



Fridley

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Parks and Recreation
Brochure Enclosed

MAY/JUNE 2021
NO. 230

We believe in a Fridley that is a safe, vibrant, friendly and stable home for families and businesses.

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Fridley, MN 55432
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FridleyMN.gov
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Mayor – Scott Lund
Councilmember-at-Large – David Ostwald
Councilmember 1st Ward – Tom Tillberry
Councilmember 2nd Ward – Steve Eggert
Councilmember 3rd Ward – Ann Bolckom
City Manager – Wally Wysopal

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- Watch City Programming: Search Fridley Municipal TV
- Sign up for email notifications on FridleyMN.gov


Save the Date: 2021 Town Hall Meeting

Saturday, June 5 at 10 a.m.
Fridley Civic Campus – City Hall or Virtual (TBD)

Join us for our annual town hall meeting! The primary focus of this year's meeting will be the *Finding Your Fun in Fridley!* parks master plan. This will also be a great opportunity to take community input through a question and answer session.

The setting for the annual Town Hall Meeting will be determined closer to the date in order to best follow COVID-19 guidelines. More information will become available on our website at FridleyMN.gov and our social media channels.





Parks Plan Update – Finding Your Fun in Fridley!

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback on the draft design concepts for each of the Fridley parks! The feedback window closed on April 30. The City will be looking at the community feedback to see what updates or changes should be made to each of the park designs based on what you have told us. There will be an update on the future of the parks master plan at the Town Hall Meeting.

Recent Robocall Scams

The City of Fridley has recently received reports from residents receiving robocalls with a pre-recorded voice message asking for personal information. In order to reduce the likelihood of residents falling victim to a scam, here is what you should know:

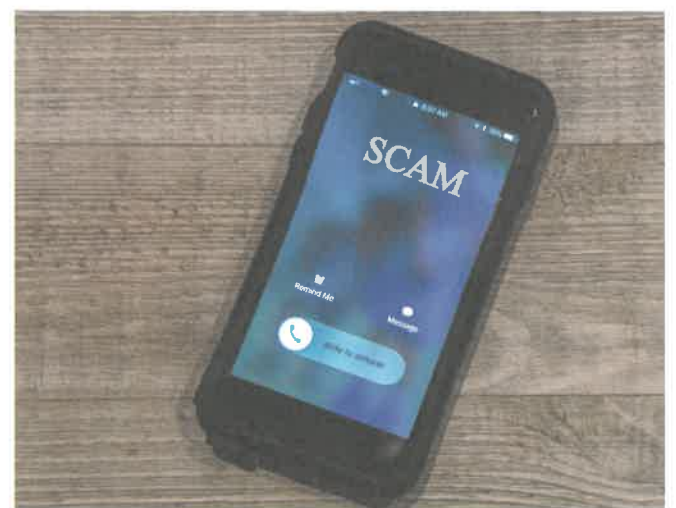
How would the City contact me for my utility billing if needed?

The City of Fridley **does not currently** send out pre-recorded phone calls to our customers in any capacity. (Note: This may change in the future if the City were to change billing systems. Newer systems sometimes provide automated phone calls/reminders.) Currently, the City will contact customers either directly by phone with a live caller, or with a letter and/or email. The Utility Billing Division will never call you to confirm credit or debit card numbers. If the Utility Billing Division needs to confirm account information, a City employee will call you directly.

In case we need to leave a message, our voice message contains a recording from a City staff member with a call back number to the appropriate department's line or staff person's direct office line. If you are unsure if it is a scam, you can call the City's main line at 763-571-3450 or the Utility Billing line at 763-572-3529.

What should I do if I receive a robocall?

If you receive a robocall claiming to be from the City of Fridley, Fridley Utility Billing, Fridley Municipal, or other City department, **please do not press any keys to accept the call, just hang up!**



What should I do after receiving a robocall?

1. Block the robocall phone number on your phone. If they "spoofed" a City number (made it look like the call was coming from a City of Fridley phone), or if you ever have questions or concerns about your Utility Billing account, hang up and call the City directly at the phone numbers referenced in the previous question.
2. If you paid the scammer, immediately contact the company or bank that issued the credit card or debit card. Tell them it was a fraudulent charge. Ask them to reverse the transaction and give you your money back. Then, contact the Fridley Police Department to make a report at 763-572-3629 or submit an report online at FridleyMN.gov/Report-A-Concern.
3. If you did not have any money loss, you can still report the scam to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). The FTC can use the information to build cases against scammers, spot trends, educate the public, and share data about what is happening in your community. Report the fraud online at reportfraud.ftc.gov.

PRESORTED STD
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Twin Cities, MN
 Permit NO. 92886
 54 12521
 *****ECRLOT**C 033
 City Administrator
 City of Spring Lake Park
 1301 81st Ave NE
 Spring Lake Park MN 55432-2188



Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in Fridley

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an aggressive, invasive insect pest that quickly spreads and kills ash trees. Several infestations have been found in Fridley since it was confirmed in the City in 2019, including a widespread infestation in the Innsbruck neighborhood in 2021. Once a tree is infected, it can quickly become hazardous and pose a safety risk to surrounding people and property. Due to this risk, the City requires the removal of EAB-infested trees found on private property. If you have an ash tree in your yard, make a plan now to remove and replace it or chemically protect the tree against EAB. All ash trees are susceptible to EAB infestation. Once an ash tree shows signs of infestation, it has a very low chance of survival.

Step 1. Identify if you have an ash tree

Ash trees are one of the most common trees in Fridley. It was widely planted after the tornado and the proliferation of Dutch Elm disease since it grows quickly and provides excellent shade. Look for these key attributes of an ash tree:

1. Compound leaves with five to nine leaflets
2. Leaflets, buds, and branches growing directly opposite from each other instead of in an alternating pattern
3. Diamond-shaped bark ridges on mature trees

See the above photos for an example of healthy Emerald Ash leaves and bark.

Step 2. Decide to remove and replace your ash tree or treat an ash tree

Ash trees can be protected using chemical treatment as long as the EAB infestation is not too extensive. If you wait to start treatment of your tree until it is showing symptoms of EAB, it will likely be too late. Residents interested in chemical treatment should contact a licensed arborist to chemically inject the tree.



