

BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING



APRIL 2021

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Photo courtesy of Sean Trenary, VEAP.

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ENJOY NEW AND UPDATED TRAIL AREAS

Have you seen the new Minnesota River Valley Trail or the renovations made to the Old Cedar Avenue bridge area? These scenic trails are popular places to walk, hike, bike, and watch wildlife and birds.

The Old Cedar Avenue bridge trailhead has a new shelter, parking lot and play area, but the star attraction is the bridge. The newly renovated Old Cedar Avenue bridge spans Long Meadow Lake and provides access to a pedestrian and bike crossing on the TH77 bridge. This connects to trails along the Minnesota River in Dakota County. The City of Bloomington owns the Old Cedar Avenue bridge which is located in a narrow strip of public right-of-way. However, the remaining area is federal property managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The recently completed segment of the Minnesota River Valley Trail extends between Lyndale Avenue by the Sorenson boat launch and the Xcel Energy powerline corridor. The Department of Natural Resources is responsible for the design, construction, maintenance and operation of the Minnesota River Valley Trail and is in the process of securing necessary permits and funding to complete the segment from the powerline corridor to the Old Cedar Avenue bridge trail and the TH77 crossing. Completion of this connection will create a loop approximately eight miles long encompassing both sides of the river.

HOW THINGS WORK: TRAIL NETWORKS

Bloomington has an extensive network of trails, but not all of them are City-maintained trails. Some are controlled by the Department of Natural Resources, Three Rivers Park District, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or other agencies and groups.

Partnerships between these and other organizations aim to make the user experience as seamless as possible. It takes ongoing coordination to maintain, operate and improve these areas. Trails can have more than one property owner and can be operated and maintained by multiple agencies.



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF BLOOMINGTON PARKS

Work has been underway on the Park System Master Plan for about a year. The plan will be a road map that shapes the future of our neighborhoods, addresses our community's quality of life and determines how the City meets the needs of park users. It will be used to plan and complete park improvements, help with City capital improvements and ensure that changes and investments to the park system fit into the bigger picture of better serving the community.

In January, the City Council reviewed the draft language of the vision, mission and guiding principles of the Park System Master Plan. These will serve as the foundation for future decisions. The guiding principles of the plan are to be Bloomington (be iconic), be essential, be equitable and be resilient. These will serve as the foundation for future decisions about the park system.

The planning process will be done in the summer, but there's still time to let your priorities for Bloomington's parks be known. There are seven surveys on Let's Talk Bloomington covering topics that gather input about potential year-round park buildings and service areas, inclusive play locations where children of all abilities can play together, skate park locations, splash pad locations, dog park locations, and bike skills area locations.

To read and comment on the full current plan draft or fill out the surveys, visit blm.mn/letstalk or call 952-563-8700.



Photo courtesy of Sean Trenary, VEAP.

MAYOR’S MEMO

GET OUT AND VOLUNTEER BLOOMINGTON

By Mayor Tim Busse

Bloomington is fortunate to be home to many outstanding charitable organizations that provide invaluable services to our residents. Most of those organizations couldn’t do the work they do without the help of volunteers. You don’t have to look far to find volunteer opportunities.

Yet, at a time when there is record need for services, fewer people are giving their time. In Bloomington, we’ve seen a steady decline in volunteer participation in recent years. In the 2020 National Community Survey, 30% of respondents said they volunteered their time to some group activity in Bloomington. This was down from 31% in 2019, and 40% in 2013. It’s likely COVID-19 concerns have meant that fewer older adults and other high-risk populations are volunteering for group activities these days.

More surprisingly, survey respondents rated opportunities to volunteer in Bloomington at 69%, which is down from 73% last year, and 80% in 2012. This comes at a time when the demand for volunteers is higher than it’s ever been in our community. Due to COVID-19 and economic pressures, more people are turning to charitable organizations for help. Some have never asked for assistance before but must do so now to put food on the table, have a home, receive medical care, or meet countless other needs. This heightened demand for resources has pushed many charitable organizations into responding in new and different ways. Volunteers fill the gap.

Whether you are a student, career professional or retiree, the right volunteer opportunity is waiting for you. Follow your heart to what you are passionate about and connect with a nonprofit that speaks to your personal purpose. Find a place where your interests can help others. Check out a list of different community partners where you can volunteer at blm.mn/giveback.

I certainly understand that these are challenging times and circumstances are much harder on some than others. Not everyone is in a position to give their time. However, if you have the ability to do so, please volunteer. Pitch in and make a difference.

Everyone gains in volunteering. It’s rewarding to step outside yourself and give your time to help others. This is how to build community, to make a greater connection to your neighbors and widen your perspective.

