

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING – AGENDA #33

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Para asistencia, 763-424-8000; Yog xav tau kev pab, 763-424-8000.

Our Vision: Brooklyn Park, a thriving community inspiring pride where opportunities exist for all.

Our Brooklyn Park 2025 Goals:

• A united and welcoming community, strengthened by our diversity • Beautiful spaces and quality infrastructure make Brooklyn Park a unique destination • A balanced economic environment that empowers businesses and people to thrive • People of all ages have what they need to feel healthy and safe • Partnerships that increase racial and economic equity empower residents and neighborhoods to prosper • Effective and engaging government recognized as a leader

SWEARING IN CEREMONY – Council Member Elect Tony McGarvey, West District

I. ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. PUBLIC COMMENT AND RESPONSE 6:00 p.m. Provides an opportunity for the public to address the Council on items which are not on the agenda. Public Comment will be limited to 15 minutes (*if no one is in attendance for Public Comment, the regular meeting may begin*), and it may not be used to make personal attacks, to air personality grievances, to make political endorsements or for political campaign purposes. Individuals should limit their comments to three minutes. Council Members will not enter into a dialogue with residents. Questions from the Council will be for clarification only. Public Comment will not be used as a time for problem solving or reacting to the comments made, but rather for hearing the residents for informational purposes only.

2A. RESPONSE TO PRIOR PUBLIC COMMENT

2B. PUBLIC COMMENT

3A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Items specifically identified may be removed from Consent or added elsewhere on the agenda by request of any Council Member.)

3B. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/RECEIPT OF GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS
None.

II. STATUTORY BUSINESS AND/OR POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

4. CONSENT (All items listed under Consent, unless removed from Consent in agenda item 3A, shall be approved by one council motion.) Consent Agenda consists of items delegated to city management or a commission but requires council action by State law, City Charter or city code. These items must conform to a council approved policy, plan, capital improvement project, ordinance or contract. In addition, meeting minutes shall be included.

4.1 Authorize the Acceptance of Donations and Gifts

A. RESOLUTION

4.2 Approve a Fund Transfer for Server and Storage Hosting

A. RESOLUTION

B. LOGIS HOSTING PROPOSAL

4.3 Award Contract for CIP 101023, Firehouse Vehicle Exhaust Removal System and Amend the 2023 Grant Fund Budget

A. RESOLUTION

B. BID TAB

4.4 Award Contract for Playground Replacement Program

A. RESOLUTION

4.5 Appoint a Council Liaison to the Planning Commission

The following items relate to the City Council's long-range policy-making responsibilities and are handled individually for appropriate debate and deliberation. (Those persons wishing to speak to any of the items listed in this section should fill out a speaker's form and give it to the City Clerk. Staff will present each item, following in which audience input is invited. Discussion will then be closed to the public and directed to the council table for action.)

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

6. LAND USE ACTIONS

6.1 Comprehensive Plan Amendment

- A.** RESOLUTION
- B.** DEVELOPMENT MODELS
- C.** ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY
- D.** PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

6.2 Zoning Code Text Amendment: Outdoor Storage and Commercial Accessory Structures Outdoor Storage Zoning Text Amendment

- A.** ORDINANCE
- B.** PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

7. GENERAL ACTION ITEMS

None.

III. DISCUSSION – These items will be discussion items but the City Council may act upon them during the course of the meeting.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

8.1 Age-Friendly Brooklyn Park Update

- A.** SERVING SENIORS IN THE COMMUNITY
- B.** AGE FRIENDLY REPORT

8.2 Discussion on Ordinance Change to Allow for the Keeping of Hen Chickens

- A.** PROPOSED ORDINANCE
- B.** COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN FOR CHICKENS ORDINANCE
- C.** 2021 RESIDENT SURVEY
- D.** 2023 GOV DELIVERY EMAIL
- E.** COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMUNICATION WITH HOA REPRESENTATIVES
- F.** CITY COMPARISON CHART
- G.** 2022 PUBLIC COMMENTS
- H.** PUBLIC COMMENTS TO 2023 GOV DELIVERY EMAIL

8.3 Cannabis and THC Edibles Licensing Discussion

- A.** CANNABIS MEMO
- B.** MAP OF LICENSED THC EDIBLE BUSINESSES
- C.** MAP OF LICENSED TOBACCO AND LIQUOR BUSINESSES
- D.** TOBACCO FREE PARKS RESOLUTION (2011)

8.4 Racial Equity Principles

IV. VERBAL REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

9A. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

9B. CITY MANAGER REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

V. ADJOURNMENT

Since we do not have time to discuss every point presented, it may seem that decisions are preconceived. However, background information is provided for the City Council on each agenda item in advance from city staff and appointed commissions, and decisions are based on this information and past experiences. If you are aware of information that has not been discussed, please raise your hand to be recognized. Please speak from the podium. Comments that are pertinent are appreciated. Items requiring excessive time may be continued to another meeting.

City of Brooklyn Park Request for Council Action

Agenda Item:	4.1	Meeting Date:	August 28, 2023
Agenda Section:	Consent	Originating Department:	Finance
Resolution:	X	Prepared By:	Michael Flaherty, Accountant Analyst
Ordinance:	N/A		
Attachments:	1	Presented By:	LaTonia Green, Finance Director
Item:	Authorize the Acceptance of Donations and Gifts		

City Manager's Proposed Action:

MOTION _____, SECOND _____, TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2023-_____ AUTHORIZING STAFF TO ACCEPT GIFTS OF REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY PURSUANT TO MINNESOTA STATUES, SECTION 465.03.

Overview:

Minnesota Statute 465.03 allows for the acceptance of donations and gifts by resolution of the City Council. Gifts with a value of \$15,000 or less can be included in a report to Council.

