

May 2020

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Brooklyn Park residents,

Needless to say, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is on everyone's mind. The situation is rapidly changing and has been a unique and tiring challenge for communities around the world.

The city of Brooklyn Park continues to monitor the situation closely and receives regular guidance from state and federal officials. As you might have heard, all city facilities (with the exception of the Police stations) are temporarily closed to the public. As a major center for public services and gatherings, it was decided for the best interest of public health to remove our buildings as a possible location for exposure. Even so, the Police and Fire Departments remain fully operational and we still offer many city services through our website or by phone.

Staff continues to work on your behalf in all possible areas of the city during this period of social distancing. We understand that there have been many difficult adjustments lately and appreciate your patience. As always, I'm proud of our community.

It's hard to predict what the impact of the virus will ultimately be on our city, or when things will begin to turn around, but one thing is for certain: we will get through it together.

Jeffrey Lunde
Brooklyn Park Mayor



Mayor Jeffrey Lunde

Brooklyn Park responds to COVID-19

Each morning begins with a meeting to discuss the current situation, including the number of positive COVID-19 cases in Minnesota, the number of beds available and the number of deaths.

Emergency Management Director and Fire Chief John Cunningham is at the helm of the city's Emergency Operations Center, also known as the EOC. The EOC is a centralized hub created to provide strategic and operational support during large-scale emergencies and consists staff from every department. Brooklyn Park's EOC was activated once the threat of COVID-19 was imminent to the local community. Chief Cunningham and the other EOC members work every day to coordinate the city's response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

An EOC is necessary to protect the public's health, safety, and welfare during events like COVID-19. Their actions allow for an additional level of continuity of city operations. This includes decisions to close city buildings, cancel events and meetings or even to create policies.

Recently, the EOC created a community impact survey to better understand the needs of residents. They are also gathering information and resources from the area to help residents and business owners struggling during this time.

You can learn more about all the roles played in the EOC by heading to the COVID-19 Resources page or clicking [here](#).

COVID-19

Community Impact Survey Results



In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, city staff surveyed residents to learn how the community is faring and learn about the community's needs. The results were then shared to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), city leadership and the community.

2,170 people (or about 8% of the community) took the survey; here are the key takeaways:

1. Residents are most concerned about having access to supplies (cleaning products, toiletries, and PPE), food, and medicines when they need it. Residents perceive that stores are running out of essentials because of hoarding. Residents are also concerned about their safety when having to leave their homes to resupply.
2. Residents are concerned about public safety and potential increase in crime or unrest. There is a perception that crime has increased or will increase in the short-term.
3. Residents, especially those from our Asian community, are very concerned about racial discrimination and harassment tied to COVID-19. Many respondents shared their personal experiences of racism and/or felt that police and the city should be proactive in response.
4. Residents said that they are currently getting the information they need about COVID-19 and that getting up-to-date and accurate information is a priority. The information about COVID-19 is changing so quickly and the messages from different organizations are not always aligned.
5. Residents will soon (if they are not already) face challenges with paying for rent, utilities, etc. Even if the shelter-in-place period doesn't last longer than it is scheduled for, many people who live paycheck to paycheck will be weeks behind on their financial obligations.
6. Residents with youth in their households are reporting a need for support with schoolwork.
7. Some residents have trouble accessing the technology and internet they need to function online while staying safe at home. Not every school district has been able to provide digital devices for its students and even when they do, not every household is connected to the internet. This is not only difficult for students trying to complete their schoolwork, but adds barriers to families trying to get information, stay connected, or work from home.

For more detailed results, please visit our website at www.brooklynpark.org/covid19

Get local COVID-19 updates right to your device

You can now stay up to date on how COVID-19 is affecting our community and city services. This includes receiving updates on new resources added to our COVID-19 resident resources page. The goal is to keep you informed and offer information that helps keep you and your family healthy and safe. **Subscribe** to receive a text or email. Updates will still be posted often on our [COVID-19 resources page](#) and on our social media channels.

Community

Brooklyn Park to be a visual and cultural arts destination

North Hennepin Community College in partnership with Metro State and the city of Brooklyn Park are all requesting \$6.6 million in capital bonding to fund the design phase for a **Center for Innovation and the Arts @ Brooklyn Park (CITA)**, a dynamic and inclusive center that would be located at the corner of 85th and West Broadway focused on leveraging resources of multiple partners to create a flexible facility that will increase education opportunities for students, increase economic prosperity, and advance the quality of life in Brooklyn Park and surrounding communities. Partners for the project include North Hennepin Community College, the City of Brooklyn Park, Metropolitan State University, ISD 279 Osseo Area Schools, and Hennepin County.

An advisory council of more than 20 members representing the partners, surrounding communities, and elected officials to advance momentum and planning for the project met for the first time on February 14, and will continue to meet as the project evolves. For more information about the project, visit www.nhcc.edu/cita.