Volunteering is a cornerstone of community and civic engagement. The economic impact is vast but there are other benefits, too—things that can be harder to measure. It’s good for the community, good for the volunteers and good for those served. People are fed, illnesses are treated, animals are rescued, the environment is conserved—and the community is better for it.

CELEBRATING VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEK

Hooray and thank you, volunteers! This year Volunteer Appreciation Week will be celebrated April 18 – 24. It’s an opportunity to recognize the time and service volunteers give in Bloomington. Volunteers save the City thousands of dollars and help accomplish its mission. Volunteers make many contributions, including serving as ushers, assisting with large initiatives like pandemic response and Census 2020, and beautifying and cleaning up public spaces.

“City volunteers are a diverse group, ranging in age, ethnic and racial background, and life experience. They help in practically every department and division,” Community Outreach and Engagement Coordinator Nancy Brewster said.

The City will mark the Volunteer Appreciation Week with certificates of appreciation for volunteers, messages on the City’s message signs, social media posts, a drive-thru event and a proclamation by Mayor Tim Busse at City Council.

AT YOUR SERVICE: BARB WOLFF

Last year when COVID-19 began, Barb Wolff stepped up to volunteer at Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People (VEAP) and encouraged others to do so as well. As a Bloomington resident, she cares about her community. That civic pride not only carries through to her work at VEAP, but to her job as special projects and initiatives manager for the City. It’s a position she’s held for two years. She began her tenure at the City in 2011 as a community development office supervisor.

Her work at VEAP helps community members get through tough times by providing stability through food and housing.

“I enjoy showing a bit of kindness and compassion to those who may be experiencing troubling times,” Wolff said. “It’s really about helping others through a financial crisis and the pandemic has put many members of our community in dire straits.”

Another thing Wolff strives to do is change negative perceptions about people in need. Social stigmas are attached to job loss, income reductions due to cut hours, fixed income constraints and other financial pressures. These challenges are difficult for people to endure during any time and COVID-19 has only added to the strain.

The demand is greater than ever but when people are in need, Wolff is ready to provide support. Bloomington is better as a result of her dedicated work both as a career professional and community volunteer.

BRIEFING

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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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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.



Get Connected
to Your COVID-19
Vaccine!

THE MAKING OF A COVID-19 VACCINE CLINIC

Have you ever wondered what’s involved with coordinating a COVID-19 vaccine clinic? We hear a lot in the news about vaccine development, but not as much about that critical “last mile” when the vaccine becomes a vaccination.

“We find out about a week ahead of time how many vaccines we’re going to get, to use for the following week’s clinics,” said Nick Kelley, Acting Public Health Administrator. “We’re doing almost one hundred percent of our vaccine in three days...that’s a phenomenal amount of work on our staff’s end, where we process hundreds of doses and get them out the door in under 72 hours.”

Check out the video at blm.mn/covidclinic to get a behind-the-scenes look at COVID-19 vaccine clinics. The video features Bloomington Public Health and other City of Bloomington staff who are responsible for clinic planning, safety, operations, and more.



Public Health staff Molly Snuggerud and Olga Leininger prepare supplies at a vaccine clinic.

LET’S TALK BLOOMINGTON

The City of Bloomington is currently seeking feedback on several projects with its online engagement tool, Let’s Talk Bloomington, at blm.mn/letstalk. Register to join in the conversation. Staff are looking for community members’ feedback and questions on the following projects:



PARK SYSTEM MASTER PLAN

The Park System Master Plan will establish a clear 20-year vision for Bloomington parks, trails, recreation and open space systems. Maps and short surveys are available at blm.mn/letstalk.

PRIDE MONTH IN BLOOMINGTON

In recognition of the 50th anniversary of Twin Cities Pride, the Community Outreach and Engagement Division is in the early stages of planning for the 2022 Pride events in

partnership with Artistry, Twin Cities Pride, Hennepin County Library and the Human Rights Commission. Take the survey to help select a theme for the 2022 events at blm.mn/letstalk.

AMERICAN BOULEVARD WEST TRAFFIC STUDY

Engineering staff are developing a plan to address safety concerns along American Boulevard during the upcoming 2021 Pavement Management Program overlay project in the Normandale Lake District. Share your comments on the survey or find out more at blm.mn/letstalk.

SUSTAINABLE BULKY ITEM DISPOSAL PLAN

In 2019, City Council directed the Sustainability Commission to develop alternative methods to dispose of bulky items such as mattresses, chairs and tables in a more sustainable way. Take a survey, register for community listening sessions on March 10 and 23, or ask a question about the project at blm.mn/letstalk.