Primary Issues/Alternatives to Consider: N/A

Budgetary/Fiscal Issues: N/A

Attachments:

4.1A RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION #2023-

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING STAFF TO ACCEPT GIFTS OF REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY
PURSUANT TO MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 465.03

WHEREAS, the City of Brooklyn Park is generally authorized to accept donations of real and personal property pursuant to Minnesota Statute, Section 465.03; and

WHEREAS, the following entities have offered to contribute gifts/donations as set forth below to the city:

Recipient Department	Donor	Description of Donation	Total
Administration	Hennepin County	750 hand sanitizers	\$ 775
Administration	Red Dot - Period Kit	400 period kits	1,050
Administration	Child & Teen Check ups	1000 metallic straws	550
Administration	The Food Group	Fresh food for food distribution events	3,500
Administration	All Taco restaurant	Prepared food for Health on the Go event	1,500
Administration	Hennepin Health	200 tote bags	300
Administration	Community Engagement Hennepin County	45 books	12
Administration	Three Rivers Park	50 Activity books	14
Administration	Health in her Hue	Pink bags with notepads, stickers, pencils	200
Administration	CLUES	600 Food bags with a variety of food and basic needs	2,500
Administration	University of Minnesota	2000 informational and activity books	950
BrookLynk	BP Rotary Club - Beer Fest	Donation from funds raised at BP Beer Fest	1,000
Community Development	IDT/eoCivix	Brownies	40
Fire	Eldon Tessman	Check	50
Fire	Nystrom, Inc	Check	500
Police	Multiple	Gift cards, toys for Santa Cop	1,989
Police	Darlene Gregornik/Barbara Anderson	Visa Gift Card	50
Police	Hyundai Corporate Office	64 steering wheel locks	1,920
Police	Kia Corporate Office	100 The Club steering wheel locks	2,500
Police	Mary Cameron	40 Beanie Babies	40
Police	3Rs Learning Center	30 small stuffed animals	60
Police	Fleet Farm	45 stuffed animals	225
Police	Luther Brookdale Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram	Check	8,000
Police	Anonymous	Godfather's and Caribou gift certificates	300
Police	Richard Vosika	Check	500
Police	Chick-fil-A	115 packaged meals for Safety Camp	1,004
Police	Walmart	11 packs of Gatorade	125
Police	Kwik Trip	Snacks and beverages for Safety Camp	40
Police	BP Fire Foundation	Reimbursement for Safety Camp supplies	452
Police	Golden Needles	Quilts - 15 full size, 14 child size	800
Police	Lance Berwald	Check	150
Police	Clear Lake Dental	Check	500
Police	BP Crime Prevention Association	Check	64
Recreation & Parks	Collette Guyette-Hempel	Food for Intergenerational chess event	100
Total			\$ 31,760

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Brooklyn Park that staff be authorized to accept the donations.

City of Brooklyn Park Request for Council Action

Agenda Item:	4.2	Meeting Date:	August 28, 2023
Agenda Section:	Consent	Originating Department:	Finance
Resolution:	X	Prepared By:	Keith Ehrlichman, IT Manager
Ordinance:	N/A		
Attachments:	2	Presented By:	Keith Ehrlichman
Item:	Approve a Fund Transfer for Server and Storage Hosting		

City Manager's Proposed Action:

MOTION _____, SECOND _____, TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2023-_____ TO APPROVE A FUND TRANSFER FROM CAPITAL EQUIPMENT TO MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR HOSTING OF THE CITY'S SERVER AND STORAGE EQUIPMENT WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS (LOGIS).

Overview:

The City currently has server and storage equipment housed in the City Hall data center and at the hot site located at Operations and Maintenance Building B. This equipment runs most of the City's primary applications including but not limited to Financials, HR/Payroll, Utility Billing, Permitting, Licensing, Inspections, Police Records Systems and Security Systems. The hot site at Building B is a replicated environment that would provide continuation of services in the event of a failure at City's primary site at City Hall. This equipment is seven years old and has reached the end of its useful life. This project is listed as CEP #6514 in the 2023 CEP and funding for this project was approved on December 12, 2022. However, instead of replacing the server and storage equipment as described in the 2023 CEP, it is the IT Division's recommendation to instead acquire a server and storage hosting service with LOGIS.

LOGIS is a Joint Powers intergovernmental consortium of Minnesota local government units that was founded in 1972. They provide technology services to 60 government agencies and offer solutions ala-carte so agencies can pick and choose solutions that best fits their needs. In December 2020, the City Council approved City membership into the LOGIS consortium. Since becoming a member, the City has acquired numerous LOGIS services which has been a tremendous asset in the delivery of high-quality and cost-effective technology solutions.

The recommendation to acquire the LOGIS hosting service is based on the following:

- Full data redundancy between multiple LOGIS datacenters.
- Service supported by dedicated LOGIS staff that stay current on best practices and certifications.
- LOGIS equipment provided is of a higher-tier than we could purchase on our own due to the bulk purchasing they do as a consortium for 60 cities.
- This is a scalable service that can be easily added to or reduced based on need.
- Elimination of city owned equipment.
- Reduced reliance on Brooklyn Park staff for hardware maintenance and troubleshooting.

Primary Issues/Alternatives to Consider:

Primary alternative option is for the IT Division to purchase new equipment to replace the old equipment. Doing so would result in not obtaining the benefits of the LOGIS service as listed above.

Budgetary/Fiscal Issues:

Staff recommends shifting funding originally allocated for capital expenditures to a maintenance service contract expense and professional services expense.

Recommend reducing 2023 CEP expenditures by \$200,562 for network server and storage equipment replacement, originally approved on December 12, 2022, under project #6514.

Recommend increasing 2023 Budget maintenance service contract expense by \$32,009.60 and professional service expense by \$30,780.00 to acquire LOGIS service to host servers and storage. Acquiring this service will save the City approximately \$6,000 per year.

Changes to the GENERAL LEDGER Budget					
Financing Changes					
Fund	Revenue Classification	Description	Current Budget	Changes	Amended Budget
Information Technology	Use of Fund Balance	Reduce Use of Fund Balance	\$ 687,551.00	\$ (137,772.40)	\$ 549,778.60
					\$ -
		Total	\$ 687,551.00	\$ (137,772.40)	\$ 549,778.60
Spending Changes					
Fund	Expense Classification	Description	Current Budget	Changes	Amended Budget
Information Technology	Capital Outlay	CEP6514-Network Equipment Replacements	\$ 353,000.00	\$ (200,562.00)	\$ 152,438.00
Information Technology	Contractual Services	One time Migration fee	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 30,780.00	\$ 130,780.00
Information Technology	Contractual Services	Pro-rated hosting costs for Sept-Dec	\$ 1,421,703.00	\$ 32,009.60	\$ 1,453,712.60
					\$ -
		Total	\$ 1,874,703.00	\$ (137,772.40)	\$ 1,736,930.60
Changes to the PROJECT Budget					
Financing Changes					
Project Number	Funding Source	Description	Current Budget	Changes	Amended Budget
CEP6514	I.T.S. - Information Technology	Network Equipment Upgrades/Replacements	\$ 321,000.00	\$ (200,562.00)	\$ 120,438.00
					\$ -
		Total	\$ 321,000.00	\$ (200,562.00)	\$ 120,438.00
Spending Changes					
Project Number	Expense Category	Description	Current Budget	Changes	Amended Budget
CEP6514	Capital Equipment	Network Equipment Upgrades/Replacements	\$ 321,000.00	\$ (200,562.00)	\$ 120,438.00
					\$ -
		Total	\$ 321,000.00	\$ (200,562.00)	\$ 120,438.00

