

BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING



July 2020

PAGE 4

PAGE 5

PAGE 6

PAGE 8

Pictured above is an early summer morning at Long Meadow Lake from the restored Old Cedar Avenue bridge. You'll find plenty of trails, birds and natural beauty in the area.

PROACTIVE EFFORTS TO ENSURE EQUITY IN POLICING

By Bloomington Police Chief Jeff Potts

It's difficult to explain how shocked I was to see the footage that led up to the death of George Floyd. I have been a police officer for more than 28 years, and the absolute arrogance and neglect of duty former Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin displayed as Mr. Floyd struggled to breathe appalled me. Every officer on the scene had a duty to take control of that situation as soon as they saw that Mr. Floyd was in distress.

Many community members have reached out and asked me what we have done and are doing to prevent such a tragic incident from happening in Bloomington. First let me emphasize that we expect our officers to treat everyone in custody with respect and dignity. While we are always learning and striving to cultivate a police department with officers with the skills to handle all situations appropriately, I am proud that we have already taken significant steps so something like this doesn't happen in Bloomington.

HIRING

When hiring new officers, one of the primary skills we look for is a person's ability to talk with people. Communication is the foundation necessary to de-escalate all tense situations. We also conduct extensive background investigations and a detailed psychological exam on all of our recruits.

TRAINING

Once hired, officers attend a six-week training academy, even if they come from other agencies. This includes training on implicit bias and procedural justice. Our defensive tactics training starts with de-escalation, and our policy emphasizes the sanctity of life. Our arrest philosophy is to use only the amount of force necessary, to be quick, decisive and efficient with the arrest, and to allow the person to quickly recover and to render aid if needed.

Once a new officer successfully completes the training academy, they participate in four months of field training. During this time they shadow various field training officers who are tasked with preparing them for independent patrol work. Our command unit works closely with street patrol supervisors. All patrol divisions have a commander in place who monitors work conditions and behavior. This framework

helps us identify potential bad behavior so we can intervene before potential negative incidents.

OFFICER CHECKUPS AND WELLNESS PROGRAM

The department recently implemented a new employee tracking software that functions as an early warning detection system. It enables supervisors to monitor officer behavior and intervene before behaviors become problematic.

We are also in the process of adopting a wellness program which will incorporate a mandatory annual "checkup from the neck up." This will include a meeting with a licensed police therapist who will assess an officer's mental wellness, and the impact that job stress may have on their behaviors.

REDUCING DEADLY FORCE ENCOUNTERS

The Department of Public Safety just concluded the Police-Involved Deadly Force Encounter working group that met over the last year. Their report was issued in February. Here in Bloomington, we have already adopted many of the recommendations put forward in the report. This includes using a multicultural advisory committee as a consulting body, increasing training hours on de-escalation, mandating annual racial equity training for all officers, participating in the Joint Community Police Partnership program with a community liaison to enhance communication with law enforcement and multicultural communities, and more. Visit blm.mn/chiefsmesssage to see the full list.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Our department makes significant efforts to interact with the community on a daily basis. Whether it's individual interactions or community events like Coffee with a Cop, this kind of intentional relationship building allows us to solidify a foundation of trust with our community. It also enables us to respond to community needs proactively.

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

We will use this moment as an opportunity to listen to the needs of our community. We will strive to continue learning from our mistakes, and from the mistakes of others. We remain committed to providing our community with police services that recognize the dignity and respect for Bloomington residents and guests.



FIND US ONLINE
BLOOMINGTON [MN.gov](https://blm.mn)



Presort Std
U.S. Postage
PAID
Twin Cities, MN
Permit
#2293

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
1800 WEST OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD
BLOOMINGTON MN 55431-3027

ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER

MAYOR’S MEMO

LISTENING, LEARNING AND MOVING FORWARD

By Mayor Tim Busse

Words cannot express my sadness and disappointment seeing what happened to George Floyd in Minneapolis. It is unacceptable that we once again see members of our Black community experiencing hurt, pain and a life lost. My thoughts are with all those impacted and their families, friends and communities.

Over the last several years, we have made progress on the Bloomington City Council’s strategic priority of advancing equity and inclusion. However, there’s still so much more work to be done. We ourselves have struggled at times to break away from the systems and structures that have perpetuated these injustices, but I am committed to learning from these mistakes.

Of course, the “how” is the tricky part—especially in the middle of a global pandemic. Fortunately, we have strong resources in place that can help us. The efforts of our Community Outreach and Engagement Division, and the Bloomington Police Department’s Community Liaison and Multicultural Advisory Team give us the structure to continue to build relationships and break down barriers. And Faith Jackson, the City’s racial equity coordinator, is an outstanding resource for all of us in this area.

I think it’s important to also call out and thank our public safety professionals in Bloomington. Our police

officers and firefighters put in a lot of hours in early June and as usual, they did so with the professionalism and integrity that we’ve all come to expect.

But it’s an effort that goes far beyond City Hall and will require a commitment from all of Bloomington. We need to align the efforts of residents, the City, our schools, our houses of faith, and our nonprofit and business community in a way that allows us to listen, to learn, and to move forward.