TIME OF SALE ENERGY DISCLOSURE

The community has provided input on this project and City staff will report to the Sustainability Commission in April. Learn more about the project, read the background information and watch for the report to the Sustainability Commission at blm.mn/letstalk. The policy will go to the City Council in May.

RECOGNIZING BLOOMINGTON PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

April 5 – 11 is National Public Health Week. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown how impactful public health services and programs are to community members. Whether they’re performing socially distanced home visits with families, taking calls on the COVID-19 resource line or running a vaccine clinic, Bloomington Public Health staff are fulfilling the mission to engage the community in promoting, protecting and improving the health of all.

The 2021 National Public Health Week theme is “Building Bridges to Better Health.” People may be physically distant from each other, but it’s more important than ever to come together. Making communities safe is the top priority of all public health departments and divisions. COVID-19 has made that even more important. In the midst of the most challenging public health crisis of our lifetimes, it’s more important than ever to celebrate public health. To learn more about Bloomington Public Health’s work, visit blm.mn/publichealth.



BOB CARR RETIRING FROM BIG

The Bloomington Ice Garden and Bob Carr go back a long time. You could say Carr’s image is almost engrained into the ice. His expert knowledge of hockey, skating and BIG business have helped shape how things work at the facility for 46 years. On April 30, Carr will retire as ice garden manager.

During his time at BIG, the facility has hosted national and regional hockey tournaments, high school hockey games, figure skating competitions, and ice shows, and even a wedding or two.

It all started in 1974. At first, he split his time between BIG and Dwan Golf Course. After a couple of years, he became a full-time employee at the ice garden. Over time, Carr worked in different roles and his association with BIG expanded.

From everyday ice users, to celebrities, to City staff and all-around skating fans, Carr made a connection with everyone. Those who visited BIG enjoyed his keen wit and welcoming manner. He will be missed in a BIG way.

SPRING OPENING AT DWAN GOLF COURSE

Even with COVID-19 restrictions, Dwan Golf Course had a successful season in 2020. Golf proved to be more popular than expected. This year is poised to play out the same. Dwan Golf Course eagerly anticipates the return of players. Whether you are an experienced golfer, or new to the game, or somewhere in between, you’ll enjoy the fun challenge of Dwan Golf Course, 3301 West 110th Street.

Visitors continue to benefit from customer-friendly offerings, including online booking, cart cleaning measures and other safety amenities. A virtually contactless experience allows golfers to play confidently with safety in mind.

The golf season typically begins sometime in April. For the latest course updates, to book a tee time or find other information, visit blm.mn/dwan, call 952-563-8702 or email golf@BloomingtonMN.gov.



NEW YARD WASTE BAG LIMITS AND FAQ

New this year, there is a limit of 20 additional bags or bundles of yard waste that can be set out per week with yard waste service. Any extra yard waste bags will not be picked up by the haulers. In the past, having an unlimited number of yard waste bags caused significant challenges for haulers in completing their routes on time. If you have more than 20 bags, save the additional bags to be collected until the following week.

2021 yard waste season dates:
Monday, April 12 – Friday, November 26, weather permitting. If there is significant snowfall before the end of November, yard waste collection may end at that time.

What’s accepted? Garden waste, grass clippings, leaves, weeds, soft garden materials, shrub and tree waste, and pruning. Twigs and branches must be three feet or less in length and three inches or less in diameter. Bags or bundles cannot be heavier than 40 pounds.

What’s not accepted? Dirt, sod, rocks and wood chips.

How do I prepare yard waste?
Residents receive a yard waste cart, and can request one additional yard waste cart for a \$37.32 fee. You can set up to 20 bags of yard waste out in addition to your cart(s).

How can I sign up? To sign up for yard waste subscription, contact Utility Billing at utilitybilling@bloomingtonmn.gov or 952-563-8726. The service costs \$84.78 per season.

Can I get on-call service?
Residents can pay per bag for on-call service by purchasing yard waste stickers for \$4.26 each. Please call the Finance Department at 952-563-8757 and the stickers will be mailed out. Limit of 20 on-call bags per week.

For more information, visit blm.mn/yardwaste.

DON’T USE FERTILIZER WITH PHOSPHORUS

Most soils in Bloomington are already high in phosphorus. Adding more is unnecessary and can be damaging to the environment. City code prohibits the use of fertilizer that contains phosphorus.

Before you purchase or apply fertilizer to your lawn, check the numbers on the label. There will be three numbers, and the middle number should be zero. The first number shows the amount of nitrogen, the second is phosphorus and the third is potassium.

For more information, visit blm.mn/phosphorus or call 952-563-4870.



