

B L O O M I N G T O N BRIEFING



AUGUST 2020

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BALLOT QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER IN NOVEMBER ORGANIZED GARBAGE COLLECTION AND RANKED CHOICE VOTING

Several issues will come before Bloomington voters in the General Election this fall. Ballot questions will address organized garbage collection. There has also been discussion about including a ballot question on ranked choice voting.

GARBAGE AND RECYCLING

On Election Day this November, 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 before the City can change the way solid waste is collected. The ballot will also include a second question asking if the current City-organized solid waste collection system should continue. The outcome of the second question is contingent upon the outcome of the first question.

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.

RANKED CHOICE VOTING

The Charter Commission and City Council are discussing a potential ballot question on ranked choice voting this November. In early July, the City's Charter Commission voted to reject the ordinance the City Council asked the Commission to review. On July 20, staff asked the City Council to provide direction regarding next steps, including whether to bring a resolution with ballot language to the July 27 City Council meeting.

Ranked choice voting, also called "instant runoff voting" or "preferential voting," is a process that allows voters to rank their choices for each office. First choice votes are counted. If no candidate has a majority of the votes (more than 50%), the candidate with the least number of first-choice votes is eliminated. Voters who picked the eliminated candidate as their first choice have their second-choice vote counted instead. This process repeats until one candidate has a majority.

COMMUNITY BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE STARTS ITS WORK

The City is facing a budget shortfall of \$6 – 7 million in 2021 due to revenue losses from COVID-19. To ensure resident perspectives are reflected in the difficult budget choices they face, the City Council appointed a Community Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC) in May.

The group will create three to four budget options for 2021 and 2022. The advisory committee is made up of nine residents who have knowledge of municipal budgets and City government: Akua Asare, John Gibbs, John Laux, Jessica Linares-Kunkel, Chao Moua, Neil Peterson, Steve Peterson, Maureen Scallen Failor and Josh Syrjamaki.

CBAC began meeting weekly in June. They created a charter for the group and started discussion of the City's budget.

In the coming months, the committee will provide monthly status reports to the City Council on their work. They will also provide the Council:

- Preliminary levy recommendations by the end of August.
- Three to four revenue scenarios by the end of September.
- Three to four final budget options by early November.

You will have opportunities to get involved in the budget process, too. Join CBAC for video call events on Thursday, September 17, 6:30 – 8 p.m. and Saturday, September 19, 10 - 11:30 a.m., to let them know what you think. More information on those events will be available online at blm.mn/cbac. The goal of these events is to gather information about the services residents value most. There will also be opportunities to get involved in late October to give feedback on the CBAC's proposed budget options.

By looking at the overall budget instead of reducing services one by one, the City Council is aiming to ensure service changes reflect what community members value most. Watch meetings live, view agendas and minutes or sign up for email updates at blm.mn/cbac.

MAYOR’S MEMO

CITY ADDRESSING RACIAL EQUITY ISSUES

By Mayor Tim Busse

A piece of rope tied into what appeared to be a crude noose was discovered in the gear locker of a Black firefighter at a Bloomington fire station on June 15 and reported to Fire Department leadership on June 23. The City of Bloomington asked the FBI to investigate the matter. The investigation was still ongoing at the time of this writing. I realize the anger, frustration and hurt being felt in our community. I have heard from many of you and strongly share your feelings supporting the firefighter, condemning hate, and wanting answers. Please know that we recognize this incident is very serious and that we are dealing with it in that same spirit.

The City has a strict workplace policy that forbids all types of discriminatory and disrespectful behavior. When we become aware of violations or someone makes an allegation that a violation occurred, we have a legal obligation to investigate it. Violators of our respectful workforce policy will be held accountable. The City does not condone acts of hate or discrimination and I do not believe such an act is reflective of the overall culture of the City of Bloomington or our Fire Department.

I assure you that the City of Bloomington, including the Fire Department, is committed to being a safe and respectful place to work for all employees. Building on existing efforts, the Fire Department will continue its racial equity work with an opportunity for all staff to participate in a safe space discussion about this incident and share its impact as well as explore questions about racial equity. The Department is scheduling additional training and work sessions to reinforce City policies, continue its racial equity work and emphasize the importance of such work.

