



Fridley

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

MAY/JUNE 2022
NO. 236

Parks and Recreation
Brochure Enclosed

WE BELIEVE FRIDLEY WILL BE A SAFE, VIBRANT, FRIENDLY AND STABLE HOME FOR FAMILIES AND BUSINESSES.

7071 University Avenue NE
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 Bolkom
City Manager – Wally Wysopal

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City Administrator
City of Spring Lake Park
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Spring Lake Park MN 55432-2188




community concert SERIES

This series is hosted by the City of Fridley and supported by the generous sponsorships from the Anoka County Library and Springbrook Nature Center Foundation.

SPRINGBROOK NATURE CENTER @ 7PM 100 85TH AVE NE, FRIDLEY	
ANTHONY MILTICH Acoustic Guitar/Singer-Songwriter	JUNE 14
VINNIE ROSE Acoustic Guitar/Live Looping	JULY 12
BLUE GROOVE BLUEGRASS Bluegrass	AUG 16
CIVIC CAMPUS @ 7PM 7071 UNIVERSITY AVE NE, FRIDLEY (EAST SIDE, BEHIND CITY HALL)	
MR. WINKY BAND Classic Rock & Roll	JUNE 21
CRAIG CLARK BAND Blues	JUNE 28
ROXXY HALL Rock 'n Soul	JULY 19
RUM RIVER BRASS Brass Quintet	JULY 26
INNOCENT REGGAE BAND Reggae	AUG 23
NATANIA & TICKET TO BRASIL Brazilian	AUG 30
CHILDREN'S CONCERTS @ 11AM	
KIDPOWER WITH RACHAEL Springbrook Nature Center	AUG 5
THE JOLLY POPS Commons Park 6249 7th Street NE, Fridley	AUG 10

Fridley is getting musical this summer with a full line-up of live concerts that the whole family can enjoy. All performances are FREE!

Grab a blanket or chair and join us for a season of song!

Concerts may be cancelled due to inclement weather—check our Facebook page (City of Fridley) or call the weather hotline 763-572-3578 for updates.

Did you know? Safe Exchange Area at Fridley Civic Campus

Have you used our Safe Exchange Area at the Fridley Civic Campus yet? This is a monitored area right outside the Public Safety department in the front parking lot of the campus (along University Avenue). There is 24-hour surveillance and emergency intercom that contacts 9-1-1 dispatch.

Use the area for buying/selling items, custody exchanges and more.





Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in Fridley

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an aggressive, invasive insect pest that quickly spreads and kills ash trees. Since EAB was confirmed in Fridley in 2019, several infestations have been found, including a widespread infestation in the Innsbruck neighborhood in 2021. All ash trees are susceptible to EAB infestation. Once an ash tree shows signs of infestation, it has a very low chance of survival.

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, plan to remove and replace it or chemically protect the tree against EAB.

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 1965 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 5 - 9 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

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

If the EAB infestation is not too extensive, ash trees can be protected using chemical treatment. If you wait to start the treatment until your tree is showing symptoms of EAB, it will likely be too late.

Residents interested in chemical treatment should contact a licensed arborist to inject the



EAB Treatments for Private Ash Trees

2022 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.

tree chemically. Non-injected forms of chemical treatment are less effective and are more likely to impact pollinators and water quality negatively. 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 chemical treatment are greater than 10" in diameter, do not compete with other trees or infrastructure and show 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. Due to the safety risks of removing a hazardous tree, ash tree removal is expensive and becomes more costly following EAB-infestation. If you remove an ash tree, you are encouraged to replace it with another tree to preserve the benefits of Fridley's urban forests.

To reduce the spread of EAB, ash trees should not be removed during the EAB flight season (May 1 – September 30) unless the tree is showing signs of immediate hazard risk.

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 has removed more than 250 ash trees and replaced them with diverse tree species. This includes over 60 trees removed and replanted with climate resilient species in Riverview Heights Park in partnership with Mississippi Parks Connection in 2021.

The City has been treating all high-quality ash trees in its parks and right-of-ways on a two-to-three-year cycle using the contractor Rainbow Tree Care. The DNR awarded the City a \$55,400 grant for this work in 2022.

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 fifth 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!