EARTH ACTION HEROES GOATS GOBBLE UP BUCKTHORN

Ready for some good goat gazing? You’re in luck if you missed the goats gorging on invasive buckthorn at Normandale Community College, 9700 France Avenue South, last fall. The herd is coming back. Look for the goats around September and October. This comes on the tail of last year’s success. The goats proved to be more than efficient buckthorn eaters; they were fun to watch and became a popular spectacle. “We heard so much positive feedback, people would be upset if we wouldn’t be bringing them back again,” Normandale Environmental Health and Safety Administrator Jon Hansen said.

Besides being fun to watch, the goats promote sustainability and uphold the college’s core values for effective and respectful stewardship of natural resources. No chemicals are needed to eliminate buckthorn when these browsers are at work. Goats put their teeth into buckthorn removal. They like to graze all day long at all levels. Standing on their hind legs, they can reach several feet high. From their heads to their hooves, goats are ideal buckthorn busters. The noxious plant is no match for a herd of 30 hungry goats.

The goats will graze over a two-acre area of the college’s trail system on the west side. Once it’s cleared, they’ll move to an adjoining three-acre area. A double fence with an inner electrical barrier will keep the herd contained.

You don’t have to wait for the goats to appear to enjoy a nature break. Normandale Community College has an extensive network of hiking trails, and anyone is welcome to visit.

To see last year’s goats in action, go to blm.mn/seegoat. For other information, visit blm.mn/goats or call 952-358-8200.

HELP BLOOMINGTON CELEBRATE EARTH DAY

Mark your calendars for our annual recognition of environmental stewardship. The Bloomington Sustainability Commission, in partnership with the League of Women Voters Bloomington, welcomes neighbors and families to join in celebrating the 51st anniversary of Earth Day. This year’s theme will highlight Bloomington’s fantastic natural resources and our need to protect and restore them. The event will take place in two parts. Join us on Thursday, April 22, 7 – 8:30 p.m., for a video conversation about natural resources within Bloomington, then follow up on Saturday, April 24, with a day of action in a City park. For more information, visit blm.mn/sustainability or call 952-563-8730.



GOING FROM TURF GRASS TO MEADOW LAWNS

Maybe you’ve noticed more meadows springing up around town? The City of Bloomington is converting some turf lawn areas into meadow lawns. These plantings rely on native grasses and flowers, and are a more environmentally friendly approach to landscaping. Sustainability is a priority for the City.

Have you considered adding a meadow lawn to your yard or landscape? Once established, meadow lawns offer many advantages over traditional turf, including:

- Lower maintenance costs and less fuel use. Mow just once a year.
- More climate resiliency through absorbing larger amounts of carbon.
- More drought tolerance. Less water needed for maintenance and less water runoff into water bodies.
- Better habitat and food supply for insects, birds and wildlife.
- Safer areas for children and pets to play.

For more information, visit blm.mn/lawncare or call 952-563-8760.

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).

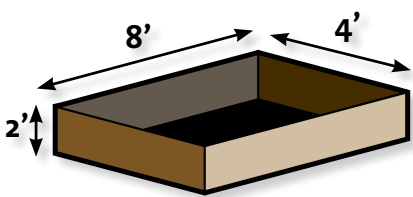
MAY 1 — EAST OF PORTLAND AVENUE (MONDAY GARBAGE AND RECYCLING DAY).

WHAT’S ACCEPTED AT THE CURB

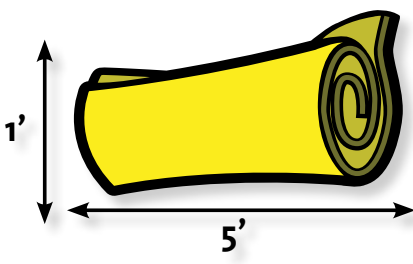
- Unusable general junk, household building materials, lumber, windows and doors:

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.

WHAT’S 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 on your weekly recycling day.
- Small metal.**
- Tires, batteries.**
- Tubs, sinks and toilets.**
- Extra heavy and bulky items:** Pianos, organs, etc.
- Electronic items:** Cell phones, computers, stereos, printers and TVs.
- Hazardous waste:** Fluorescent tubes, motor oil, paint, propane, solvents and other household chemicals.
- Miscellaneous building items:** Contractor materials, bricks, concrete, railroad ties, shingles (asbestos) and treated wood.
- Organic materials:** Food waste, grass clippings, leaves, logs, sod and stumps.
- Recyclable materials:** Boxboard, cans, loose cardboard, glass, corrugated cardboard, newspapers and plastic bottles.



CURBSIDE CLEANUP’S COMING

Prepare for your Cleanup day by setting your materials at the curb **before 7 a.m.** Trucks only pass by once. Large appliances and brush are collected for recycling in separate trucks and any remaining items are collected and taken to a landfill.