While we don’t have all the answers, we know that there is much work to be done. I also believe that this is an opportunity to show the best of Bloomington. At our City Council meeting on July 13, we focused on a plan for how we can act with urgency to advance racial equity while being thoughtful and intentional about creating meaningful change. Many of you have also indicated your desire to actively participate in advancing racial equity in our community. We appreciate your interest and ask you to take a pledge and share with us your thoughts about moving this work forward. Find the pledge online at blm.mn/pledge.

COMMUNITY TRAUMA RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Racism is a critical public health issue that impacts all aspects of our health, especially mental well-being. The Minnesota Department of Health compiled a resource list for addressing some of the needs following the recent tragedy in Minneapolis and ongoing trauma that our communities are experiencing. Find the list at blm.mn/trauma. It also includes tools for further action and education within family and communities about race and racism. Explore a video, book, toolkit or other resource today.



RECOGNIZE EXCELLENT HUMAN RIGHTS WORK

The Human Rights Commission is seeking nominations for its annual Omar Bonderud Human Rights Award. This award is presented to an individual or organization that has made a significant contribution ensuring the rights of people in Bloomington. The award is named in honor of Omar Bonderud, who was the first chairperson of the Bloomington Human Rights Commission, formed in 1968.

If you know of an individual or organization that has made special efforts to ensure residents have equal opportunities in employment, housing, public accommodations, public services or education, nominate them for the 2020 award. You could also nominate an individual or organization that has made a substantial effort to educate, win or preserve equality and justice for protected groups. Applications will be accepted through August 28. Find the application on the City’s website at blm.mn/omar or call 952-563-8733.



I-35W BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Construction on the replacement of the existing bridge on I-35W across the Minnesota River and the bridge over 106th Street began in 2018 and will be completed in fall 2021.

This MnDOT project includes reconstructing the I-35W Minnesota River bridge, adding a bicycle and pedestrian walk across the river on the new bridge, raising the grade of the freeway south of the river out of the 100-year flood plain, adding a northbound truck acceleration lane from Cliff Road to 106th Street and reconstructing the freeway bridge over 106th Street.

Drivers should expect to see the 106th Street southbound entrance ramp to I-35W south closed through summer 2021 and the southbound ramp from I-35W to Cliff Street closed through early September. Traffic on 106th Street between Verdi Road and Lyndale Avenue South is also reduced to a single lane in both directions. There are also alternating lane closures in both directions on I-35W between Cliff Road in Burnsville and 106th Street daily, 7 p.m. – 6 a.m.

Visit the MnDOT website for up-to-date project information and road closures at blm.mn/mndot35.

BRIEFING

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The *Briefing*, published monthly by the City of Bloomington, is mailed to our 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
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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.



SOUTH LOOP APARTMENT DEVELOPMENTS PLANNED

Two separate development projects are taking shape in the South Loop. The Rosa and American Square developments would create new residential housing, advancing goals of Bloomington’s South Loop District Plan. On both sites, large surface parking lots would be transformed into more than 500 new housing units. Preparation began years ago, and planning continues despite COVID-19.

In June, the Bloomington City Council approved the Rosa development on a 12-acre site, at 3700 American Boulevard East, where Park and Fly currently operates. During the first phase, a six-story, 183-unit apartment building will be constructed. Affordable units will make up 20% of the apartments, and the remainder will be market rate. Additional phases are planned for two residential buildings and a hotel, depending on market demand.

Across the street from Rosa, a two-phased development called American Square is planned at 3701 American Boulevard East. The first phase would involve the construction of the Ardor, a six-story, 242-unit apartment building. All units would be market rate, and work could start this year. The second phase is tentatively planned for 2021, and would include the development of a five-story, 86-unit apartment building called the Quinn. All units would be affordable work force housing.

For more information, visit blm.mn/districtplan or call 952-563-8920.



Neighbors gathered at the 2019 National Night Out event.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT MOVED TO OCTOBER

Due to COVID-19 and social distancing guidelines, National Night Out will be rescheduled from August to the first Tuesday in October. Mark your calendar for October 6 to unite with your neighbors, catch up and talk about crime prevention.

For more information and to register, visit blm.mn/NNO. With the changing situation COVID-19 presents, plans for National Night Out could change. Check the list of canceled events at blm.mn/COVID-info for the most up-to-date information.