Water Rebate Grant

Our water rebate grant is closed. Thank you to Fridley residents who swapped their toilets, washing machines and irrigation systems for water-efficient models. You helped our community save over 600,000 gallons of water annually! The City has applied for another grant to provide rebates on water-efficient toilets, washing machines, irrigation systems and dishwashers. Check our July/August issue for more information! All qualifying purchases will have to be made after July 1, 2022.

Filing for Property Tax Refund

Tax season is upon us, and it is time to file for your Homestead Credit Refund (for homeowners) and Renter's Property Tax Refund. Your 2021 return should be electronically filed, postmarked, or dropped off by August 15, 2022. For complete instructions and forms, visit revenue.state.mn.us.

Free tax help is available from IRS-certified volunteers at various locations across Minnesota

to assist individuals 60 or older, with a disability, with an annual income of less than \$57,000 or who speak limited or no English.

To find a volunteer tax preparation site, search "Free Tax Preparation" on revenue.mn.us or call 651-297-3724 or 1-800-657-3989.



2022 Real Estate Reassessment

The 2022 reassessment began April 21 and continues through September 30. Residential properties in two geographic areas will be reviewed (see map). Generally, the first area is bounded by Mississippi Street NE to the north, 37th Avenue NE to the south, railroad tracks to the west and University Avenue NE to the east. The second area is bounded by 61st Avenue NE to the north, 53rd Avenue NE to the south, University Avenue NE to the west and Highway 65 NE to the east.

Inspection – Things to Know:

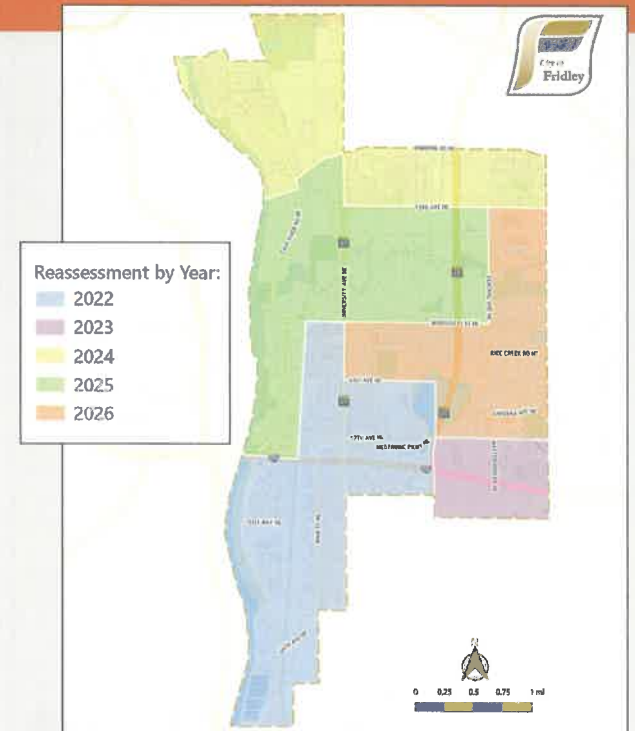
- The assessors will send a blue post card to your home in advance of their inspection of your neighborhood.
- When staff arrive, they will be driving black SUVs marked with the number #118 or #119, and the cars will have the Fridley logo on the front doors.
- The appraisers are required to inspect your home and may/may not ask to review the interior of your home.

- They will knock first and wait for a response. If the door is not answered, a blue tag will be left on the door with instructions for further action if needed. The appraiser will then complete the exterior portion of their review and move on to the next home.

If a Blue Tag is Left on Your Door:

The blue tag left on your door will either be marked "Our records appear complete. No interior inspection is required," or "Our records indicate an interior inspection is needed." The name of the appraiser who visited, contact information and the property identification number of your property will also be included on the tag. You can always call the Assessor's Office at 763-572-3536 or 763-572-3537 with any questions about the visit and/or to make an appointment for further review.

You are not required to allow the appraiser into your home. You are encouraged to call and discuss what information the appraiser is



interested in and if there may be alternative means to accomplish an update to the record without going inside your home. Your cooperation is appreciated, as it helps to ensure a fair and equitable assessment for all.

Reducing Energy Use—Outside!