Community

Brooklyn Park fire hydrant flushing

May 4 through May 15

Operations & Maintenance crews are scheduled to begin flushing fire hydrants on Monday, May 6. Hydrant flushing is a way for crews to test the water flow and pressure in a hydrant so we know it's ready for use, in case of a fire.

Hydrant flushing also removes sediment from the pipes in order to maintain water clarity and quality in the distribution pipes.

You might notice water discoloration after hydrant flushing. If this happens, run your cold water tap for a few minutes until the water clears. You should avoid washing clothes until the water clears. However, your water is safe to drink.

Crews might start hydrant flushing as early as 6:00 a.m. and might work until 5:30 p.m. The work is expected to be fully completed by May 15.

We want to apologize in advance for any inconvenience. Parents please remind your children to stay a safe distance away from crews as they work.

If you have questions, please call Operations & Maintenance at (763) 493-8007 or e-mail: bpom@brooklynpark.org



Election judges wanted

We're looking for people to work at polling places during the primary election on August 11 and the general election on November 3. Paid training is provided. Sixteen and seventeen-year-old students are welcome.

For more information, email kristen.stacey@brooklynpark.org or visit www.brooklynpark.org/elections/judges.

Gun permits

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Brooklyn Park Police Department will not be accepting walk-in Permit to Purchase applications until further notice. You must be a Brooklyn Park resident to qualify. There is a seven (7) day waiting period before a permit will be issued to qualifying individuals. The seven-day waiting period will begin the day we receive the application. For more information on how to apply for a permit, [click here](#).



Home

Feed your lawn with grass clippings

Help protect our streams, ponds and lakes; throw short grass clippings back onto your lawn. Grass clippings contain phosphorus, the nutrient that turns our lakes and ponds green with algae. By tossing short grass clippings back onto your lawn, you add these nutrients back to your lawn, reduce your fertilizer needs, and help save money on lawn care supplies.

Left in the street, grass clippings could be considered an illegal discharge. Intentionally blowing or placing lawn waste, like grass clippings and leaves, in the street is a violation of the city's code.

Help yourself and help your neighbors by protecting our local waters. Please keep your lawn waste and grass clippings out of the street.

Summer blossom awards

Now accepting nominations for the SUMMER BLOSSOM AWARD PROGRAM

Submit nominations for the Summer Blossom Awards, the city's Garden & Landscape Recognition Program. This competitive program annually recognizes and rewards residents and businesses that strive to improve the city's landscape. Grand winners in single family, townhome, neighborhood garden and commercial will receive a \$250 gift certificate and an engraved garden paver.

[Click here to submit a nomination on the City's website](#) or call 763-493-8059. Entries are being accepted from May 25 through July 6, 2020.

“Green” lawn care tips

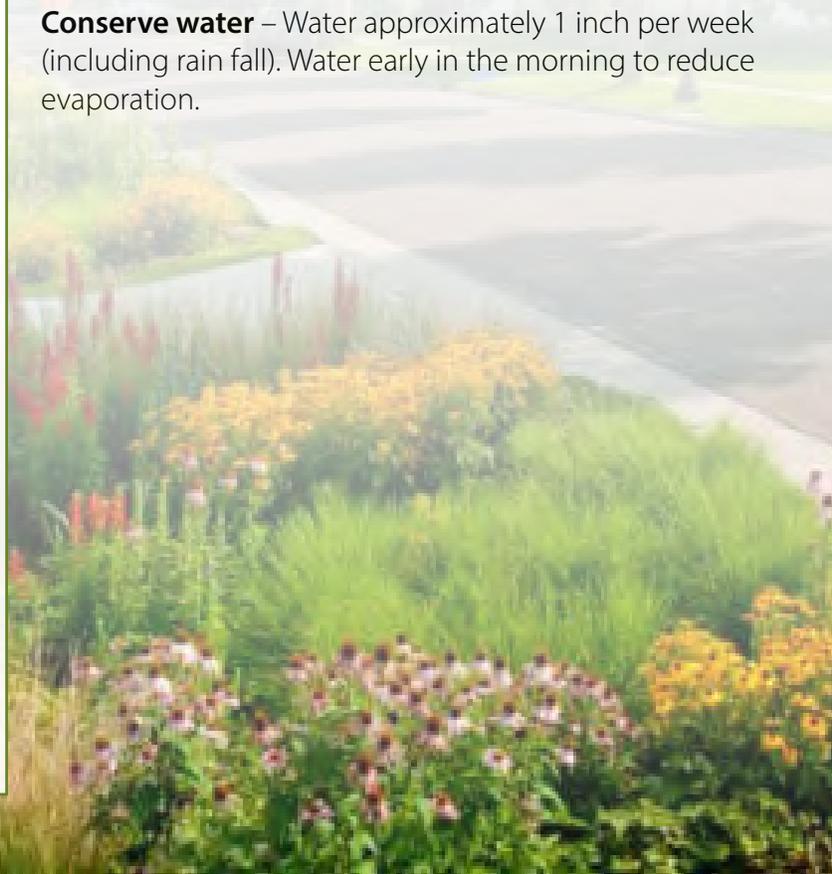
Summertime in Minnesota means getting outside and enjoying your yard. Why not make your lawn even greener with these environmentally friendly tips? Say no to chemicals – Lawn and garden chemicals can wash into the street, polluting local waterbodies. Test your soil to determine if fertilizer is even needed. Pull weeds by hand or use spot treatment to encourage healthy lawns.