The encouraging part is that we’ve already seen Bloomington residents step forward and I couldn’t be more proud. I’m proud of the community members who powerfully and peacefully voiced their pain, frustration and call to action in response to George Floyd’s unjustifiable death. I’m proud to see the donations of food, supplies and money for relief efforts in Minneapolis and Saint Paul. Thanks to all who donated, and thanks to the organizers. These are good first steps. Let’s find ways to make them continue.

We will amplify our efforts to create and support an inclusive culture that values and advances racial equity. We are committed to authentically engaging communities most affected by racial inequities and injustice in ways that foster shared learning, understanding and power.

We will listen. We will learn. We will move this work forward.



Community members gathered to talk about the future of Lyndale Avenue in March..

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN THE GATEWAY DISTRICT?

To advance the City Council’s strategic priorities of focused renewal, community image, and equity and inclusion, the City is engaging in many renewal efforts in older neighborhoods. These projects, mostly located east of I-35W, are in an area known as the Gateway District.

Throughout the year, the *Briefing* will feature key projects and activities in the area and let you know how you can get more information or get involved.

NEW DEVELOPMENT

Bank of America plans to build a new one-story, 4,020-square-foot bank on the site of the former Baker’s Square at 611 West 98th Street. The project was approved by the City Council in June.

LYNDALE AVENUE RETROFIT

Using public input gathered at a series of engagement activities in 2019, Stantec, the project consultant partnering with the City, is developing urban design and mobility plans for the Lyndale Avenue corridor. The design team is expected to present its draft proposal to the City Council later this summer.

Visit the project webpage at blm.mn/lyndaleretrofit to find a summary and video of previous engagement events. For more information, contact Special Projects and Initiatives Manager Barb Wolff, bwolff@BloomingtonMN.gov.





ORGANIZED COLLECTION TO BE ON THE BALLOT

On Election Day, Bloomington residents will be able to vote on the way solid waste (garbage, recycling, yard waste and more) is collected in the city. This is a result of the Minnesota Supreme Court ruling on a case brought by five residents to challenge the method used in the City to change from a system of open solid waste collection to a system of organized solid waste collection.

The first ballot question will ask if the City Charter should be amended to require residents to vote to decide the method the City can use to change the way solid waste is collected. The ballot will also include a second question asking if the current solid waste collection system should stay in place.

Ballot education materials will be prepared and available online and in upcoming *Briefing* stories. Watch for those to learn more.

In October 2016, haulers began pickup under the organized collection program in Bloomington. The service goals were to reduce the number of garbage trucks on collection day, mitigate air and noise pollution, minimize wear and tear on the roadways, improve neighborhood livability and, in most cases, save each household money.

Current residential garbage and recycling service will continue as normal. If any changes are needed after the election, information will be provided to residents. For more information, visit blm.mn/garbage, call 952-563-8780, or email voting@BloomingtonMN.gov.

TAPROOMS PERMITTED

If you have ever wanted a new place to wet your whistle near your home, the prospect is now closer to reality. Recent zoning changes for industrial and commercial districts, cleared the way for the possibility of taprooms, breweries, brewpubs, cocktail rooms, microdistilleries and wineries in Bloomington.

After a May public hearing, the City Council approved code amendments as a final step in the process permitting taprooms. During last fall's election, voters overwhelmingly approved a measure to remove a section of the City Charter that prohibited taprooms and cocktail rooms. For more information, visit blm.mn/tap or call 952-563-8729.

RESIDENT SURVEY WILL BE UNDERWAY SOON

The City wants to hear from you. The 2020 National Citizen Survey™ will be sent out to 3,300 households by the National Research Center of Boulder, Colorado. This is the ninth consecutive year the City has partnered with the National Research Center to conduct the survey in Bloomington. Polling will occur this summer into early fall. For the 2019 results, visit blm.mn/survey. For more information, call 952-563-8713 or email communityservices@BloomingtonMN.gov.

WORRIED ABOUT KEEPING YOUR HOME DUE TO COVID-19?

Has COVID-19 made it difficult to pay your mortgage? The federal government is offering temporary relief, called forbearance, to homeowners with certain mortgage loans. These homeowners may be eligible to delay making monthly mortgage payments temporarily. To see if you're eligible, visit fhfa.gov. Some private mortgage companies are also offering relief to consumers affected by COVID-19.

To enroll in any of these special relief programs, contact your mortgage company. You will not automatically be enrolled in these programs. It may be helpful to check your mortgage company's website first. Some have a digital self-enroll function available. Forbearance does not relieve you of your loan obligation. You will still need to pay back the amount of the loan at some point.

For more information and free assistance from a local nonprofit, contact the Minnesota Homeownership Center at 651-659-9336 or visit hocmn.org.

BLOOMINGTON MOTOR VEHICLE OFFICE OPEN BY APPOINTMENT

The City Council voted to reopen the Motor Vehicle Office in May following Governor Tim Walz's Stay Safe MN order. The City implemented health and safety measures to keep visitors safe, such as running at 50% capacity with every other counter open. Motor Vehicle services are now provided by appointment only, except tab renewals. Appointments are posted on the City's website every Thursday for the following week at blm.mn/mv. If you need to process multiple transactions, call 952-563-8714 between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday to make an appointment. Tab renewals are accepted via drop box or mail only. For more information, visit blm.mn/mv or call 952-563-8719.