Attachments:

- 4.2A RESOLUTION
- 4.2B LOGIS HOSTING PROPOSAL

RESOLUTION #2023-

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A FUND TRANSFER FROM CAPITAL EQUIPMENT TO MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR HOSTING OF THE CITY'S SERVER AND STORAGE EQUIPMENT WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS (LOGIS)

WHEREAS, city owned server and storage equipment is seven years old and has reached the end of its useful life; and

WHEREAS, the City of Brooklyn Park is a member of the LOGIS consortium which offers a server and storage hosting service; and

WHEREAS, funding for server and storage replacements is included in the 2023-2027 Capital Equipment Plan (CEP) project 6514 and the 2023 Adopted Budget which were approved by the Council on December 12, 2022; and

WHEREAS, a reallocation of funding from the Capital Equipment to Maintenance Contracts and Professional Services has been requested, and

WEREAS, the IT Division recommends acquiring the LOGIS server and storage hosting service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Brooklyn Park to approve a fund transfer from Capital Equipment to Maintenance Contracts and Professional Services for hosting of the city's server and storage equipment with Local Government Information Systems (LOGIS).

Changes to the GENERAL LEDGER Budget					
Financing Changes					
Fund	Revenue Classification	Description	Current Budget	Changes	Amended Budget
Information Technology	Use of Fund Balance	Reduce Use of Fund Balance	\$ 687,551.00	\$ (137,772.40)	\$ 549,778.60
					\$ -
		Total	\$ 687,551.00	\$ (137,772.40)	\$ 549,778.60
Spending Changes					
Fund	Expense Classification	Description	Current Budget	Changes	Amended Budget
Information Technology	Capital Outlay	CEP6514-Network Equipment Replacements	\$ 353,000.00	\$ (200,562.00)	\$ 152,438.00
Information Technology	Contractual Services	One time Migration fee	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 30,780.00	\$ 130,780.00
Information Technology	Contractual Services	Pro-rated hosting costs for Sept-Dec	\$ 1,421,703.00	\$ 32,009.60	\$ 1,453,712.60
					\$ -
		Total	\$ 1,874,703.00	\$ (137,772.40)	\$ 1,736,930.60
Changes to the PROJECT Budget					
Financing Changes					
Project Number	Funding Source	Description	Current Budget	Changes	Amended Budget
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					\$ -
		Total	\$ 321,000.00	\$ (200,562.00)	\$ 120,438.00
Spending Changes					
Project Number	Expense Category	Description	Current Budget	Changes	Amended Budget
CEP6514	Capital Equipment	Network Equipment Upgrades/Replacements	\$ 321,000.00	\$ (200,562.00)	\$ 120,438.00
					\$ -
		Total	\$ 321,000.00	\$ (200,562.00)	\$ 120,438.00



Proposal

Date: 8/23/2023
Member: City of Brooklyn Park
Prepared By: Brent Rebischke

Quote for LOGIS Managed Services - Hosted ESXI

Pricing Summary

Total yearly cost for LOGIS Managed Services - Hosted ESXI	\$96,028.80
Total yearly cost for LOGIS Managed Services - Hosted Backups already in place and billed separately	no changes
One-time labor cost to accomplish the project	\$30,780.00

Estimated Yearly Cost for LOGIS Hosted Servers

Quantity	Description	Unit Price	Per Server
4	ESXI Server (dual-socket) (12+ core per socket)	\$4,000.00	\$16,000.00
2048	GB of RAM memory for server	\$6.85	\$14,028.80
24000	Production storage in Gb (replicated)	\$2.10	\$50,400.00
39000	Capacity storage in Gb (replicated)	\$0.40	\$15,600.00
Total yearly cost for server hosting			\$96,028.80

Labor Estimate

Quantity	Description	Unit Price	Per Server
Labor: Architecture / Planning			
60	Solutions Architect: Facilitate assessments/planning/order hardware/pricing/documentation	\$135.00	\$8,100.00
8	Infrastructure: Assesment (ACL's / site-to-site / VLAN and IP / ARP review)	\$135.00	\$1,080.00
16	Infrastructure: Planning (VLAN / IP / migration plan)	\$135.00	\$2,160.00
8	Systems: Assesment (storage / compute / VM version-hardware-misc)	\$135.00	\$1,080.00
16	Systems: Planning (migration plan)	\$135.00	\$2,160.00
Labor: Migration			
16	Systems: Build LOGIS server/storage environment for Member (2-4 ESXI servers with production and capacity storage LUNs)	\$135.00	\$2,160.00
8	Systems: Configure iSCSI WAN presentations to onprem ESXI	\$135.00	\$1,080.00
16	Systems: Migrate VM's and Storage	\$135.00	\$2,160.00
24	Infrastructure: Build VLAN's/L2 links/routes/acls/forklifts/teardown	\$135.00	\$3,240.00
Labor: Misc			
16	Labor: Tear down existing on-prem environment - Member to dispose of equipment	\$135.00	\$2,160.00
0	Labor: Reconfiguration of on-prem ESXI/SAN	\$135.00	\$0.00
40	Labor: Project Management	\$135.00	\$5,400.00
Labor: Specific to Project			
N/A	Any additional work to accomplish a successful POC will not be charged as this is a new service	N/A	N/A
TBD	Assist with rebuild of Tyler servers in Feb-2024	\$135.00	Actual time to be billed

TBD	Assist with rebuild of Alerton-HVAC servers in August-2023	\$135.00	Actual time to be billed
TBD	Assist with rebuild of Milestone Surveillance in August-2023	\$135.00	Actual time to be billed
TBD	Move of 2 Netmotion servers - potential use LOGIS for VPN	\$135.00	Actual time to be billed
TBD	Any specific VM server or application re-ip/re-build/issues	\$135.00	Actual time to be billed
Total one-time cost for migration			\$30,780.00

City of Brooklyn Park Request for Council Action

Agenda Item:	4.3	Meeting Date:	August 28, 2023
Agenda Section:	Consent	Originating Department:	Fire
Resolution:	X	Prepared By:	Shawn Conway, Fire Chief
Ordinance:	N/A		
Attachments:	2	Presented By:	Shawn Conway
Item:	Award Contract for CIP 101023, Firehouse Vehicle Exhaust Removal System and Amend the 2023 Grant Fund Budget		

City Manager's Proposed Action:

MOTION _____, SECOND _____, TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2023-____ TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH TNC INDUSTRIES INC. FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF FIREHOUSE VEHICLE EXHAUST REMOVAL SYSTEM FOR A TOTAL COST OF \$217,972 AND AMEND THE 2023 GRANT FUND FOR THIS CONTRACT.