EAB Treatments for Private Ash Trees

2019 - 2021 Contract Rate:
\$5.80-\$5.85 per inch tree diameter

To schedule a treatment for your ash tree at the contract rate, call **Rainbow Treecare at (952) 767-6920**.

The "Contractor Rate" is a guaranteed price that the City obtains on behalf of residents as part of the City's contract for treatment of public ash trees (e.g. parks and boulevards).

Residents may also hire any City-licensed tree contractor with a commercial pesticide applicator license to treat an ash tree.

Non-injected forms of chemical treatment are less effective and are more likely to negatively impact pollinators and water quality. As part of the contract with the City to treat high quality ash trees, Rainbow Treecare is offering a bulk-rate pricing discount for chemical injections to Fridley residents.

Trees that should be considered for treatment are greater than 10" in diameter, not competing with other trees or infrastructure, and showing no more than 30 percent of canopy decline if infestation is suspected.

Due to the low cost of EAB treatment, it is likely more cost-effective to treat the tree than cut it down. Ash tree removal is expensive and becomes more costly following EAB-infestation due to the safety risks of removing a hazardous tree. If you remove an ash tree, you are encouraged to replace it with another tree in order to preserve the benefits of Fridley's urban forests.

Step 3. Be on the lookout for EAB infestations

One of the most noticeable symptoms of EAB is increased bird activity, particularly woodpeckers and nuthatches looking to eat the borers. As the birds search for the borers, they strip the bark which exposes the lighter inner colored bark in a process called ash-blonding. If you peel back the tree's bark, you may find serpentine grooves of the borer's path or D-shaped exit holes where an adult borer flew away. Another symptom of advanced EAB infestation is a sparse canopy due to leaf dieback.

What about public trees?

The City Council approved an EAB Mitigation Plan in 2018 to manage ash trees in the public right of way and City parks. As part of this plan, the City began contracting with Rainbow Treecare to chemically inject all of its high quality ash trees between 2019-2020 and will continue treating high quality ash trees on a two- to three-year cycle. The City is also removing and replacing low quality ash trees neighborhood by neighborhood. When selecting replacement trees, the City plants a diversity of tree species to create a more resilient forest. If you have a low quality ash tree in the boulevard or right-of-way in front of your property, the City will contact you prior to its removal. If you suspect that it has already become hazardous, please call 763-572-3566.

To learn more about EAB, visit the City's website at FridleyMN.gov/EmeraldAsh.

Tree City USA

The City of Fridley was awarded Tree City USA status for the fourth year in a row for the City's efforts to manage Emerald Ash Borer, host a tree sale, and plant boulevard trees. Trees help make our community great—consider planting a tree in your yard this summer!

Wind Up! Fridley Challenge Results

The results are in! Sixty-four new subscribers signed up for Xcel Energy's Windsource program to power their homes with wind energy during the Wind Up! Challenge, exceeding our goal of 50 new subscribers. Thank you to our Renewable Energy Champions who supported the Challenge listed at FridleyMN.gov/WindUp. Here are the answers to three most common questions we received about the program.

Where does the wind energy come from?

The wind energy comes from 19 dedicated Minnesota wind farms, as well as Renewable Energy Credits that are purchased in the event that there are more wind sales than production. Electricity generated by renewable facilities, such as wind turbines, as well as conventional sources, travel together to supply homes

and businesses. An analogy is to think of the electric grid or system as a giant lake that all customers draw from as they use electricity. Many different wind energy generation sources add to filling the "lake"—electricity from wind turbines, coal plants, hydroelectric plants, and natural gas fueled plants. As demand for Windsource rises, over time more wind turbines will be added to help supply the "lake" with more clean, wind-generated electricity.

Does Xcel Energy's electric mix already have wind?

Yes. The Xcel Energy electricity mix in Minnesota uses a variety of resources. For comparison, the current average mix of resources supplying customers includes: coal (29%), nuclear (30%), natural gas

(16%), wind (15%), hydro (7%), biomass (3%), and solar (<1%). The energy that supplies Windsource goes above and beyond government mandates so that your energy usage is offset by the purchase of additional wind energy.

Can I say my home uses renewable energy?

Yes. Even though the additional wind energy purchased on your behalf is added to the overall electric grid, the Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) (which is the currency used to trade renewable energy) is retired on your behalf. Therefore, no one else is able to claim that renewable energy. This is different than someone who produces renewable energy or subscribes to a subscription program that sells the RECs to Xcel Energy to claim.

Development Update

Bank of America

Launch Properties received approval from Council on February 8, 2021 that will allow a reduced setback for parking and a new Bank of America to be constructed on the former site of the Ricky's Embers, Fridley.



There will be two drive-through ATM lanes outside and a counter and several loan office locations inside of the facility. The developer has indicated that Bank of America plans to have its bank constructed and ready for customers by the end of 2021.



The Dollar Tree

The Dollar Tree and its developer Paul Tucci had two variance requests approved at the February 8, 2021 City Council meeting. The variances allow for the building and front parking setbacks to be reduced to allow the development of a store on this relatively small site. Construction is set to begin this spring.

Jersey Mike's

Jersey Mike's Subs has applied for a sign permit for the former Midas site at the corner of University Avenue and 81st Avenue NE.



Although the building interior finish plans have not been submitted, the sign permit application is a good sign of things to come for this site.

Vehitech Fleet Services

Vehitech Fleet Services of Roseville has just closed on the purchase of the former Kennedy Transmission Building, 7708 University Avenue NE. Vehitech maintains and repairs fleet vehicles for companies. They have outgrown their Roseville site and are excited about this new location.



Northern Stacks

Mike Wardwell, Hyde Development provided an update on Northern Stacks and the impact of COVID-19 on tenants.

An industry known as VStar vacated 100,000 SF in Building 4 this summer. They were the company owned by Cirque Du Solé that produced live shows for Sesame Street, Disney, and Nickelodeon. The COVID-19 virus had a serious impact on VStar operations, as this industry provided costumes to many venues who featured live performances that were unable to occur this past year. They had nearly 100 employees and were a great employer and a unique/fun group to have in the park.