Minnesotans can seek service from any Motor Vehicle office in the state, regardless of what city or county they reside in. Alternatives to the Bloomington office include:

- A state-run office in Eagan.
- Scott County office in Shakopee.
- Motor vehicle office in Richfield (no Driver's License services).

Some motor vehicle transactions—such as tab renewals—can be completed online. Check the Minnesota Driver and Vehicle Services website at blm.mn/mdvs for details.



The City hosted a booth at Twin Cities Pride in 2019.

FLAGS ON DISPLAY AT CIVIC PLAZA

Maybe you've noticed the three flags in front of Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. The City of Bloomington, State of Minnesota and American flags fly day and night, but there's more to flying flags than meets the eye. Flag code contains etiquette for how flags are raised, lowered, placed and even retired.

Throughout the year, five days (Peace Officers Memorial Day, Memorial Day, Patriot Day, National Firefighters Memorial Day and Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day) are designated for flags to be flown at half-mast, but the president or governor can add others. In May, Governor Walz signed a declaration to remember and mourn lives lost to COVID-19, and flags will be flown at half-mast on the 19th day of every month this year.

For more information, call 952-563-8700.



CELEBRATING PRIDE

The rainbow masthead in the June issue of the *Briefing* was one way the City acknowledged that June was Pride Month. The rainbow symbolizes the City's support for the LGBTQIA (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex and Asexual) community. Another way the City celebrated Pride was flying the rainbow flag at Civic Plaza, *above*.

For the past three years the City's Human Rights Commission (HRC) has included multiple ways to support LGBTQIA+ community members in its work plan.

In the past, the *Briefing* has highlighted activities the HRC has supported for Pride. With the changing situation with COVID-19, the HRC was unable to host in-person activities and events this year.



**PARK PRAIRIES
CONSERVE RESOURCES,
ADD BEAUTY**

Prairie landscapes have a rugged appeal that goes deeper than average turf. Waves of big bluestem and other tallgrass prairie provide habitat for pollinators, birds and wildlife. But there’s more to a prairie than natural beauty. Deep root systems collect organic carbon and help improve air and soil quality.

Prairie restorations are all around the city. Many prairie plantings are tucked away in lesser used park areas, and on slopes and soggy spots that are harder to mow.

Reynolds Park, 7201 West 83rd Street, has several areas of prairie along its perimeter, which was installed more than 20 years ago. The project was designed for conservation and to set an example. Today, prairies are more commonplace as an attractive, environmentally friendly choice for landscaping.

Once established, prairie plants are self-sustaining and have little need of water, fertilizer and mowing. An occasional cut or prescribed burn keeps things in check.

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

ADOPT A DRAIN

Are you looking for an easy way to protect your neighborhood’s natural water? Since 2017 the City has partnered with the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District and the Center for Global and Environmental Education at Hamline University to bring the adopt-a-storm drain program to Bloomington.

At the end of 2019, 295 Bloomington residents had adopted 518 storm drains and removed of 14,000 pounds of debris from storm drains. Residents who adopt a storm drain are asked to report debris removal once in the fall and spring online or by returning a postcard.

As a thank you, those who sign up will receive a yard sign to show they are protecting our waters. Visit adopt-a-drain.org to sign up or for more information.



**EARTH ACTION HERO
STUDENT OF SUSTAINABILITY: RACHEL SCHAUER**

Rachel Schauer wants to make the world a better place through environmental practices. As a college student, community volunteer and personal advocate, the lifelong Bloomington resident is a proponent of sustainability.

Schauer is a senior at St. Catherine University with a major in environmental studies. As the college’s sustainability coordinator, she organizes and promotes environmentally friendly initiatives throughout campus.

Her current efforts are only the beginning. Next spring, when she completes her environmental studies degree, Schauer plans on pursuing sustainability and conservation as a career.

“I’ve always been interested in environmental studies as long as I can remember,” Schauer said.

That passion led her to reach out and ask for an informational interview with the City’s Sustainability Coordinator Emma Struss. Schauer wanted to know what it’s like to work in a sustainability related job.

While Schauer’s future career path is uncertain, her purpose is constant. She wants people to know how they can make a positive difference, have fun getting involved and build community at the same time. For those wishing to start, Schauer recommends recycling and composting.

“Sustainability isn’t only about protecting the environment,” she said. “It’s also about helping people and improving the community.”

**A SUSTAINABLE START: ORGANICS
DROP-OFFS**

It’s easy to get involved with sustainability in Bloomington. To learn more about how you can start recycling your organics for composting, visit blm.mn/organics.



BLOOMINGTON JOINS 15 OTHER CITIES TO PROMOTE HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Bloomington has joined 15 other Minnesota communities to promote home energy efficiency to help residents lower their energy bills and increase home comfort.