GET HELP CONNECTING TO COMMUNITY RESOURCES

The economic impact of the pandemic has increased the need for community resources in Bloomington. Maybe you or someone you know needs help finding resources for food, housing, medical care or financial assistance?

To meet a growing need, Public Health has expanded the hours of its Community Resource Line to Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Residents can call 952-563-8900, and select option 3.

“It’s a very difficult time for many families right now, and numerous resources are available in the community, but many times it’s hard to find them,” Public Health Nurse Angela Lee said. “At Public Health, we have extensive experience working with agencies so we can be very helpful in directing families to the resources that might be best for them.”

For more information about general resources related to COVID-19, visit blm.mn/covidresources. If your situation is an emergency, dial 911.



UPDATE YOUR HOME

Do you have a leaky roof or an outdated electrical system? HRA Home Rehabilitation loans could help you upgrade.

Loans of up to \$35,000 are available to income-qualified Bloomington homeowners who want to repair their homes to meet health or safety requirements such as code repairs for electrical, heating and plumbing; lead paint stabilization; and energy efficiency and exterior improvements.

There are no monthly payments. The loan will accrue interest at an annual rate of 2% for a period of 10 years. Homeowners do not need to repay the loan until they sell or transfer title, or the property is no longer their principal place of residence.

Homes built before 1978 may be required to have a Lead Risk Assessment. For an application, visit blm.mn/loans or call 952-563-8937.

COVID-19: BLOOMINGTON’S STATISTICS

Do you want to know more about COVID-19 in Bloomington? Check out the online dashboard at blm.mn/cdash. It includes local statistics like:

- Total number of cases.
- Number of deaths and cases hospitalized.
- Demographics of cases.
- Likely source of exposure.

This data is reflective of testing priorities and capacity in Minnesota since January 20, 2020. It does not reflect the total number of cases in Bloomington, as many people have not been tested. Current testing capacity is sufficient for all symptomatic individuals to be tested. All data is preliminary and subject to change, as cases are interviewed and information is updated.

To protect individual’s privacy, data is suppressed if there are less than 10 individuals in that reporting category. Data is updated by 1 p.m. Monday through Friday, with information from the previous day.



CURBSIDE CLEANUP CHANGES EXPLORED

During this year’s Curbside Cleanup event, approximately 35% of the materials picked up could have been recycled or reused. In keeping with the Council’s strategic priority for environmental sustainability, the City is looking into more environmentally friendly and efficient ways of coordinating the disposal of bulky items. The Bloomington Sustainability Commission and City staff encourage public engagement during the process of developing recommendations. Look for more information coming in future Briefing stories, visit blm.mn/curbside, or call 952-563-4659.



ORGANICS DROP-OFF USE INCREASING

The organics drop-off program has grown to more than 1,500 participants. A recent study found approximately 30% of the average Minnesotan’s garbage was material that could have been composted. Recycling organics is an easy way to make a difference. All food waste is accepted, including fruit and vegetable scraps, meat and bones, and dairy products. Acceptable papers include Biodegradable Products Institute-certified paper products, as well as nonrecyclable paper products which are not lined with plastic, including paper towels and napkins. Drop-offs are located at West Bush Lake, Valley View Park, and the Hennepin County Recycling and Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Site. Visit blm.mn/organics or call 952-563-8760 to sign up for the program, see a full list of acceptable items and find drop-off locations. To learn more, check out the Organics Recycling 101 webinar now available at blm.mn/organics.



The Jefferson Earth Corps held a sustainable gift-basket making event in 2019.

EARTH ACTION HERO

JEFFERSON EARTH CORPS MAKING SUSTAINABLE FOOTPRINTS

A shared vision of sustainability shapes the lives of two Bloomington Jefferson High School students. Lilly Marohn, *pictured above in the second row second from the left*, and Yanyan Zeng, *pictured above in the center of the front row*, strive for a society that functions in harmony with nature and the environment. From how they eat, to what they do with their time, to future career plans, these two seniors are committed to the success of sustainability.

