

Park Pages

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COVID-19 saliva testing site

In October, the state opened its first Twin Cities metro semi-permanent site for COVID-19 PCR saliva testing in Brooklyn Park. This site will give Minnesotans an additional barrier-free COVID testing option.

The Brooklyn Park site will be open seven days a week. Monday through Friday; noon to 7 pm; Saturday and Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm. While it is open to walk-ins, people are encouraged to make an appointment if they're able, to prevent crowding and long lines.

The testing site is one of what will be up to 10 semi-permanent sites across the state. **They are open to all Minnesotans who believe they need a COVID test.**

The Brooklyn Park site is meant to serve as a regional hub, offering easy access to Minnesotans.

Test at Home

At-home COVID-19 saliva testing is also available for Minnesota residents at no cost.

[Learn more about testing at home >](#)

- To get tested, you can either make an appointment or walk in. Don't eat, drink, chew, or smoke anything for at least 30 minutes before giving a sample.
- This test is free whether you have insurance or do not. You will be asked for an insurance card. If you have insurance, please provide your information – but do not worry, you will not receive a bill. If you do not have insurance, it's okay – the test is free.
- You will not be asked for any identification. You do need to have an email address and phone number to receive your result – even if the phone number is a trusted friend or family member.
- Site officials will be asking for your address, but for contact tracing reporting only.

**Brooklyn Park
Starlite Center
8085 Brooklyn Blvd**



Health and Safety

Health on the Go!

Health on the Go is a collaborative project between the cities of Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, Hennepin County Public Health and Community Health Workers. Together they have designed mobile units for each city that will travel throughout Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center to bring access to health services to our community during COVID-19. Health on the Go will bring health resources to where residents live and worship.

Our shared mission is to deploy resources to those most impacted by COVID-19. If we are successful, we will seek to expand to address health disparities; like access to healthy foods. This project is coordinated by the Brooklyn Bridge Alliance for Youth, funded by Hennepin County Public Health Services, federal COVID relief funds allocated to city government and services will be provided by community health workers from Brooklyn Center Health Resource Center, ACER and Hennepin County Public Health.

Beginning in December or January, services will focus on COVID-19 testing, information and prevention supplies, flu shots and mental healthcare resources. Hennepin County Public Health staff, and community

health workers will be inside the unit and on-site to help people with services.

Health on the Go is not an emergency room, and it shouldn't replace a clinic visit. During our pilot year we will learn from residents what their healthcare needs are and expand resources to meet these needs. Through partnerships we will expand services to address social determinants of health such as applying for medical insurance, housing and employment.

"It's a simple idea...take existing health resources to people. This approach reduces barriers to getting the health resources families need to survive this difficult time, and is a new way for our city and county government to respond creatively to community needs."

- Rebecca Gilgen, Executive Director Brooklyn Bridge Alliance for Youth



MASK UP, MINNESOTA

STAY SAFE MN

mn MINNESOTA mn.gov/covid19



Health and Safety

Stay safe! Dial back your activities.

On November 18, Governor Tim Walz signed a new Executive Order dialing back several activities through Friday, December 18 including activities at entertainment venues, gyms, and in-person dining. Social gathering is also prohibited with those outside your household, including planned, spontaneous, public or private events.

You are strongly encouraged to postpone all celebrations, events, receptions and parties including social gatherings for weddings and funerals.

Traveling out of state is also discouraged due to the high rates of infection in surrounding areas. If you travel out of state for any reason, please self-quarantine when you return.

[Click here to read the full Executive Order >](#)

Improve your home's airflow

Good ventilation is important for reducing the spread of COVID-19. This means that gathering indoors is riskier than outdoors. If you do need to be indoors, here are some tips that can help circulate fresh air and provide better ventilation:

- Open windows and doors when weather allows. The more people, the greater need for fresh air.
- Meet in rooms with high ceilings and a large volume of air (recommended 50 square feet of floor space per person).
- Open doors to nearby rooms and hallways
- Turn your home's furnace fan to "always on" two hours before and after visiting.



Please remember to also follow other safety measures as usual, such as wearing masks, staying 6 feet apart, washing your hands often and keeping interactions short.

For more information on airflow, visit the Minnesota Department of Health website.