The Intercity Home Energy Squad® Challenge is meant to encourage residents to get a home energy visit through the Home Energy Squad. A home visit will help residents learn how their home uses energy and identify energy-saving opportunities. By learning more about their home’s energy use, residents can be better stewards of our resources and increase their home’s comfort with small improvements.

CenterPoint Energy and Xcel Energy are offering free virtual Home Energy Squad visits in addition to discounted in-home visits to meet customers at their comfort level in accordance with current social distancing practices. During a virtual visit an energy consultant will guide customers on a walk-through assessment of their homes via video chat. Residents will receive energy saving tips to start saving energy right away. The auditor will also provide recommendations for next steps that may include an in-person visit and the installation of energy-saving products at a later date.

To learn more about the challenge and sign up, visit blm.mn/hes.

MEET A FIREFIGHTER

Brent Carlson was a Bloomington firefighter nearly 32 years serving out of Station 3. He retired in June.

Q: What’s your day job?

A: I’ve worked at Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport Fire for eight years. Before that, I was a paramedic with Allina.

Q: What do you do for fun when you aren’t working or volunteering?

A: My wife and I have started to travel more. I enjoy spending time with my kid and traveling up north—Duluth and Ely are our favorite destinations.

Q: What made you want to become a firefighter?

A: I literally learned to walk at Station 3. My dad retired after 20 years of firefighting as a captain of Station 3. It’s always been something I wanted to do.

Q: What do you like most about firefighting?

A: Every day is different. One of the things I really enjoy is teaching the kids about fire safety. When I was a kid I used to get so excited when a fire truck drove up. Now I’m the one driving the truck.

Q: What are some of your hobbies?

A: I like photography and I’m really into military history. I’ve been to Gettysburg, and one thing on my bucket list is to travel to Normandy to see where D-Day happened. My grandpa served in World War II.

Q: What is a little-known fact about you?

A: Believe it or not, every time I climb the aerial ladder I’m scared to death. I just remind myself you do it one step at a time. Once I’m in the bucket though, I’m good.



HOW TO VOTE EARLY AND BY MAIL

Bloomington residents who would like to vote early and by mail may submit an absentee ballot. To get started, submit an absentee ballot application at blm.mn/absenteeballot or call 612-348-5151. Voters will receive an absentee ballot and postage-paid envelope to return their ballot. The last day to vote for the primary by absentee ballot is Monday, August 10. Don’t wait to complete your primary ballot until the last minute. It must be mailed and received by August 11 to be counted.

The primary is Tuesday, August 11, and general Election Day is Tuesday, November 3. Both will take place despite the COVID-19 pandemic. The State of Minnesota does not have a provision to cancel elections. Stay-at-home orders allow residents to go out and vote. The City will employ CDC guidelines for polling place safety. For more information about voting, visit blm.mn/vote or call 952-563-8729.

Read more about voting in Bloomington on page 8.

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS AND TREATMENT

Symptoms of COVID-19 can include fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, headache, muscle pain, sore throat, and loss of taste or smell. Not everyone with COVID-19 has all of these symptoms.

Stay home while you are sick to prevent spreading COVID-19. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, stay home for at least 10 days. Before leaving home, go at least three days without signs of a fever.

Seek medical care immediately if your illness worsens or you have difficulty breathing. If possible, call before going to the doctor’s office or emergency room.

TESTING

The State of Minnesota’s online screening tool helps identify Minnesotans who should be tested for COVID-19. Visit blm.mn/covidtesting to determine if you should be tested.

TREATMENT

If you are caring for someone at home, monitor them for emergency signs, treat symptoms, prevent the spread of germs and carefully consider when to end home treatment. If symptoms worsen and you need to see a doctor, call first. Some emergency warning signs include: trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion or inability to wake up, and bluish lips or face.

There is no specific treatment for COVID-19, but getting plenty of rest, and drinking water and other liquids can help. Have the sick person isolate in a separate room. Wear face coverings, wash hands, clean surfaces and wash laundry thoroughly.

For more information visit mn.gov/COVID19 or call 800-657-3903.

WEAR A MASK TO SLOW THE SPREAD

A mask can help slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community. When others wear masks, they protect you. When you wear a mask, you protect others. Wearing any kind of face covering is better than none. Masks are not required in Bloomington, but it’s the neighborly thing to do.

“Social distancing makes the biggest difference in preventing transmission of coronavirus, even when wearing a mask,” Family Health Program Manager Molly Snuggerud said.

Here’s how to wear your face covering correctly:

- Wash your hands first.
- Place the mask over your nose and mouth, then secure under your chin.
- Fit mask snugly against the sides of your face.
- Set up mask to permit breathing easily.

Masks should NOT be worn by:

- Children under the age of two.
- Anyone with breathing problems or who is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove a mask without assistance.

See how to make your own cloth mask in 45 seconds, and find other information at blm.mn/mask, or call 800-232-4636.



NEW MANAGER FOR CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Earlier this year, Leah Hughes was named the new manager of the Bloomington Center for the Arts.

Previously, she served as executive director of the Northern Clay Center and worked in a variety of roles with Artistry. Her knowledge of the facility and its seven resident arts organizations gives her a solid understanding of the local arts community. Advocating for expanding the arts is the primary focus for Hughes in her new job.