As part of our energy action plan, the City of Fridley has undertaken many energy-saving measures: updating light bulbs to LED light bulbs, installing a geothermal heating system, and constructing energy-efficient buildings. We are also looking at opportunities to conserve in our parks to decrease air emissions, save costs and reduce noise pollution. Thanks to an MPCA grant through the Volkswagen Settlement Fund Program, our Parks Department swapped out traditional gas-powered chain saws and weed whips for electric models. Gas-powered lawn equipment emits volatile organic compounds and greenhouse gases. The average gas-powered push mower emits over 14 pounds of air pollution per hour, the same as driving your



car 200 miles. Electric equipment is lighter and quieter, and you do not have to worry about filling up with fuel in the spring and draining in the winter. If you are swapping out lawn equipment this summer—consider going electric!

The City is also piloting solar lights in our parks, including the two lights pictured at the Civic Campus playground. In addition to their environmental benefits, solar lights save money on conduit and long-term energy costs. Many versions of solar lights for backyard lighting projects are available at local hardware stores and online.

Environmental Fun Fair and Fun Run

Saturday, May 7 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Springbrook Nature Center
This fun and educational event is BACK! Fridley Parks and Recreation, Anoka County 4H, and the Springbrook Nature Center are excited to announce the return of the Fridley Environmental Fun Fair in 2022!

The Environmental Fun Fair will feature environmental educators, informational booths, interpretive trail walks and hands-on learning. We will connect with the amazing outdoor assets of the Springbrook Nature Center trails, amphitheater and water resources.

New this year, we will have a fun run on the trails at the Springbrook Nature Center to kick off the event, starting at 10:30 a.m. We encourage all who participate in the fun run to bring at least one can of non-perishable food to donate to Fridley area food shelves.

Earth Week

April 29 – May 6
Fridley Earth Week will kick off on Arbor Day and lead up to the Environmental Fun Fair. We encourage you to participate in various activities that support a healthy environment throughout the week, including a park clean-up day, story walks, scavenger hunts, pop-up events, a recycling webinar and more!

Schedule:

Saturday, April 30: Citywide Park Clean-Up Day
Monday, May 1 – Friday, May 5: Park Scavenger Hunt, Story Walks, Find the Flowers and Park Fun!

For more information, visit our website at FridleyMN.gov/FunFair.



Register Today!

CITYWIDE GARAGE SALE
July 22 & 23



FridleyMN.gov/CitywideGarageSale

Mark your calendars for the 2022 Citywide Garage Sale! It will take place on Friday, July 22 and Saturday, July 23. More information and how to register can be found at FridleyMN.gov/CitywideGarageSale.

2021 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 2021 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, visit FridleyMN.gov/Water. We are happy to answer any questions or concerns. Call us at 763-572-3554.

Fridley Community Calendar

May

- 2 Charter Commission Meeting
- 2 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting
- 5 Housing & Redevelopment Authority Meeting
- 9 City Council Meeting
- 10 Environmental Quality & Energy Commission Meeting
- 18 Planning Commission Meeting
- 23 City Council Meeting
- 30 City Offices Closed for Memorial Day

June

- 2 Housing & Redevelopment Authority Meeting
- 6 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting
- 13 City Council Meeting
- 14 Environmental Quality & Energy Commission Meeting
- 15 Planning Commission Meeting
- 20 City Offices Closed in Observance of Juneteenth Day
- 27 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.

Development Update: D&B Plating

V&T Properties, LLC, the property owner of 7965 Main Street, D&B Plating, requested a special use permit to increase the allowable lot coverage requirement. The increase in lot coverage will allow for the construction of an industrial building addition, which will connect the two buildings that exist on the site.

D & B Plating has over 30 years in the plating business and that has grown its industry a great deal since they purchased the Fridley site on Main Street over 20 years ago.

The industrial property is located on the east side of Main Street, north of 79th Avenue. It is zoned M-2, Heavy Industrial, and was

developed in 1984 with the construction of the original building that ran east and west on the site.

In 1997, a building addition was constructed on the south side of the building that created the "L" shape building that exists today. In 2000, the detached building was constructed.

In its earlier years, the owner of the property had a large tenant in the northeast portion of the building. Their own business grew to a point that they could no longer lease out space, and needed to accommodate their growth. The city is pleased to see their success and industrial growth, and wish for their continued success.

