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## PARK SYSTEM MASTER PLAN SLATED FOR APPROVAL

In July, the City Council is slated to adopt the final Park System Master Plan. The PSMP provides a roadmap for planning and completing park improvements throughout Bloomington. Staff is reviewing public comments they received on the final draft plan and preparing to present the plan for approval.

“We heard from residents and other stakeholders and are thankful for their input, feedback and valuable contributions,” Assistant Director Renae Clark said. “We’ve learned how important parks are during COVID-19 and for the future of Bloomington.”

The guiding principles of the PSMP will shape how decisions are made to prioritize park, trail, facility, and programming investments moving forward. While the PSMP prioritizes which parks should be improved and what types of improvements the City should consider, it does not contain individual park plans. The next step is to begin a new community involvement process with stakeholders as projects for individual parks are initiated. For more information or to view the final draft plan, visit [blm.mn/letstalk](http://blm.mn/letstalk) or call 952-563-8877.

## GIVING TRIBUTE TO LGBTQ+ PRIDE

June is Pride Month—a time to celebrate the contributions of individuals who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual transgender, and queer, + (other gender and sexual identities) (LGBTQ+) and recognize the progress to achieve equal justice and opportunity for the LGBTQ+ community.

Pride activities will include a City Council proclamation on June 7, flying of the new Progressive Pride flags, and two special activities. A community planning group will host children’s story boards at the Bloomington Farmers Market, on June 19. Families can read inclusive stories with their children on large, kids-sized boards. In the late afternoon of August 14, the planning group will host a celebration on the east lawn of Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. Read the August *Briefing* for more details.

Have you seen the new Progressive Pride flag and wondered about the significance of the colors? This new flag includes black and brown stripes to represent people of color and those living with or who have been lost to AIDS. The white, light pink and blue represent nonbinary and transgender individuals. The main section of this flag includes the traditional LGBTQ+ flag colors. The new colors were added in a right-facing arrow shape to indicate forward movement. For more information, visit [blm.mn/pride](http://blm.mn/pride) or call 952-563-8733.



## CONVERSION THERAPY ORDINANCE ADOPTED

On April 19, the City Council adopted an ordinance that prohibits the practice of conversion therapy on minors and vulnerable adults in Bloomington. The purpose of the ordinance is to protect the physical and psychological well-being of minors and vulnerable adults from exposure to the serious harms caused by conversion therapy.

The conversion therapy ordinance is a public health measure that:

- Defines conversion therapy as any practice, conduct or treatment by a provider that seeks to change an individual’s sexual orientation or gender identity, including efforts to change behaviors or gender expressions.
- Includes an exception for clergy and religious leaders and does not apply to providers counseling adults, age 18 and older.
- Prohibits providers who are Minnesota-licensed, certified or registered in professions such as psychiatry and psychology, family therapy, social work or clinical counselors, from practicing conversion therapy.
- Has a civil penalty that fines the provider for each reported violation of the ordinance, and includes a report of the violation to the provider’s licensing board or authority.

The Human Rights Commission began studying this issue at the request of the City Council in 2020 and in January recommended the Council adopt an ordinance based on their research. Research revealed that a significant number of major medical, mental health and child welfare professional associations have denounced and rejected conversion therapy as ineffective, unreliable and unsafe. The conversion therapy ordinance goes into effect on January 3, 2022. For more information, visit [blm.mn/hrc](http://blm.mn/hrc) or call 952-563-8733.

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# BRIEFING

Volume 29, Number 06

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](mailto:jhill@BloomingtonMN.gov)  
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*The City of Bloomington does not discriminate against or deny the benefits of its services, programs, or activities to a qualified person because of a disability. The City will provide a reasonable accommodation or modify its policies and programs to allow people with disabilities to participate in all City services, programs, activities, and employment. The law does not require the City to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden on the City. To make a request for a reasonable accommodation, ask for more information, or to file a complaint, contact the Community Outreach and Engagement Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3027; 952-563-8733, MN Relay 711.*

*Upon request, this information can be available in Braille, large print, audio tape and/or electronic format.*

## MORE ABOUT THE AWARD

In a tradition going back to 1991, the Bloomington Optimist Club has presented an annual Respect for Law Award to a sworn officer. The Bloomington Optimist Club is a strong supporter of the City and its Police Department. In May, the City Council recognized the organization in a Respect for Law Proclamation.



