

BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING



SEPTEMBER 2020

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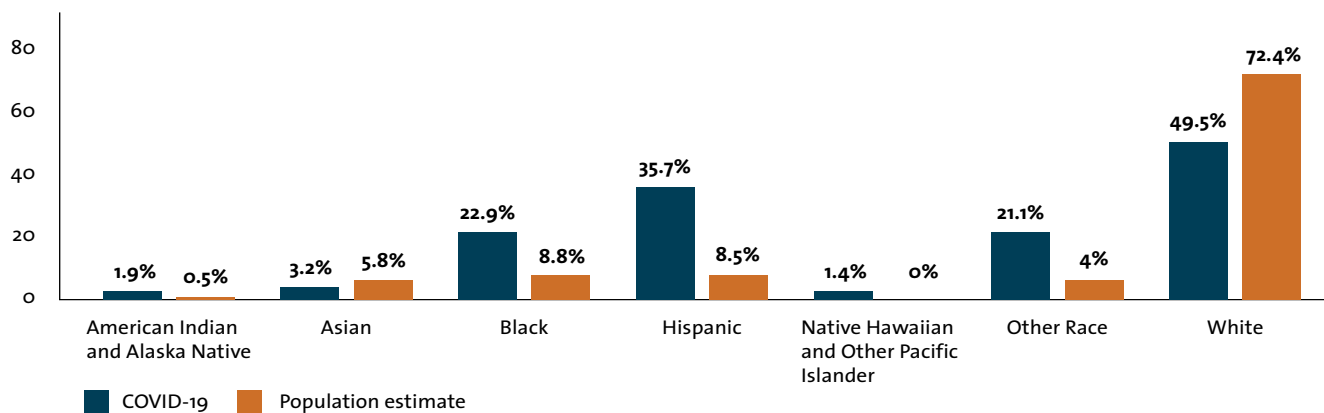
DISCOVERING FALL'S BEAUTY AT THE JAPANESE GARDEN

To enjoy fall beauty, you need travel no further than the Japanese Garden at Normandale Community College, 9700 France Avenue South. Tucked away on the northeast side of campus, the garden sprawls over two acres masterfully designed by Japanese architect Takao Watanabe. The journey begins with a gated entrance where paths connect to bridges, a meandering pond, symbolic islands and photographic views. From lanterns to rocks to a six-sided Benten-do building, traditional elements can be found throughout the garden. In keeping with Japanese custom, garden plants are green rather than bursting with bright blooms. But in autumn as the leaves change, seasonal colors give the garden a more dramatic look. For more information, visit blm.mn/NCCgarden, email japanesegarden@normandale.edu or call 952-358-8145.

CITY ADDRESSING DISPARITIES WITH COVID-19 AND RACE

While the pandemic has meant change for everyone, some groups have been more affected than others. In Bloomington, Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Learn more, *below*, about how the total number of COVID-19 cases in these communities compares to the percentage of the city's population they make up.

PERCENTAGE OF INDIVIDUALS BY RACE/ETHNICITY



Data sources: s1701:ACS 2018 5 year estimates MDH COVID-19 Case data for Bloomington Data shown for known COVID-19 race/ethnicity data

About half of all documented cases in Bloomington are within BIPOC communities, with almost 20% African American and 30% Hispanic. As a whole, BIPOC communities are about 28% of Bloomington's population, and that rate of diversity is increasing every year.

"As our city continues to grow, we have many members of our community who do not have access to their full health potential, their full well-being," Assistant Public Health Administrator Nick Kelley said.

The City is committed to acting to advance racial equity. The City is working on addressing the root causes of inequities impacting the health and well-being of our community, that are the result of structural racism, which have been highlighted by COVID-19. Work is underway to broaden the understanding of institutional and structural racism within Bloomington's workforce and community.

"We'll be thoughtful and intentional about building a plan that leads us to a place where we are that city where people of all races are able to thrive," Racial Equity Coordinator Faith Jackson said.

To address how this pandemic may add to existing racial inequities, Jackson provided City leaders and staff with a racial equity framework.