Overview:

On August 9, 2021, City Council approved accepting a Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) in the amount of \$207,358.18 for the installation of exhaust removal systems at each of the city's four fire houses. The city is responsible for a \$20,735.82 match.

The existing fire houses will be modified to install exhaust removal systems that will connect directly to vehicles that emit diesel exhaust. The contaminants within the exhaust often include carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, sulfur oxide, nitrogen dioxide, nitric oxide, and hydrocarbons (e.g., benzene, ethylene, formaldehyde, acrolein, methane, 1,3-butadiene, and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons, and phenol). Many of these chemicals have been linked with cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and other illnesses. With firefighters' gear racks in the apparatus bays, our turnout gear is constantly saturated with diesel exhaust. These systems are designed to safely remove the diesel exhaust from the structure.

The installation of these systems will have an immediate benefit to the health, safety, and welfare of firefighters, civilian staff, and visitors to the fire houses. Depending on the final short-term and long-range recommendations for fire house renovations and/or reconstruction, most of the components of the systems can be modified and/or reused.

The 2023-2027 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and 2023 Budget included the required matching funds.

This project was advertised in the Sun Post on June 29 & July 6, 2023, as well as posted on the City Website. A Bid opening was held on July 13, 2023 and two bids were received. Rossman Enterprises Inc.; DBA MagneGrip \$203,269; and TNC Industries, Inc. \$217,972. During the review of the bid proposals staff and the City Attorney determined that Rossman Enterprises Inc. was not registered with the Minnesota Secretary of State to conduct business in Minnesota, therefore they made a false statement in their proposal, regarding Minnesota Statute 16C.285 Minnesota Responsible Contractor Law and is not eligible to be a bidder and their bid must be rejected.

Primary Issues/Alternatives to Consider:

Should the Council authorize the award of this contract to the lowest responsible bidder in the amount of \$217,972 to TNC Industries Inc as recommended?

Fire Department staff with consultation from the City Attorney recommend approval of the project and amend the 2023 grant budget for the expenditure.

Budgetary/Fiscal Issues:

The Assistance to Fire Fighters grant awarded and accepted by the City in 2021 will fund the expenditure in the amount of \$207,358.18. The city is required to contribute a match of \$20,735.82. The 2023 grant fund will need to be amended for the \$207,358.18 expenditure and the matching funds have been included 2023 city's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) budget for fire station rehabilitation.

Attachments:

- 4.5A RESOLUTION
- 4.5B BID TAB

RESOLUTION #2023-

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH TNC INDUSTRIES INC. FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF FIREHOUSE VEHICLE EXHAUST REMOVAL SYSTEM FOR A TOTAL COST OF \$217,972 AND AMEND THE 2023 GRANT FUND FOR THIS CONTRACT.

WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program provides federal financial assistance to recognized fire departments to enhance the health, safety, and welfare of firefighters and the community; and

WHEREAS, the city of Brooklyn Park is committed to the health, safety, and welfare of its firefighters, civilian staff, and the general public; and

WHEREAS, the diesel exhaust is known to contain dangerous byproducts such as carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, sulfur oxide, nitrogen dioxide, nitric oxide, and hydrocarbons (e.g., benzene, ethylene, formaldehyde, acrolein, methane, 1,3-butadiene, and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons, and phenol). Many of these chemicals have been linked with cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and other illnesses; and

WHEREAS, the Brooklyn Park Fire Department applied for and received an Assistance to Firefighters grant award in the amount of \$207,358.18 for the purchase and installation of exhaust removal systems in each of the city’s four fire houses which was accepted by the City Council on August 9, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the city of Brooklyn Park is required to contribute a match of \$20,735.82, which is funded through the 2023 Capital Improvement Plan project No. CIP 101023; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 Grant Fund budget will need to be amended by \$207,358.18 for this project; and

WHEREAS, this project was advertised in the Sun Post on June 29 & July 6, 2023, as well as posted on the City Website; and

WHEREAS, a bid opening was held on July 13, 2023 and two bids were received. Rossman Enterprises Inc; DBA MagneGrip \$203,269; and TNC Industries Inc. \$217,972; and

WHEREAS, during the review of the bid proposals staff and the city Attorney determined that Rossman Enterprises Inc. was not registered with the Minnesota Secretary of State to conduct business in Minnesota, therefore they made a false statement in their proposal, regarding Minnesota Statute 16C.285 Minnesota Responsible Contractor Law and is not eligible to be a bidder and their bid must be rejected.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Brooklyn Park, to authorize the purchase and installation of firehouse vehicle exhaust removal system and authorize the Mayor and City Manager to enter into a contract with TNC Industries Inc; the lowest responsible bidder for the project in the amount of \$217,972 and the 2023 grant fund be amended in the amount of \$207,358.18 as follows.

Financing Changes					
Fund	Revenue Classification	Description	Current Budget	Changes	Amended Budget
203	Federal Grants	Federal grant	\$ 1,115,172.00	\$ 207,358.18	\$ 1,322,530.18
			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
					\$ -
					\$ -
					\$ -
		Total	\$ 1,115,172.00	\$ 207,358.18	\$ 1,322,530.18
Spending Changes					
Fund	Expense Classification	Description	Current Budget	Changes	Amended Budget
	Capital Outlay	Building improvements	\$ -	\$ 207,358.18	\$ 207,358.18
			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
					\$ -
					\$ -
		Total	\$ -	\$ 207,358.18	\$ 207,358.18

Bid Tab 2023 Firehouse Vehicle Exhaust Removal System
Project O&M-CB-23-04; CIP 101023
FOR WHICH BIDS WERE OPENED AT BROOKLYN PARK CITY HALL ON:
July 13, 2023; 2:00 P.M.