Police Reform: Enhancing Community Policing

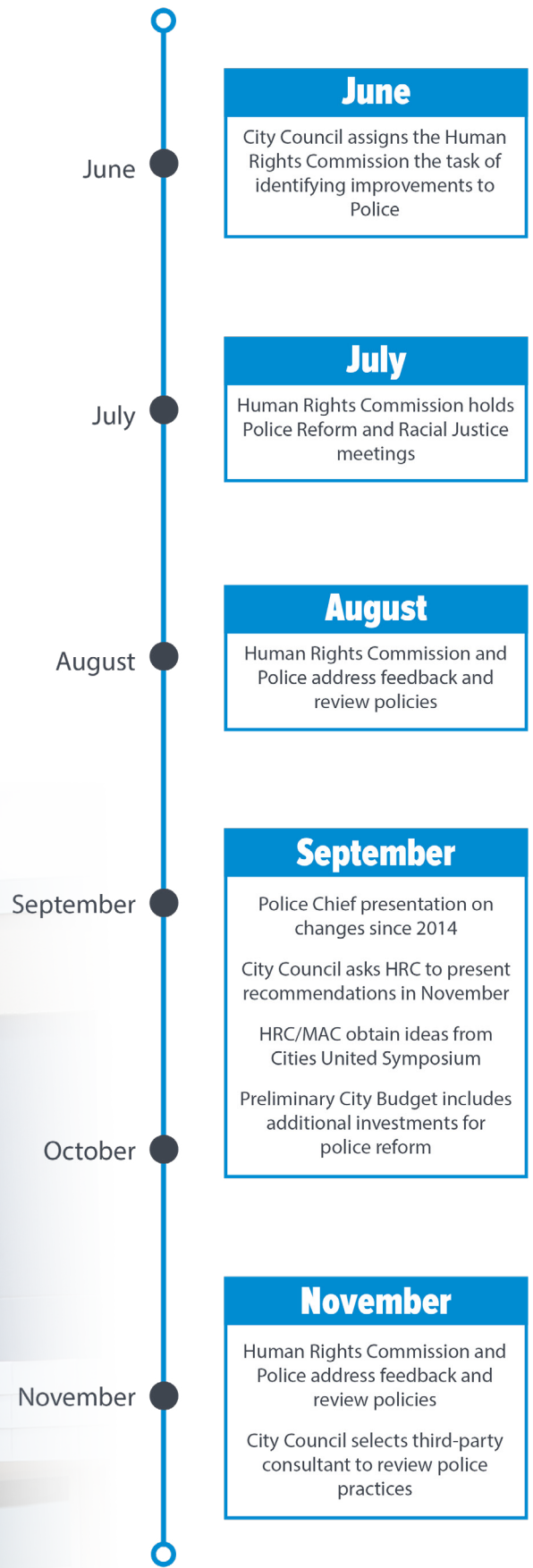
Police Reform: Enhancing Community Policing

Across the country, we are seeing communities reviewing policies and procedures of police departments to determine whether there are changes or improvements to how we do policing.

Brooklyn Park Police Department (BPPD) is a national leader in community policing. With a community that transformed quickly to having 1 in 5 residents foreign-born and one of the most culturally diverse communities in the Midwest, policing evolved. BPPD is constantly reviewing policies proactively to ensure that our police can continue to protect all lives.

After the tragic death of George Floyd, the City Council in partnership with the Human Rights Commission (HRC) reached out to the community to listen to feedback about police reform and racial justice. You can see the latest information on this work and what's next in the process by heading to our website:

www.brooklynpark.org/police-reform



Recreation and Parks

Making a difference

A supportive adult can have a powerful impact on a young person's academic and personal success. In spite of this potential impact, many youth do not have a mentor. Big Brothers Big Sisters is partnering with the Cities of Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center to provide mentoring for youth being served through the **Cities United Cohort Project**. This initiative will serve boys/young men of color, ages 14–21, who have experienced adversity. To learn more, please visit: www.brooklynpark.org/cities-united

To volunteer, please contact:

Antonio Smith, Youth Services Liaison and City Lead, Cities United / My Brother's Keeper, City of Brooklyn Park, at 763-498-1799. Email antonio.smith@brooklynpark.org or Rob Lyons, Big Brothers Big Sisters, at rl Lyons@bigstvincities.org

Edinburgh USA — holiday gift ideas

Players Cards

The popular Edinburgh USA Players Cards make the perfect gifts for your favorite golfers — and they go on sale starting December 9.

A \$59 purchase from the Golf Shop will give your lucky recipient over \$500 in golf services and benefits at Edinburgh USA, Brookland Golf Park and in The Brooklyn Restaurant!



Holiday gift cards

From Friday, November 27 through December 23, you can purchase \$100 in gift cards and get \$125! Purchase [online](#) or in the Golf Shop during the Winter Golf Shop hours.

Winter Golf Shop hours

Edinburgh USA will be open for golf sales and holiday shopping, Monday – Friday, 10 AM – 5 PM and Saturday – Sunday, 11 AM – 5 PM, December 9 – 23.