The Un-Real Estate Market of 2021

Several real estate trends continued in the 2021 market, and then things began to change dramatically. Like the 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 markets, there were too few houses to satisfy the demand which was fueled by the availability of low-interest mortgage money, a steadily recovering job market and rising rents. As in prior years, sellers enjoyed shorter marketing times and received multiple offers over listing prices. Buyers often lost in bidding wars one or more times before they changed tactics to increase their odds of success.

As the spring market turned to summer, we began to see multiple offer situations that led to as much as 15 percent over the list price. Buyers started to waive inspections and include escalator clauses in their offers with the promise to compete with new offers that were higher than theirs. Offers included assurances, backed by asset verification, that if the property did not

appraise, they would cover the difference up to a certain dollar amount. Buyers were rarely asking for sellers to assist with closing costs which had become common in years gone by. All of this continued the trend of double-digit growth in real estate values.

The 2022 market has taken up where 2021 left off, but signs of change could temper this exuberant market and bring about a more balanced one. The Federal Reserve has already telegraphed frequent interest rate hikes in 2022 as a means to curb inflation which will eventually translate to higher mortgage rates that may curb demand. The number of foreclosure declarations is on the rise, which could increase the supply of homes on the market. A more stable market might bring more sellers into the market, as their options going forward would be more favorable.

Reminder: Be on the Lookout for Local Caller ID Scams or "Spoofing"

Spoofing is when a caller deliberately falsifies the information transmitted to your caller ID display to disguise their identity. Scammers often use neighbor spoofing so it appears that an incoming call is coming from a local number, or spoof a number from a company or a government agency that you may already know and trust. If you answer, they use scam scripts to try to steal your money or valuable personal information, which can be used in fraudulent activity.

You may not be able to tell right away if an incoming call is spoofed. Be extremely careful about responding to any request for personal identifying information.

- Do not answer calls from unknown numbers. If you answer such a call, hang up immediately.
- If you answer the phone and the caller - or a recording - asks you to hit a button to stop getting the calls, you should just hang up.

Scammers often use this trick to identify potential targets.

- Do not respond to any questions, especially those that can be answered with "Yes" or "No."
- Never give out personal information such as account numbers, Social Security numbers, mother's maiden names, passwords or other identifying information in response to unexpected calls, or if you are at all suspicious.
- If you get an inquiry from someone who says they represent a company or a government agency, hang up and call the phone number on your account statement, in the phone book, or on the company's or government agency's website to verify the authenticity of the request. You will usually get a written statement in the mail before you get a phone call from a legitimate source, particularly if the caller is asking for a payment.

- Use caution if you are being pressured for information immediately.
- If you have a voice mail account with your phone service, be sure to set a password for it. Some voice mail services are preset to allow access if you call in from your own phone number. A hacker could spoof your home phone number and gain access to your voice mail if you do not set a password.
- Talk to your phone company about call blocking tools and check into apps that you can download to your mobile device. The FCC allows phone companies to block robocalls by default based on reasonable analytics. More information about robocall blocking is available at [fcc.gov/robocalls](https://www.fcc.gov/robocalls).
- Remember to check your voicemail periodically to make sure you are not missing important calls and to clear out any spam calls that might fill your voice mail box to capacity.



Are you planning a home remodeling project?

The Fridley Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) provides various housing programs to help Fridley residents maintain and improve their homes. For questions about housing programs, contact the City's Associate Planner at 763-572-3593.

Free Remodeling Advisor Visits

This service is offered at no charge to Fridley homeowners. A remodeling advisor visit includes an on-site consultation at your home to discuss your remodeling ideas, evaluate necessary repairs and improvements and assist with reviewing bids. Call 612-244-2470 to schedule a Remodeling Advisor appointment.

The Fridley HRA can also help finance home improvements. The following is a summary of the financial incentives available this summer.

Residential Paint Rebate:

A fresh coat of paint can make a world of difference. Eligible owner-occupants of 1-4 unit properties in Fridley can receive a rebate for purchasing exterior paint and necessary supplies. The maximum grant is \$500 for a single-family residence, with up to \$350 provided for each additional unit. Income is limited to 110 percent of the Area Median Income (e.g., \$80,795 for an individual or

\$115,390 for a family of four). Apply online at FridleyMN.gov/HomePrograms.

