

January/February 2020

# Park Pages

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**Big updates coming  
to our local parks!**



**North Hennepin  
Community College**

A member of Minnesota State

NHCC newsletter inside!



Lakeland Park

# Park Bond redevelopment projects

## Park Center Dome project update

The City of Brooklyn Park and Osseo Area Schools have partnered to construct and operate the Brooklyn Park Sports Dome at Park Center Senior High. Construction of two artificial turf fields began in May 2019, followed by the construction of the dome support building which will be complete in Dec. 2019. One turf field will be covered by a 230' x 400' dome to allow year-round use. The dome is scheduled to open Jan. 6, 2020 for use by community athletic organizations as well as the general public during "open dome" times. A walking track surrounding the field will be available for use free of charge during scheduled times.

Brooklyn Park's Recreation and Parks Department is scheduling and managing the operations of the dome. For more information about hourly dome rental or open dome times, please visit [www.brooklynpark.org/dome](http://www.brooklynpark.org/dome).

## Update on Recreation and Park Development Projects

In our on-going efforts to improve the overall beauty of the parks and create opportunities for staying active and engaged throughout the community, the Recreation and Parks Department is currently working on the following park system improvement projects:

### Redevelopment of neighborhood parks:

Three parks have been identified for redevelopment as part of the 2018 Park Bond Referendum:

- **Hartkopf Park:** Preliminary ideas include creating multi-purpose green space in the location of existing ballfields, additional parking, possibly adding a bathroom building and installing trail lighting for year-round use on loop trails.
- **Lakeland Park:** Preliminary concepts for redevelopment of Lakeland Park include adding community garden space, adding a basketball court, connecting a trail from the north end to the Crystal Lake Regional Trail and improving multi-purpose green space. The building is currently planned to be renovated starting in December using CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funds.
- **Norwood Park:** Preliminary concepts include adding a park building that could support a youth summer camp with restrooms, replacing the shelter, creating multi-purpose field space, nature play area and trail connections to Queen Park.

These park redevelopment projects will go out to bid in 2020 with construction to take place in spring/fall 2021. Community feedback on the final vision for these parks is very important. We encourage you to attend one of the following community engagement meetings to provide input on each specific park.

- **January 14, 2020**–6:30 p.m. at Park Brook Elementary (*Hartkopf Park*)
- **February 4, 2020**–5:30 p.m. at Willows Apartments (*Lakeland Park*)
- **March 5, 2020**–6:30 p.m. at Palmer Lake Elementary (*Norwood Park*)



Norwood Park



Hartkopf Park

## Redevelopment for River Park planned for spring 2020

After extensive community engagement, a master plan for River Park has been approved by City Council and the design and development phase of the project has begun. **A neighborhood community check-in will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 29 at 6:30 p.m. at the Izaak Walton League.**

Improvements include storm water treatment, shoreline stabilization, trail lighting, parking lot improvements, river overlook, canoe/kayak launch, nature play areas and shore fishing nodes. Construction is planned to begin in the late spring 2020 with a grand reopening planned for summer 2021. While the park is under construction there will be limited access to the park.



**SAVE THE DATE:** The final park development plan will be presented Wednesday, Jan. 29 at 6:30 p.m. at the Izaak Walton League, 8816 West River Road, Brooklyn Park

## What's new?

### New ordinance requires notification to tenants after ownership change

The Tenant Notification Ordinance places restrictions on the changes a new owner can make to a lease within the first three months of ownership. The new owner of a rental property with three or more units must provide information about the new ownership to all tenants within 30 days of sale. The notice must include if the new owner intends to make any of the following changes within the next three months:

- 1) increase the rent
- 2) require residents meet new criteria to live in the building
- 3) issue lease non-renewals without cause or as the result of rescreening
- 4) make a material change to the lease.

If the new owner makes any of the changes above and the tenant needs to move as a result, the tenant may be eligible for relocation assistance.

To find out more about the ordinance or other tenant resources, visit [www.brooklynpark.org/renting](http://www.brooklynpark.org/renting).