“I am so excited to be in Bloomington and working with local arts organizations on behalf of the City. The Bloomington Center for the Arts is such an amazing asset for the region,” Hughes said. “I look forward to collaborating with arts organizations, creative groups and local artists.”



UTILITY FLAGS MAKE THE MARK

Small utility flags have a big purpose. They serve as markers for buried utilities such as cable, alarm, signal, water, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, power, gas lines and other underground utilities. The color of the flag indicates what utility type is marked. Some utility companies will imprint their name or logo on the flag. Utility locators also use marking paint to show the location of the buried utilities on property.

To find out when it’s ok to remove a flag on your property, contact the company doing the work in your area. Typically, it’s ok to remove flags or markings after 14 days, according to Utilities Superintendent Scott Anderson. To learn more, call Gopher One State Call at 811 or visit blm.mn/uflags.

This story idea was submitted by a reader. Have a story idea for us? Email communications@BloomingtonMN.gov or call 952-563-8819.

Park System Master Plan Survey

What do you envision for the future of Bloomington parks? Tell the City what you think by filling out this survey. Use the printed version here or take the survey online at blm.mn/projectbloom.

Return your printed survey by mail

- Address the envelope to the Parks and Recreation Office, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN, 55431.

In person at a drop box

- Bloomington Ice Garden, 3600 West 98th Street
- Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road
- Bryant Park, 1001 West 85th Street
- Dred Scott Playfield, 10820 Bloomington Ferry Road
- Dwan Golf Course, 3301 West 110th Street
- Moir Park, 10320 Morgan Avenue South
- Normandale Lake Bandshell, 84th Street and Chalet Road
- Off-Leash Dog Park, 111th Street and Nesbitt Avenue
- Running Park, 9501 12th Avenue South
- Smith Park, 8155 Park Avenue South
- Sunrise Park, 9401 Bloomington Ferry Road
- Valley View Playfield, 9000 Portland Avenue South
- Wrights Lake Park, 8501 17th Avenue South

What is your ZIP code?

☐ 55438

☐ 55437

☐ 55431

☐ 55420

☐ 55425

☐ Other (specify _____)

What do you and your family and friends like to do most at Bloomington parks? (Pick top three.)

☐ Sports—Soccer, basketball, hockey, softball, baseball, tennis, etc.

☐ Community events—Summer Fete, fireworks, Movies in the Park, etc.

☐ Play—Playgrounds, waterslides, beaches, splashpads, etc.

☐ Nature—Native landscapes, bird watching, fishing, naturalist led hikes, etc.

☐ Rest—Benches, shade, shelter from elements, pleasing views.

☐ Learn—Cultural resources, nature centers, interpretive signage, programming.

☐ Gather—Indoor spaces, picnic shelters and grills, rentable spaces.

☐ Move—Trails of all kinds, accessible routes, safe connections.

☐ I don’t use Bloomington parks.

What new things would you like to see at Bloomington’s parks now? (Select your top five.)

☐ Fully accessible playgrounds

☐ Year-round swimming facility

☐ Nature playgrounds

☐ Improved natural areas

☐ Ninja warrior style playground (obstacle course)

☐ Bicycle playground/pump track

☐ More off-street trails

☐ Rock climbing/bouldering facilities

☐ Outdoor fitness

☐ Ice skating trail/loop

☐ More under-represented sports—Lacrosse, cricket, tepak sawkra

☐ More art and cultural events

☐ More natural surface trails—mountain biking, hiking, nature, etc.

☐ Other ideas:

What new things would you like to see at Bloomington’s parks now? (Select your top five.)

☐ On-street bike lanes

☐ Off-street paved trails

☐ Natural surface trails for mountain biking

☐ Walking loops inside parks

☐ Natural surface trails for hiking

☐ Regional trails that connect through and outside the city

☐ Winter cross-country ski trails

☐ Winter fat tire biking trails

☐ Other ideas:

The City is studying the role of ice skating in parks. Climate change and shifting recreation trends have created challenges for providing outdoor skating. What’s the best way to provide this activity in the future?

☐ Quality over quantity—Concentrate on fewer outdoor facilities with higher quality ice that might not be as close to my home.

☐ Close to home—There should continue to be outdoor rinks spread throughout the city, even if quality is less consistent.

☐ Destination—Create one high-quality facility that attracts the whole community to a destination (ice trail, holiday skating rink, etc.).

☐ None—I am not likely to use City-provided OUTDOOR skating facilities.

Aquatics—Which type of aquatic facility are you most likely to use?

☐ Smaller neighborhood-focused wading pools and splashpads.

☐ A larger centrally located OUTDOOR facility destination (similar to Bloomington Aquatic Center).

☐ A larger centrally located INDOOR facility destination usable all year long.

☐ None—I’m not interested in using City-provided aquatic facilities.

Nature and recreation—How should City parks balance environmental protection with access for recreation?

☐ Protection and education—Natural areas should be protected and recreation NOT allowed within. Trails and activities degrade quality.

☐ Protection focused—Natural areas should be protected and allow low impact uses in certain areas only.