Insulation Rebate:

Increased insulation can help keep your home warm in the winter—and cool in the summer. Fridley's insulation rebate program matches insulation rebates from utility providers (i.e., CenterPoint or Xcel Energy) up to \$500. To qualify, all applicants must have had a Home Energy Squad Visit after January 1, 2019, with projects completed in 2022. Learn more about requirements and apply online at FridleyMN.gov/HomePrograms.

To schedule a Home Energy Squad visit, go to mncee.org/home-energy-squad or call 651-328-6220.

Home Improvement Loans:

The Center for Energy and Environment provides a variety of loans to Fridley homeowners on behalf of the HRA. Applications for these loans are not available at City Hall. Instead, interested parties can apply directly with CEE at mncee.org/fridley or contact CEE at 612-335-5884.

Loans with a flat two percent interest rate are offered to fund most permanent improvements for:

- Fridley Homeowners with 1-4 unit residential properties (up to \$50,000)
- Mobile Home Owners (up to \$10,000)
- Multi-Family Properties with 12 or fewer units, in the same ownership for at least two years (up to \$50,000 for exterior improvements or projects to correct code violations)

Down Payment Assistance:

First-time Fridley homebuyers can receive up to \$5,000 at zero percent interest, to be used for down-payment or closing costs. No payment is due until the borrower sells, transfers ownership or no longer occupies the property. Income restrictions apply. Visit mncee.org/fridley or contact CEE at 612-335-5884 to apply. Applications for down payment assistance are not available at City Hall.

Senior Deferred Loans—2022 funds exhausted:

Senior Deferred Loans are no longer available for the year. Residents are invited to contact the City or visit FridleyMN.gov/HomeLoans in early 2023 to see if additional funding is available.

Fridley Liquor News

Ongoing success with our eCommerce Store

In 2021, Fridley Liquor launched an eCommerce website, and the results of our first year are in. The eCommerce store has had 14,150 visitors, 467 orders, and over \$26,000 in sales. The website currently features over 4,500 items and allows for quick and easy ordering of any products in stock. Once placed, orders can be picked up curbside at the Fridley Liquor - Market 57th Avenue location within two hours.

BUY ONLINE
Pickup curbside or in-store

START SHOPPING AT
FridleyLiquor.com/Shop

Available only at the 57th Ave. location (next to Cub Foods)

Fridley Liquor Reusable Totes

In an effort to encourage recycling, reduce the use of paper bags and save our customers money, Fridley Liquor launched the reusable tote program. Customers can buy a tote for \$4.99 and receive an **additional** 30 Rewards Points every time they bring and fill it with \$30 or more of product.

Since September of 2021, we have enrolled over 260 customers in the reusable tote program!

Recycling Drop-off

May 14 from 8 a.m. - noon

On May 14, Fridley residents will have an opportunity for free and reduced recycling of bulky items such as mattresses, appliances, electronics and more! You can receive \$30 off your total with proof of Fridley residence (Driver's license, mail or utility bill). What can that include?

- Two appliances
- A large 60" TV
- A small TV
- 4 tires
- Electronic media
- And more!

All drop-off events will be held at Recycle Technologies Inc. (formerly Green Lights Recycling). Enter at 1525 99th Lane NE, Blaine.

Paper shredding, scrap metal, batteries, fluorescent lightbulbs, bicycles and handheld electronics are always free. See a full pricing list at FridleyMN.gov/Dropoff

New in 2022: Free recycling of VHS tapes, cassette tapes, CDs, floppy discs and other electronic media.



Springtime Planting for Pollinators

More and more Fridley residents are interested in making their lawns more pollinator-friendly and improving water quality. If you are looking for help getting started, here are some tips and tricks:

How do I make my lawn more pollinator friendly?

Your lawn can provide important habitat for butterflies, bees, and birds. When designing your lawn for pollinators, make sure to provide them food to eat, water to drink, and a place to sleep.

Food: The most reliable food for pollinators are perennial, flowering plants that are native to the area. Flowering trees are an important food source in early spring.

Water source: Provide a shallow, clean water source close to food and nesting sites. Give pollinators a place to stand while drinking, such as a saucer filled with marbles or stones.