Contractor	Addendum	5% Security	Responsible Contractor	Lump Sum Bid Amount
TNC Industries	N/A	Yes	YES	\$217,972.00
MagneGrip	N/A	Yes	NO	\$203,269.00

City of Brooklyn Park Request for Council Action

Agenda Item:	4.4	Meeting Date:	August 28, 2023
Agenda Section:	Consent	Originating Department:	Operations and Maintenance, Recreation and Parks
Resolution:	X	Prepared By:	Greg Hoag, Park and Building Maintenance Manager
Ordinance:	N/A		
Attachments:	1	Presented By:	Greg Hoag; Brad Tullberg, Recreation & Parks Director
Item:	Award Contract for Playground Replacement Program		

City Manager's Proposed Action:

MOTION _____, SECOND _____, TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2023-_____ TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH MINNESOTA /WISCONSIN PLAYGROUND FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AT CITY PARK FOR A TOTAL COST OF \$130,000, AND TO DECLARE THE EXISTING PLAYGROUND AS SURPLUS PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO DISPOSE OF THE PLAYGROUND PER THE CITY PURCHASING POLICY.

Overview:

The playground replacement program is part of the 2023-2027 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The 2023 budget included \$130,000. This is an annual project to keep the playground structures compliant with current safety standards.

The playground scheduled for replacement in 2023 is at City Park. The current playground at City Park is 25 years old. Depending upon condition inspection and repair parts availability, playgrounds are typically replaced using a 20 – 25 year replacement cycle.

The total cost for the playground equipment and installation is \$130,000. Minnesota/ Wisconsin Playgrounds is the local representative for Game Time equipment.

The existing playground will be disposed of following the City Purchasing Policy for permitted methods of disposal. It is anticipated that they will either be donated, auctioned, or scrapped and disposed of.

Primary Issues/Alternatives to Consider:

- Should the Council authorize the purchase of new playground equipment for City Park as recommended?

Operations and Maintenance and Recreation and Parks staff recommend approval of the project as presented.

Budgetary/Fiscal Issues:

This project is included in the 2023-2027 CIP as item #2001 and the 2023 budget as New World project #200123; funding source is Heritage Infrastructure Fund \$130,000.

Attachments:

4.4A RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION #2023-

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH MINNESOTA/WISCONSIN PLAYGROUND FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AT CITY PARK FOR A TOTAL COST OF \$130,000, AND TO DECLARE THE EXISTING PLAYGROUNDS AS SURPLUS PROPERTY AND TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO DISPOSE OF THE PLAYGROUNDS PER THE CITY PURCHASING POLICY

WHEREAS, the City has playground structures near the end of their useful life because of new safety standards and irreplaceable parts; and

WHEREAS, the 2023-2027 Capital Improvement Plan project #2001 identifies \$130,000 for playground replacement out of the Heritage Infrastructure Fund in 2023; and

WHEREAS, the playground at City Park has reached the end of its useful life and is in need of replacement; and

WHEREAS, the existing playground at City Park will be disposed of following the City Purchasing Policy for permitted methods of disposal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Brooklyn Park to authorize the purchase and replacement of the playground equipment at City Park and authorize the Mayor and City Manager to enter into a contract with Minnesota/Wisconsin Playgrounds for a cost of \$130,000, and to declare the existing playgrounds as surplus property.

City of Brooklyn Park Request for Council Action

Agenda Item:	4.5	Meeting Date:	August 24, 2023
Agenda Section:	Consent	Originating Department:	Administration
Resolution:	N/A	Prepared By:	Katrina Doshier, Program Assistant
Ordinance:	N/A		
Attachments:	N/A	Presented By:	Mayor Hollies Winston
Item:	Appoint a Council Liaison to the Planning Commission		

City Manager's Proposed Action:

MOTION _____, SECOND _____, TO APPOINT COUNCIL MEMBER TONY MCGARVEY AS THE COUNCIL LIAISON TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2023.

Overview:

Council Member Tony McGarvey will serve as the Council Liaison to the Planning Commission for the remainder of 2023.

Primary Issues/Alternatives to Consider: N/A

Budgetary/Fiscal Issues: N/A

Attachments: N/A

City of Brooklyn Park Request for Council Action

Agenda Item:	6.1	Meeting Date:	August 28, 2023
Agenda Section:	Land Use	Originating Department:	Community Development
Resolution:	X	Prepared By:	Paul Mogush, Planning Director
Ordinance:	N/A		
Attachments:	4	Presented By:	Paul Mogush, Planning Director
Item:	610 Corridor Development Study Comprehensive Plan Amendment – Case #23-112 for a Comprehensive Plan amendment consistent with the goals of Interim Ordinance 2023-1287		

City Manager’s Proposed Action:

MOTION _____, SECOND _____, TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2023-_____ APPROVING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT #23-112 CONSISTENT WITH THE GOALS OF INTERIM ORDINANCE 2023-1287.

Overview:

On March 27, 2023 the Brooklyn Park City Council adopted an interim ordinance (2023-1287) establishing a development moratorium in the northwest portion of the city. The purpose of the moratorium is to conduct a study to consider the types of developments and land uses that would maximize the City’s tax base. On April 10, 2023, the City Council approved a scope of work for the study that includes a focus on the 610-Zane area.