## MIKE PERRON NAMED OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Bloomington Police Officer Mike Perron was named the 2021 Bloomington Optimist Club Respect for Law Officer of the Year. A 15-year veteran of the Bloomington Police Department (BPD), Perron is known for his contributions to the City, outside agencies and the community.

In calls for service, Perron performs with heroism, patience, compassion and the willingness to lead in many high-stress and high-profile calls. Perron shares his work experience with newly hired officers and plays an active role in community engagement and racial equity programming. With his work to implement the Ask an Officer program, Perron has gone outside of his regular duties to respond to emails and have hard discussions about policing with community members.

In 2014, Perron joined the BPD's K-9 Unit. Perron's K-9 Unit expertise shows a high level of dedication, training and service, not only to the City but to outside agencies. Perron has been a member of the U.S. Police Canine Association (USPCA) since 2016 and has been on the board for four years. In 2019, he was appointed USPCA president and has been instrumental in developing its program into one of the most highly regarded in the state.

## ARTISTRY PLANNING TO RESUME LIVE PROGRAMMING

Artistry is returning to live theater and arts programming in June. If plans go as expected, theater productions will begin outdoors during the summer, and return to the Schneider Theater in the Bloomington Center for the Arts in the fall. All events will be held in accordance with guidance from the CDC, Minnesota Department of Health and City of Bloomington. For the most recent updates about guidelines and other information, visit [artistrymn.org](http://artistrymn.org) or call 952-563-8575.

## KIDS' FISHING FAIR IS THE REEL DEAL

Kids, let your fish story come true at the Bloomington Kids' Fishing Fair. Young anglers up to age 12 can compete for trophies for the largest catch of the day for four species.

Kids of any fishing ability are welcome to join in the fun Saturday, June 5, 8:30 a.m., at West Bush Lake Park, 9140 East Bloomington Road. The fishing contest begins at 9 a.m. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. No fishing license is required, but children must be accompanied by an adult.

Bring your own rod and reel. Free bait, knot-tying and casting demonstrations will be available.

The 28th annual event is sponsored by the Bloomington Optimist Club, Bloomington Parks and Recreation, Izaak Walton League and Fishing for Life. Due to COVID-19, the latest guidelines from the Minnesota Department of Health will be followed for all event activities. For more information, visit [blm.mn/boptimists](http://blm.mn/boptimists) or call 952-594-2859.

## LEARN HOW TO CREATE VIDEOS IN TEEN VIDEO BOOT CAMP

Interested in learning how to create videos? Join Teen Video Boot Camp. Over two separate, one-hour sessions, youth ages 12 – 18 will learn how to record and edit videos using their own mobile devices. In this free program, participants can create and share a short video of their own. Sign up for Camp One, July 20 and 29, or Camp Two, August 17 and 26. Each session runs from 6 – 7 p.m. All sessions will be held virtually. Teen Video Boot Camp is sponsored by Bloomington Community Access Television and Southwest TV (Edina). A limited number of spots are available, so sign up today. For more information or to register, contact Video Production Specialist Ben Vinar at 952-563-4980 or [bvinar@bloomingtonmn.gov](mailto:bvinar@bloomingtonmn.gov), or visit [blm.mn/bcat](http://blm.mn/bcat).

## PREPARING FOR YOUR VACCINE

Do you have a vaccine appointment? Here are things to keep in mind before and after your vaccination.

Before you go, review your appointment email or letter to confirm your vaccine site location and time. Wear comfortable clothing so you can roll up your sleeve. Be prepared to follow instructions of staff at the vaccination site. Wear a mask; they are required. Stay six feet away from others.