Eligible residents will see a “Citywide Curbside Cleanup” charge on their utility bills. At an annual cost of \$53.04 for residents, this program is a bargain. (Disposing of one mattress with the bulk pickup program costs \$53.32.)

Remember to box small items or bundle them with twine. NO plastic bags are accepted. Do not set out reusable containers that you do not want collected by the haulers.

The City is considering more environmentally efficient ways to handle bulky items. For more information, visit blm.mn/bulky.

HOW TO DISPOSE OF UNACCEPTED ITEMS

Tires, batteries, electronics, hazardous waste and scrap metal can be taken to the Hennepin County Drop-Off Site in Bloomington, 1400 West 96th Street. Miscellaneous building items and porcelain can be taken to a transfer station or landfill. For more information on how to dispose of items not accepted in Curbside Cleanup visit hennepin.us/green-disposal-guide.

PLANT A TREE TO CELEBRATE ARBOR DAY

Help build Bloomington’s urban forest. 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 and find out more about trees. Experts 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, 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. Check must accompany order.

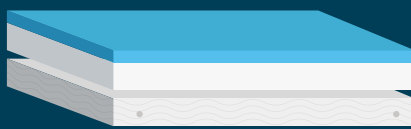
_____ Autumn blaze maple	_____ Black Hills spruce	_____ Imperial honeylocust	_____ Japanese tree lilac
_____ River birch	_____ Serviceberry	_____ Snowdrift crab apple	_____ Prairie Fire crab apple

Total trees _____ X \$50 ea. = \$ _____

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.



CURBSIDE PILE ITEM LIMITS



TWO MATTRESSES OR BOX SPRINGS



TWO PIECES OF FURNITURE



ONE LEVEL TRUCK BED OF GENERAL JUNK



CONTINENTAL BALLET CLASSES OFFERED

Want to learn ballet? The Continental Ballet offers ballet classes, ranging from elementary to advanced, at the Bloomington Center for the Arts, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Continental Ballet students can participate in a spring recital. Due to COVID-19, it has yet to be determined whether the recital will be a live or virtual event. For more information, email cbcinfo@continentalballet.com or call 952-563-8562.

HYLAND GREENS CHANGES

The City has owned and operated the Hyland Greens Golf and Learning Center since 1974. This year that will change.

The City still owns Hyland Greens, but Three Rivers Park District is taking over the operation of the facility. The City and the District signed a three-year deal agreeing to this new partnership in March.

This new arrangement will address an ongoing challenge facing the City. Hyland Greens operated at an annual financial loss for more than a decade and is in need of capital investment. Last year, the City did not open Hyland Greens due to the budgetary and operational challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The budget shortfall that arose as a result of COVID-19 led staff to think creatively about Hyland Greens.

The Three Rivers Park District has proven expertise in golf operations and instructional programming. Three Rivers currently owns and operates three golf centers, and operates two golf and practice centers.

For more information, visit blm.mn/hyland.

2021 BLOOMINGTON SUMMER EXPERIENCE

Experience summer in Bloomington as Parks and Recreation offers a variety of exciting, entertaining, educational and competitive experiences for people of all ages, abilities and interests. Due to uncertainties regarding health and safety protocols and availability of partner resources, Camp Kota has been canceled for 2021. However, many other fun youth programs remain scheduled. Learn more below and visit blm.mn/parksrec for additional details or call 952-563-8700.



SUMMER ADVENTURE PLAYGROUNDS

A summer of classic fun lies in store in neighborhood parks. Enjoy games, sports, arts and crafts, and special events.

Who: Children grade 1 – 7 (fall 2021).

When: Monday – Friday, June 14 – August 12, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. (No programming July 5 – 9.)

Where: Kelly*, Poplar Bridge, Running*, Smith*, Sunrise and Westwood parks (*Free sack lunch provided daily.)

Fee: Residents \$200. Nonresidents \$300. Registrations accepted all summer with no prorating of fees.

THE VIEW AND MINI VIEW

Participate in games, sports, arts and crafts, and take regular trips to Bloomington Family Aquatic Center in a fun program supervised by trained recreation instructors.

Who: The View: Children grades 2 – 5 (fall 2021), Mini View: Children pre-K* – grade 1 (fall 2021).

When: Program runs Monday – Friday, June 14 – August 6, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. (No programming July 5 – 9.)

Where: The View: Valley View Middle School, 8900 Portland Avenue South, Mini View: Valley View Elementary School, 351 East 88th Street.

Fee: Residents \$400. Nonresidents \$600. Registrations accepted until program is full, with no prorating of fees.