Leave grass long – Keep your grass at least 3 inches long. The long grass will help roots grow deeper into the soil, suppress weeds, and require less watering.

Keep your grass clippings on the lawn – There are nutrients in grass clippings that can reduce your fertilizer needs, reducing your lawn care costs. It also prevents the clippings from polluting local waterbodies.

Native plantings – Consider planting native plants or installing a rain garden. Native plants provide pollinator habitat, are drought resistant, and recharge the ground water.

Conserve water – Water approximately 1 inch per week (including rain fall). Water early in the morning to reduce evaporation.

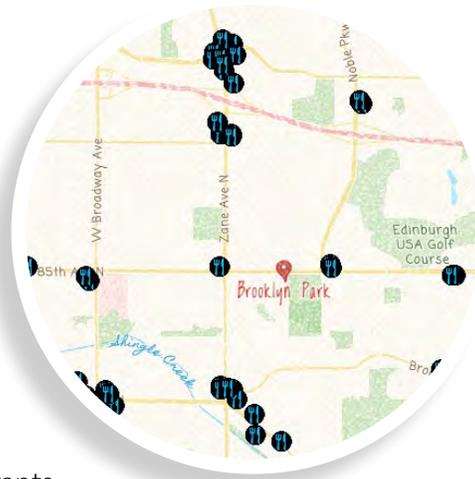


Home

New interactive restaurant map

If you want to check out which restaurants are offering curbside pick up, check out the city's new interactive restaurant map.

The Environmental Health and Economic Development & Housing staff teamed up to do a survey of the open restaurants and create a chart of services offered at each one. Our GIS team turned it into a geographic map with contact information and put the resource on our COVID-19 Resources Page; see it here: <https://www.brooklynpark.org/covid19-3/#restaurants>



The goal of the map is to show community members they could still support local restaurants during the stay at home order and help restaurants get out the word that they are still open, operating and providing food.

All restaurants are included on the map. The interactive restaurant map is updated daily.

They bring the curiosity.
We bring the confidence.



**Primrose School
of Champlin Park**
10051 Xenia Ave. N.
Brooklyn Park, MN 55443
763.494.5500
PrimroseChamplinPark.com



Call for a tour.

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Sign up for the
**Step to it
CHALLENGE!**
MAY 1-28

**Get out, use the great trails in
Brooklyn Park and log your steps
step toit.org**

**Join the 2020 Hennepin County
Step To It Challenge!**

HOW DOES IT WORK?

**The challenge is May 1 – May 28,
2020 and everyone can join.**

Participate as an individual or virtually with a group. It's not just about walking. Most activities (even household activities) can be converted to steps, by using the online step conversion chart. Log your activity daily or weekly in an online Step to it account.

Best of all, it's FREE! Win prizes!

**Enter "Brooklyn Park" as the city
you are taking steps for. Share
through social media: #step toit**

**Start the summer off on the
right foot. Join the challenge!**

Register at: www.step toit.org

Activities

Important message from the Recreation and Parks Department

Summer Programs and Events

We are looking forward to a great summer and can assure you our team is working very hard to provide modified summer offerings that align with social distancing guidelines. Watch for a modified Summer **GetUp&Go** in your inbox by June 1. We will continue to monitor the Covid-19 pandemic and follow recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention (CDC) and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). The health and safety of our participants and staff is our highest priority.

[Click here for latest updates on COVID-19 impacts to city operations.](#)



CURRENTLY ENROLLING
for the 2020–21 School Year

Classes begin on September 8. For more information on our school, please visit us at facebook.com/BrooklynParkNaturePreschool at: www.brooklynpark.org/nature-preschool or email: Sheri.Gulenchyn@brooklynpark.org

BROOKLYN PARK
NATURE
PRESCHOOL



FREE RECREATION
FOR YOUTH AGES 5–18
(5 and under MUST be accompanied by adult)
Includes sports, group games, art, science, literacy, water days, special guests and more!