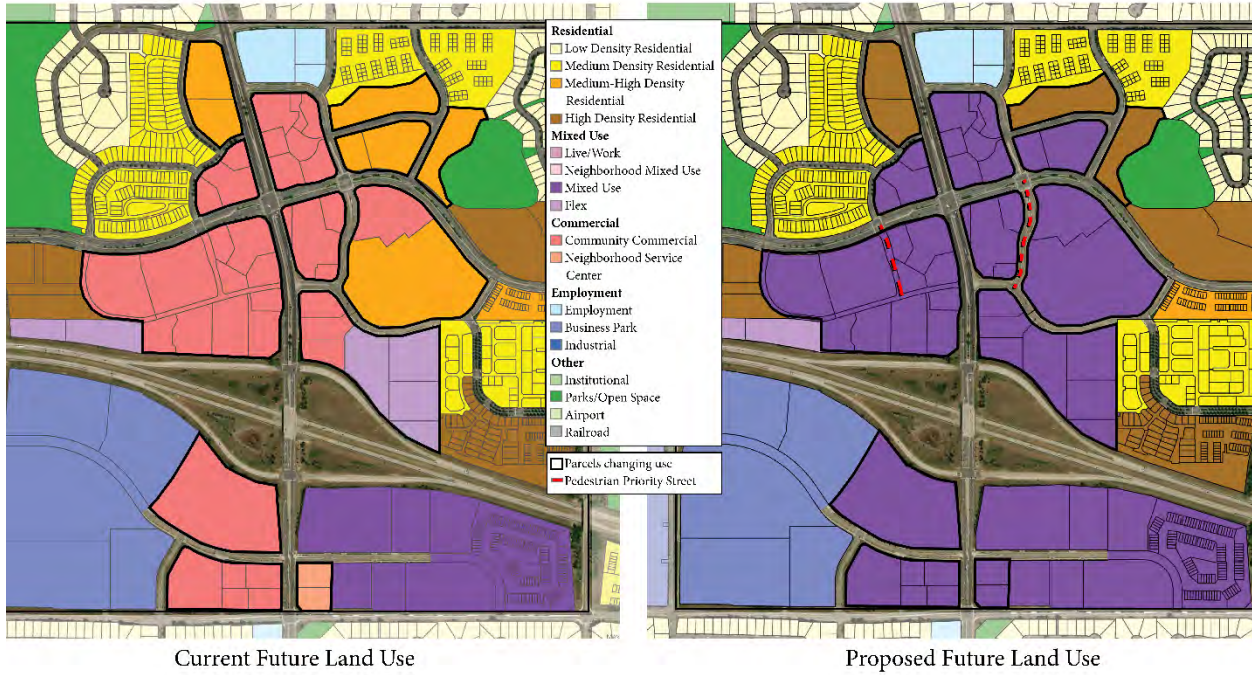
Planning and development consultants NEOO Partners created a series of hypothetical development models using 43 acres of vacant land in the vicinity of Zane Avenue and Oak Grove Parkway to test the viability of various development densities (attached). NEOO and City staff engaged the City Council, Planning Commission, and the Brooklyn Park community on the tradeoffs associated with these models (see attached engagement summary) and found that there is substantial support for guiding the remaining developable land in the 610-Zane area for walkable, high-density, mixed-use development.

An amendment to the Comprehensive Plan is the first step to articulating the development aspirations established by the planning study. This will be followed by a Zoning Code text and map amendment to be brought forward prior to the expiration of the interim ordinance on November 5, 2023.

Neighborhood	Founders and Oak Grove
Site Area	158.89 Acres
Notification	55 Public Hearing Notices mailed

Future Land Use Map Changes

Staff propose to re-guide a substantial portion of the 610-Zane area to the Mixed Use Future Land Use category, along with several changes to the text of the Mixed Use category to meet the development objectives that emerged from the models. The proposed amendment re-guides 51 properties to Mixed Use (MU), and four properties to High Density Residential (H). No changes are proposed to the text of the High Density Residential category. The proposed amendment also includes the addition of a new Future Land Use feature called Pedestrian Priority Street.



Text Changes

The following table outlines six development objectives that emerged from the models. For each objective, the table indicates the current Comprehensive Plan guidance related to the objective followed by the proposed changes to fulfill each objective.

	Objective	Current Mixed Use Guidance	Proposed Mixed Use Guidance
Scale	Allow the scale of buildings necessary to achieve the council’s goal of increasing value	Medium to large scale (without definition)	Maximum 8 stories, (12 stories in LRT Overlay)
	Ensure that individual parcels and the area as a whole are not underdeveloped, which would be counter to the council’s goal of increasing value	None	Establish minimum development intensity standards to ensure efficient use of land (Minimum Floor Area Ratio)
	Allow enough residential density (units/acre) to support the envisioned scale of development	12-50 units per acre	12-100 units per acre
Land Use	Allow a wide range of uses including high-density residential, retail, service, office and restaurants	Medium-high density residential, retail, service, office, restaurants	High-density residential, retail, service, office, restaurants, medical, hospitality, and recreation

Design	Ensure that retail is included along Xylon in the Zane-Oak Grove area and on future walkable streets in other areas where Mixed Use category is applied	None	Require retail along designated Pedestrian Priority Streets (new Comprehensive Plan designation)
	Ensure that new development and street connections support a walkable environment	None	For new buildings, require traditional neighborhood design with buildings close to the street and plenty of windows. For new streets, require a walkable block size and design that promotes pedestrian and bicyclist safety and comfort, including ample sidewalk width, landscaping, and street furniture.

Mixed Use is currently described in the Comprehensive Plan as:

MU	Mixed Use	<p><u>Density:</u> 12-50 units/acre</p> <p><u>Uses:</u> Medium-high-density residential, retail, service, office, restaurants</p> <p><u>Residential Requirement:</u> 30% minimum</p> <p><u>Scale/intensity:</u> medium to large scale and medium to high intensity</p>	<p>The Mixed Use District is largely concentrated around the 169 and 610 corridors and consists of large sites where a mixture of office, commercial, retail and residential uses are appropriate. In these areas, the City encourages both horizontal and vertical mixed use, with residential densities between twelve and 50 units per acre. Housing must be an integral component of the overall development and will encompass at least 30% of the land mass of the district.</p> <p>The mix of uses may be in a common site, development area, or building. Individual developments may consist of a mix of two or more complementary uses that are compatible and connected to the surrounding area. To ensure that the desired mix of uses and connections are achieved, a more detailed small-area plan, master plan, and/or area-specific design principles is required to guide individual developments within the overall mixed-use area.</p>
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Under the proposed text changes, the Mixed Use designation in the Comprehensive Plan will be as follows:

MU	Mixed Use	<p><u>Density:</u> 12-100 units/acre</p> <p><u>Uses:</u> Medium-high-density residential, retail, service, office, restaurants</p> <p><u>Residential Requirement:</u> 30% minimum</p> <p><u>Scale/intensity:</u> Up to 8 stories (12 stories in LRT Overlay)</p>	<p>The Mixed Use District is intended to provide for pedestrian-oriented mixed-use development with a mixture of office, commercial, retail and residential uses. Development in these areas shall follow a traditional neighborhood design where buildings are within a close proximity to the street and pedestrian connections are abundant. The City encourages both horizontal and vertical mixed use, with residential densities between twelve and 100 units per acre. Housing must be an integral component of the overall development and will encompass at least 30% of the land mass of the district.</p> <p>The City will establish minimum development intensity standards to ensure efficient use of land and street design and require block dimension standards to promote walkability. Retail uses are required on</p>
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			<p>properties fronting Pedestrian Priority Streets as designated on the Future Land Use map.</p> <p>The mix of uses may be in a common site, development area, or building. Individual developments may consist of a mix of two or more complementary uses that are compatible and connected to the surrounding area. To ensure that the desired development intensities and connections are achieved, a regulating plan is may be required to guide phased development projects as governed by the Zoning Code.</p>
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A new land use category is also being recommended titled Pedestrian Priority Street. This is a new addition to the Comprehensive Plan, and is described within the Future Land Use District Descriptions as follows:

PPS	Pedestrian Priority Street		<p>Pedestrian Priority Streets are located in areas designated Neighborhood Mixed Use or Mixed Use and serve as the main public focal points of each designated area. Streets must be designed to promote pedestrian and bicyclist safety and comfort, including ample sidewalk width, landscaping, and street furniture. New development is required to include retail fronting Pedestrian Priority Streets.</p>
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Review Criteria

The 2040 Comprehensive Plan includes a list of factors to consider when reviewing a request to amend the plan. The following is a brief analysis of each of those factors:

Land Use Goals and Policy Statements in the Comprehensive Plan

The Future Land Use map in the Comprehensive Plan is designed to make sure that the city can accommodate forecast growth in both population and jobs through 2040. The Metropolitan Council forecasts that Brooklyn Park’s population will be 97,900 people in 2040, an increase of more than 13,000 from the 2020 population of 86,478. Employment is expected to grow by about 16,000 jobs during the same period. The proposed Comprehensive Plan amendment will increase the land available for housing development, and employment opportunities (although housing is the most likely development type in the short term). Staff will work with the Metropolitan Council to review the 2040 projections to determine if this change will substantially impact projected growth.

City policy changes

The proposed Comprehensive Plan amendment is in response to a policy change by the City Council as articulated in the interim ordinance adopted on March 27, 2023. The Council seeks to increase the contribution that new development makes to the city’s tax base through more efficient use of the remaining developable land.

Transportation conditions

Staff has reviewed the development models provided by NEOO and have determined that the current capacity of the roads surrounding the proposed changes are sufficient for the potential densities that would be permissible by this future land use change with minimal updates to current infrastructure.

Changes in the marketplace

The proposed Comprehensive Plan amendment is not in response to changing market conditions. However, it should be noted that raising the bar for the level of development expected in the 610-Zane area may result in a delay in the timing of development until the market is ready to achieve the aspirations of this amendment. There

is also recognition that higher density development often requires structured parking, which can impact the financial feasibility of projects.

Environmental concerns

New development in the area may be subject to environmental review based on the type and intensity of the development, consistent with Minnesota environmental review rules.

Changes in the surrounding neighborhood

The interim ordinance and proposed Comprehensive Plan changes are in response to recent development in the area not contributing enough to the City's tax base.

Next Steps

The attached resolution authorizes staff to submit the Comprehensive Plan amendment to the Metropolitan Council. The Metropolitan Council will review the amendment for consistency with regional plans and vote to approve or deny with 60 days of submittal. Upon approval by the Metropolitan Council, the City is authorized to put the amendment into effect.

Early this Fall, staff will bring forward recommended zoning changes to implement the regulatory details of the Comprehensive Plan amendment in keeping with the six identified development objectives for the 610-Zane area. The interim ordinance will expire on November 5, after which developers and property owners will be able to submit applications for new development to be reviewed under the new Comprehensive Plan guidance and zoning regulations.

Planning Commission

Planning Commission considered this item, and held a public hearing at the August 9, 2023 Regular Meeting. There were no members of the public present for comment. The Planning Commission unanimously (6-0) recommended the approval of this comprehensive plan amendment.

Primary Issues/Alternatives to Consider:

1. Recommend approval of the Comprehensive Plan amendment as presented.
2. Recommend approval of the Comprehensive Plan amendment with modifications.
3. Recommend denial of the Comprehensive Plan amendment based on certain findings.

Budgetary/Fiscal Issues: N/A

Attachments:

- 6.1A RESOLUTION
- 6.1B DEVELOPMENT MODELS
- 6.1C ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY
- 6.1D PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

RESOLUTION #2023-

RESOLUTION APPROVING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT #23-112 CONSISTENT
WITH THE GOALS OF INTERIM ORDINANCE 2023-1287

Planning Commission File #23-112

WHEREAS, the Brooklyn Park City Council adopted Interim Ordinance 2023-1287 and directed staff to conduct a planning study to consider the types of developments and land uses that would maximize the City's tax base; and

WHEREAS, the planning study has identified 55 properties within the boundary of the interim ordinance to be re-guided in a manner consistent with the goal specified in the interim ordinance (Exhibit A); and

WHEREAS, the planning study has identified changes to the text of the Comprehensive Plan to meet the goal specified in the interim ordinance (Exhibit B); and

WHEREAS, the proposed change is consistent with the land use goals and policy statements of the Comprehensive Plan and is consistent with the Brooklyn Park 2025 goals; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendment is consistent with the regional development framework.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Brooklyn Park, the Comprehensive Plan amendment is approved and staff are authorized to work with Metropolitan Council staff to update all necessary forecasts and technical documentation in the Comprehensive Plan and submit a Comprehensive Plan amendment application to the Metropolitan Council.