Hyde Development is currently focused on filling that space. They will likely end up with as many as three tenants in that space.



Dero/Everlast Climbing in Building 3 moved their manufacturing out of state. They successfully subleased their space to a company coming out of Plymouth called NParallel. Their main business is creating trade show displays, but they have pivoted to make temporary protective barriers and other related items. Learn more at Nparallel.com.

Forgotten Star Brewery expanded their outdoor seating and added an ice rink this past winter. These changes seemed to generate a lot of community support, along with the purchases of their takeout crowlers. Their event space is continuing to see steady interest and bookings for later this year, if updated community guidelines allow.

Hyde Development has submitted the last two requests for certificates of completion to the MPCA for the Boiler Room and Building 8. These will be the last two assurances for the entire project—a big milestone for Northern Stacks.

The Navy completed the installation of new pump and treatment wells along ERR last summer/fall and are wrapping up construction on their new treatment building now.

Harbors Senior Living

Phase II of the Harbors Senior Living Facility (formerly Watermark Senior Living) is underway. This building expansion will utilize the lots at 5320 and 5326 4th Street and will add 18 additional care units to the existing 28-unit building.

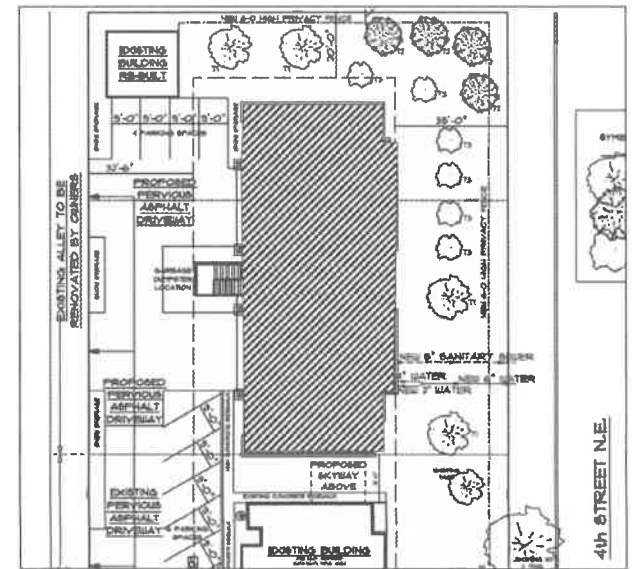
The existing facility opened in 2017 and filled almost immediately. This location has turned out to be exceptional for this use, and because of that success, the owners sought an expanded special use permit for



the Phase II building expansion. Structures at 5320 and 5326 4th Street were purchased and demolished to make way for this addition.

Phase I of the Harbors project received special use permit approval from the City Council in June of 2016.

The existing facility is three stories, has a footprint of 5,450 square feet and has 28 care units, along with common areas, indoor parking, office space and a kitchen. The addition will also be three stories, will have a footprint of 5,284 square feet and will be connected to the existing building by a second level skyway.



The lower level of the addition will be an open garage with 12 parking spaces that will be accessed from the alley. The two upper floors will have nine units on each level, with a gathering area and a staff office. The total number of care units between the two buildings will be 46 units once the addition is completed.

As part of Phase II, the developer will be converting the existing enclosed six-car garage on the lower level to usable common area amenity space for staff and guests. After the existing facility was constructed, the developer determined there was a need to have more common area for the residents and office area for their staff. By converting the existing garage space to office space, a conference room, a bathroom, and a large dining room with an activity/theatre space, they are gaining the additional common space needed.

Residents of the new building will use the dining facilities in the existing building. The parking stalls that will be lost because of this conversion will be added with the construction of the addition.

Bus Rapid Transit Planned in Fridley

Following multiple rounds of public engagement, Metro Transit is recommending prioritization of the Central Avenue corridor for the next Bus Rapid Transit Line (BRT), Route F. This route would largely replace the current Route 10, and would run from downtown Minneapolis to Northtown Mall via Central Avenue, across 53rd Avenue to University Avenue.

The BRT line would operate every 10 minutes for most of the day and offer a faster trip, more frequent buses, and more customer amenities at the stops than the existing service. The Metro A and C lines are already operational along Snelling Avenue and Penn Avenue respectively.

Construction of the Route F line is currently planned for 2025.



2020 Water Quality Report

Once again, we are proud to report that your drinking water meets all state and federal standards. Your drinking water continues to be safe, and we continue our commitment to keeping you informed. The 2020 Water Quality Report includes details on the results of water quality testing last year and news relating to Fridley's water system. The report will be available for online viewing in June at FridleyMN.gov/waterquality.

We are driven to ensure your drinking water exceeds standards. For the latest water supply updates, please visit us online at FridleyMN.gov/water. We are happy to answer any questions or concerns – just call us at 763-572-3554.

Residents to be Notified by Mail of City Assessor Visits

The 2021 assessment will be conducted with minimal contact in an effort to keep you, those who occupy your homes and businesses, and our City appraisers as safe as possible from COVID-19.

The 2021 visits required by the Assessor's Office will be done in the same way as in 2020 and will continue to follow social distancing guidelines. The Assessor's Office will notify home and business owners ahead of time by a letter by mail when the City Assessor will be visiting. This letter will indicate that the Assessor will not ask to come inside the owner's home or business, and will conduct an interview—at proper social distance—if the owner happens to be there when the Assessor comes to the door. Additionally, to respect your right to question your home/building's valuation or classification, the City Assessor will defer interior inspections until at least October, or until updated guidance has been provided by the CDC. Those inspections will be by appointment only and will allow time for the City Assessor to secure proper protective gear and for the home/business owner to control who may be onsite during the visit.

For questions about commercial, industrial and apartment assessments, please call 763-572-3536. For residential assessments, please call 763-572-3537.