*(*Pre-K = children who are going to kindergarten in fall 2022 and are toilet trained.)*



DAKOTA LANGUAGE CAMP

Dakota teachers explain their nation’s values, history and one of Minnesota’s native languages through traditional games, crafts, songs, dancing and foods, and nature walks. Program provided by Parks and Recreation and University of Minnesota’s Dakota Language Department.

Who: All ages welcome. Children under seven must be accompanied by an adult or a teen sibling registered for the camp.

When: July 13 – 15, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Where: Pond Dakota Mission Park, 401 East 104th Street.

Fee: \$50. Lunch provided daily.

ADAPTIVE SOFTBALL

Adaptive recreation services work cooperatively with the Adaptive Recreation and Learning Exchange (AR&LE) to offer specialized recreation programs designed for people with disabilities. For more information, visit blm.mn/arle or call 952-563-8877. Registration deadline is May 31 or until filled.

When: Adult Competitive: Tuesdays, June 15 – August 10; Adult Recreational: Tuesdays, June 15 – August 3; Youth Softball: Mondays, June 14 – August 2. Adult leagues play 6:30 – 8:15 p.m. Youth Leagues play 6:30 – 8 p.m.

Where: Regular Season: Tarnhill Park, 9650 Little Road. “Under the Lights” game: Red Haddox Field, 9000 Portland Avenue South.

Fee: \$70 per player. Includes team shirt, team photo and special season-ending “Under the Lights” game.

ADULT RECREATION AND LEAGUES

There’s something for everyone this summer with classic sports like softball, sand volleyball and tennis, plus unique options such as kickball and bags. Softball features men’s and co-rec leagues Monday – Thursday beginning April 19. Sand Volleyball plays Wednesdays and Thursdays beginning May 26. Kickball kicks off May 4, while Bags begins June 1. Both leagues play on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Tennis offers men’s doubles, mixed doubles, women’s singles and doubles leagues and USTA-based instruction. For more details, including registration fees and deadlines, visit blm.mn/adultsports or call 952-563-8877.



FARMERS MARKET

Fresh, locally grown produce, cut flowers, meats, baked goods, jams, jellies, unique art and more abound at the Bloomington Farmers Market. The market also features music and community activities. For details and a complete calendar of events, visit blm.mn/market.

When: Saturdays, June 12 – October 23, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Where: East Lot, Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

Fee: No entry fee. Credit card and EBT cards accepted.

ARTISTRY

Aspiring young painters, potters, crafters, illustrators, and glass artists will find a camp that is just right for their interests, age and skill level. Summer classes take place in person and are subject to COVID-19 safety protocols. Register at artistrymn.org.

Who: Class content is specifically designed for grades 1 – 3, 4 – 6 and 7 – 9.

When: Early June – early August, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. or 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. (all-day option also available)

Where: Bloomington Center for the Arts, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

Contact: 952-563-8575 or info@artistrymn.org for additional details and scholarship information.

AQUATICS

The Bloomington Family Aquatic Center, Bush Lake Beach and Cedarcrest Park Splash Pad offer cool summer fun. For more information, visit blm.mn/parksrec.

When: BFAC season, June 5 – August 15. Ideal swimming conditions at BLB typically begin June 1. Splash pad season typically opens May 30 and operates while weather permits. Weekday, weekend and holiday hours vary.

Where: BFAC, 201 East 90th Street, BLB, 9140 East Bush Lake Road, Splash Pad, 8700 Bloomington Avenue South.

Fees: BFAC daily \$7 – \$10, free for children under two. Season pass \$30 – \$100 depending on age and city of residency.

BFAC passes sold online. Free parking, no concessions or lifeguards at BLB. Splash pad is free.



CRIME PREVENTION COORDINATOR RECEIVES AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

Bloomington Police Crime Prevention Coordinator Katie Zerull, *above*, received the 2020 Excellence in Service Award from the Minnesota Association of Police Women this year. She has been instrumental in the success of the Police Department’s crime prevention and community engagement programs since she started in 2015. Zerull coordinates more than 430 Neighborhood Watch groups and 700 Block Captains as well as events both large and small, including 385 Neighborhood Night Out events in 2019 and monthly Coffee with a Cop events. In 2020, she was also part of the team that kicked off a new engagement effort with Bloomington Police officers and staff delivering food for Meals on Wheels.

“I have a great job. I love the work that I do with the Police Department,” she said. “I have such a variety of work. I do a lot of crime prevention work and community engagement work. The work we do connecting with the community as law enforcement is so important. I often say you can’t buy engagement you have to build engagement.”