The City is reaching out to BIPOC communities in a number of ways:

- Providing culturally sensitive COVID-19 messages and resources to BIPOC communities. These communications help connect BIPOC communities to employment, business, rental and income assistance programs.
- Connecting with BIPOC communities through local faith groups, housing properties, senior and congregate living facilities, nonprofits, schools, colleges and businesses.
- Volunteering at a local food bank that helps low-income individuals and families regardless of citizenship status.

"This is an opportunity for us to act on those things that we've already been doing over the last several years. We can prioritize racial equity and act with more urgency in order to address some of those root causes," Jackson said.

For more information, visit blm.mn/racialequity or email equity@bloomingtonmn.gov.



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STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

When in public,
wear a cloth face
covering over your
nose and mouth.



MAYOR'S MEMO MASKS MATTER

By Mayor Tim Busse

Who do you mask up for? I mask up for my wife and for my mother and father-in-law who live in a senior living community. I mask up for my neighbors and for the people I meet when I'm grocery shopping or at the Farmers Market. And I mask up for the larger Bloomington community.

To help stop the spread of COVID-19, Minnesotans are required to wear face coverings in public. A governor's order issued in July requires people to wear a face covering in all indoor businesses and public indoor spaces, unless alone. This includes City of Bloomington facilities.

Research shows that using face coverings, along with physical distancing and hand washing, can reduce the spread of infection. A cloth covering over your nose and mouth helps prevent respiratory droplets (released while coughing, sneezing, talking, yelling or singing) from traveling into the air and onto other people.

As the public health response has continued to evolve, different messages about face coverings have created some confusion, but the evidence is clear: Wearing a mask matters.

Some exceptions to the face covering requirement include:

- Kids under two years. Optional but encouraged for kids two – five years.
- Anyone with conditions, disabilities, developmental or behavioral needs that make it difficult to tolerate wearing a face covering.
- Anyone with breathing difficulties, whether unconscious, sleeping, incapacitated or unable to remove face coverings without assistance.

This is especially important when you are around people outside of your household and physical distancing is hard to do.

People can spread COVID-19 even if they show no symptoms. According to the Minnesota Department of Health, 30 – 45% of people with COVID-19 do not have symptoms but can still spread the virus. Do your part to help with risk reduction. A small cloth face covering can go a long way in the fight against COVID-19. It's an easy way to help slow the spread of the virus in your community.

To learn how to wear, make or wash cloth face coverings and find other COVID-19 information, visit blm.mn/CDC-coverings or call 800-232-4636.

THE COMMUNITY BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE WANTS YOUR FEEDBACK

The City is forecasting a budget shortfall of \$6 – 7 million in 2021 due to revenue losses from COVID-19. To ensure resident perspectives are reflected in difficult budget choices, the City Council appointed a Community Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC) in May. CBAC has been meeting weekly since then and provided preliminary levy recommendations to the City Council at the end of August. 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.

The committee is providing monthly status reports to the City Council on its work. The committee will also provide three to four revenue scenarios by the end of September and three to four final budget options by early November. CBAC will host the following community listening sessions in September and October:

Share feedback about City services

- Thursday, September 17, 6:30 – 8 p.m.
- Saturday, September 19, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

Give feedback on proposed budget options

- Thursday, October 15, 6:30 – 8 p.m.
- Saturday, October 17, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

Residents may also share their feedback at blm.mn/letstalk.

Learn more about these events, watch CBAC meetings live, watch past meetings, view agendas and minutes, or sign up for email updates at blm.mn/cbac.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE GATEWAY DISTRICT: LYNDALE AVENUE CORRIDOR

The Lyndale Avenue corridor project is well underway. Since October 2019, the project consultant, Stantec, has analyzed existing conditions, market trends and future demand for the area. Stantec also engaged with residents, businesses, City staff and partner organizations to understand their concerns and aspirations for the corridor.

Stantec then prepared a draft vision for the corridor focused on urban design, mobility and open space. They also prepared design concepts for two key areas around Lyndale and 86th Street, and Lyndale and 98th Street.

The City Council and various commissions and boards will review and give input on the concepts. Stantec will then draft strategies and recommend priority actions. This will lead to a strategic plan that is expected to be presented to the Planning Commission and City Council this fall. The project plan is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2020.