After your vaccine, you will undergo a monitoring period of at least 15 minutes to allow time to watch for possible side effects.

You do not need to contact your health provider to tell them that you've had your vaccine. Your vaccine information will already be in the system. For more information, visit [blm.mn/vaccineappt](http://blm.mn/vaccineappt) or call 800-232-4636.

## SAVE YOUR VACCINE CARD

Keep track of your vaccine card. Once you receive your card at the vaccine site, take a moment to place it in your wallet or another safe place. When you get home, make a backup copy. Take a picture of your vaccine card with your phone or scan it with your home printer.

If you want a new immunization card, make a request with the Minnesota Immunization Information Connection online at [blm.mn/vaccinecard](http://blm.mn/vaccinecard) or by phone, 651-201-3980. Do not contact your vaccine site to replace a lost card. If you receive a two-dose vaccine, bring the card to your second appointment. This allows both doses to be recorded on the same card.

For more information, visit [blm.mn/vaccinecard](http://blm.mn/vaccinecard) or call 651-201-3980.



*Pictured above:* The 2019 class of the Bloomington Leadership Program.

## LEARN TO LEAD IN THE BLOOMINGTON LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

**W**ant to be more involved with your community and hone your leadership skills? Apply for the Bloomington Leadership Program. During this free, two-month, interactive program, participants can:

- Develop their leadership skills in virtual educational sessions.
- Promote civic engagement, break down barriers and increase understanding of local government.
- Network and build relationships with City staff, local nonprofit representatives and elected officials.

Bloomington residents 18 years and older, with the ability to attend at least six of eight sessions (no more than two absences), may apply. Sessions will take place from September 14 – October 28, on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 6 – 8 p.m. Visit [blm.mn/leadership](http://blm.mn/leadership) to apply or for other information or call 952-563-8733, MN Relay 711, to be mailed an application.

## OLDER ADULT HOME AND HEALTH ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

**D**o you know an older adult struggling to find normalcy, or perhaps you're an older adult needing help? The pandemic created financial, social and personal difficulties for many seniors in Bloomington. Senior Community Services (SCS) helps older adults retain their independence, remain in their homes and connect to their communities.

SCS offers a HOME program with handyperson services to help seniors with small home repairs, homemaking or routine maintenance, such as smoke alarm or light bulb replacements. The services are available for adults age 60 and older, on a sliding fee scale with no income restrictions. Both the City of Bloomington and its HRA provide funding to SCS to support the HOME program and the Bloomington senior community it serves.

SCS also offers a Medicare Partners program for those with Medicare Parts A and B but no other supplemental medical insurance or medical assistance. More than 200 medical providers are affiliated with the program. These providers can waive coinsurance, copays and deductibles for Medicare covered expenses so eligible participants can access the medical care they need at no cost.

For more information, call 952-746-4046 or email [home@seniorcommunity.org](mailto:home@seniorcommunity.org) or visit [seniorcommunity.org](http://seniorcommunity.org).

## INTERESTED IN HOMEOWNERSHIP?

**T**he Homes Within Reach program uses the community land trust practice to create and preserve affordable homeownership for families in suburban Hennepin County. The community land trust model removes the cost of the land from the mortgage equation, thereby reducing the mortgage, down payment and closing costs. Over the last 20 years, Homes Within Reach has helped 194 families make the dream of homeownership a reality.

Homes Within Reach serves households at or below 80% of the area median income. For example, a family of four can make up to \$78,500. These homeowners provide essential services to the community—they are teachers, municipal workers, retail staff, hospitality workers and more.

To learn more about Homes Within Reach, the community land trust model, and eligibility requirements, or to submit an application, visit [homeswithinreach.org](http://homeswithinreach.org) or call 952-401-7071.