Filing for Property Tax Refund for Renters and Homesteads

With the arrival of property tax statements this April, the property tax refund season is about to begin. Renters with total household incomes less than \$62,960 may qualify for a refund up to \$2,210. Qualifying homesteads with a total household income less than \$116,180 may receive a refund of up to \$2,840. An application and instructions for these refunds can be found at the Department of Revenue website (revenue.state.mn.us). You can also call 651-296-3781 with additional questions.

Homeowners are required to report property taxes paid using the Statement of Property Taxes Payable in 2021 to complete your 2020 return. Do not use your 2020 tax statement or your Notice of Proposed Taxes to complete your return. Do not include your property tax statement when mailing in a return. You may qualify for this regular refund if your taxes exceed a certain income-based threshold. You may also qualify for a Special Property Tax Refund if your property taxes increased over last year by more than 12 percent and at least \$100.

Renters must receive a Certificate of Rent Paid from their landlord or managing agent prior to January 31, 2021. If you rented in multiple locations in 2020, you will need this certificate from the owner or agent at each location. If you have not received your Certificate of Rent Paid by March 1, 2021, you can call the Minnesota Department of Revenue at 651-296-3781 or 1-800-652-9094 (toll free). You need to include your certificate(s) of rent paid with your application.

You can claim your refund by filing Form M1PR. This form can be found online, or you can call the Minnesota Department of Revenue 24-hour automated help line at 651-296-4444 or 800-657-3676 to have the forms sent to you. TTY users, call 711 for Minnesota Relay.

Residential Housing Wrap-Up for 2020

The 2020 real estate market continued to thrive despite the challenges presented by COVID-19. Market practitioners and participants adapted nicely to the restrictions of social distancing, limited access to onsite inspections and showings, and competition for skilled labor needed for repairs and staging. Inventory remained at historic lows and combined with mortgage rates dipping below 3 percent, sellers ruled the market and reaped the benefits of multiple offers with prices typically 1 to 3 percent over the original list price. Additional changes included offers without inspection contingencies and buy commitments to cover shortfalls if the property did not appraise at the agreed-upon sale price.

In Fridley, during the heart of the selling season, (April through September), it was not uncommon to see less than 40 residential properties for sale at any given time and nearly half of them under some form of contingency—inspection, sale of another home or the seller finding a home of their choice. Of that remaining half would have been choices as diverse as a condominium in the Black Forest development of North Innsbruck to a brand-new townhome near the Civic Campus or a home on the river or lake. Most of the demand was for entry-level, single family, detached homes, which drove prices to a year-over-year increase of 7 to 10 percent, depending on the neighborhood.

As we begin the 2021 market, many of the same market dynamics from fall 2020 are still prevalent,

including readily available financing below three percent. The historically low interest rates have also spurred a refinance boom allowing further spending for some and economic security for others. Look for continued price appreciation if the inventory of existing homes for sale does not rise. Another emergencing trend is an increase in the apartment vacancy rate as the supply of new units available outpaces the demand for them. What the Assessor's Office has noted through discussions with existing apartment owners is a tendency for tenants to move up to newer buildings, leaving older buildings with most of the vacancy and putting downward pressure on the rents.

The Northstar Multiple Listing Service (MLS) reported 454 sales in Fridley during 2020, which is a sharp increase of 19.2 percent over the 380 sales in 2019. The median sales price reported in 2020 was \$260,000, which is up 7.88 percent over the \$241,000 reported in 2019. Much of the increased sales volume occurred in the \$300,000 to \$400,000 bracket with 74 sales in 2020 vs. 37 in 2019. Many of these are the new townhomes next to the Civic Campus. The time it takes to market homes is 14 days on average compared to 18 days in 2019. Most homes under \$350,000 sell over the list price and have more than one offer on them. There have been 62 sales in Fridley during the first 2.5 months in 2021 with a median sale price of \$265,000.

Summer Code Reminders for Residents

Communication about code violations are meant to be a friendly reminder to residents, as well as to explain the purpose of the codes. The City Code helps create vibrant neighborhoods throughout our community—for our current and future residents.

Many of our violations are related to outdoor storage, inoperable vehicles, and vehicles parked on the grass or an unapproved surface. As a reminder, the City Code states the following requirements:

Outdoor Storage (Section 205.07.06B):

- All materials need to be stored inside a building, except for stacked wood which can be stored in the side or rear yard.
- Boats, trailers & non-motorized campers may be stored in the side or rear yard, on or off pavement.
- Motorized vehicles and motor homes must be parked on a paved area and not closer than 15 feet to curb.

Most often, materials other than those listed in the code are stored outside in the front, side or rear yard. This includes things like extension ladders, wheel barrows, snowblowers, etc. This does not apply to patio or deck furniture, but does apply to unauthorized items stored under the deck or on the patio.

Inoperable Vehicles (Section 114.03.A):

Junk Motor Vehicle - A motor vehicle that is located outdoors on property in the City that meets any of the following criteria shall be defined as a junk vehicle:

- Any motor vehicle that is not in operable condition.
- Any motor vehicle that is partially dismantled.
- Any motor vehicle that is a source of repair or replacement parts for other vehicles.
- Any motor vehicle that lacks vital component parts.
- Any motor vehicle that is not currently registered and properly licensed for operation with and by the State of Minnesota.

Parking and Storage of Junk Cars and Vehicles on Private Property (Section 123.03):

No partially dismantled, non-operating, wrecked, junked and/or discarded vehicle is allowed on any residential property within the City for longer than 10 days. This does not apply to vehicles in an enclosed building, on the premises of a business enterprise when necessary, or if a single vehicle is in a reasonable process of restoration.

We often see vehicles with one or more flat tires, expired tabs or unlicensed vehicles, or vehicles with obvious missing body components. These examples are in violation of the City Code.

Vehicle Parking (Sections 2.5.07.6A):

All vehicles must be kept on an approved hard surfaced (pavement) parking area.

Typically, we see violations under this section because cars are parked on the lawn beside the driveway or other places on the property.

Where can I store my waste containers?