BRIEFING

Volume 28, Number 09

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

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

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



GARBAGE COLLECTION ON THE BALLOT

During the general election on Tuesday, November 3, residents will have the opportunity to vote on City-organized solid waste collection in Bloomington. Two questions will be on the ballot.

The first asks voters if they want to change the City’s Charter to prevent the City from organizing solid waste collection without a vote in a general election. A “yes” vote means that the voter wants to change the City Charter to require the voters, in an election, to decide if Bloomington should have City-organized solid waste collection. A “no” vote means the voter does not want to change the City Charter and the voter wants to continue residential solid waste collection organized by the City.

If the first question passes and changes the Charter, the second question will give the voters an opportunity to decide whether or not City-organized collection should continue. A “yes” vote means the voter wants to stop the current City-organized trash, recycling, bulky waste, electronic waste and yard waste collection services. A “yes” vote means the voter wants to revert back to residents selecting their own individual private trash haulers. A “no” vote means the voter wants to continue the current City-organized trash, recycling, bulky waste, electronic waste, and yard waste collection services in the City.

If the first question does not pass, the second question will not be considered and City-organized solid waste collection will continue. Vote on both questions to make your preferences known.

Currently, Bloomington households have City-organized solid waste collection. A resident petition was circulated to require the City to put the change to the voters as an additional step before moving to organized collection. In February 2020, the Minnesota Supreme Court decided that a resident petition to require a vote before moving to City-organized solid waste collection was lawful.

Solid waste collection includes the collection of garbage, recyclables, yard waste and bulky items. All one- and two-unit residences, and some townhome complexes that have chosen to opt into the program, would be affected by changes to organized collection.

If organized collection ends, residents will be required to contract with a hauler they select. Prices and collection days will vary across the city. For more information about the ballot questions and answers to frequently asked questions, visit blm.mn/ballotfaq, call 952-563-4581, or email publicworks@BloomingtonMN.gov.

RANKED CHOICE VOTING ON THE BALLOT

In August, the City Council voted to include a question about ranked choice voting on this year’s ballot. The ballot question will read: “Should the Bloomington City Charter be amended to elect the Mayor and City Council members by the Ranked Choice Voting method?” If the ballot question passes with at least 51% of voters choosing “yes,” ranked choice voting would be used for municipal elections starting in November 2021.

WHAT IS RANKED CHOICE VOTING?

Sometimes referred to as “instant runoff voting” or “preferential voting,” ranked choice 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.

WHERE IS IT CURRENTLY USED?

In Minnesota, Minneapolis, Saint Paul and St. Louis Park currently use ranked choice voting for municipal elections. It is also used in various other jurisdictions around the country.

LEARN MORE

Read more about ranked choice voting at blm.mn/rcv.

PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON CITY’S RACIAL EQUITY BUSINESS PLAN

The City’s Racial Equity Business Plan is an evolving document intended to guide the City’s racial equity work. It was developed by the racial equity coordinator in collaboration with the City’s executive leadership team.

The plan captures ongoing equity and inclusion priorities from the Council’s strategic plan and provides goals, strategies and performance measures that will move the work forward.

The draft plan was presented to the Council on July 13. Over the next several weeks the City will host a series of listening sessions and invite community members to review the plan and provide feedback. Visit blm.mn/replan to learn more about the upcoming listening sessions and opportunities to learn more about Bloomington’s efforts to advance racial equity.



EARLY AND ABSENTEE VOTING

Bloomington residents can vote early by mail for the general election by submitting an absentee ballot. To get started, submit an absentee ballot application at blm.mn/absenteeballot or call 612-348-5151. Early voting begins on Saturday, September 18.

Voters will receive an absentee ballot and a postage-paid envelope to return their ballot. For the 2020 State General Election, absentee ballots must be postmarked on or before election day, November 3, and received by Hennepin County by November 10.

If you don’t think your ballot will be received in time using regular mail, you may choose to pay for an express delivery service.

The general election is Tuesday, November 3. The state of Minnesota does not have a provision to cancel elections during a pandemic. The City will employ CDC guidelines for polling place safety. For more information about voting, visit blm.mn/vote or call 952-563-8729.



