFURLED* ART EXHIBIT

Experience the art exhibit *Unfurled* and explore the ideas, hopes and struggles from a new generation of emerging local artists, including Philipo Dyauli, Roshan Ganu, Nedahness Greene, Lissa Karpeh, Alonzo Pantoja and Suyao Tian. The independent nonprofit organization, Artistry, presents the exhibit, February 26 – April 2, at the Bloomington Center for the Arts, Inez Greenberg Gallery, Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

“As we live through these challenging times, art from fresh perspectives can give us a time to reflect on what’s important and dear. And *Unfurled* strives to present art that can be a catalyst to new beginnings,” Curator Christopher E. Harrison said.

An online panel discussion will be held on Tuesday, March 23, 7 p.m.

Due to COVID-19, dates for the exhibition and panel discussion are subject to change. The Center for the Arts and the Inez Greenberg Gallery will use appropriate social distancing practices when open. For the most up-to-date information, visit [artistrymn.org](http://artistrymn.org) or call 952-563-8575.

## PARK SYSTEM MASTER PLAN REVIEWED

In January, the City Council reviewed the draft language of for the Park Master Plan’s vision, mission and guiding principles. These will serve as the foundation for future decisions.

The proposed vision is for an accessible system of vibrant parks, diverse recreational facilities, sustainable park resources, and engaging programs and experiences. The mission is to build a sense of community and enhance the quality of life for all residents. This is attained through the management of high-quality parks and natural areas, and by providing exceptional experiences through innovative recreation programs, art activities and park facilities.

Work on the Park System Master Plan has been underway for about a year. The plan will serve as a road map to shape

the how the City meets the needs of park users. It will be used to plan and complete park improvements, guide City capital improvements and ensure that changes and investments to the park system fit into the bigger picture of better serving the community.

Bloomington Parks and Recreation partnered with the City’s Community Outreach and Engagement and Communications divisions to ensure the planning process is transparent. Residents, user groups and other stakeholders have had ongoing opportunities for input.

The planning process will be completed this summer but there’s still time to provide input. To view and comment on the plan, visit [blm.mn/letstalk](http://blm.mn/letstalk) and click on the Park System Master Plan topic or call 952-563-8877.



## BLOOMINGTON CHORALE’S LOOKING FORWARD

The Bloomington Chorale is preparing for a post-COVID return. Although the pandemic forced a hiatus in the group’s normal activities, the pause allowed for deep introspection. From refining its values to releasing a new logo, look and website, the chorale has been hard at work, including planning programs for future shows. With the addition of director Dr. David Donelson last winter, the chorale is excited to return to singing together tentatively this fall.

The Bloomington Chorale is housed in the Bloomington Center for the Arts, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, and is a non-audition chorus for singers of all abilities of 18 years and older. For 38 years, the group has offered high-quality performances at affordable prices. For more information, visit [blm.mn/chorale](http://blm.mn/chorale) or call 952-563-8582.



## WHEN TO WEAR A MASK OUTDOORS

The CDC recommends that people wear masks in public settings and anywhere they will be around other people. This can include outdoor areas, especially when there are crowds. Bring a mask with you to put on when you encounter people who may get closer than six feet.

Wear a mask and take everyday preventive actions in public settings. When we all wear masks, we take care of each other and everyone is better protected. Masks are key to helping prevent people from getting and spreading COVID-19. They provide a barrier that keeps respiratory droplets from spreading. For the most protection, wear a mask, stay six feet apart, avoid crowds and poorly ventilated places, and wash your hands regularly.

For more information, visit [blm.mn/mask](http://blm.mn/mask) or call 800-232-4636.



Prior to COVID-19, skaters practiced for the BIG Ice Show.

## BIG ICE SHOW COMING UP

The 51st annual BIG Ice Show is planned for Friday, March 12, 7 p.m., at 3600 West 98th Street. Due to COVID-19, this year’s show will be performed differently than past events and resemble more of a recital.