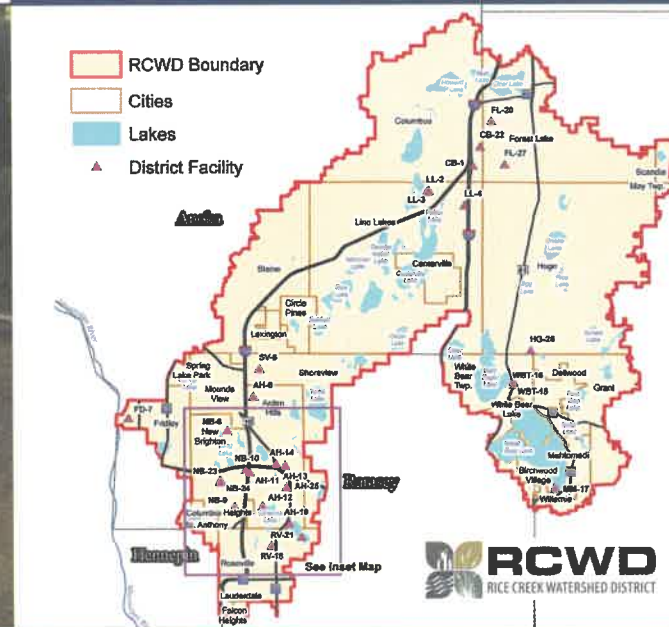
When it is not pickup day, waste containers need to be stored behind the front yard setback. This means placing them behind the front most part of your house or garage, whatever structure is closest to the curb. The containers do not need to be completely out of sight. Storing them on the side of your garage or in your garage is a good way to make sure you are up to code.

Where can I store my vehicle on my property?

Vehicles must be parked completely on pavement. All vehicles must be in operable condition, meaning having current tabs, plates and no flat tires. If you cannot drive it down the street, you cannot store it in your driveway.

Questions?

For additional information, please call Dan Cahill, Neighborhood Preservation Specialist, at 763-572-3598, or daniel.cahill@FridleyMN.gov.



Get to Know Your Watershed: Rice Creek Watershed District

We are continuing our interviews with the organizations that manage water and natural resources in Fridley. In this issue, we are talking with staff from the Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD)—Matt Kocian, Lakes and Streams Specialist; and Kyle Axtell, Project Manager. The RCWD website (www.ricecreek.org) has information on the District’s programs, projects, and opportunities for residents.

Can you tell us about the Rice Creek Watershed District?

The watershed district is a separate local government entity with the mission to manage, protect, and improve the water resources of the District through flood control and water quality projects and programs. The RCWD is 185 square miles, and covers parts of four counties and 28 communities, including parts of the City of Fridley.

Rice Creek originates in Forest Lake. It flows southward through Lino Lakes and New Brighton before turning west and flowing through Fridley and into the Mississippi River. Hugo, White Bear Lake, Roseville, Arden Hills, and many other communities are part of the Rice Creek Watershed. Our water flows across land and through creeks, lakes, public drainage systems, storm drains, and wetlands into Rice Creek. Water connects everyone in this area, and its quality and quantity are affected by our behaviors and choices.

This makes Fridley an important location in the watershed since all of the watershed’s water passes through Fridley as it enters the Mississippi River. Watershed-based and systems thinking improves stormwater management, reduces flooding risks, and protects the Mississippi River.

What are some projects RCWD has done in Fridley?

We did a Southwest Urban Lakes Study in 2009, and this helped us focus on areas and projects that would have the biggest impact.

Some of the first projects we implemented were the Fridley Middle School raingardens. The soils at the schools are great for raingardens and stormwater treatment. Installing big raingardens at the middle school provided treatment to water entering West Moore Lake and helped solve some street flooding issues! These raingardens have been there for a long time but are still important to that area. We are talking to partners about maintenance and improvements that will keep these raingardens going another ten or more years.

It is always exciting to see grant dollars come to the region! Fridley was able to get a Met Council Grant for some of the innovative features at the new Civic Center, and RCWD got to play a role. The City is using something we call a “treatment train” to manage stormwater at the Civic Center. This is when several types of stormwater treatments are used to get the best results. The City has an iron-enhanced sand filter, a bio-char filter, and a series of ponds. These are all working together to slow water down and clean it. There are great signs at the center to inform people about the project. Residents should visit. It is an impressive project and the area around the Civic Center is beautiful.

Lately we have been sharing about a great stream stabilization project on the Lower Rice Creek. This stretch of the creek, flowing through Fridley, was suffering from erosion which was decreasing water quality and ruining habitat for fish and invertebrates (our “water insects”). The final project stabilized streambanks throughout Locke Park with rocks, logs, re-grading, and native plantings.

We initially planned to stabilize 11 or 12 streambanks and were able to complete 13. This is great news for regional water quality. This project is expected to reduce sedimentation in the creek and Locke Lake by 2,000 tons per year and will slow down the flow of water during heavy rain events. The project received a \$568,000 Clean Water Fund Grant, received

\$150,000 from RCWD funds, and included support from Anoka County Parks and the City of Fridley.

Does RCWD have any future projects planned in Fridley?

East Moore Lake! This was one of those areas identified in the southwest urban lakes study, but it had a longer timeline to make sure our work complemented the City’s plans for the park. Luckily, stormwater treatment has improved so much in the last decade. We were able to improve our plans for the East Moore Lake Project as the City finalized its planning for the park.

Construction will begin in 2022 on that project. There will be a combination of an iron-enhanced sand filter and a bio-char filter in Moore Lake Park. This will reduce the amount of bacteria entering East Moore Lake.

What do you wish residents in Fridley knew?

It is easier and cheaper to keep water clean in the first place than to clean it after it has been polluted! Part of the project at East Moore Lake is to reduce bacteria entering the lake. A lot of that is from pet waste. Pick up your pet’s waste on walks and in yards! It is gross to leave it, and it is a big source of the bacteria entering our lakes and streams.

Adopt a local stormdrain and keep it clean of leaves and sediments. Take one of the workshops that RCWD and its partners at Blue Thumb, Fridley, and Anoka Conservation District offer on how to improve water quality with your yard and landcare choices.

Chloride (salt) is a permanent pollutant, and we do not have a method for “fixing” a lake that is polluted by salt. People need much less than they think! If you can see it, you have used too much. We want people to shovel first and use salt as a last resort.