MINNESOTA HOUSE AND SENATE CANDIDATE FORUMS

The League of Women Voters Bloomington (LWVB) is planning 2020 election candidate forums on September 15 that will be recorded and available to view. Details will be posted on the City’s website and at lwvmn.org/bloomington.

The LWVB is a nonpartisan, political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League never endorses or supports a political candidate or party.



BLOOMINGTON RISING AS A GREENSTEP CITY

Bloomington is a rising green star. This summer, the City achieved step four status in the Minnesota GreenStep program. The achievement is a notable step forward for sustainability efforts in Bloomington. To gain this recognition, the City measured and reported information about land use, buildings and lighting, solid waste, water, renewable energy, transportation, economic development and more.

The GreenStep program encourages cost savings, resource conservation, energy use reduction, climate change mitigation, and civic innovation. The goal is to determine the most beneficial actions for sustainability and find ways to make them happen. The Sustainability Commission is one group that works to sustain water, land, energy and reduce waste in the community.

To learn more, visit blm.mn/stepgreen, email estruss@bloomingtonmn.gov or call 952-563-8934.

BATTLING BUCKTHORN

All that’s green isn’t glorious. Buckthorn leaves remain green long after native shrubs fade to brown and drop their leaves.

Late fall to early winter is a good time to remove buckthorn. It’s easy to spot the shiny, egg-shaped leaves on seedlings and mature plants, which can grow up to 25 feet tall. The larger plants (two inches or more at the base of the trunk) must be cut and treated with a proper herbicide application. Small buckthorn shoots can be pulled by hand, especially after a rain.

Areas cleared of buckthorn need to be replanted with native flowers, grasses, shrubs or trees. Buckthorn seeds can sprout and grow for three years. Removal is a multiyear commitment to cut (or pull), treat and replace.

Still, the benefits of buckthorn removal are worth the effort. Left unchecked, buckthorn crowds out native plants, degrades wildlife habitat and dominates woodlands.

To learn more visit blm.mn/steward or call 952-563-8730.



EARTH ACTION HERO: MEG HANNASCH

Curious about sustainability in your community? Last fall or winter, you might have talked to Meg Hannasch about sustainability in Bloomington. She had a table at the Home Improvement Fair, just one of the many events she attended to share information about sustainability with residents. Community outreach was her favorite part of working as a Minnesota GreenCorps member with the City.

During her year serving in that role, Hannasch completed several sustainability projects. She promoted organics recycling in the community and offered free kitchen compost collection containers at the Farmers Market. Her organics recycling work extended to developing recommendations about how to implement organics recycling in the City’s Civic Plaza, Public Works and Creekside facilities. In another project, she worked with local businesses and residents to reduce salt use and protect water bodies.

“It’s really exciting for me to meet directly with people who have an interest in sustainability opportunities,” Hannasch said. “People are interested in participating and want to make the world a better place.”

This fall Meg will be pursuing a geographic information system certification. Her goal is a career in natural resource management.

WANT TO DISPOSE OF YOUR FALL LEAVES OR OTHER YARD WASTE?

To sign up for yard waste service, contact the City’s Utility Billing Office at 952-563-8726. This year, full-season yard waste collection began on April 13, and ends on Monday, November 30 (weather permitting). Next year, full-season yard waste collection will begin on the Monday of the second full week in April and end on the Friday of the last full week in November.

A partial-season yard waste subscription service is available through Monday, November 30 at a rate of \$51.77, for new subscribers and for residents who moved after yard waste season began. Subsequent years will be billed at the full-season rate, unless the household cancels yard waste before the service’s start date.

Residents may also pay \$4.16 per bag for on-call yard waste removal services. To purchase yard waste stickers, call the Utility Billing Division at 952-563-8757 and they will be mailed to you. Due to COVID-19, arrangements made by phone are preferable to walk-in service at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. A sticker must be placed on each on-call bag. To schedule the on-call collection, call Utility Billing at least 48 hours prior to your collection day.

For more information, visit blm.mn/yardwaste, call 952-563-8726 or email utilitybilling@BloomingtonMN.gov.

WHAT TO DO WITH LEAVES?

How you manage leaves makes a difference. Here are some tips for dealing with leaves.