What's the INSIDE scoop?

Summer 2020 challenged Brooklyn Park's Recreation and Parks team to provide creative alternatives to indoor programming. They rose to the occasion with many successful new concepts like Neighborhood Recreation, parking lot Bingo, drive in movies and more...thanks to the great outdoors. Now that Winter is upon us, the challenges are renewed to provide safe options for recreation programming — indoors. Due to changing Safe MN Guidelines, please view current offerings at: www.brooklynpark.org/recreation

Brooklyn Park Sports Dome **CLOSED**

Family fun, pickup soccer, walking on the track and more can be done during our open dome time on Friday evenings, from 5:30–7:00 PM, for \$3 per person. You can also rent space in the dome, visit www.brooklynpark.org/dome.

Brooklyn Park Community Activity Center (Ice Arena)

- **Senior Fitness** offered virtually (*Reminder! Renew in Jan.*)
- **Indoor walking track** is currently closed due to EO 20-99

Brooklyn Park Recreation and Parks, Customer Service hours for in-person and over phone 763-493-8333:
Monday – Friday, 8 AM – 8 PM and Saturday, 8 AM–1 PM

Zanewood Recreation Center

Zanewood Recreation Center is a place where youth and teens can use their creative talents and learn new skills. Get all the details at: www.brooklynpark.org/zanewood-3
Family Open gym is cancelled due to EO 20-99.

*They want to be open for you

Having indoor facilities in our city that we can enjoy year round is a privilege for which we need to be diligent. In order for the Recreation and Parks team to keep the doors open for us, here's what we all need to do:

1. **Maintain social distancing**
2. **Wear masks**
3. **Follow the participation guidelines**

To learn more about the guidelines or Recreation and Parks programs, visit: www.brooklynpark.org/recreation.

Recreation and Parks

Three ways to get your GetUp&Go

Recreation and Parks continues to offer many great programs and events in the **GetUp&Go!**

There are 3 ways to get your GetUp&Go

1. Online at www.brooklynpark.org/recreation
2. In-person at the Community Activity Center, 5600 85th Ave. N., Brooklyn Park
3. Over the phone by calling 763-493-8333 (a copy will be mailed by request)



Upcoming Community Events

2020 CELEBRATE BROOKLYN PARK

All events will follow current Stay Safe MN and Minnesota Department of Health gathering guidance. Please respect social distancing of at least 6 feet between family groups. Masks are required at all inside and outdoor events. Please take the at-home [Health Screening](#) before attending any event and use restrooms at home. We kindly ask that pets do not attend events.

DECEMBER LIGHTS TOUR

Submit your address to be part of the **BROOKLYN PARK NIGHT LIGHTS TOUR MAP** by Dec. 1. Lights Tour Maps will be available for pick-up at the Community Activity Center after Dec. 7. [Click here for the form to submit your location!](#)

BROOKLYN PARK HOLIDAY MARKET

Join us for a Holiday Market and celebrate the many talents and cultures of Brooklyn Park. Visit our special Holiday Market webpage and support local vendors. For more information on how to be highlighted as a local vendor on the webpage, email: jake.patton@brooklynpark.org. The online link will be available Dec 5-9 at www.brooklynpark.org/recreation

Painting in the Park

If you enjoy painting or have wanted to learn, now is the time!

Sign up for the classes that interest you; step-by-step instruction and all supplies are provided.

Your instructor will be Wanda with Creative Painting Minnesota.

Click for details and to register: www.brooklynpark.org/registration



MN WINTER SWING (ON 16" x 20" CANVAS)

Adults and Teens (age 12+)

DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE	ACTIVITY #
Tues	Dec 1	6:30-8 PM	\$30/\$36	142002.84

HOMEMADE GIFTS WEEK — December 7-10

[View details in the GetUp&Go, page 21](#)



5 ROUND WOOD ORNAMENTS (3-4"—SEVERAL PATTERNS)

Ages 5+ (bring your child or grandchild)

DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE	ACTIVITY #
Mon	Dec 7	4:30-6 PM	\$19/\$24	142002.90

SNOWMEN PEEKERS (5" x 15" WOOD) Adults (age 18+)

DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE	ACTIVITY #
Tues	Dec 8	6:30-8:30 pm	\$34/\$40	142002.87

FLAG PAINTING (9 1/2" x 15" WOOD) Adults & Teens (age 12+)

DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE	ACTIVITY #
Wed	Dec 9	6:30-8 PM	\$34/\$40	142002.88

SPREAD THE LOVE (9 1/2" x 15" WOOD) Adults & Teens (age 12+)

DAY	DATE	TIME	FEE	ACTIVITY #
Thurs	Dec 10	6:30-8 PM	\$34/\$40	142002.89

Join a City Commission!