It is our cooperative efforts that get good projects across the finish line, and the efforts of all of us to protect the water resources in Fridley, Rice Creek Watershed District, and the State of Minnesota.



Meet the Bolt

The Fridley fleet is going electric! In 2018, the City participated in a fleet assessment by Fleet Carma funded by Xcel Energy to evaluate the cost savings of replacing some of the fleet with electric vehicles. When it was time to replace the Community Development Department’s 2004 Dodge Stratus, the City leased an all-electric Chevy Bolt. Staff is enjoying the quiet ride while out inspecting, as well as saving time away from the gas pump. Considering going electric at home? Xcel Energy is offering incentives

and rebates including special charging rates and free installation of in-home charging equipment. Visit ev.xcelenergy.com to learn more.

Be on the lookout this summer! A public Level 2 EV charging station is coming to the Civic Campus in the parking lot by the plaza thanks to an MPCA Volkswagen Settlement Grant. Come charge your EV for free while walking the Civic Campus and Locke County Park trails.



Water Rebates Available to Residents

Last year, 70 Fridley residents and businesses took advantage of the water rebate program to receive 75 percent off the cost of water efficient appliances and irrigation system components. Over 74 water saving devices were installed, resulting in annual savings of over 400,000 gallons per year. Rebates are available on a first come, first serve basis and are expected to run out in 2021. Learn more at FridleyMN.gov/WaterGrant or by calling 763-572-3554.

Why should I participate?

Funding for this rebate program is provided by the Metropolitan Council's Water Efficiency Grant program to encourage water savings in Fridley. All of

the City's water comes from groundwater sources which takes many, many years to recharge, so it is important that we conserve our water. Pumping water from the ground also uses considerable energy, which costs money and contributes to greenhouse gases. Many homes in Fridley have older appliances. Switching to newer, more efficient appliances will save you and the City money, and help conserve resources.

Who qualifies for the rebate?

All property owners in Fridley qualify. Renters are encouraged to work with the property owner to participate. Rebates for toilets and washing machines can only be used for replacement items, not for new construction. The product must have been purchased after January 13, 2020.

Why should I update my irrigation system?

Irrigation systems can use a lot of water, especially if they are not properly calibrated. A smart irrigation controller automatically adjusts watering frequency and amounts based on weather and site conditions, which keeps your yard from getting over-watered. Even if you already have soil sensors, a smart irrigation controller is important, especially in yards with slopes or patches of shade. If every home in the United States with an irrigation system used a smart irrigation controller, we could save 100 billions gallons of water per year (equal to the household water needs of 1.2 million Americans). Smart irrigation controllers also allow you to control your irrigation system from your phone and chart water usage over time.

How will I get my rebate?

Your rebate will be applied to your utility bill. Depending on when you submit your receipts, it may take a full billing cycle for your rebate to process. If your rebate is more than your water bill, the rest of the rebate will be applied to the second billing cycle.

What other rebate programs does the City offer?

Fridley offers discounts on the Home Energy Squad program as well as a competitive loan program. To learn more about these programs, visit our website at FridleyMN.gov/HomeImprovements.

Item	Specifications	Maximum Rebate Amount*	Est. Water Savings
Washing Machine	Energy Star Labeled	\$250	2,000 gallon per year
Toilet	WaterSense Labeled	\$150	13,000 gallons per year
Irrigation System Controller	WaterSense Labeled	\$250	7,600 gallons per year
Irrigation System Audit	Conducted by WaterSense Certified Irrigation Professional	\$250	Dependent on findings
Spray Sprinkler Body	WaterSense Labeled	\$5 per head	
Rainbarrel		\$50	

*Rebate amounts capped at listed amount or 75 percent of purchase price, whichever is less.

The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.

City of Fridley Blood Drive

Fridley Civic Campus –
Fireside Room

Wednesday, June 2
9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Contact information:
Fridley Recreation Department
763-572-3570 • Recreation@FridleyMN.gov
The event is open to the public.

To Schedule an Appointment:
redcrossblood.org (search for CityofFridley)
or call 1 (800) RED-CROSS

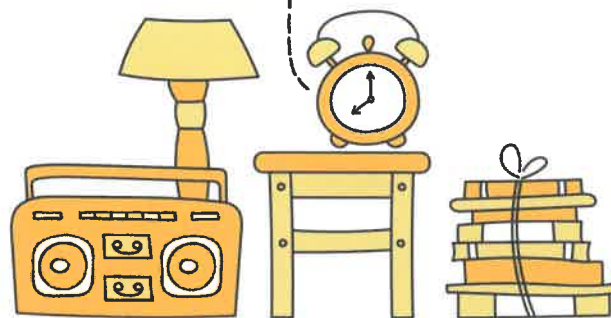


Giving blood is a simple way to make a difference in someone's life.

CITYWIDE GARAGE SALE

June 25 & 26 from 9am to 6pm
Register April 15 through June 10.

3924 Fee: \$10*



*After June 10, fee is \$15.
Call 763-572-3570 to register your garage sale.

Sellers - declutter your homes, earn some extra cash, and meet your neighbors!

Shoppers - find some great bargains and unique finds, meet your neighbors, and explore the Fridley community! The City will provide a map of all registered garage sales online at FridleyMN.gov/CitywideGarageSale starting June 23. Paper copies will also be available at the Civic Center during that time.

To learn more about the Citywide Garage Sale or to register your sale, online or over the phone, visit FridleyMN.gov/CitywideGarageSale.

Trash to Treasure Day - Sunday, June 27 • 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

One person's trash is another person's treasure! Fridley residents can participate in Fridley's Trash to Treasure Day by placing items they no longer want on the curb at the end of their driveways.

Community members will then have the opportunity to drive around Fridley and pick up items that are marked as "FREE." No registration is required. Learn more at FridleyMN.gov/CitywideGarageSale.

Community Services and Employee Resources (CSER) Director Retires after More than 20 Years of Service



After more than 20 years with the City of Fridley, Community Services and Employee Resources Director Deborah “Debbie” Dahl will retire at the end of May 2021. Her love of photography and nature will take Dahl on a new adventure as she travels across the country to spend more time with her son and family, and explore the National Parks system.