Why are these two students so focused on sustainability? “Everyone has an impact in this world, and that footprint can either be positive or negative,” Marohn said. Every day Marohn and Zeng take steps to leave positive tracks. On a personal level, both are vegans, a practice which supports their views on sustainability and the long-term health of the environment. “I encourage Bloomington residents to look into the environmental and ethical impacts of animal agricultural activities,” Zeng said. At school, they run Jefferson Earth Corps and work hard to raise awareness about environmental issues while providing information about composting and recycling. Activities include buckthorn removal, posting signage about how to properly sort trash, eliminating plastic utensils from school lunches and more. The group plans to install a rain garden at the high school. The Bloomington Sustainability Commission supports Jefferson Earth Corps projects. Marohn and Zeng are youth members of the Sustainability Commission. As a youth member project, Zeng is looking into how communities of color are impacted by climate. See Earth Corps in action at blm.mn/earthcorps. For more information, visit blm.mn/sustain or call 952-563-4862.



SOLAR LIGHTS ADDED AT NORMANDALE LAKE

Maybe you noticed the new lights along the walking trail by Normandale Lake Park at West 84th Street and Chalet Road? In the spring, Park Maintenance staff installed three solar powered lights on the path from the Chalet Road parking lot to the Normandale Lake Bandshell. No electricity is needed to run the lights, reducing operating costs. Solar panels on the lights gather sunlight and charge built-in batteries, which creates enough energy to keep the lights going even on cloudy days. The lights remain on from dusk to dawn, at low power. When they detect motion, the lights illuminate to full brightness, then return to low power after a set time. You might notice solar lights at other Bloomington Parks as well. Recently, solar lights were installed at organics collection sites located in Valley View Playfield, 9000 Portland Avenue South, and West Bush Lake Park, 95th Street and West Bush Lake Road. For more information, visit blm.mn/NLLights or call 952-563-8760.



IMPROVING WATER QUALITY FROM LAWN TO POND

Ever wonder why pond water turns murky? While it’s partially a natural process, the way you care for your lawn and landscape can muddy pond waters. Grass clippings and fertilizers get to the curb or street are washed into storm drains, many of which flow directly into ponds. Pollution in storm drain runoff causes ponds to become more stressed, and may cultivate algae and bacteria. “Ponds do a lot for us, and they need our help,” Water Resources Specialist Jack Distel said. “With hard work and collaboration, we can make a sustainable urban ecosystem with clean water and healthy ponds.” To improve water quality:

- Avoid using fertilizer on your lawn.
- Remove turf grass and replace it with native plants, blm.mn/noturf.
- Keep roads and sidewalks clean. Think about adopting a storm drain, adopt-a-drain.org.
- Build a rain garden on your lawn, blm.mn/raingarden.
- On landscapes near water, install a buffer of native plants, blm.mn/buffer.
- Beware of herbicides put into ponds to control plants. Plants are a foundation to a pond ecosystem. Killing pond plants frees sediments, increases nutrient levels and may actually trigger algae growth.

Recognize that ponds are stressed and accept their murky waters for what they are: an opportunity to improve the environment in your community. For more information, visit blm.mn/ponds or call 952-563-8748.

MEET A FIREFIGHTER

Ryan Wolf has been a Bloomington firefighter for a year and a half. He serves out of Station 3.

Q: What is your day job?

A: I am a full-time firefighter in Richfield.

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

A: I have two dogs Loba and Penny. I like to take them for walks around the lakes and near the river bottoms.

Q: What made you want to become a firefighter?

A: I grew up in Bloomington and my Cub Scout troop went to tour some fire stations. That's when I was first interested. Then, a few years ago, one of my friends who's a Bloomington firefighter helped me get started.

Q: What do you like most about firefighting?

A: Of course, the thing I like most is helping the community. I also really like the people I get to work with at the department. It's a great group.

Q: What are some of your hobbies?

A: Anything outdoors. I am always busy with home improvement projects or visiting the family cabin. I also really like going to the Boundary Waters.

Q: What's a little-known fact about you?

A: When I was growing up, I sang in Angelica Cantanti for four years.



AT YOUR SERVICE: AMANDA LEMKE

Amanda Lemke is ready for just about anything. As a health specialist – emergency preparedness coordinator, she revels in the challenge of solving complex issues and developing response plans on a large scale. For four years, she's developed plans for public health emergency operations, which are broad enough to cover any public health situation that emerges. Plans range from mass dispensing medications to community trauma and recovery plans.