- Don’t put leaves in your trash. It’s against the law.
- Don’t rake or blow your leaves into the street. Leaves get into storm drains, then flow into water bodies and feed unwanted algae.
- Consider using leaves as mulch. Set a lawnmower to chop a thin layer of leaves to remain on your lawn. Extra chopped leaves can be turned into mulch for your garden, trees and shrubs.
- Put leaves in a backyard compost pile. Turn leaves, yard waste and kitchen scraps into rich organic material that you can use to improve your soil.

Residents can contact Utility Billing to sign up for yard waste service for an additional fee or request on-call service. Visit blm.mn/yardwaste, call 952-563-8726 or email utilitybilling@BloomingtonMN.gov.

While the City and Hennepin County do not operate yard waste drop-off sites, several private businesses do. Call before your visit to check on material accepted, special conditions, hours and fees.

- Mulch Store, 1030 West Cliff Road, Burnsville, 952-890-9375.
- Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, 1905 Mystic Lake Drive South, Shakopee, 952-233-9191.
- SKB Malcolm Avenue Transfer Station, 630 Malcolm Avenue South, Minneapolis, 612-331-4610.

ADOPT A STORM DRAIN THIS FALL

In autumn, leaves are everywhere, and they can clog storm drains. Did you know that the leaves and other debris that make their way into storm drains don’t go to the wastewater treatment plant? They flow directly to local watersheds. Anything other than rainwater going through storm drains can potentially degrade waterbodies. The algae that feeds on leaves can turn lakes, ponds and wetlands green.

You can help by adopting a storm drain. It’s easy to sign up for the free program. Adopting a storm drain also makes a nice family activity. It only takes a commitment of a few minutes, a few times a year, to clean out a storm drain, and the effort makes a difference in your community. Visit adopt-a-drain.org to sign up or for more information.



New Station 3 Complete

In late July, the Bloomington Fire Department (BFD) moved into the newly completed Station 3 at 2301 86th Street E. The \$12 million facility, *pictured above*, has adequate storage for equipment, training features and better energy efficiency than the old Station 3.

“This new station gives us better access to equipment because there is enough space for all of it,” Assistant Fire Chief Jay Forster said. “It also gives us the opportunity to do more training on-site.”

The former Station 3 was more than 50 years old and no longer met the needs of the community or BFD. A few other stations in the city will need to be replaced in the future for the same reasons. A new Station 4 will be constructed on the current site at 4201 West 84th Street. Discussions about design will continue through 2021 with construction tentatively planned for the first half of 2022. Fire service to the area will be maintained through construction.

Stations 2, 5 and 6 will also need to be replaced in the future. The City will provide opportunities for engagement throughout the construction process of these public safety facilities.

For more information, contact Assistant Fire Chief Jay Forster at jforster@BloomingtonMN.gov or 952-563-4812.

Answering the Call to Slow the Spread of COVID-19

Trained public health workers are talking with people who have tested positive for COVID-19 to gather information and answer questions. This work is known as “contact tracing.” It is important to answer calls from trained contact tracers or reply the same day. Along with large-scale testing and isolating those who are sick, the information contact tracers gather is essential for slowing the spread of COVID-19.

Contact tracers ask about places people have been or who they had contact with before they became sick. These people, places and events are called exposures. Collecting this information allows public health staff to identify sources of infection and step in to slow transmission.

Callers will also ask people about anyone they had contact with while they were infectious to ensure that anyone who was exposed to COVID-19 is informed. Participant information

is kept private during this process; public health staff will never reveal your name to individuals or organizations without your permission.

If you want verification that the call you received is from a Public Health staff member, call the Public Health contact tracing line at 952-563-8600 directly before you provide personal information.

A dozen Bloomington Public Health staff work with the Minnesota Department of Health on COVID-19 contact tracing and case investigations. Bloomington Public Health has experience with this type of work for other infectious disease outbreaks, including tuberculosis and measles. Contact tracers understand that people may feel frustrated about having to answer questions. The purpose of the call is to help the person who is sick and to try to slow the spread of COVID-19 in the community.

How Contact Tracing Helps in Different Ways

Contact tracing does more than promote public health. In June, Public Health Planner Kelly Deweese, *at right*, reached out to a woman who tested positive for COVID-19 for what would be a challenging but well-resolved call. When the woman was tested, she was told her lack of health insurance was a barrier for getting additional help.