### Elections 2020

what you need to know

- **March 3, 2020**—Presidential Primary
- **Aug. 11, 2020**—State Primary
- **Nov. 3, 2020**—General election

For more information on each primary and election, please visit: [www.sos.state.mn.us](http://www.sos.state.mn.us).

To find out what's on your ballot, register to vote, find your polling place and more, please visit: [mnvotes.org](http://mnvotes.org), [hennepin.us/elections](http://hennepin.us/elections) or [brooklynpark.org](http://brooklynpark.org)

For more information on the Elections, contact the City Clerk at 763-493-8180.



### Pet licenses no longer required

On Nov. 12, 2019, City Council passed an ordinance amendment eliminating the city-issued pet license requirement. Some other key information to consider with this change:

- Animals must have identification tags on them at all times and up-to-date vaccinations
- You no longer need to have a license to use the two city dog parks
  - **Brookdale Park**, 7650 June Avenue North
  - **Environmental Nature Area**, 10201 West River Road

For more information, please visit our website at [www.brooklynpark.org/dog-parks-2](http://www.brooklynpark.org/dog-parks-2)

*\*As a reminder, the city does not allow chickens, pigs and goats on properties less than five acres in size.*



# Get involved!

## Be part of city government. Speak out on the issues!

Do you want to serve in Brooklyn Park's city leadership? Do you wish you had more of a say in the way Brooklyn Park is run? You can do something about it by volunteering on a city commission.

The city is in its annual recruitment process to fill upcoming openings on its commissions. No experience is necessary—only your commitment to building a strong and vibrant Brooklyn Park. Applications for the annual recruitment will be accepted through Jan. 31, 2020.

Fill out your application now to serve on the Budget Advisory Commission (BAC), Community Long-range Improvement Commission (CLIC), Human Rights Commission (HRC), Planning Commission or Recreation and Parks Advisory Commission (RPAC).

The time commitment is usually one meeting per month, but it varies between commissions. Commission meetings are open to the public so you may stop by and visit a commission before applying.

Applications are available on the city's website [www.brooklynpark.org](http://www.brooklynpark.org) or at the City Hall customer service desk. You may also call 763-493-8001 to request an application or to get additional information on the commissions.



### 'Get JOB Ready!' with BrookLynk

'Get Ready!' to learn 21st-century job skills in a fun and inclusive environment with BrookLynk!

'Get Ready!' is BrookLynk's job readiness training open to youth ages 14-21 who live or attend school in the Northwest suburbs. Come and spend the day learning skills to help you land your next job.

Registration opens Thursday, January 2nd, 2020.

To register, visit our website:

[www.brooklynk.works/get-ready](http://www.brooklynk.works/get-ready)

For more information, contact

[admin@BrookLynk.works](mailto:admin@BrookLynk.works) or call 763-493-8087.



The youngest minds deserve  
the greatest attention.



### Primrose School of Champlin Park

10051 Xenia Ave. N.  
Brooklyn Park, MN 55443  
763.494.5500  
[PrimroseChamplinPark.com](http://PrimroseChamplinPark.com)



Call for a tour.

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## Census 2020

Every 10 years the U.S. Census Bureau counts every resident in the United States. The next Census is April 1, 2020. Brooklyn Park is home to many historically undercounted populations. Getting a complete count of our residents is critical since we only get this chance every 10 years.

The cities of Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center have formed the Brooklyns Census 2020 Coalition to inform, energize and strategize with our community partners to get a complete count of the Brooklyns. All interested community members are invited to get involved with census outreach efforts.

For more information go to [www.brooklynpark.org/census2020](http://www.brooklynpark.org/census2020).