STAY CONNECTED
to the Zanewood Facebook page for updates or cancellations:
<https://www.facebook.com/Zanewood.Rec.Center>

CHECK FACEBOOK FOR STARTING DATES!

PARK AND APARTMENT LOCATIONS

MONDAYS AND TUESDAYS	
Edinbrook Park	10 – 11:30AM
Park Haven Apartments	10 – 11:30AM
Jewel Park (near River Park)	12 – 1:30 PM
Autumn Ridge Apartments	12 – 1:30 PM
Hartkopf Park	2 – 3:30 PM
Eden Park Apartments	2 – 3:30 PM
WEDNESDAYS AND THURSDAYS	
Trinity Gardens Park	10 – 11:30AM
Plaza Park (85th & W Broadway)	10 – 11:30AM
Central Park	12 – 1:30 PM
Kensington Apartments	12 – 1:30 PM
Oak Grove Park	2 – 3:30 PM
Willows Apartments	2 – 3:30 PM

Free meals or snacks for youth under 18
Watch the website for starting dates
www.brooklynpark.org/RecGo



Brooklyn Park
Recreation & Parks

Explore Parks & Trails!

Now is a great time to explore the great trail system in Brooklyn Park that links in with the Three Rivers Park District regional trails: West Mississippi River Regional Trail, Shingle Creek Regional Trail and Rush Creek Regional Trail. Here are links to some trails maps:

Click below for the Brooklyn Park Trail Map:

<https://www.brooklynpark.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/2020-Parks-and-Trails-Map.pdf>

Click below for the Three Rivers Trail Maps:

<https://www.threeriversparks.org/locations>

FACEBOOK POSTINGS

The following events are currently scheduled!

- May 1 — History of May Day baskets and how to make one
- May 4 — Questions and answers about Brooklyn Park trails
- May 5 — A healthy recipe celebrating Cinco de Mayo
- May 6 — LEGO art activity; Preschool video
- May 7 — Share your favorite Brooklyn Park program memory
- May 8 — What are you streaming? – drop in a GIF or picture
- May 11—Did you know this about Brooklyn Park...?
- May 12—How are you staying busy? – drop a GIF or picture
- May 13—Preschool video – you'll love to see what we're doing!
- May 14—Video someone walking, biking, etc. on the BP trails
- May 15—BP Got Talent! - Show your secret/not-so-secret talent!

[Click here to follow us on Facebook](#)

Activities

Recreation and Parks staff planning programs for later this summer



At-Home Resources — *click below for information and activities!*

[Brooklyn Park](#) Link to lots of activities while at home
[MN Field Trip Library](#) Some of MN's best destinations
[Hennepin County Library](#) At home services
[Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging](#) Services for older adults during COVID-19

[Better Business Bureau](#) Don't panic, be safe, avoid scams
[National Parks Service](#) Virtual tour of our National Parks
[Health, Physical Activity and Disability](#) At home exercises
[NASA](#) Fun engagement for kids at home
[Alzheimer's Association](#) Support and online programs

Click on the icons below to connect with us!



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brooklynpark.org/subscribe



nextdoor.com



Tales from Tim's Recycling Bin

Free recycling containers for events

by Tim Pratt

As we try to get back to as normal as possible following the Covid-19 outbreak, I'm busy planning my son's confirmation party. Menu – check. Decorations – check. Guest list (limit ten) - check. There's one more thing I'm making sure is on my "To Do" list: Reserve recycling and organics containers from the city.

With a get together, we'll be generating more recycling than we would fit in our household containers. That's why Brooklyn Park is now offering free rental of event recycling containers.

The containers are metal frames that hold either a bag for bottles and cans recycling or a compostable bag for

organics recycling. And we provide the bags. They fold down flat so they are easy to transport and set up.

You'll want to have signs directing your guests to the appropriate container. That's especially important if you're collecting organics since this is a new concept to many of us.

Empty your bottles and cans into your recycling cart when the event is over. Never put plastic bags in your cart. If you have organics service with your garbage hauler – follow their guidelines. Otherwise bring bags of organics to the Hennepin County Drop-Off Facility. They take extra recycling there too.

Reserve your containers at www.brooklynpark.org/eventrecycling

Until next time set up your event recycling containers my friends.

Tim Pratt, Recycling Manager
Operations and Maintenance

2019 Annual Water Report is available!

Repeated testing of Brooklyn Park's water supply shows our tap water is safe to drink and meets state and national standards.

If you'd like to know more, the latest Water Quality Report is now available on our website. You may also request a hard copy by mail.

Please call 763-493-8008 or e-mail jon.watson@brooklynpark.org

[Click here to view the Water Quality Report online.](#)



Your Brooklyn Park City Council

Please visit our [website for information](#) regarding City Council meetings and contact information for City Council members.

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