Registration for the show began in February. Practices for the show are scheduled for March 8 – 11 in the evening. Due to COVID-19, event dates and times are subject to change.

To confirm current safety guidelines, event details, ticket costs and other information, visit [blm.mn/BIG](http://blm.mn/BIG), email [rgelecinskyj@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:rgelecinskyj@BloomingtonMN.gov) or call 952-563-8841.



# 2021 CURBSIDE CLEANUP SCHEDULE

**APRIL 3 — WEST OF NORMANDALE BOULEVARD (FRIDAY GARBAGE AND RECYCLING DAY).**

**APRIL 10 — FRANCE AVENUE TO NORMANDALE BOULEVARD (THURSDAY GARBAGE AND RECYCLING DAY).**

**APRIL 17 — PENN AVENUE TO FRANCE AVENUE (WEDNESDAY GARBAGE AND RECYCLING DAY).**

**APRIL 24 — PORTLAND AVENUE TO PENN AVENUE (TUESDAY GARBAGE AND RECYCLING DAY).**

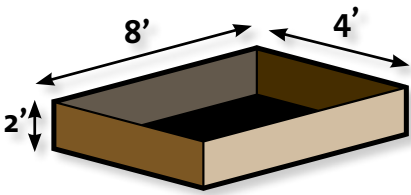
**MAY 1 — EAST OF PORTLAND AVENUE (MONDAY GARBAGE AND RECYCLING DAY).**

## ACCEPTED AT THE CURB

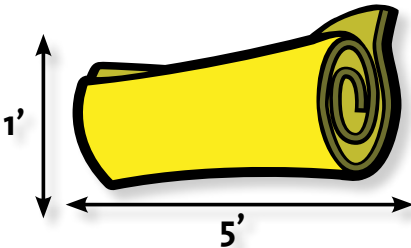
- Unusable general junk, household building materials, lumber, windows and doors.

Pile size is limited to what fits in one level, standard-size pickup truck bed. Lumber must be stacked and no longer than five feet. General junk must be boxed or bundled with twine and weigh less than 100 pounds per box or bundle.

- Carpet and pads:** Roll and securely tie with twine. Keep under five feet in length and one foot in diameter.
- Appliances:** Limit of two appliances per house. Water heaters and softeners, microwaves, washers, dryers, stoves, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, freezers, dishwashers, trash compactors, garbage disposals, water coolers, refrigerators (remove door or tie securely shut). Do not set out until the morning of your pickup date.
- Unusable furniture:** Limited to two items. Tie down or disassemble hide-a-way sofa beds so they cannot open when handled.
- Bundled brush:** Branches must be smaller than three inches in diameter and five feet in length, tied with twine and put in bundles that should be light enough for one person to carry. Bundled brush piles must be no more than what can fit in a standard pickup truck bed.



ONE LEVEL TRUCK BED OF GENERAL JUNK DIMENSIONS



CARPETS/PADS DIMENSIONS

- Mattresses or box springs.** Limited to two items.
- Large metal ONLY:** Large scrap metal items that do not fit in the trunk of a car (bikes, grills, lawn mowers, snow blowers, swing sets, treadmills, etc.) Drain all fluids and remove tires. Take smaller items to the South Hennepin Recycling and Problem Waste Drop-Off Center, 1400 West 96th Street.

## NOT ACCEPTED AT THE CURB

- Loose cardboard.** While we understand residents might place small items in a box and set the box out on the curb, loose cardboard on its own is not accepted. Cardboard should be flattened and recycled.
- Small metal.**
- Tires, batteries.**
- Tubs, sinks and toilets.**
- Extra heavy and bulky items:** Pianos, organs, etc.
- Electronic items:** Cell phones, computers, stereos, printers or TVs.
- Hazardous waste:** Fluorescent tubes, motor oil, paint, propane, solvents or other household chemicals.
- Miscellaneous building items:** Contractor materials, bricks, concrete, railroad ties, shingles (asbestos) or treated wood.
- Organic materials:** Food waste, grass clippings, leaves, logs, sod or stumps.
- Recyclable materials:** Boxboard, cans, loose cardboard, glass, corrugated cardboard, newspapers or plastic bottles.