☐ Balance—Best practices, research, budgets, and recreation needs should balance protection and access.

☐ Recreation focused—Access to recreation is emphasized, even if natural areas quality is compromised in certain areas.

☐ Recreation only—Given high interest and desire to recreate in natural areas, provide as much access as we responsibly can throughout the city’s natural areas.

Help us to know if we are reaching all the people represented in Bloomington. Which of the following describes your household? (Check all that apply.)

☐ Household includes people, ages 0 – 24 years old

☐ Household includes people, ages 25 – 54 years old

☐ Household includes people, ages 55 years or older

☐ American Indian or Alaska Native

☐ Hispanic/Latinx

☐ Asian

☐ Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander

☐ Black or African American

☐ White

☐ Two or more races

☐ Other:

BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY: BIG, BOLD EATING AT THE RED BARN

Hungry herds headed for the Red Barn restaurant in its heyday. From 1966 until its closure in the late '70s, the Red Barn was a fixture at West 90th Street and Penn Avenue South. The restaurant was part of an Ohio-based chain with hundreds of locations dotting the U.S.

Remember the theme song, “When the ‘hungries’ hit, when the ‘hungries’ hit, hit the Red Barn?” Mascots Hamburger Hungry, Chicken Hungry and Big Fish Hungry starred in clever commercials marketing what more resembled fast food than farm food. Quickly prepared, oversized, American-style fare dominated the menu. Maybe you indulged in a Barnbuster burger or Big Barney burger?

In a nod to healthy eaters, the Red Barn was one of the first franchises to offer a salad bar, dubbed “a garden of eatin’” loaded with veggies. No one left hungry from the Red Barn.



TRIBUTE TO DR. DWAN AND DWAN GOLF

In 1960, golf enthusiast Dr. Paul F. Dwan, *left in photo*, charted a new course for the game in Bloomington.

Thanks to Dr. Dwan’s generosity, the City received a sizable donation of land around what is now 3301 West 110th Street.

After the land donation, Dr. Dwan’s neighbor and fellow golf fan, Ray Glumack, formed a neighborhood committee to encourage the City to begin golf course development. Years of careful planning followed, and in 1970, Dwan Golf Course opened to large crowds and much fanfare. As a thank you, Dr. Dwan was granted permission to use his personal golf cart and greens fees were waived for him. In another tribute, Dr. Dwan’s portrait still hangs in the clubhouse.

Today, in its 50th year of operation, Dwan Golf Course continues to rank as one of the most popular golf courses in the state. Dr. Dwan would be proud of the legacy of golf that endures in Bloomington.

For more information, visit blm.mn/dwan or call 952-563-8702.



DWAN GOLF COURSE, A HOLE-IN-ONE FOR FUN

With golf season in full swing, Dwan Golf Course is busy. The spring opening came during a beautiful streak of warm, dry weather, and at a time when the governor’s executive order to stay at home permitted people to play golf as a recreational activity.

“We’re seeing a lot of new faces,” Golf Course Manager Peter Kurvers said.

This year’s closure of Hyland Greens Golf and Learning Center brought additional players to Dwan. Some members of Hyland Greens golf leagues migrated into Dwan’s leagues, adding to the fun of hitting the links at the popular, 18-hole, public golf course.

Participation in a golf league is not necessary to play at Dwan Golf Course, 3301 West 110th Street. Everyone is welcome to play. For more information, visit blm.mn/dwan, call 952-563-8702, or email golf@BloomingtonMN.gov.

TEN TIPS FOR FARMERS MARKET SHOPPING

The Farmers Market is a popular destination on Saturday mornings in the east lot at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. New guidelines are in place to keep everyone safe. Here’s a guide on how to shop during COVID-19:

1. Stay home if you are or have recently been sick.
2. Shop alone.
3. Wear a mask as recommended by the CDC.
4. Maintain six feet or more from other people.
5. Enter and exit the market from the designated west end area only.
6. Wash hands before and after shopping.

7. Preorder and prepay if possible. Find an online vendor directory with contact information at blm.mn/market.
 8. Do not touch food or other items on display.
 9. No sampling or food consumption on site. Take-away only.
 10. Follow directional signs, chalk arrows and markings.
- Other things to keep in mind: Reusable shopping bags are allowed, but vendors will not be allowed to touch them. Don’t place your personal items on vendor tables. Shop efficiently, and do not linger in the market.

For more information, visit blm.mn/market or call 952-563-8877.

NOMINEES SOUGHT FOR AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Presented annually by the Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission (PARC), the Award of Excellence recognizes an individual for their dedication to Bloomington parks and recreation programs and facilities. Learn more and nominate a deserving individual at blm.mn/park-rec-award.



Artist Denise Presnell

ARTISTRY PRESENTS TWO-PERSON ABSTRACT SHOW

An immersion into fine art is a great escape for the mind and spirit. Experience the new “Layers” exhibition featuring the artwork of Kristina Fjellman and Denise Presnell. Their mixed media abstracted interpretations of the natural world create a surreal environment sure to inspire.