## NATURAL RESOURCE RESTORATION UNDERWAY IN RIVER VALLEY

**H**ave you noticed a little less buckthorn and garlic mustard in the Minnesota River Valley lately? Invasive plant removal, mowing and some seeding is underway at Parker's Picnic Grounds, 10401 Columbus Road, near Pond-Dakota Mission Park. The project is part of an ongoing effort to reestablish native prairie oak savanna in many sections of the valley — a native landscape of grasses and some trees, mostly oak.

Prairie Restoration, Inc. is completing the project funded in part by a \$134,000 Legacy Grant. Work will continue through the summer. Nothing involved with the project will block trail accessibility.

The Minnesota River Valley Strategic Plan established goals for natural resource management in the area. Over the last three years, a few other restoration projects have been completed in the Minnesota River Valley. So far, more than 50 acres have been restored in Bloomington.

"It's not just planting prairie plants; it's changing it back to what it was," Assistant Maintenance Superintendent Dave Hanson said.

For more information, visit [blm.mn/mrvsp](http://blm.mn/mrvsp) or call 952-563-8693.

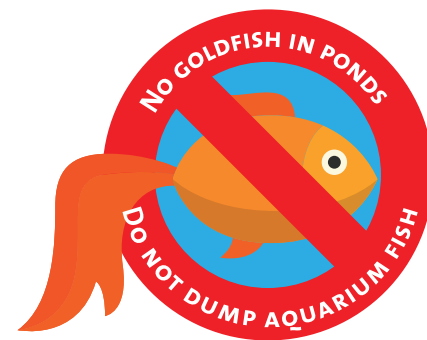


## CARP STUDY AND HARVEST AT NORMANDALE LAKE

**T**his summer, the City of Bloomington's partner, the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District, will study carp movement at Normandale Lake and will use various techniques to remove carp from the lake. If you visit Normandale Lake, you may notice equipment that is part of the carp study and removal efforts. Do not disturb the equipment.

The work is part of an ongoing adaptive management effort to improve Normandale Lake water quality. Managing the number of carp is part of the overall holistic plan for the lake. Carp are an invasive species. Their bottom-feeding habits disturb the lake bottom, kicking up sediment and releasing nutrients that can fuel algae blooms.

For more information, visit [blm.mn/nlwq](http://blm.mn/nlwq) or call 952-563-4870.



## KEEP GOLDFISH OUT OF WATERBODIES

**W**hile dumping unwanted goldfish or other aquarium fish into a lake, pond or stream, may seem like a good thing, it's just the opposite. Goldfish and other aquarium fish can harm and even kill native fish and plants. Once nonnative fish get into a waterbody, it's difficult and costly to remove them.

Goldfish are particularly harmful. They muddy the waters and disturb ecosystems. Besides being destructive, goldfish are hardy enough to survive Minnesota winters. Goldfish are similar to carp and share many of the same behaviors. See carp removal story *above*.

If you have unwanted goldfish or other aquarium fish, check with your fish shop or pet store about disposal options.

Call 952-563-8748 to report sightings of goldfish in local waterbodies.

# arts in the Parks

**M**ake it a summer to remember. Head to your local Bloomington parks for the best in music, dance, food, film and family-friendly entertainment. For more information or in the case of inclement weather, call Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8878 or visit the City's website at [blm.mn/aip](http://blm.mn/aip).

## TUESDAY NIGHT NORMANDALE LAKE PERFORMANCE SERIES

7 P.M. AT NORMANDALE LAKE BANDSHELL, 84TH STREET AND CHALET ROAD.

The sounds of summer echo throughout the Normandale Lake Bandshell, 84th Street and Chalet Road, with Bloomington's best free music and dance.

**June 8**  
Noteable Singers



**June 13**  
Medalist Concert Band



**July 20**  
Continental Ballet



**August 10**  
Angelica Cantanti Singers



## MIDWEEK MUSIC AND MARKET SERIES

4 – 8 P.M. AT CIVIC PLAZA, 1800 WEST OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD.

Its got music, food trucks, a beer garden and a farmers market. Everything you need to enjoy your Wednesday evenings at Bloomington Civic Plaza. Music starts at 5:30 p.m.