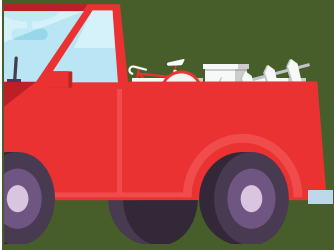
## CURBSIDE PILE ITEM LIMITS



TWO MATTRESSES OR BOX SPRINGS



TWO PIECES OF FURNITURE



ONE LEVEL TRUCK BED OF GENERAL JUNK

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU CITY'S SUSTAINABLE BULKY ITEM DISPOSAL PLAN DRAFT

Changes are coming to how bulky items are disposed of in Bloomington. The current curbside model generates significant waste sent to landfills, is expensive, and raises concerns related to availability of landfill space for these materials in the future. The Sustainability Commission has proposed a new model for managing bulky items in a more sustainable and cost-effective way. The proposal includes giving residents vouchers to dispose of one to two bulky items at their curb throughout the year as well as hosting one or two community drop-off events that would be open to all residents in Bloomington. The City is seeking feedback to ensure that the new service options reflect the needs of the community.

### Online listening sessions

The City and Sustainability Commission are holding two online meetings to share more information about the proposed changes and receive community input. Anyone interested in learning more about the plan and providing feedback is encouraged to attend. The meetings will be facilitated to encourage questions and comments. Meetings will be held:

- March 10, 7 – 8:30 p.m.
- March 23, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

Register for the meetings in advance at [blm.mn/letstalk](https://blm.mn/letstalk). The meeting link will be sent upon registering.

### Take the survey

People who want give their feedback on the plan, but do not want to attend an online meeting can share their comments through a brief survey at [blm.mn/bulk](https://blm.mn/bulk).

### Learn more

Learn more about the proposed changes and how you can make your voice heard at [blm.mn/letstalk](https://blm.mn/letstalk).

## PLANT A TREE TO CELEBRATE ARBOR DAY

Help build Bloomington's urban forest. Order your trees from the City's annual tree sale ahead of time and they will be delivered to you. Now in its 14th year, the tree sale has added approximately 2,800 trees to Bloomington's urban forest. This program is among the initiatives that helps Bloomington maintain its Tree City USA status.

Through the sale, Bloomington residents can purchase affordable shade trees. Experts will give a demonstration about planting bare-root trees and will be on hand to answer questions. Learn proper planting techniques and why a diverse mix of species is important.

Residents may purchase a maximum of up to five trees per household. To place a tree order, go to [blm.mn/treesale](https://blm.mn/treesale), mail in the order form below, or call 952-563-8760. Trees will be delivered to the address listed on the order form in the first week of May.

### ARBOR DAY TREE SALE ORDER FORM

Bloomington residents only. All trees are bare-root, one-and-a-quarter to one-and-a-half inches in diameter and cost \$50 each. *Trees are viable at the time of sale and no refunds will be issued.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email (needed to arrange deliveries) \_\_\_\_\_

*Fill in number of each tree type desired. First come, first served. Maximum five trees total per household, \$50 each. Checks made out to City of Bloomington must accompany order.*

_____ Autumn blaze maple	_____ Black Hills spruce	_____ Imperial honeylocust	_____ Japanese tree lilac
_____ River birch	_____ Serviceberry	_____ Snowdrift crab apple	_____ Prairie Fire crab apple

Total trees \_\_\_\_\_ X \$50 ea. = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total cost \_\_\_\_\_

Trees will be delivered to the address listed on the order form in the first week of May.  
Send check and this form to City of Bloomington, Park Maintenance,  
1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027.