Nesting site: We tend to think of bees, such as the honeybee, as living in hives; however, most of the more than 450 species of bees native to Minnesota live within the dead stems of plants, burrowed in bare ground, or under leaf litter. Instead of cutting back native plants in the fall, wait until spring after the temperature has been warm enough for bees to emerge.

What plants should I buy?

Most perennial plants do not stay in bloom spring through fall. When planning your pollinator garden, select plants that bloom in different months so that there are flowers throughout the growing season. Plant clumps of the same species together to make them easy to identify. Do extra research before buying cultivars, which are plants bred to have special features. You can tell a plant is a cultivar because it will have a capitalized name in single quotation marks. For example, *Echinacea purpurea* 'Avalanche' is the Avalanche cultivar of the native coneflower. Oftentimes, cultivars are not accessible or otherwise attractive to pollinators.

BlueThumb.org has a great plant selection tool that can help you pick the right plants for your yard. Or, check out the pre-designed garden templates at bwsr.state.mn.us/L2L. Some online growers even sell pre-selected Native Plant Kits.

Should I stop mowing my lawn for pollinators?

Fridley City Code requires that all ground cover except for trees, shrubs, gardens, and designated natural areas be kept shorter than 10 inches. Designated natural areas include areas that have

never been disturbed or that are intentionally planted with native plants and are surrounded by an edged border. Turf grass must be kept shorter than 10 inches. Residents who are interested in supporting pollinators are encouraged to plant native plant gardens or switch their turf lawns to bee lawns. Bee lawns, also called pollinator lawns, are lawns vegetated with flowers with blooms short enough to allow you to mow over them with a raised mower blade. A simple bee lawn can be created by overseeding your existing lawn with clover or more complex bee lawns can be created by replacing the existing turf with a bee lawn seed mix.

Are there funds available to help my project? Some funding opportunities are:

- Rice Creek Mini Grant for residents within the Rice Creek Watershed District (RiceCreek.org/MiniGrant)
- Front Door Grant for large landscaping projects (applications currently closed, please check back next year at FridleyMN.gov/HomePrograms)
- Lawns to Legumes (currently closed, but sign up for updates at bwsr.state.mn.us/L2L).



NIGHT to UNITE!
Neighbors Joining Together

**Night to Unite
Save the Date**

Tuesday, August 2, 2022

Fridley's annual Night to Unite takes place the first Tuesday in August. It is a chance to build community partnerships with Public Safety, and get to know your neighbors.

The Inner Hero

Recently, the Fridley Public Safety Department – Police Division has partnered with an organization called "The Inner Hero." Director of Public Safety Brian Weierke met the Founder/President of Inner Hero, Ambrose Russell, through a contact from the Fridley Middle School. After spending some time getting to know each other, a partnership was established. Director Weierke explained, "Our relationship with the Inner Hero organization is important to our Fridley community. We value our youth, and we need to continue to interact with them and keep our relationships strong."

The mission of the Inner Hero is to "create spaces and programs for youth that reduce violence, build trust and encourage education that empowers youth to be productive citizens."

In the fall 2021, the Inner Hero and Fridley Public Safety came together to host a barbeque to celebrate the many volunteers who support Fridley Public Safety. It was a great turnout with over 100 people who arrived at City Hall and



spent time with Fridley police officers and firefighters.

The next goal in our partnership is to put together a group of juniors and seniors in the Fridley High School and have monthly informational meetings with the group to discuss police and community relationships. Inner Hero staff will be there to work with both the youth and police in having quality discussions.

The police-community relationship in Fridley has always been very good, and it is partnerships like this that continue to strengthen the trust and build our community relationships.

Police Activities League (PALs) Creates Connections Between Officers and Kids

Public Safety Director Brian Weierke started Fridley's Police Activities League (PALs program) to promote a partnership between youth, law enforcement and the community. PALs is part of the Police Division's community initiative program. Fridley Police officers engage with the community through many different aspects and one of the ways is through the PALs program.

The PALs program allows officers to engage with 5th – 7th grade Fridley Middle School students after school in a fun and open environment. Time is spent helping with school-related activities, mentoring students, and focusing on drug, alcohol and emotional education. Part of this program includes a recreation activity that changes from season to

season. Previous sports included basketball, soccer and dodge ball.