With an interpreter on the line, Deweese listened to the woman’s concerns and frustrations. The woman was unemployed. Deweese provided helpful options for issues with food and rent (VEAP), and health care (Portico Health.) Deweese not only gathered vital information about the woman’s COVID-19 diagnosis, but connected her with local resources to help her stay healthy and safe.

For more information, visit blm.mn/tracing.

If you want verification that the call you received is from a Public Health staff member, call the Public Health contact tracing line at 952-563-8600 directly before you provide personal information.



Neighbors gathered in 2019 to celebrate National Night Out.

National Night Out Canceled for 2020

In the interest of community safety, the Bloomington Police Department is canceling the 2020 National Night Out event. The event is typically the first Tuesday in August and was originally postponed to October this year as a result of COVID-19.

“The decision to cancel National Night Out was not an easy one, but due to the risks of COVID-19, it is best for our community and staff,” Police Chief Jeff Potts said.

National Night Out is an annual community-building event that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie with the goal of making neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live.



Connecting to Community Resources

If you need help finding resources for food, housing, medical care or financial assistance, contact the Public Health community resource line at 952-563-8900 (select option 3) from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday. For more information about general resources related to COVID-19, visit blm.mn/covidresources. If your situation is an emergency, dial 911.



LEARN OR IMPROVE YOUR SKATING AT SKATE SCHOOL

Do you like to skate? Maybe you’ve wanted to take the next step in your development as a skater. Bloomington residents and visitors are welcome to participate in the Bloomington Ice Garden (BIG) Skate School, 3600 West 98th Street. Skaters will notice some changes at BIG due to COVID-19.

- The latest CDC guidelines will be used throughout the BIG facility, during lessons and between classes.
- You will be asked to maintain physical distancing at all times.
- No rental skates will be available this season.
- No practice ice time will be available during lessons.

Sign up for skating lessons at blm.mn/e-register. For more information, including new operational and safety guidelines, call 952-563-8841, visit blm.mn/BIG or email rgelecinskyj@BloomingtonMN.gov.

PARK SYSTEM MASTER PLAN UNDERWAY

What do you see in the future of Bloomington parks? The Park System Master Plan is a road map for planning and completing park improvements, helping the City decide what parks to focus on first in the future and ensure changes and investments to a City park fit into the bigger picture of serving the needs of the community today and long term. The Park System Master Plan will consider local and national park and recreation trends, community demographics, facility needs, current and future programming needs, maintenance, long-term sustainability, and most importantly information gathered from the community. It will be the foundation for future decision-making, program planning, budgeting and park system investments.

Based on your comments provided earlier in the year, City staff are preparing a draft vision statement, goals and guiding principles for the plan. For more information or to provide input on the draft plan go to blm.mn/parks 2020.



PLAYING BALL AT THE GA-GA PIT

What’s eight-sided, three boards high and resembles an over-sized raised garden bed without the dirt filling? Why, it’s a ga-ga pit. In June, one of these summer camp game favorites opened at Bryant Park, 1001 West 85th Street.

Ga-ga is a form of dodgeball. Players use their hands to hit the ball toward opponents but are eliminated if the ball strikes them at a certain level. The winner is the last player standing.

All you need are a few players, a ball and a little time. Careful, the game can be addictive and last for hours, according to Bloomington resident and Eagle Scout candidate Stuart Hawton.

Hawton, along with other volunteers from Troop 374, installed the ga-ga court. As part of his Eagle Scout project, Hawton raised \$1,000 in donations to pay for materials, managed the installation and partnered with the City for planning.

Ga-ga players are asked to follow the latest CDC guidelines for physical distancing and safety. For more information, visit blm.mn/parks or call 952-563-8877.

BLOOMINGTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS

September brings a trio of art exhibitions to the Bloomington Center for the Arts. You can take a virtual tour of these exhibitions from the comfort of your own home by visiting artistrymn.org.

To see the exhibits in person, come to the Bloomington Center for the Arts, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. Due to COVID-19, the Bloomington Center for the Arts and all galleries will use appropriate physical distancing practices when open.