Artistry, an independent nonprofit, presents the free show June 26 – August 7, in the Inez Greenberg Gallery, at the Bloomington Center for the Arts (BCA), 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. In-person viewing will be contingent on Civic Plaza’s hours, and visitors are asked to follow signage and recommended social distancing guidelines. Find more information, including a virtual tour and online activities at artistrymn.org or call 952-563-8575.



ENJOY REC ONLINE ACTIVITIES AT HOME

Want to take part in enjoyable, engaging, inclusive and accessible activities without leaving your home? Check out the new Recreation Experience Center (REC Online), your comprehensive resource for free, family fun with a Bloomington twist. Try your hand at Art in Place, brain games, Bloom-INGO, backyard scavenger hunts, virtual trail hikes and more.

REC Online is an alternative for residents after cancellations or delays of many popular programs and events, and several facility closures triggered by COVID-19. “A lot of people are stuck in their homes and the City wants to provide Bloomington-specific activities and programming,” Recreation Manager Alison Warren said, *pictured above with her daughter*.

The REC Online lineup is always changing. To see the latest, visit blm.mn/REC-online. If you have ideas for new REC Online activities, email parksrec@BloomingtonMN.gov or call 952-563-8877.



VOTE AUGUST 11

There will be a primary election on Tuesday, August 11.

To learn more about candidates who are running for office in the primary, you can find a sample ballot at blm.mn/sampleballot.

For more information about the primary election, visit blm.mn/cl or call 952-563-8729.



WORK AS AN ELECTION JUDGE

Looking for a part-time job that makes a difference in your community? Apply to become an election judge. More than 400 election judges will be needed for the general election on Tuesday, November 3. Applicants are provided with online or in-person training. There are varying shifts available to work.

Interested residents are encouraged to apply at blm.mn/electionjudge. Friday, August 21 is the deadline to apply to serve in the presidential election in November. For more information, call 952-563-8729. During Election Day and required training, the City will be taking safety precautions to comply with CDC guidelines.

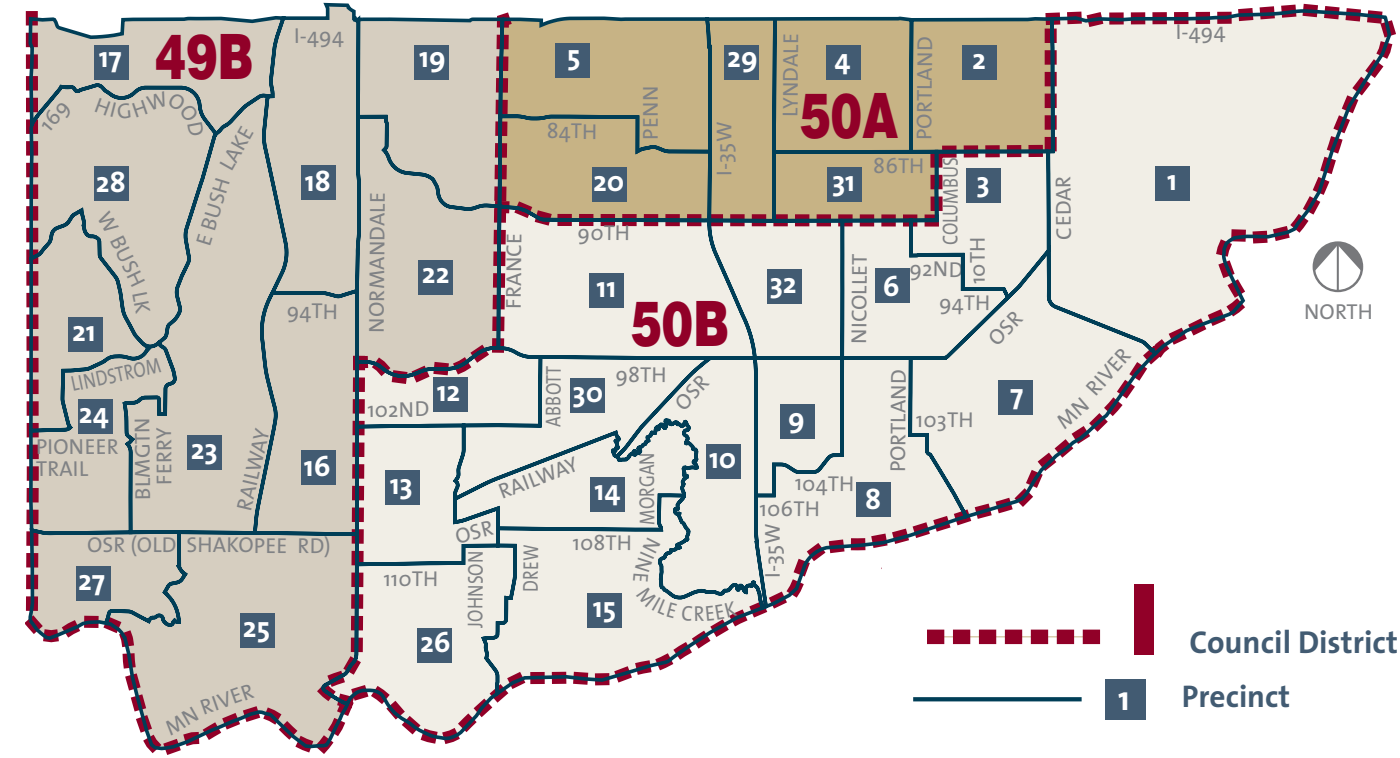
WHEN ARE VOTER IDS REQUIRED?