Dahl grew up in the small village of Orono where her family was very active in the community. Her dad served on the City Council for eight years and her mom participated in various community organizations and volunteer groups. Dahl’s parents instilled in her a heart for public service and a passion for giving back to the community.

After high school, Dahl attended the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities and majored in Recreation, Park and Leisure Studies. She also joined Orono’s Parks and Recreation Commission to gain experience in her field. As part of her commission responsibilities that year, Dahl helped organized a survey for residents to gain feedback on recreational needs in the community.

Following the completion of her bachelor’s degree, Dahl wanted to pursue a job that focused on employee and industrial recreation for a larger company. She interned for Honeywell and helped organize events for their 45,000 employees. Dahl also assisted with administrative work for Honeywell’s training and development programs before accepting a full-time position in their Employee Services department. She served in that position for 10 years before stepping away from full-time employment to raise her son, Scott.

Dahl returned to work for the City of Brooklyn Park where she held a variety of positions. She assisted the Recreation team with large-scale events and then moved to the City Manager’s office to serve in a communications and marketing role for the city’s Come Home to the Park revitalization project. When that project was completed, she applied for a generalist-level job in their Human Resources department. Dahl worked in that position for almost four years before she was appointed to the Human Resources Director role at the City of Fridley in 2000.

The small-town feel of Fridley was appealing to Dahl, like many others who choose to live or work in Fridley. She was excited to be in a place where she could learn new things while contributing her skills and experiences to the community. The small size of the city also allowed her to get to know almost every employee and truly connect with many of the people she worked with over the years.

During her first years with the City, Dahl began pursuing her master’s degree at Concordia University in Organizational Leadership. One of her proudest moments was to complete the program in 2003 and be able to better serve the community with her additional education and experience.

The City reorganized after long-time Parks Director Jack Kirk retired in 2017. With Dahl’s unique skillset in human resources, recreation, communications and leadership, she was named the director of the new Community Services and Employee Resources (CSER) department. The new department included the divisions of Marketing & Communications, Human Resources and Recreation/Springbrook Nature Center.

One of Dahl’s favorite experiences at Fridley was seeing the revitalization in the community through new construction and redevelopment, including the Fridley Civic Campus. On a day-to-day basis, she has enjoyed seeing her team’s creativity in finding new ways to engage with the community, as well as being a part of the hiring process that has selected the people who serve the City.

All in all, “it has been a wonderful journey,” Dahl reflected. Fridley has not only served as the city she worked for, but where she lived and raised her son. Since 2003, she has volunteered with Mediation Services for Anoka County as a mediator doing shared parenting, community and restorative justice mediations. When her son was involved with the Fridley Community Theater, she helped as a scenic painter and photographer, and continued to do so for the past ten years. Dahl also served as a board member for both organizations. “We have enjoyed the school system, community groups and friends that were made in this community. I wouldn’t want to rewrite my life differently,” she said. Dahl was glad to have been able to witness the goodness of this community and is humbled by the talent of those who serve the City.

“I also want to thank the great leadership at the city – the Council and the directors – for being amazing people to work alongside,” Dahl explained. She is grateful for the opportunities she has been given and the team she has been a part of. Dahl will miss Fridley but knows it will always be a place to call home.

Happy Trails, Debbie! Thank you for your many years of service to our community – you will be missed!

Moore Lake Water Quality Project



Project Alert! The City of Fridley was awarded a \$400,000 Clean Water Fund grant by the Board of Water and Soil Resources to install an iron-enhanced and biochar sand filter at Moore Lake Park to improve the water quality of East Moore Lake. The City will partner with the Rice Creek Watershed District to install a filter to remove phosphorus, sediment, bacteria, and other pollutants from the stormwater runoff entering the park from the surrounding neighborhood. Additional improvements include native plant restoration and trail connections. Construction of the filter is currently planned for 2022. Learn more about how you can improve the water quality of Moore Lake at FridleyMN.gov/Stormwater.



2021 Festival has been Cancelled

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Fridley ‘49er Days Committee has determined it is in the best interest of Fridley’s residents and visitors to cancel the 2021 festival. Thank you to every person and local business who has helped in the planning of the festival. The committee appreciates your commitment and looks forward to next year.



Shelter Rental

Fridley has four parks with picnic shelters that can be reserved. Shelters at Commons, Flanery and Springbrook Nature Center offer both indoor and outdoor seating with electricity and indoor restrooms. Moore Lake Park offers five open air covered picnic pavilions with picnic tables and access to portable restrooms.

NEW! Have a waste free event. Compostable plates, cups and flatware are available for purchase for your event. With your compostable products, we will also provide a portable compost recycling receptacle and compost bags.

Flanery & Commons Park Shelters

Resident: \$65* / Non-Resident: \$100* (\$50 refundable Damage deposit due at time of reservation)

Moore Lake Park Shelters Fees

Resident: \$35* / Non-Resident: \$75* (\$50 refundable Damage deposit due at time of reservation)

Reservations and inquiries can be made in person at the Fridley Civic Campus or by calling the Recreation Department at 763-572-3570.

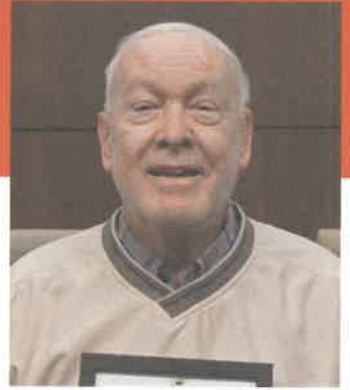
**Fees are for reservations up to 50 people, additional rates applied for larger groups. 7.125% sales tax is applied.*

Springbrook Nature Center Pavilion Fees

Resident fees range from \$65 to \$130, depending on what portions of the pavilion you rent, or if you rent the entire building. Call Springbrook Nature Center at 763-572-3588 to learn more and reserve.

Please note: Shelter and pavilion rentals are subject to COVID-19 guidelines current at that time.