"The pandemic we are experiencing is something we plan for. We don't always know how a situation will play out, but we plan in a way that we try to take every precaution to protect every person that lives, works or plays in Bloomington," Lemke said.

Her job involves high-stakes planning, and in cases like the COVID-19 pandemic on a daily basis, require coordinating response actions. She enjoys collaborating with emergency responders, health care professionals and others for planning and developing exercises to test those plans. Lemke finds her work to be the perfect balance between her interests in infectious diseases and thrill of emergency management.

"There's a potential for significant impact to life and safety. It keeps you grounded," she said.



RESTAURANTS REOPEN WITH LIMITATIONS

The pandemic changed everything, even how Bloomington residents and visitors eat. Beginning in March, for several months, restaurants were restricted to take-out service only per the Governor's stay-at-home order. But in June, restaurants throughout Bloomington, including Mall of America, opened up for indoor and outdoor seating. As a behind-the-scenes first step, restaurants were required to develop a COVID-19 preparedness plan to ensure employees wear face masks, stay six feet apart and remain home if they are ill.

Indoor seating is limited to 50% capacity, up to 250 people, and outdoor seating is limited to 250 people. In indoor and outdoor settings, facilities must allow for proper social distancing between parties.

To see the latest updates for restaurant guidelines or to find other related information, visit blm.mn/staysafe or call 952-563-8934.

RESTAURANTS REMODEL DURING PANDEMIC

Sometimes it's not the situation you are in so much as how you deal with it. During the change of business caused by COVID-19, some restaurants used the time to remodel.

"It's great to see Bloomington restaurants taking advantage of downtime to remodel and reset to better serve customers and the community," Environmental Health Manager Lynn Moore said.

After 54 years in the same building and with service down to take-out only this spring, David Fong, *at right*, decided a remodel was in order for his restaurant. The project involved updating bars, plumbing, painting and more. During the work, a few vintage menus were discovered behind old cabinets. Maybe you recall '60s-era cocktails at a cost of 80 cents to \$1.75 for a plantation punch, Fong's delight or zombie? How about two egg rolls for a dollar or chop suey for \$1.45? Prices have changed over the years, but the tradition of hospitality remains.

At another Bloomington restaurant, requests for banquet services at Willy McCoy's were growing before COVID-19.



To accommodate future customer demand, the restaurant remodeled during the slowdown. New bathrooms and garage doors to the patio were added, and the upstairs bar was moved to create a more open and customer-friendly space. From the layout to the finishes, Willy McCoy's has a new look.

"We love to be a part of this community," Owner Korey Bannerman said. "Our customers are fantastic and we hope to be around for years to come."



Q&A WITH BPD

The Bloomington Police Department has always been committed to finding innovative ways to engage with the community and respond to needs and concerns. During these uncertain times, maintaining strong communication with residents is even more important.

One way BPD is doing that is a video series called Q&A with BPD. Chief Jeff Potts answers questions that residents and community members submit every few weeks. These videos are posted on the City's Facebook account. You can also watch the playlist of archived episodes on YouTube at blm.mn/bpdqa.

BPD would love to hear from you! If you have question about how COVID-19 has changed our work, or any other questions or concerns, submit them to bpdqa@bloomingtonmn.gov to be considered for a future episode.



SUMMER MEAL SERVICE AVAILABLE

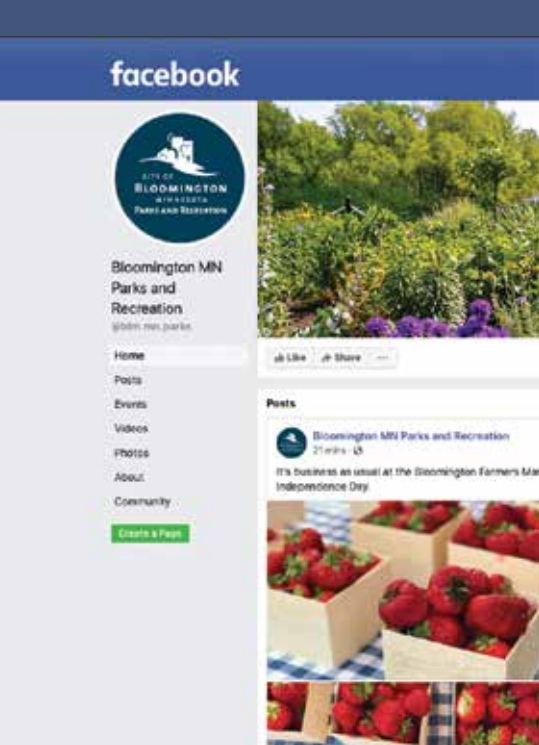
This summer the need for meals increased in Bloomington. In response, the City partnered with Bloomington Public Schools to provide approximately 100 meals daily for families in the community.