**Contact:** Brenda Morales at 763-315-8466 or [brenda.morales@brooklynpark.org](mailto:brenda.morales@brooklynpark.org)



# Activities

## Mark your calendar for the 2020 Active Aging SPRING RESOURCE FAIR

**APRIL 15**  
Wednesday, 8:30AM–Noon

**PLAN TO ATTEND THIS OPEN HOUSE**  
Including vendors, speakers and demonstrations

**COMMUNITY ACTIVITY CENTER**  
5600 85th Avenue N | Brooklyn Park 763-493-8333

## Calendar of events

For more information go to [brooklynpark.org/events](http://brooklynpark.org/events)

### Outdoor skating rinks (Jan. 2–Feb. 17)

Central Park Warming House Hours (weather permitting)  
12–5 p.m. (weekends) 4:30–8:30 p.m. (weekdays)

### Martin Luther King Jr. Day–Skate with Totino Grace boys hockey team

Jan. 20, 12–2 p.m.

### Brooklyn Park Nature Preschool open house for 2020-21 school year

Feb. 4, 6–7:30 p.m.

### Family Valentine Bingo

Feb. 7, 6:30–8 p.m.

### Valentine's Day open skate

Feb. 9, 2:15–3:45 p.m.

### Presidents Day open skate

Feb. 17, 12–2 p.m.

## Providing MORE for the 50+ community!



### Day trips

#### Rise & Fall–Mill City Museum

Register by Jan. 20.

Thursday, Feb. 20

9 a.m.–3:30 p.m...\$71...#141002.11

#### From the King, for the King–Ives Auditorium

Register by Feb. 10

Thursday, March 12

10:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m...\$72...#141003.11

### Speakers

Join us for great speakers! Program is held at the Community Activity Center. Pre-registration is requested.

### Makeup revival for women 40 & better

Tuesday, Jan. 14

7–9 p.m...\$25...#144004.11

### Osteoporosis

Thursday, Jan. 21

2–3 p.m...FREE...#144003.11

### Healthy eating and cooking for one or two

Friday, February 7

10–11:30 a.m...\$5...#144001.12

### Assistive devices

Tuesday, Feb. 18

2–3 p.m...FREE...#144003.12

### Medicare 101

Monday, Feb. 24

1–2:30 p.m...FREE...#144002.11

### Planning your move

Friday, March 6

10–11:30 a.m...\$5...#144001.13

### Luncheons

Mark your calendars for the holiday luncheons located at the Community Activity Center. Register one week prior to event.

#### New Year's luncheon

Thursday, Jan. 9

11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m...\$15...#143001.11

#### Valentine's luncheon

Thursday, Feb. 13

11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m...\$15...#143002.11

#### St. Patrick's Day luncheon

Tuesday, March 17

11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m...\$15...#143003.11

# GetUp&Go

## Home care

### Home Energy Squad Enhanced will help you increase comfort in your home and save money on energy!



Home Energy Squad has helped over 700 homeowners in Brooklyn Park. Now it's your turn! Brooklyn Park is a partner city and is buying down the \$100 cost of a Home Energy Squad visit to only \$50 for Brooklyn Park homeowners.

Home Energy Squad understands that every home is different and customizes each visit to meet the needs of the homeowner. In two and a half hours, a team of trusted energy professionals will assess your home's energy efficiency and find ways for you to save money and energy in your home. The team will also:

- Install energy-saving materials, like door weather stripping, a programmable thermostat and more.
- Perform a blower door test to measure your home for air leaks.
- Safety checks your home's heating system and water heater.

- Complete an insulation inspection with use of infrared camera.
- Provide a quote for insulation and air sealing work if recommended.

At the end of the visit, you will receive an Energy Fitness Report that includes a prioritized list of energy improvements to help you with next steps.

Join the hundreds of Brooklyn Park homeowners who have participated. Let Home Energy Squad help you save money, cut energy waste and increase your home comfort.

For more information or to schedule your appointment visit [mncee.org/hes-brooklynpark](http://mncee.org/hes-brooklynpark) or call 651-328-6220.

## Improve water efficiency

The City of Brooklyn Park is making it easier for residents to save money on their water bills. Simply replace an older, less efficient toilet, clothes washer or irrigation system controller with a new, more efficient model and you can earn a rebate of up to \$100.

Irrigation systems, toilets and clothes washers are the biggest water users in most homes. Newer, more efficient models use up to 40% less water to do the same tasks. Which means replacements can pay for themselves in water and energy savings in as little as one year—even without a rebate.