RECOGNIZING 911 DISPATCHERS

Telecommunicators, also known as 911 dispatchers, play a critical role in public safety. They are the first link between callers and first responders. They gather information that makes it possible to send appropriate aid and help those in need. During National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, April 11 – 17, the Bloomington Police Department is recognizing its dispatchers and the high-quality service they provide to all who live, visit, or work in Bloomington. In 2020, BPD staffed eight dispatchers who handled 167,262 phone calls and entered 57,549 computer-aided dispatch events.

“Being a 911 police and fire dispatcher has been one of the most stressful, yet rewarding things I could imagine doing,” said civilian police dispatcher of 27 years Dave Melin. “Bloomington has a very special place in my heart. Not only did I grow up here in the 1970s, but my parents still live here. I find great satisfaction knowing that I am providing the same level of service, support and compassion to my callers as I would for my own family.”

HAVE SAFE RECREATIONAL FIRES

A recreational fire is an outdoor fire used for cooking, warming or ceremonial purposes. When burning a recreational fire in your yard, use common sense, remember to be considerate of your neighbors and follow the City ordinance.

- Recreational fires may only be conducted between 7 a.m. and midnight and when the wind speed is less than 10 miles per hour. A fire must be extinguished immediately if a City official determines it is creating a fire safety hazard.
- Fires must be located at least 25 feet away from any structures or combustible materials and constantly attended to by a person within sight of the flames.
- Fire extinguishing equipment must be readily available.
- Use only dry, clean wood such as cordwood or Presto logs.
- Burning wood that has leaves or needles, or wood that is rotten, wet, or treated with paint or glue is prohibited by ordinance.
- Starter fuels may be used, but never use gasoline or other flammable liquids to start a fire.
- The fire stack must not exceed three feet wide by two feet high.

For more information, call 952-563-4801 or visit blm.mn/recfires.

NOTABLE NEIGHBOR: IMAM MOHAMED OMAR

Imam Mohamed Omar serves as executive director of Dar al Farooq, a Bloomington mosque and community center. Following the 2017 bombing of Dar Al Farooq, Imam Omar embraced the role of public advocate for the local Muslim community.

“I know keenly the hate that led to the unfortunate bombing can only be defeated by championing change and building bridges between the Muslim community and the broader city of Bloomington and Minnesota in general,” he said.

Imam Omar, a native of Somalia, fled the country at the age of 15 to escape civil war. His activism and leadership transcends his role at Dar al Farooq. Imam Omar cofounded the Muslim Coalition of Faith in Minnesota and the Muslim Coalition of Isaiah to galvanize the Muslim community to become more civically engaged. He is a board member of Sakan Community Resources, a group dedicated to finding affordable housing for those in need. Omar is also a member of UADEEG, which means “you serve,” a relief group formed in response to the toll faced by many communities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. UADEEG has provided hundreds of thousands of dollars in direct aid to communities in need, especially to seniors, through food and grocery delivery. UADEEG is currently partnering with school districts, after-school programs and faith centers in the metro area. He and his wife have lived in Bloomington for nearly 10 years with their six children.



CONSIDER POOL AND FENCE REQUIREMENTS

Thinking about adding a pool to your yard? If you are considering buying an outdoor pool, call the Building and Inspections Division to see what kind of fencing is needed.

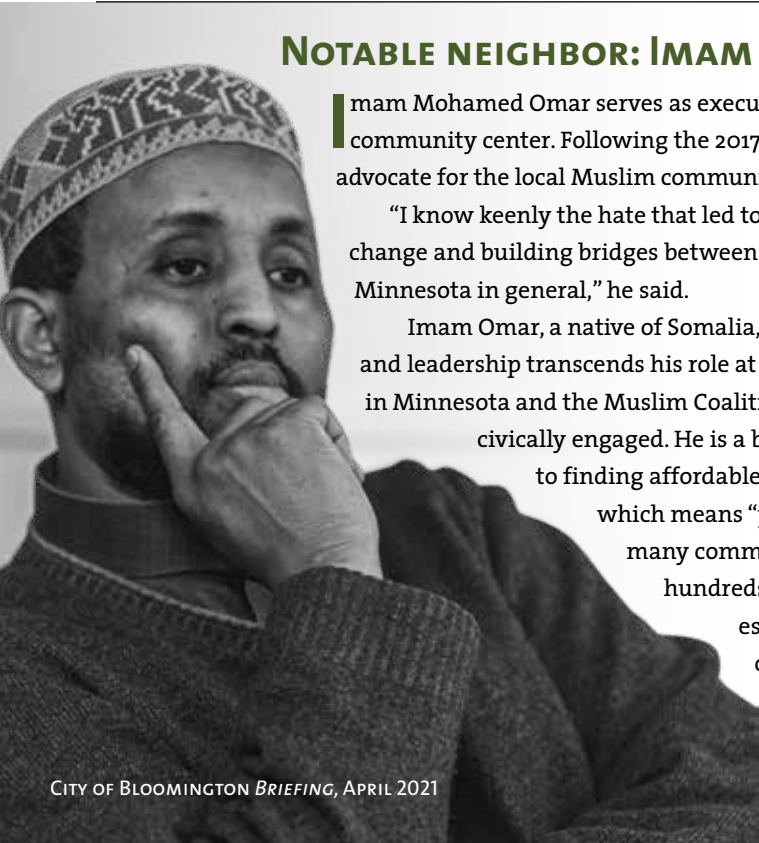
Fences, gates and other safety features can make pools safer, promote pool safety awareness and save lives, especially for young children. These barriers are not a replacement for adult supervision.