EGO-Logical: From Separation to Interbeing
Through September 13, Atrium Gallery

Paintings by Christopher Palbicki depict what he calls “the root of humanity’s suffering.” Palbicki creates images which show how society and individuals have become isolated from each other and our natural world. Watch a video on the exhibit at blm.mn/egological.



Visual Translations
August 14 – September 25, Inez Greenberg Gallery
Artists Anna Carlson and Nghia Quach address the challenges of communication in the exhibition “Visual Translations.” For Carlson, this challenge is to capture her mother’s memories and stories before they’re lost in the wake of Alzheimer’s disease. Quach uses his art to express the language and communication barriers he has experienced on a personal level.



‘A Perturbable Stillness’
September 17 – November 1, Atrium Gallery
Sharon Ulrich’s paintings depict mysterious narratives. “By introducing understated and disparate elements I invite my viewers to look further...in hopes to find something new to discover and internalize,” Sharon Ulrich, the artist, said.
For more information, visit blm.mn/artistry or call 952-563-8575.

PROJECT P.L.A.Y. PROVIDES YOUTH RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

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. The grant will fund Project P.L.A.Y. (Providing Leisure Activities for Youth).

You can look forward to things like mobile REC programming, take-home summer camps, a fishing fair, archery and learn-to-bike classes, and more. Most of the programs are free with no registration required.

For more information, visit blm.mn/Project-PLAY.

BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY

DRIVING ALONG IN '70s STYLE

The '70s brought bell-bottoms, boomboxes and bustle to Bloomington. Take a retro ride along Penn Avenue S. and American Boulevard W. The long lines of a gold-tone, Coupe DeVille fill the intersection here. In 1970, classic cars, compact cars and muscle cars rolled along in sleek style. Did you ever see a AMC Gremlin, Chevrolet Impala, Dodge Challenger, Ford Mustang Boss, Plymouth Road Runner or Pontiac Grand Prix?

To keep your car going, tires were on sale for \$18.99. It's hard not to miss those prices, no matter what the model. The '70s were a time of abundant change, on and off the road.



OLD CEDAR AVENUE BRIDGE CELEBRATION CANCELED

The Old Cedar Avenue Bridge celebration planned for Saturday, September 26, has been canceled. The City of Bloomington, in partnership with the Minnesota Valley Refuge Friends, hopes to offer this event in 2021. A future date and time will be posted when new arrangements are made. For more information, visit blm.mn/bridgecelebration.



GET THE CITY NEWS YOU NEED

There's no better time to stay informed about City news. There are a variety of ways you can find the information you want and need about City services, facilities and operations and other resources.

E-Subscribe—Visit blm.mn/esubscribe to sign up for email updates on a variety of projects and topics ranging from public health to the pavement management program.

Citizen Alert—Visit blm.mn/citizenalert to sign up for emergency notifications by email, call and/or text.

Social media—Follow the City on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Nextdoor to stay informed about what's happening in Bloomington.

Cable TV and YouTube—Watch the weekly news show Bloomington Today, City Council meetings and more on BTV at blm.mn/BTV-live on channel 14 or 859 for HD or on Roku and Apple TV. You can also view these productions on the City's YouTube account at blm.mn/youtube.

Webcast of City Council meetings—All City Council meetings are livestreamed online at blm.mn/BTV-live. You can also view them online after they occur at blm.mn/council.

The Briefing—Read this newsletter as it is delivered to your mailbox monthly. You can also sign up to receive the electronic version through E-Subscribe at blm.mn/briefing.



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



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

CONTACT US

CITY PHONE NUMBERS AND EMAIL ADDRESSES

Have a question or concern and don't know whom to contact? The following are the most frequently called and emailed City contacts.

General 952-563-8700
information@BloomingtonMN.gov

Police/Fire/medical emergency 911
If you cannot complete a call using 911, call 952-563-4900.