The summer meal program operates from Smith Park, 155 Park Avenue South, Monday – Friday, 11:30 a.m., through August 21. Bloomington Fire Department members pick up and transport meals to the park, where Parks and Recreation staff distribute the food to families.

BPS is also offering on-site meal service at Kennedy High School, 9701 Nicollet Avenue South. The City has provided the additional support needed to serve families residing in other Bloomington neighborhoods.

Normally, Parks and Recreation provides free meals to the community through the Summer Adventure Playground program in collaboration with BPS at Smith Park, Kelly Park and Running Park. This year, because of COVID-19 and the closure of programs, adjustments were required in order to continue to provide meal service to the community.

For more information, visit blm.mn/BPS or call 952-681-6569.



FOLLOW PARKS AND REC ON FACEBOOK

Bloomington Parks and Recreation manages 97 parks, nearly 9,000 acres of parkland, more than 50 miles of trails, countless recreation programs, five facilities and now one Facebook page. Follow Parks and Recreation on Facebook at [blm.mn/fb-parks](#).

Follow the page to see more, and feel free to share content with others. Parks and Recreation staff is providing informative, fun, engaging and useful content to help you discover local parks, trails, and recreational opportunities, including new virtual options.



PARKS AND RECREATION RECEIVES GRANT

The Parks and Recreation Department recently received a \$363,000 grant from Hennepin County to establish new recreation programs for youth in the time of COVID-19.

Look forward to things like mobile REC programming, take-home summer camps, a fishing fair, paddle board and learn-to-bike classes, and more.

“We want to do everything we can to keep Bloomington youth enjoying local parks safely,” Recreation Manager Alison Warren said. “This grant will help us provide new, fun opportunities to do just that.”

For more information go to [blm.mn/Project-PLAY](#).



SHOP AT THE FARMERS MARKET

You don’t have to go far to find the best of Minnesota-grown produce, including carrots, corn, green beans, potatoes, tomatoes and other favorites. Shop at the Bloomington Farmers Market, Saturdays, June 13 – October 24, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m., in the East Lot, Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. Before your market visit, check out the latest on vendors and social distancing rules. Visit [blm.mn/fbookfarmers](#), or call 952-563-8877 for more information.

OFF-LEASH RECREATIONAL AREA IMPROVEMENTS

No need to wipe off your dog’s paws. Visits to Bloomington’s Off-Leash Recreational Area just got a little neater. In June, the gravel parking lot at west 110th Street and Nesbitt Avenue was paved. While the new pavement makes for a tidier departure from the off-leash recreational area, the main reason for the new pavement was to adhere to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards. Traffic from the former gravel lot was tracking mud onto side streets and potentially contaminating water runoff. In addition to the pavement, a storm water infiltration basin was added to filter runoff and improve water quality. Driven by EPA feedback, the project was in the planning stages for more than five years. For more information, visit [blm.mn/OLRArea](#) or call Park Maintenance at 952-563-8760.



This online map shows the places where residents and stakeholders have left comments and more.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SHAPING PARK SYSTEM MASTER PLAN

Community engagement events are helping shape the future of Bloomington’s parks, trails, facilities and programs. In June, staff from Parks and Recreation and Community Outreach and Engagement Division hosted two video conference sessions. Participants provided valuable feedback to help guide the master planning process for the City’s park system. Approximately 30 virtual attendees participated.

You can use your voice to help shape the City’s recreational spaces and facilities in the years to come. Look for more opportunities for input during hosted community conversations, along with the project bloom! online engagement platform. For more information, visit [blm.mn/parks2020](#), call 952-563-8877 or email [rclark@bloomingtonmn.gov](#).