The goal of the PALs program is to strengthen police-community relations, build connections with the students, and educate them about social issues, as well as the dangers of alcohol and illegal drugs. PALs strives to teach students teamwork, honesty, and integrity. The program also provides students with the opportunity to establish positive experiences with police officers. These students are the leaders of tomorrow, and Fridley Public Safety is happy to support our future leaders.

The program is set to begin again this fall. For more information, visit our website at FridleyMN.gov or contact Officer Faber at Patrick.Faber@FridleyMN.gov.

Brycer TCE Implemented to Monitor Fire Safety

To keep the citizens and visitors of the City of Fridley safe, it is important to ensure the buildings where people live and work are safe from the dangers of fire. The Fridley Fire Division is dedicated to keeping businesses and multi-family housing safe by staying fire code compliant.

To help achieve this goal, Fridley Fire Division partnered with Brycer TCE (The Compliance Engine) in 2021. Brycer TCE is a simple, internet-based tool that allows the Fire Division to track fire sprinkler and fire alarm inspections and testing. It provides a secure cloud environment for third-party contractors that inspect, test and

maintain fire protection systems. They can submit their reports via Brycer TCE's web portal directly to the Fire Division.

This program facilitates a more efficient review, tracking, and follow-up process with building occupants and owners to correct deficiencies and maintain fire prevention systems. With Brycer TCE, Fridley is now better equipped and closer to achieving the city's goal of 100 percent compliance with fire protection systems, testing, and maintenance laws.

This partnership will keep our visitors and citizens safer, because the best protection against fires is to prevent them before they start.

Receive crime alerts and other community information

Submit an anonymous tip to Fridley Police

View our crime map, social media pages and website

Learn more at FridleyMN.gov/1378/Tip411.



Safety Camp for Grades 2 - 4

June 29 from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. | \$35

Join Fridley Public Safety and Recreation for this exciting program designed for kids to have fun while learning good safety practices. Children will get a behind-the-scenes look at the Police and Fire Divisions while learning and experiencing safety! Topics may include: fire, seat belt, animals, electrical, bicycle, first aid, water, weather, and 911! Following the camp, there will be a graduation ceremony at the Civic Campus. Orientation materials will be sent to participants after they have registered. The registration fee includes leadership, supplies, bike helmet, t-shirt, tote bag, snacks and lunch.

Volunteer with Public Safety!

Fire Corps

The Fire Division is excited to launch a new program known as Fire Corps. Fire Corps is a nationally-recognized program founded under the National Volunteer Fire Council. The Fridley Fire Corps is meant for adults who desire to make a difference in their community.

Fire Corps volunteers work alongside Fridley firefighters completing functions such as:

- Photography
- Community outreach
- Arson investigations
- Special events
- Data-entry
- Education
- Training
- And more.

Fire Corps is meant for individuals who have a desire to serve in a capacity other than firefighting or emergency medical services. This opportunity is perfect for older adults with prior public service experience or anyone interested in learning more about emergency services and a passion to better our community.

Fire Corps members are issued a department uniform and equipment necessary to complete their volunteer work. No prior experience or training is necessary, though we look to utilize current skills and experience for a similar role within the Fire Division.

Police Reserve Unit

A reserve officer's main role is to support the sworn patrol officers in the field. A reserve officer is a non-licensed position, with NO arrest powers. A reserve officer is issued a police uniform, and carries a full duty-belt minus the firearm. A reserve officer drives a marked patrol car complete with police radio, red flashing lights and computer. They are allowed to ride along with licensed, uniformed Fridley Police officers.

The Reserve Unit is part of the Field Operations Division and is under the direct command of the Patrol Captain and field Sergeants. Within the Reserve unit is a Reserve Lieutenant and 3 Reserve Sergeants who each command a team of reserve officers.

Some of a reserve officer's duties are as follows:

- Patrol Fridley in a marked police car including all public streets, parks, highways and interstate.
- Be another set of eyes to spot criminal activity and report it to the licensed officers.
- Transport prisoners to jail, juvenile detention or detox.
- Perform house and business checks looking for open/unsecured doors.
- Patrol identified problem areas.
- Provide traffic control at accidents or City functions.
- Provide security at City functions.
- Assist disabled motorists in need of aid.