**July 7** ☒  
Steve Clarke and the Working Stiffs



**July 14** ☒  
Everett Smithson Band



**July 21** ☒  
Galactic Cowboy Orchestra



**July 28** ☒  
Lehto and Wright



**August 4** ☒  
Blue Groove

**August 11** ☒  
Gypsy Mania

**August 18** ☒  
Alma Andina

## THURSDAY NIGHT BLOCKBUSTER SERIES

FOOD SERVICE 6:30 P.M., SHOW BEGINS 7 P.M. AT NORMANDALE LAKE BANDSHELL, 84TH STREET AND CHALET ROAD.

Don't miss Thursday Blockbusters and the Evening Performance Series at the Normandale Lake Bandshell, 84th Street and Chalet Road. Enjoy some of the best entertainment in the Twin Cities as well as food vendors to handle your dinner plans.

**June 10** ☒  
British Invasion  
Rubber Soul



**June 17** ☒  
Minnesota Legends  
Rockin' Hollywoods



**June 24** ☒  
Latin Music Night  
Salsa Del Soul



**July 8** ☒  
Classic Rock Bash  
Tuxedo Band



**July 24** ☒  
Country Night  
Hitchville

**July 22** ☒  
'90s Revisited  
Flannel

**July 29** ☒  
Blues and Bar-B-Q  
Paul Holland Blues Band

**August 5** ☒  
Classical Music  
Bloomington Symphony Orchestra

## NEW! FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE SERIES

MOST SHOWS BEGIN 6:30 P.M. AT NORMANDALE LAKE BANDSHELL, 84TH STREET AND CHALET ROAD.

Join us for the best in music, movies and theater, Friday nights at the Normandale Lake Bandshell, 84th Street and Chalet Road. Most shows start at 6:30 p.m. For more information, like show times, visit [blm.mn/aip](http://blm.mn/aip) or call 952-563-8878.

**June 11**  
Other Country Ensemble  
World folk music.



**June 18**  
Chaska Valley Theater  
Performing instrumental and vocal selections from *Les Miserables*.



**June 25**  
Shakespeare in the Park with the Classic Ensemble  
Performing *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.



**July 9**  
Alma Andina  
Traditional South American music.



**July 16**  
Movie in the Park  
Begins at 9 p.m. Movie title to be determined.

**July 23**  
Laura and the Lassies  
Pond Dakota  
Mission Park, 401 East 104th Street.

**July 30**  
Jam Factory  
Legendary old-school soul and rhythm and blues.

**August 6**  
Alive and Kickin  
The Twin Cities' premier senior rock ensemble.

**August 13**  
Chaska Valley Theater  
Performing the musical *Tuck Everlasting*.



## MONDAY MORNING KIDS' SERIES

**W**ake up to Mondays at Moir Park, 10320 Morgan Avenue South. Bring your families and friends to Moir Park on Monday mornings at 10:30 a.m. throughout the summer to enjoy music, dancing and lots of fun. Held in Moir Park unless otherwise noted.

**June 7**—Acme Magic Factory

Come to Moir Park and enjoy performances with the perfect combination of magic, comedy and audience interaction.



**June 14**—Wonder Weavers Storytellers

Kids of all ages will be captivated by these amazing storytellers.

**June 21**—Wiggle, Jiggle, and Jam

Family fun that puts the "move" in music!

**June 28**—Bob the Beachcomber

**July 12**—Rachael Kroog  
Be ready to have fun and dance along with Rachel and her original songs.

**July 19**—Kids Dance

Kids will have a blast dancing and moving to this high-energy performance.

**July 26**—Jolly Pops

Great kids' music and fun.



**August 2**—Dazzling Dave

Check out the amazing talents of yo-yo master Dave and try your hand at yo-yo tricks.

**August 9**—Alpha Bits

Fun and interactive kids' variety band.



Bring your appetite! You'll find a variety of food and drink options at events marked with a fork-and-spoon icon.