Bloomington Yesterday: Big Screen Drive-In Movie Shows

In 1966, what was touted as “the world’s most beautiful and distinctive drive-in theatre” opened at 7800 France Avenue South, bordered by I-494 to the south (photo looks to the south) and France Avenue to the east. The Mann France Avenue Drive-In launched with a double feature of “Our Man Flint” and “The Second-Best Secret Agent in the Whole Wide World” shown on a horizontal curved screen, claimed to be the world’s largest. With space for 1,600 – 1,700 cars, this drive-in had room for larger-than-life entertainment on a large scale. The parking lot was so vast, on the way back from the concession stand customers could forget where they parked.

Besides the carpeted, air-conditioned snack bar, other amenities included supervised playgrounds, wide spacing between speakers, pole mounted car-heaters, spacious restrooms and even a uniformed security officer. During the 70s, the drive-in was updated with new projection stands and a triplex of screens.

The final act of movie-going came in 1982 when the Mann France Avenue Drive-In closed. Four years later, the Bloomington landmark was razed. Even the best of shows comes to an end.



EXPLORE 50 YEARS OF HISTORY AT BIG

At Bloomington Ice Garden (BIG), turning 50 is a BIG deal. Since the facility opened in 1970, the garden expanded from one rink to three, hosted skating groups, competitions and played host to countless special events. From celebrities, to games, to dog and baseball card shows, and even a wedding, BIG has seen it all.

1970
Bloomington Community Ice Garden opens with one rink.
Denny May hired as arena manager.

1974
Russian men’s national ice hockey team practices.

1975
Rink 2 added.

1976
Dorothy Hamill skates.

1978
St. Louis Blues shoot commercial.

1979
The movie “Ice Castles” hits the rink, and actor Robby Benson learns how to skate.

1980
U.S. national team scrimmage.

1981
Wayne Gretzky and the Edmonton Oilers practice.

1993
Rink 3 added.

1994
First electric Zamboni purchased.

2006
Manager Denny May retires.
Andy Baltgalvis named manager.

2007
Renovations completed to Rink 1 for new cement floor, energy-efficient refrigeration system, extended players’ boxes and seamless glass.

2009
BIG hosts U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships practices.

2010
BIG hosts the U.S. Adult Figure Skating Championships.

2016
Host to U.S. Figure Skating Championships.
Manager Andy Baltgalvis retires.
Bob Carr named manager.

2017
BIG takes second place in the third annual, Kraft Hockeyville U.S.A. competition.
Minnesota Wild hold team practice.
For more information, visit blm.mn/BIG or call 952-563-8841.

FREE DRIVE-IN MOVIE SHOW FOR FAMILIES

Reliving an old warm-weather pasttime, the City is hosting a drive-in movie. With the pandemic, drive-in movies are making a comeback, and Parks and Recreation invites you to upcoming showings on August 22, September 12 and October 3. Locations to be determined.

From the safety of your car, enjoy a voter’s choice selection of an animated movie or other family-themed movie. Audio will be available through an FM radio station. It is first come first served. Gates open at 8 p.m. The movie begins at 9 p.m., at the Bloomington Ice Garden, 3600 West 98th Street or Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South parking lot.

To cast your vote on what movie will be shown or for other information, visit blm.mn/fb-parks or call 952-563-8877. Don’t forget to bring your own popcorn or pop.



Residents gathered for the City’s first drive-in movie at Bloomington Ice Garden in June.



“Desire Is the Trap” by Christopher Palbicki.

SEE ART SHOW BY CHRISTOPHER PALBICKI

Want to experience fine art which collides fantasy and fact? In the art exhibition “EGO-Logical: From Separation to Interbeing,” hyper-realistic images challenge the conventions of everyday social settings.

Take a virtual visit of the exhibition by Christopher Palbicki at artistrymn.org. Through September 13, make an in-person visit to the Atrium Gallery, at the Bloomington Center for the Arts, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. For more information, visit blm.mn/artistry or call 952-563-8575. Due to COVID-19, the Center for the Arts and the Atrium Gallery will utilize appropriate social distancing practices when open.

The exhibition is presented by Artistry, an independent nonprofit organization.



PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD ON AUGUST 11

The primary election is just around the corner on Tuesday, August 11. In Bloomington, the polls will open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. All polling places will require physical distancing both inside and outside of the buildings. Voters are encouraged to wear face coverings.