Voters are not required to present identification to election judges upon check-in unless they are registering for the first time or updating their voter information.

Election judges will inform voters when identification is necessary.

YOUR GUIDE TO THE PRIMARY ELECTION AUGUST 11

POLLS ARE OPEN FROM 7 A.M. TO 8 P.M. ON PRIMARY ELECTION DAY. ALL POLLING PLACES ARE ACCESSIBLE



| Precinct/Polling location | Entrance/Parking |
|--|--|
| 1 Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center 3815 American Boulevard East | West entrance Visitor lot (W) |
| 2 Portland Avenue United Methodist Church 8000 Portland Avenue South | Main entrance West lot |
| 3 Cedar Valley Church 8600 Bloomington Avenue South | West entrance Door 4 South lot Accessible entrance: Door 1, East lot |
| 4 Unity South Church 7950 1st Avenue South | Main entrance South lot |
| 5 Southtown Baptist Church 2600 West 82nd Street | Main entrance (W) Northwest lot |
| 6 Bloomington Lutheran Church 9350 Portland Avenue South | Main entrance North lot |
| 7 Atonement Lutheran Church 601 East Old Shakopee Road | Southwest entrance South lot |
| 8 Grace Covenant Church 10201 Nicollet Avenue South | Southeast entrance East lot |
| 9 Nativity of Mary Catholic Church 9900 Lyndale Avenue South | Main entrance Door 9 South lot |
| 10 St. Luke's Lutheran Church 1701 West Old Shakopee Road | Northeast entrance North lot |
| 11 Bloomington City Hall (Bloomington Civic Plaza) 1800 West Old Shakopee Road | East entrance East lot |
| 12 Crosspoint Church 9801 France Avenue South | Main entrance (E) East lot |
| 13 Bloomington Covenant Church 10150 Xerxes Avenue South | Main entrance (E) East and North lots |
| 14 Mount Hope Lutheran Church 3601 West Old Shakopee Road | Main entrance (S) South lot |
| 15 Minnesota Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship 10715 Zenith Avenue South | Main entrance North lot |
| 16 Normandale Hylands United Methodist Church 9920 Normandale Boulevard South | Northeast entrance (left doors) North lot |
| 17 Westwood Community Church 6301 Cecilia Circle NEW POLLING PLACE | Main entrance (W) Main lot (W) |
| 18 The Church of St. Edward's 9401 Nesbitt Avenue South | SW entrance Upper level, SW lot |
| 19 St. Stephen Lutheran Church 8400 France Avenue South | Main entrance (W) West lot |

| Precinct/Polling location | Entrance/Parking |
|--|--|
| 20 St. Mark's United Church of Christ 8630 Xerxes Avenue South | South entrance Southwest lot |
| 21 Hyland Vistors Center 10145 Bush Lake Road | West entrance West lot |
| 22 St. Michael's Lutheran Church 9201 Normandale Boulevard | Main entrance (E) East lot |
| 23 Community of the Cross Lutheran Church 10701 Bloomington Ferry Road | Main entrance (N) North lot |
| 24 Bloomington Lutheran Church 10600 Bloomington Ferry Road NEW POLLING PLACE | Main entrance (S) South lot, disabled East side |
| 25 MN Masonic Heritage Center 11411 Masonic Home Drive | Main entrance (W) |
| 26 Transfiguration Lutheran Church 11000 France Avenue South | Main entrance (W) West lot |
| 27 Bethany Church 6900 Auto Club Road | West entrance West and North lots |
| 28 Peace Lutheran Church 8600 East Bush Lake Road | Main entrance North lot |
| 29 Christ the King Lutheran Church 8600 Fremont Avenue South | Southwest entrance Southwest lot |
| 30 Oak Grove Presbyterian Church 2200 West Old Shakopee Road | Main entrance Northeast lot |
| 31 St. Bonaventure Catholic Church 901 East 90th Street (Social Hall) | Main entrance East lot |
| 32 Oxboro Evangelical Free Church 9431 Nicollet Avenue South | North entrance North lot |

HOW CAN I CAST MY BALLOT?

Absentee voting starts 46 days prior to each election. Minnesota has “no excuse” absentee voting, meaning all eligible voters are allowed to vote early if they choose. In the 2020 elections, there are three ways to cast your ballot.

- By mail with absentee voting (early voting) with Hennepin County. Absentee voting is encouraged due to the pandemic.
- In-person with early voting at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.
- In-person on Election Day at your polling place.

The absentee ballot voting process requires additional steps different from the Election Day voting process. All early voters must complete an application to receive a ballot. The form can be found online at blm.mn/absenteeballot.



VOTING INFORMATION: CALL 952-563-8729 OR VISIT [BLM.MN/VOTING](https://blm.mn/voting).