Police nonemergency 952-563-4900
police@BloomingtonMN.gov

Animal Shelter 952-563-4942
police@BloomingtonMN.gov

Pet licenses 952-563-8728
licensing@BloomingtonMN.gov

Center for the Arts 952-563-8889
centerforthearts@BloomingtonMN.gov

Dwan Golf Course 952-563-8702
golf@BloomingtonMN.gov

Hyland Greens Golf Course 952-563-8868

Building, electrical, heating and plumbing inspections 952-563-8930
inspections@BloomingtonMN.gov

Fire inspections 952-563-8933
fireprevention@bloomingtonmn.gov

Mayor/City Council 952-563-8782
council@BloomingtonMN.gov

Motor Vehicle 952-563-8719
motorvehicle@BloomingtonMN.gov

Noise, weeds or problem properties 952-563-8934
envhealth@BloomingtonMN.gov

Parks and Recreation 952-563-8877
parksrec@BloomingtonMN.gov

Passports 952-563-8728
passports@BloomingtonMN.gov

Property information 952-563-8722
assessing@BloomingtonMN.gov

Public Health 952-563-8900
publichealth@BloomingtonMN.gov

Recycling 952-563-8760
maintenance@BloomingtonMN.gov

Section 8 housing 952-563-8937
hra@BloomingtonMN.gov

Sewer and water 24-hour emergency 952-563-4905

Voter registration 952-563-8729

Snow emergency line 952-563-8768

Volunteer opportunities 952-563-4944
outreach@BloomingtonMN.gov

Water and sewer utility billing 952-563-8726
utilitybilling@BloomingtonMN.gov

Water leaks 952-563-8777

AT YOUR SERVICE: EMILY TAPLIN

The human-interest aspect of a story drives Emily Taplin's work. As a video production specialist, she creates weekly videos for "Bloomington Today," "For Your Health," "Council Minute" plus other features. In City videos, Taplin covers everything from community meetings to Parks and Recreation events and more.

"It's really an honor to have people open up and share their experiences with you," Taplin said. "I especially enjoy sharing stories of everyday people."

Taplin compares her video production to putting together a puzzle. The challenge is to take interview recordings and transform them into a finished piece that makes sense for the viewer. Stories in her videos are told in a well-rounded way with a keen respect for the subject.

Emily welcomes ideas for videos about the Bloomington community. Email Taplin at etaplin@bloomingtonmn.gov.

Apart from her City work, Taplin uses her communications skills in how she interacts with her dog, Murrow the Frenchie. With nearly 30,000 followers on Instagram, Murrow is a "pup-ular" social media star. Soulful "paw-sonality" is Murrow's hallmark, along with a tail wagging wardrobe that would make any furry fashionista howl.



TAKE A TOUR OF PUBLIC ART

Art riches abound in Bloomington. Discover the beauty in your own backyard. In this tour, you'll encounter more than a dozen works of art. Beginning in 2013, a collaboration of the City and Artistry's Creative Placemaking brought the art to the community (except Mall of America artwork, which was privately commissioned). This tour was planned by the Bloomington Convention and Visitors Bureau.



“City within a City” Artboxes, by artist Erik Sletten, Bloomington Central Station Park, 8100 33rd Avenue South.



“Kaleidoscope” suspended installation by Christopher Lutter-Gardella, Mall of America’s (MOA) North Entrance, Level 3 Ceiling.



“At the Confluence of Science and Nature” mural by artist Erik Pearson, MVNWR, Bass Ponds parking lot, East 86th Street and East Old Shakopee Road.



“Convergence” sculpture by James Brenner, Lindau Lane and 28th Avenue South.



Floral mural by SheShe, MOA, Level 3 and Culinary on North.



“Art Gate” sculpture by Alexander Tylevich, and Artbox by Olivia Novotny, 24th Avenue South and Lindau Lane.



“Across the Universe,” landform art by Tom Henry, 2221 Killebrew Drive.



“Prairie Dance” Artbox by Teresa Cox, Killebrew Drive and 22nd Avenue South.



AR experience by Nancy Musinguzi and Adam Davis-McGee, Old Cedar Avenue Bridge area, endpoint of Old Cedar Avenue South of Bloomington. Walk to the bridge and use your phone to open Snapchat. Focus your camera on a Snapcode, then press and hold to view an AR experience.



“Seasons of Becoming” at Wright’s Lake Park by GoodSpace Murals, Old Cedar Avenue South, 84th and 86th Streets. See a video of the art locations at blm.mn/tourart. To learn more about the locations, visit blm.mn/loopart. For other information about the art, go to blm.mn/placemaking or call 952-563-8744.