Remember your vote matters. For more information, including a map of precincts and polling sites, visit blm.mn/voting or call 952-563-8729.



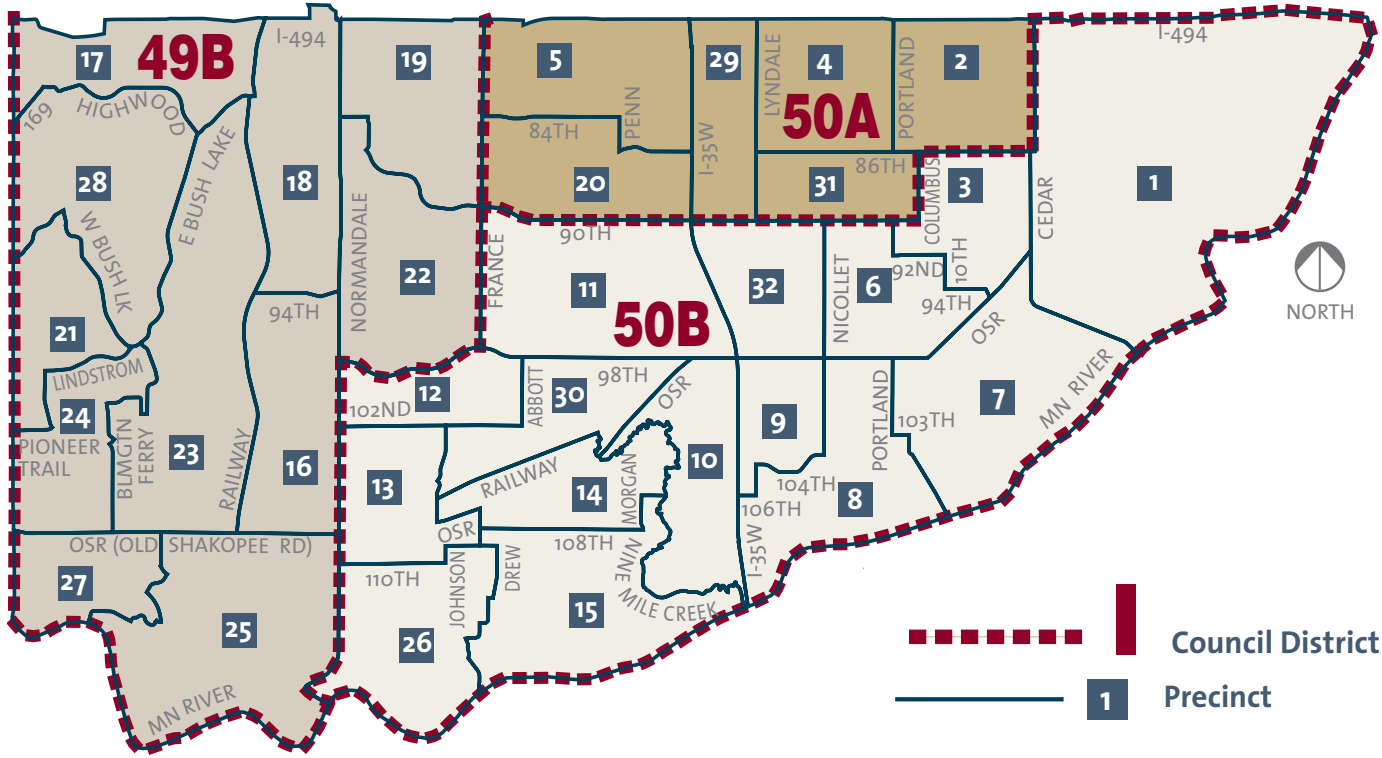
MOTOR VEHICLE OPEN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

After a respite due to COVID-19, Bloomington Motor Vehicle is up and running again. Customers are asked to plan ahead and schedule an appointment to visit the office at 9930 Logan Avenue South. To make your appointment, go to the website at blm.mn/vehicle. If you have multiple transactions, call 952-563-8719.

This practice will help to promote physical distancing to protect both you and Motor Vehicle staff. A face mask is required in City facilities.

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?

In the 2020 elections, there are three ways to cast your ballot. Minnesota has “no excuse” absentee voting, meaning all eligible voters are allowed to vote early if they choose. Provide enough mailing time for election officials to process 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.