Speak out on the issues - be a part of city government!

Do you want to serve in Brooklyn Park's city leadership? Do you wish you had more to say about the way Brooklyn Park is run? Why not do something about it and volunteer on a city commission?

The City is in its annual recruitment process to fill upcoming openings on its commissions. You do not need to be a U.S. citizen to serve on the commissions (except for the Charter Commission).

No experience is necessary—only your commitment to building a strong, vibrant Brooklyn Park. Applications for the annual recruitment will be accepted from Brooklyn Park residents through January 31, 2021.

Fill out your application now to serve on the following:

- Budget Advisory Commission (BAC)
- Community Long-range Improvement Commission (CLIC)
- Human Rights Commission (HRC)
- Planning Commission
- 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 are encouraged to visit a meeting before applying.

[Click here to apply online.](#) You can also [download the PDF version](#) of the application, or pick up a paper copy 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.

NEW City Hall Hours



8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Beginning Nov. 16

Highway 169 Interchange Project

Highway 169 Interchange is now open to traffic!

Construction at the Highway 169 and 101st Ave interchange nears completion, City Engineer Jesse Struve gives an overview of the project and how it will benefit future expansion in Brooklyn Park.

The interchange project itself has been in the works for over ten years, with early changes to highway 169 beginning 20 years ago. The improvements have been shown to help alleviate current and future traffic in the area as land develops in Brooklyn Park.

"The first step is to have the infrastructure in place to allow for the development" says Struve, "Otherwise you're not going to get as high of quality or as desirable of development as you want."

These improvements will allow easy access to the highway for businesses and residents, making it a more desirable location. It also includes a trail with plans to connect it to the Three Rivers Park system and West Broadway.



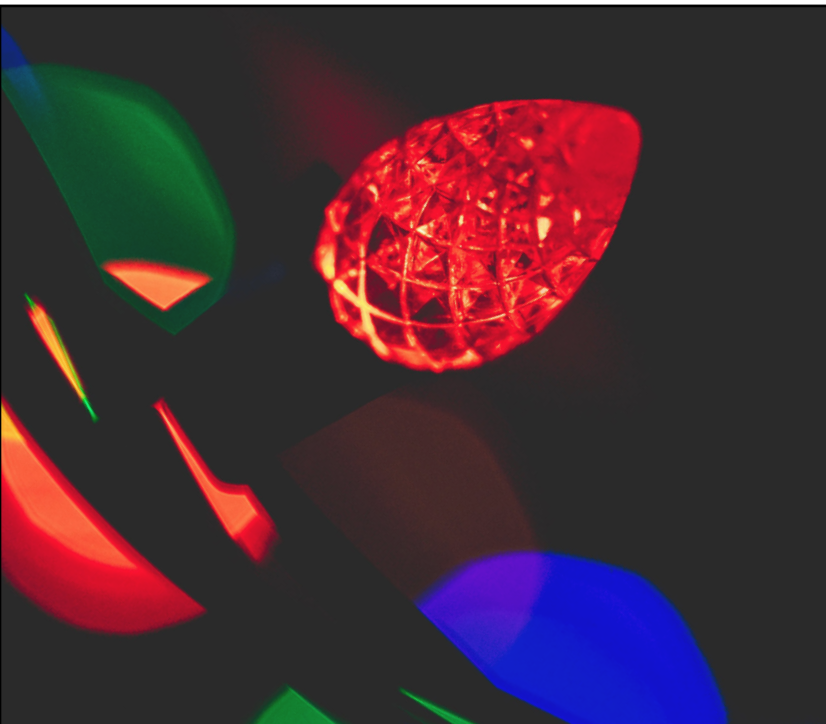
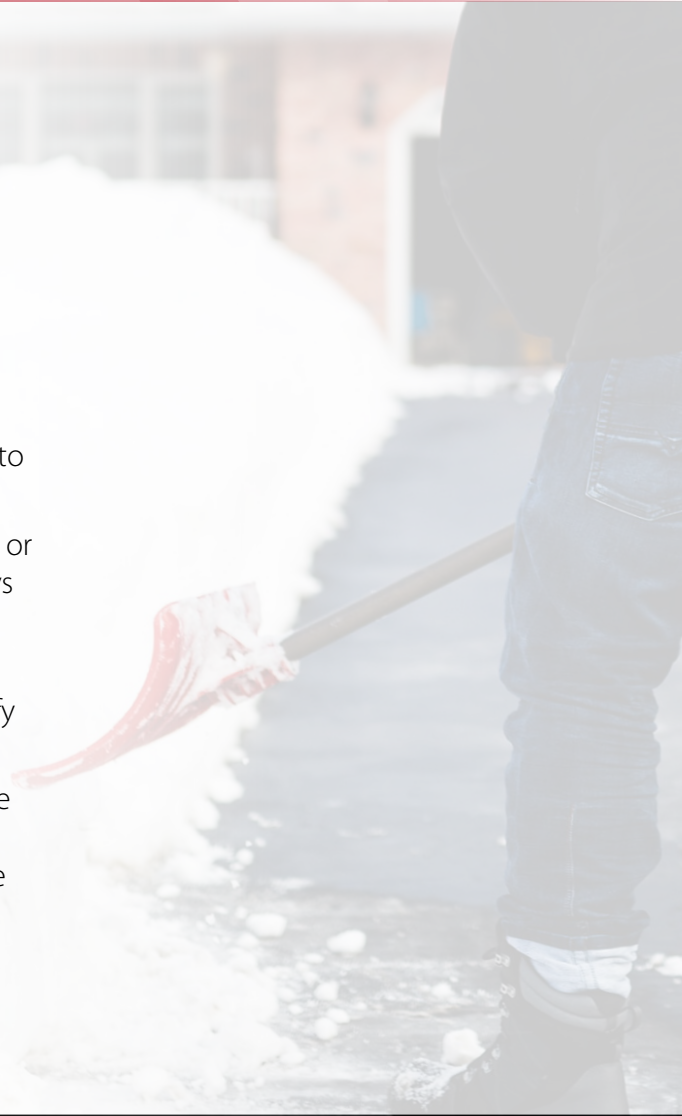
Get Ready for Winter!