But offering a rebate is a way to move us from thinking about replacing older appliances and controllers to doing it.

So how does the rebate work? Single-family homeowners and renters who purchase and

install a new WaterSense certified irrigation control system can earn a \$100 rebate. Townhome associations are eligible for up to three irrigation control system rebates. Homeowners and renters are also eligible for additional rebates of \$50 on a WaterSense certified toilet (up to two per home) and a \$50 rebate on an Energy Star certified clothes washer. New construction is not eligible.

There's more information and a link to the rebate form on the city's website [www.brooklynpark.org](http://www.brooklynpark.org), or you can call 763-493-8007.

This program is funded by a grant from the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services using Clean Water Land & Legacy Amendment funds appropriated by the Minnesota Legislature. There is a limited amount of rebate money available so get started on your project right away.



## A college education may be the solution to your New Year's resolution

Happy New Year! As you know, January is a popular month to set resolutions, many of which focus on self-improvement. According to research by YouGov, of the top 20 list from December 2018, enrolling in college could help accomplish three of them, including #9) learn a new skill, #12) get a better job, and #18) get promoted or get a raise at a current job. If you, a family member or friend are setting your sights on attending or returning to college this year, look no further! In this issue, we've identified steps, important dates, and information on how to pay for college to get you started.



Jeffery Williamson Ed.D.  
Interim NHCC President

### Earn a \$2,500 scholarship!

NHCC will be awarding 85 \$2,500 Workforce Development Scholarships for the 2020-21 academic year that encourage and reward students pursuing occupations in health care and information technology. For more information and to apply visit [nhcc.edu/workforce](http://nhcc.edu/workforce).

### Steps to Prepare for College

1. Explore academic programs – visit [nhcc.edu/degrees](http://nhcc.edu/degrees)
2. Attend an information session – Mondays & Fridays @ 10am, Tuesdays @ 5:30pm – [nhcc.edu/visit](http://nhcc.edu/visit)
3. Apply to NHCC – visit [nhcc.edu/apply](http://nhcc.edu/apply)



### Important Dates

Apply for scholarships	<b>February 1</b>
Register for summer	<b>March 19</b>
Register for fall	<b>March 30</b>
Attend Open House	<b>April 14</b>

## Congratulations Dr. Eugenia Paulus, Presidential Award recipient



On October 17, 2019 Dr. Eugenia Paulus, chemistry faculty, was recognized with a Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM) which is facilitated by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and the National Science Foundation. Dr. Paulus is the only community college faculty member from Minnesota and one of only two individuals from the state to receive this award dating back to its inception in 1995.

The PAESMEM recognizes the critical roles mentors play outside the traditional classroom setting in the academic and professional development of the future STEM workforce. Visit [blog.nhcc.edu](http://blog.nhcc.edu) for a Q&A with Dr. Paulus.

**Congrats, Eugenia!**





## Alumni Spotlight: Anh Duong, Computer Science

Navigating college can be an exciting and sometimes overwhelming challenge, but just imagine moving here from Vietnam by yourself with little financial support and English as a second language. Well that's just what 2016 computer science graduate Anh Duong did. After completing a bachelor's degree in Vietnam, Duong wanted to pursue more education and a career in the United States. Her first stop was North Hennepin Community College. After a campus visit and meeting with a counselor, Duong says, "it was the right place for me."

Duong's persistence is evident as we talk about her path. After enrolling in the computer science program, she wanted to start right away, but classes had started two weeks prior. Encouraged by the counselor to speak with the professor, Duong promised she could make up the two weeks of coursework, and she did.



After her first year of courses, she took a job tutoring computer science students. Towards the end of her second year of the program, she applied "for fun" for a software developer job at Digital Shipper. "I still remember the supervisor asking me if I could do the job while completing my degree," says Doung. "Don't worry," she said, "I promise." She also continued her commitment tutoring NHCC students online in the evening.