“Due to COVID-19, more residents have been buying pools,” Building and Inspections Supervisor Bernadette Gillespie said. “If you want to add a pool to your yard, know that there could be additional expenses beyond the cost of the pool itself.”

City code requires all outdoor pools greater than 24 inches deep to have a fence around them, along with a self-closing and self-latching gates. You may also need to meet additional requirements, dependent on size and location of the pool, per the Minnesota State Building code and local City zoning ordinance. For more information, call the Building and Inspections Division at 952-563-8934.

- Each year nearly 375 children younger than 15 drown in swimming pools and spas in the United States.
- Children younger than five account for 75% of these drownings.
- Most victims were missing for less than five minutes when they were found.
- Most drownings and submersion injuries involving victims younger than five occur in pools owned by friends, family or relatives.
- Portable pools accounted for close to 10% of total fatalities (annual average of 40) for children younger than 15.

*As reported by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission in an annual report on preventing child drownings and drowning prevention toolkit.





ENJOY BLOOMINGTON PARKS

Warm weather’s coming. Maybe you’re ready to get outside? The City of Bloomington has 97 parks, 45 playgrounds, a variety of athletic fields and so much more. With all this waiting, why not check out a few parks around town? Maybe you’ll find a new favorite. For more information, visit blm.mn/parks or call 952-563-8877.



1. BUSH LAKE
9140 EAST BUSH LAKE ROAD

Scenic lake views and an abundance of trails are ideal for bikers, hikers, walkers and beachcombers. If you like fishing or gazing at water, don’t miss the pier.



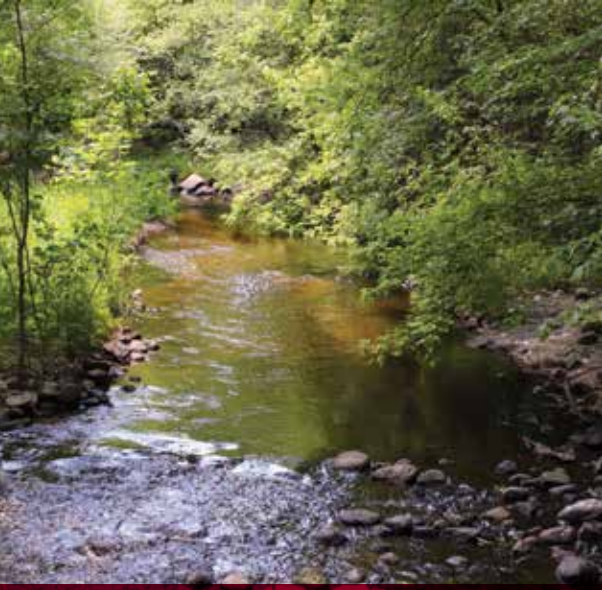
2. CENTRAL PARK
WEST 106TH STREET AND JAMES ROAD

This park connects to Harrison Picnic Grounds and Moir Park to the north, and the Minnesota River Valley to the south. Nine Mile Creek creates scenic vistas.



3. DRED SCOTT
10820 BLOOMINGTON FERRY ROAD

At nearly 50 acres, this park has a lot to offer. Dred and Harriet Scott interpretive signs commemorate the significance of the park’s name.



4. MOIR PARK
10320 MORGAN AVENUE SOUTH

In 2020, Moir Park was chosen as the City’s best park in the Parks and Recreation Department’s Park Playoffs competition on Facebook.



5. NORTHCREST
3500 WEST 81ST STREET

Located on a hilltop, this 13-acre park has a playground and softball field, plus tennis, pickleball, basketball, picnicking and a large prairie area.



6. WRIGHT’S LAKE PARK
8501 17TH AVENUE SOUTH

This park has a playground, baseball field, walking path, picnic shelter, prairie area and a lake. A colorful mural dresses up the highway wall across the street.