Tips for snow removal

Many of us use salt on the ice that builds up our driveways and walkways. But salt doesn't disappear when the snow and ice melts. Instead, salt can wreak havoc as it washes into our ponds, lakes and rivers, and eventually as it seeps into our drinking water supply.

What do you do to limit salt use? We have these simple tips:

1. Set a schedule. During larger snow falls, try to shovel every one to two hours. Not only will it lighten your load, but this will also help to prevent ice from forming under the snow.
2. No Shovel? No Problem. If your snow blower is out of commission or if you don't have a shovel handy, place a plastic tarp over walkways or even your vehicle. When the flurries stop, remove the tarp to reveal a clear path.
3. Use a Leaf Blower. Leaf blowers are perfect for removing light, fluffy snow. Just point and blow the snow away.
4. Build traction. Use sand or even birdseed for traction. Although the grains won't melt the snow or ice, they may provide a better grip on icy surfaces. Kitty litter and ashes are another option but can be messy when the snow begins to melt.
5. Use salt sparingly. One heaping coffee mug of salt is enough to cover 250 feet or roughly two parking spaces.



Recycle your lights!

When you go to put up your holiday lights you might notice a strand or two that no longer work. Don't trash them! Bring your used lights and extension cords to:

Hennepin County Drop-Off Facility
 8100 Jefferson Highway
 Brooklyn Park, MN 55443

Don't put lights in your curbside recycling cart. Strings, chains, hoses, etc. get wrapped around the machinery at the sorting facility damaging equipment and endangering workers.

Be in the Know Before it Snows!



**Sign up for
Snow Emergency
ALERTS!**



**Click
to Sign
up!**

Click on the icons below to connect with us!



Tales from Tim's Recycling Bin



How to be on the Recycling Nice List

by Tim Pratt

Between Thanksgiving and New Year's the amount we trash and recycle goes up by about 25%. Our minds are filled with thoughts of family, friends and food, so we may not be paying as much attention to how to deal with all the extra unwanted stuff. To help I've put together a quick Naughty and Nice list of what should and should not go in your recycling cart.

Until next time, be nice and recycle right!

Nice List (put in your cart)

- Cardboard Boxes
- Plastic bottles, jugs, cups and containers only
- Broth and milk cartons
- Glass bottles and jars

Naughty List (not in your cart)

- Wrapping paper
- Plastic bags
- Styrofoam
- Paper plates/cups

Bring to the Hennepin County Drop-Off Location

- Batteries
- Holiday Lights
- Electronics under 50 lbs.
- Organics

**Hennepin County Drop-Off Facility
8100 Jefferson Highway
Brooklyn Park, MN 55443**



Your Brooklyn Park City Council

Click to [visit our webpage](#) 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