Learn more about volunteer opportunities at FridleyPublicSafety.org.

Fridley '49er Days

June 16-18

Thursday, June 16

Pre-Parade Party with Fridley Parks and Recreation **FREE**

4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Commons Park

- Carnival games, crafts, music and more!
- Inflatable obstacles, slides and bouncers
- Fridley City Band Performance

Fridley Fun Run

6:25 p.m.

Lions '49er Days Parade

6:30 p.m.

The parade route starts at the corner of

- 61st Avenue and 7th Street
- West down 61st Avenue
- North down 7th street
- East down Mississippi Street
- South down Able Street and ending at West Moore Lake Drive



Fridley '49 Days Festival • Commons Park

Friday, June 17

- Live Music: Jonah and the Whales (Rock) and Dixie Kats (New Orleans Style Jazz)
- MSMA Car Show
- FHS All School Reunion
- Family Activities
- Vendor and Exhibit Booths
- Food Trucks, Wine and Beer
- Fireworks!

Saturday, June 18

- Live Music: Salsa Del Soul (Latin Dance with instruction available) and Low Voltage (Rock)
- Family Activities
- Vendor and Exhibit Booths
- Food Trucks, Wine and Beer

Fridley '49er Days Softball Tournament

Community Park, Saturday, June 18

If you would like to volunteer and help make this annual community celebration a success, get in touch with us online at FridleyMN.gov/49erDays or find the '49er Days Committee on Facebook at [Facebook.com/FridleyDays](https://www.facebook.com/FridleyDays).



Migration Celebration

Saturday, May 14 • 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Join us in celebrating the return of our migrating bird friends at our free, family-friendly, outdoor event! Learn about bird species returning to Minnesota this season and try spotting some yourself! Go on a birding hike, become artsy with bird crafts, and enjoy observing live raptors!



Becoming a Bird Watcher Exhibit

Come out to Springbrook Nature Center to experience a new exhibit entitled "Becoming a Bird Watcher", thanks to generous grants from Xcel Energy and International Paper. Whether you are an avid birder or looking to start a new hobby, there is plenty to explore with this exhibit.

Visitors can learn how to use binoculars, try out a spotting scope, and learn about bird calls and the natural history of many bird species using the Merlin App. See if you can find the raptors inside the Nature Center exhibit room and understand how your observation skills can help you identify the birds you see on the Springbrook trails and in your own backyard.

Park System Improvement Plan

The City of Fridley is fortunate to have an abundance of parks, trails, and open spaces available to serve the recreational needs of our community. Springbrook Nature Center, our only staffed park in Fridley, underwent a complete transformation over the past seven years. New gathering spaces, exhibits, play spaces, and trails were all added to the park, positioning Springbrook to serve the visitors of today as well as future generations in Fridley.

Over the past several years, Fridley staff has worked with consultants and, most importantly, our residents to create a vision – and then designs – to enhance our park system to offer safe spaces, modern amenities, access to nature, and places to gather.

What started as the City's "Finding Your Fun in Fridley!" initiative has transformed into a true Park System Improvement Plan that represents our commitment to the future and has been the result of hundreds of hours of community engagement, conversation, research, and

planning. The City has partnered with landscape architects and experts from the firm WSB to gather community feedback and create concept plans for each City park. This work has allowed us to build and maintain a comprehensive, city-wide approach to this project.

The culmination of several years of work, planning, and effort by many will be presented to the City Council this spring in a final park system report and set of recommendations from WSB. With this report, the Council will determine how the City may fund up to \$30 million of park-system improvements.

A splash pad at Commons Park, inclusive play spaces, improved ballfields, a variety of rentable community shelters, and increased access to our waterways are just a few improvements that we expect to see in Fridley over the next decade. Residents are invited to view the latest plans, find updates and learn about project history at: FridleyMN.gov/1412/Park-System-Improvement-Plan.



REMINDER: PICK UP YOUR PET WASTE

PET WASTE LEFT IN THE PARKS OR ON YOUR LAWN WASHES INTO THE STORMSEWER AND CONTAMINATES OUR LAKES AND RIVERS WITH E. COLI AND OTHER HARMFUL BACTERIA. PLEASE ALWAYS PICK UP AFTER YOUR PET!