A few years later, Duong landed a job as a software engineer at Mains'1 Services in Brooklyn Park. During her three-and-a-half years there, she was promoted to lead software engineer. Today, Duong loves her job as a consultant at Solution Design Group helping clients build software. She is also very proud of her most recent accomplishment of earning a master's of science in software engineering from the University of Minnesota.

Reflecting on her time at NHCC, Duong is very thankful for the support she received from her computer science and English professors, and Trio advisor. "Their support provided a good foundation for me to move forward." Her time at NHCC was like a puzzle, admitting when she came here she didn't know everything. "I pieced it together one by one, then finally got the big picture." Duong's advice to students is to not give up, be patient and do it piece by piece. To be successful in computer science, Duong says you need to have knowledge and patience, but most of all, passion. "If you love what you do, you have beautiful knowledge and can find a job."

### SOFTWARE DEVELOPER FAST FACTS

- Median wage in MN: **\$95,220**
- Job growth in MN: projected to **grow 24% from 2016 to 2026**
- Annual job openings in MN: **1,420**

**Typical tasks:** Develop, create, and modify general computer applications software or specialized utility programs. Analyze user needs and develop software solutions. Design software or customize software for client use with the aim of optimizing operational efficiency.

## Paying for College



Kristi L'Allier, Director of Financial Aid

### What is financial aid?

The easiest way I describe financial aid is to think of it as three things – free money, earned money, and borrowed money. Free money is grants and scholarships, earned money is work-study programs on campus, and borrowed money is student loans.

### How can I finance my education?

The very first thing you need to do is complete the FASFA online at [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov). Regardless of your, or your parents' financial background, you will be eligible for something. There is more than enough financial aid you can receive, borrow, or earn to finance your education at NHCC.

Also, visit [nhcc.edu/scholarships](https://nhcc.edu/scholarships) beginning February 1 to view and apply for scholarships. Scholarships may also be offered through your city, high school and local chamber. Another helpful resource is [fastweb.com](https://fastweb.com); after you set your preferences, it will send you scholarships that fit your profile.

### Are there jobs on campus?

Yes, we have several work-study programs available on campus. If you're not eligible for work-study funds, you can still apply for other opportunities on campus.

### Where can I get additional help?

Visit [nhcc.edu/financialaid](https://nhcc.edu/financialaid) for more resources, or stop by our office during regular business hours.

## Upcoming Events

[nhcc.edu/calendar](https://nhcc.edu/calendar)

### Bold Leadership Summit: Save the Date!

Everyone is welcome! Join us February 21, 2020 at this free event to:

- Network with others throughout the community
- Hear inspiring speakers sharing their thoughts on BOLD Leadership
- Celebrate with us as the 2020 Distinguished Alumni of the Year award is presented
- Enjoy a light breakfast, coffee, and juice

For more information and to RSVP, visit [nhcc.edu/foundation](https://nhcc.edu/foundation)

#### January 13 – January 31

##### Keren Kroul Mapping 'Memory'

Joseph Gazzuolo Fine Arts Gallery

#### January 17 – 18

##### Devised Theatre, by the cast (NHCC students)

For the third year in a row, NHCC theatre students will dive into the creation of an original theatre piece.

Blackbox Theatre, CC 242

#### February 1 | 7 p.m.

##### 5th Annual NHCC JazzFest

Featuring Grammy nominated artist Steve Wiest  
Fine Arts Center Theatre, FAC 178

#### February 10 – February 27

##### Northwestern High School Art Exhibition

We'll celebrate the work of our area's most talented high school students across a variety of mediums.  
Joseph Gazzuolo Fine Arts Gallery



# Home care

## Halt the salt



For those of us that live in the colder climates, winter time and ice can be anything from a nuisance to a hazard. We often use salt to reduce the dangers of ice and snow on our driveways and sidewalks.

While it's essential to keep safe in wintertime, it's important to note that salt doesn't just disappear when the snow and ice eventually melts. Instead, it can cause irreversible damage as it washes into our lakes and streams, and seeps into our groundwater supply.