Dave Kondrick, Longtime Planning and Parks Commission Member, Retires after 40 Years of Service



Read about Dave Kondrick, longtime commission member, and his years of service to the City.

Tell us about yourself.

I worked as an on-the-road salesman for steel and lumber companies for almost 40 years. I grew up in northeast Minneapolis before moving to Fridley. Golf is one of my favorite pastimes – even though I can't hit the ball as far these days.

When did you move to Fridley?

I moved to Fridley in 1976 and enjoyed doing construction on my home throughout the years.

How did you become involved in Fridley Commissions?

Late Councilmember for Ward 3, Ed Fitzpatrick, stopped by my home when I was cutting grass. He had heard about me and my involvement in local government when I lived in Minneapolis. He told me about the opening on the Parks and Recreation Commission and I decided to apply. I was later appointed to the commission in April 1979.

I became chair for the commission in May of 1981 and held that position until 2008, when I stepped

down to become chair for the City's Planning Commission. I continued to serve on the Parks and Recreation commission while serving as the chair for the Planning Commission. I retired from both positions on March 31, 2021.

What was your experience as a Commission member? What are some of the most memorable things you worked on?

Some of my most memorable items include the S.P.R.I.N.G project at Springbrook Nature Center, being a part of the creation of Community Park, establishing the Medtronic campus, seeing the redevelopment of Northern Stacks (going from making ammunition and then doing environmental work to fixing the property) and working on the Fridley Civic Campus.

Why is being part of a local commission important?

My father told me – "One of the better things you can do as a citizen of a community is to try your best to put as much into your community as you take out." That was one of the reasons I participated in the city commissions, as well as the opportunity to be a part

fun and interesting things that happen in your community. You learn a lot by being involved.

What would you say to someone who is considering joining a Fridley commission?

I would talk about the pride you receive by being a part of a commission – you get a sense of accomplishment by adding to the community. It was great to be a part of a group where you learn from others and take time to get to know the community. You help give the community a voice. I really enjoyed hearing from community members and did my best to ensure they felt welcomed and free to share their thoughts. Many people have told me that my catchphrase was "Tell us what's on your mind." It has been a lovely, lovely ride serving on the commissions throughout the years. I've enjoyed my time and am excited for someone else to get to experience that.

Thank you, Dave, for your more than 40 years of service to Fridley on the Parks and Recreation, and Planning commissions!



Adopt-A-Park

Are you looking to make a positive impact in the Fridley community? Adopt a Fridley park! Community members and groups will work alongside City of Fridley Parks and Recreation staff to help keep our City parks clean and beautiful. Volunteers will be responsible for picking up litter, removing weeds, and reporting any vandalism or safety hazards to Parks staff. To learn more about the Adopt-A-Park program and apply to adopt a park, please visit the City's website at FridleyMN.gov/AdoptAPark or call Fridley Parks and Recreation at 763-572-3570.

Fridley Community Calendar

May

- 3 Charter Commission Meeting
- 3 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting
- 6 Housing & Redevelopment Authority Meeting
- 10 City Council Meeting
- 11 Environmental Quality & Energy Commission
- 19 Planning Commission Meeting
- 24 City Council Meeting
- 31 City Offices Closed for Memorial Day

June

- 3 Housing & Redevelopment Authority Meeting
- 7 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting
- 8 Environmental Quality & Energy Commission
- 14 City Council Meeting
- 16 Planning Commission Meeting
- 28 City Council Meeting

NOTE: City Council and Commission meetings start at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are held at the Fridley Civic Campus, 7071 University Avenue NE. The public is welcome.

Hearing impaired persons who need an interpreter or other persons with disabilities who require auxiliary aids and would like to attend a meeting, should contact Roberta Collins at 763-572-3500 at least one week in advance.

Fridley Trails Bingo

Fridley is full of great locations to walk and ride your bike. Where are your favorites? Celebrate getting outdoors and on the trail by completing the Fridley Trails Bingo card for National Trails Day on June 5.

Complete one full row (diagonally, horizontally or vertically) and turn it into the Fridley Civic Center by June 7 and receive a Fridley water bottle. Even better, track your steps along the way to complete the Fridley Forward 50K! Log 31 miles during the month of May. Visit FridleyMN.gov/Recreation to register and get a commemorative t-shirt and encouragement along the way.

B I N G O

Map your bike ride from home to work or school.	If you ride the Rice Creek West trail to Long Lake Park, what cities do you ride through?	Visit the Riedel house and find the historical marker. In what year was it built?	Take your photo with a Mississippi River Trail Sign.	Plan a one mile walk or bike from your house. Where did you go?
Take a walk or ride three days in a row. What dates did you pick?	Cross the Main Street Trail Bridge. How many lanes across is 694?	Ride your bike or walk to complete an errand. Where did you go?	Walk the Civic Campus loop. How long did it take you?	Take a selfie on the new 69th Avenue trail, east of Central Avenue
Visit a new park. Where did you go?	Take a picture of the Innsbruck Nature Center sign.	FREE	Write down your favorite place to walk or bike in Fridley.	Mark this box if you know how to change a flat bike tire or learned how.
Take a selfie wearing your bike helmet.	Visit the West Moore Lake Trail, what park does it pass?	Where does the Rice Creek West trail intersect with the Mississippi River Trail?	Walk or ride your bike to get a treat. What did you buy?	Take a photo of where Rice Creek meets the Mississippi River in Manomin Park.
Take a visit to Springbrook Nature Center. Did you see any wildlife?	Take your photo at a canoe access	Take your bike or walk under the tunnel at the Fridley Train Station. How many stairs are there?	If you put your canoe in the Mississippi River at Riverview Heights Park, how far can you go without portaging?	True or False? Bicycles must come to a complete stop at stop signs (Hint: It's True)

Recycling Drop-Offs

May 8, July 10, September 11, and November 13 from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

All recycling drop-offs will be held at Green Lights Recycling (enter at 1525 99th Lane NE, Blaine).



***All Fridley resident receive \$30 in free items.**

Mix and match to suit your needs and keep your items out of the trash! See a full pricing list at FridleyMN.gov/Dropoff.