Fortunately, you can help prevent salt pollution by limiting the amount of deicers you use on your driveways and sidewalks. Try to avoid using salt altogether. However, if safety concerns require you to control ice, consider following these simple tips to limit salt use:

- 1. Shovel.** Try to keep your driveway and walkways free from snow when it first falls.
- 2. Check the temperature—is it too cold for salt?** Most salts stop working around 15 degrees (F). When the temperatures drop, use sand for traction, but remember that sand doesn't melt ice.
- 3. Use salt sparingly.** Use no more than one pound of salt for 250 square feet. One heaping coffee mug is about one pound of salt and 250 square feet is roughly the size of two parking spaces.
- 4. Clean-up any extra salt.** If you can see sand or salt on dry pavement, it means that it is no longer working and could be washed away. Try to reuse salt or sand somewhere else or sweep it up and throw it away.
- 5. Tell a neighbor!** They may be over-salting too.

Brooklyn Park  
Recreation & Parks

## We're hiring!

Brooklyn Park's Recreation and Parks Department is looking to hire new team members. Are you interested in a job in any of these areas?

- Summer camps and youth programs
- Special events
- Park maintenance
- Golf courses
- Street crew

## JOIN OUR TEAM Now hiring swim instructors

Brooklyn Park Recreation and Parks Department is looking for highly motivated and team-oriented individuals who have a desire to make a difference in Brooklyn Park by teaching group and private swimming lessons for youth and adults while creating a safe and healthy space for all patrons.

### Apply today!

- We offer American Red Cross training and certification.
- We are an age friendly workforce.

Please visit [www.brooklynpark.org/current-job-opportunities/](http://www.brooklynpark.org/current-job-opportunities/) for additional information.

**CONTACT:** Cassidy Wester—Pool Supervisor & Aquatic Specialist  
[Cassidy.wester@brooklynpark.org](mailto:Cassidy.wester@brooklynpark.org) or call the Recreation Office at 763-493-8333



City of Brooklyn Park  
City Hall  
5200 85th Ave. N.  
Brooklyn Park, MN 55443

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# Tales from Tim's Recycling Bin

## Battery recycling

by Tim Pratt

It's the time of year where we burn through lots of batteries. What with electronic gadgets we got as presents or devices that light up during our long, dark nights. Devices and gadgets which all need that battery power to run right.

I picked the word "burn" on purpose. Because by now most of you have heard about the battery fire that led to Hennepin County pulling the battery recycling barrels from City Hall and the library. Yes, in addition to containing hazardous material, some rechargeable batteries can start fires if not disposed of properly.

In the waste industry there's a term called a "hot load" which is when the garbage or recycling starts on fire in the back of the truck. Google "hot load garbage truck" and you'll find stories from throughout

the country of drivers dropping a load of burning material out the back of their truck in order to prevent the truck from catching on fire and possibly exploding. In Minnesota, a recycling facility in Blaine was destroyed when a battery sparked a pile of paper on fire.

So, when your batteries die, don't dump them in your trash or recycling cart. You can still bring batteries to the Hennepin County Drop-Off Facility, 8100 Jefferson Highway. And we will continue taking them at the Special Materials Drop-Off Day.

If you can't remove the battery from the device (e.g. a small electronic device or a cordless screwdriver), bring the entire item to the Hennepin County Drop-Off Facility.

Until next time, keep recycling your batteries my friends.

**Tim Pratt**—Recycling Manager,  
Operations and Maintenance

## Keep carts out of the street

It's important to keep your garbage and recycling carts out of the street, especially after it has snowed or is going to snow on that day. Doing so allows our plow operators to plow to the curb on the first pass, which is both safer and more efficient than coming back on another day.



## Your Brooklyn Park City Council

For information regarding City Council meetings and contact information for City Council members, please visit [www.brooklynpark.org/city-government/city-council/](http://www.brooklynpark.org/city-government/city-council/).

From left to right: Terry Parks, Lisa Jacobson, Mark Mata, Susan Pha, Mayor Jeffrey Lunde, Wynfred Russell, Tonja West-Hafner