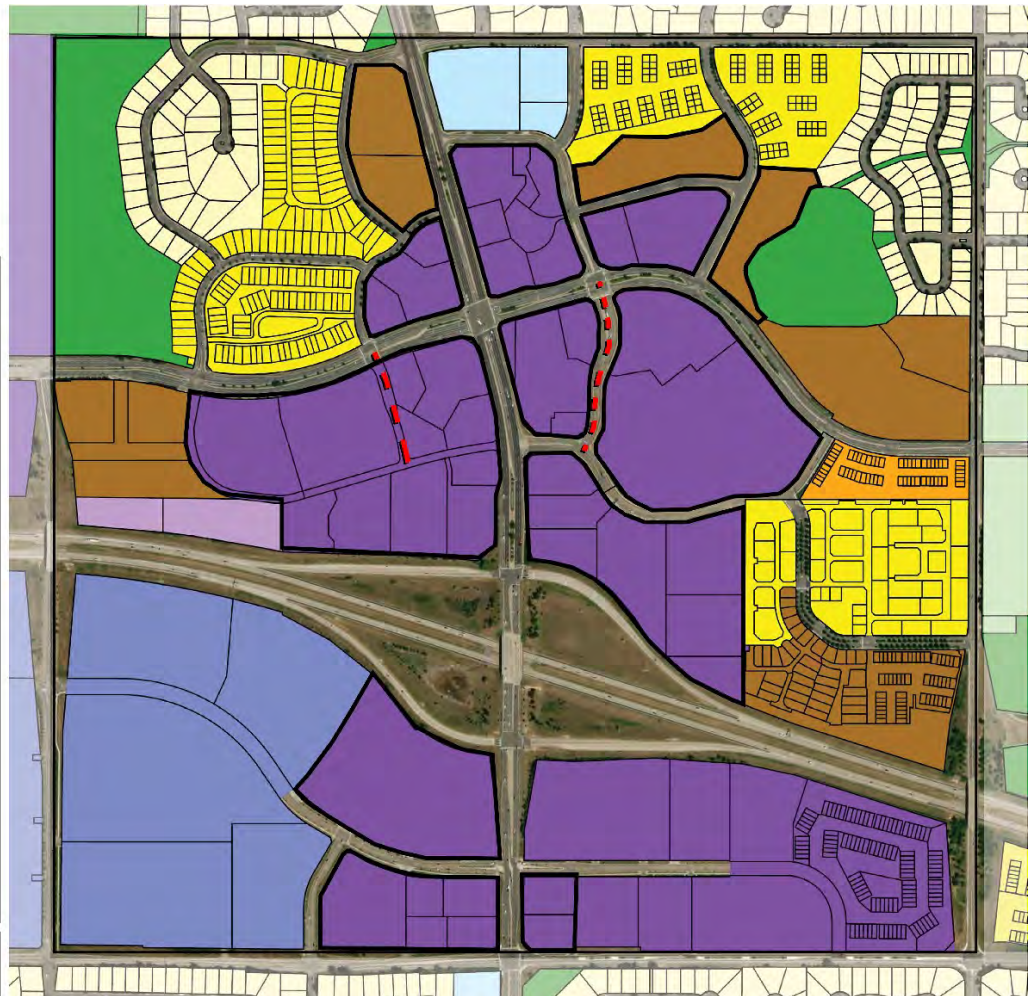
RESOLUTION #2023- _____

EXHIBIT A

Comprehensive Plan Map Amendment

Proposed
Future Land Use

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Residential | |
|  | Low Density Residential |
|  | Medium Density Residential |
|  | Medium-High Density Residential |
|  | High Density Residential |
| Mixed Use | |
|  | Live/Work |
|  | Neighborhood Mixed Use |
|  | Mixed Use |
|  | Flex |
| Commercial | |
|  | Community Commercial |
|  | Neighborhood Service Center |
| Employment | |
|  | Employment |
|  | Business Park |
|  | Industrial |
| Other | |
|  | Institutional |
|  | Parks/Open Space |
|  | Airport |
|  | Railroad |
| Legend | |
|  | Parcels changing use |
|  | Pedestrian Priority Street |



RESOLUTION #2023- _____

EXHIBIT B

Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment

<p>MU</p>	<p>Mixed Use</p>	<p><u>Density</u>: 12-100 units/acre</p> <p><u>Uses</u>: Medium-high-density residential, retail, service, office, restaurants</p> <p><u>Residential Requirement</u>: 30% minimum</p> <p><u>Scale/intensity</u>: Up to 8 stories (12 stories in LRT Overlay)</p>	<p>The Mixed Use District is intended to provide for pedestrian-oriented mixed-use development with a mixture of office, commercial, retail and residential uses. Development in these areas shall follow a traditional neighborhood design where buildings are within a close proximity to the street and pedestrian connections are abundant. The City encourages both horizontal and vertical mixed use, with residential densities between twelve and 100 units per acre. Housing must be an integral component of the overall development and will encompass at least 30% of the land mass of the district.</p> <p>The City will establish minimum development intensity standards to ensure efficient use of land and street design and require block dimension standards to promote walkability. Retail uses are required on properties fronting Pedestrian Priority Streets as designated on the Future Land Use map.</p> <p>The mix of uses may be in a common site, development area, or building. Individual developments may consist of a mix of two or more complementary uses that are compatible and connected to the surrounding area. To ensure that the desired development intensities and connections are achieved, a regulating plan is may be required to guide phased development projects as governed by the Zoning Code.</p>
<p>PPS</p>	<p>Pedestrian Priority Street</p>		<p>Pedestrian Priority Streets are located in areas designated Neighborhood Mixed Use or Mixed Use and serve as the main public focal points of each designated area. Streets must be designed to promote pedestrian and bicyclist safety and comfort, including ample sidewalk width, landscaping, and street furniture. New development is required to include retail fronting Pedestrian Priority Streets.</p>

Model 1: High-Density



- **References:**
Excelsior & Grand
(St. Louis Park);
Alatus Development Site
(Brooklyn Center)
- **Land Uses:** Commercial,
Residential, Parks, Parking

Model 1: High-Density



- **Range of Heights:**
4 - 7 Stories
- **Site Considerations:**
Natural features, adjacent retail and housing, site lines, connectivity

Model 1: High-Density



- **References:**
Excelsior & Grand (St. Louis Park)
Alatus Development Site (Brooklyn Center)
- **Land Uses:** Commercial, Residential, Parks, Parking

- **FAR:** 3.56
- **Range of Height:** 4 - 7 Stories
- **Fit Test:** Natural features, adjacent retail and housing, site lines, connectivity

Model 1.5: Medium-High Density



- **Range of Heights:**
3 -7
- **Site Considerations:**
Natural features, adjacent retail and housing, site lines, connectivity

Model 1.5: Medium-High Density



- **References:**
Edison
Apartments
(City of
Roseville)
- **Land Uses:**
Commercial,
Residential,
Office, Parks,
Parking



Model 1.5: Medium-Density



- **References:**
Excelsior & Grand (St. Louis Park)
Alatus Development Site (Brooklyn Center)
- **Land Uses:** Commercial, Residential, Parks, Parking

- **FAR:** 2.68
- **Range of Heights:** 3 - 7 Stories
- **Site Considerations:** Natural features, adjacent retail and housing, site lines, connectivity

Model 2: Medium-Density



- **References:**
Edison Apartments
(City of Roseville)
- **Land Uses:** Retail
Commercial, Residential,
Office, Parks, Parking

Model 2: Medium-Density



- **Range of Heights:**
1 - 5 Stories
- **Site Considerations:**
Natural features, adjacent retail and housing, site lines, connectivity

Model 2: Medium-Density



- **Reference:** Edison Apartments
- **Land Uses:** Commercial, Residential, Office, Parks, Parking

- **FAR:** 1.56
- **Range of Heights:** 1 - 5 Stories
- **Site Considerations:** Natural features, adjacent retail and housing, site lines, connectivity

Model 3A: Business As Usual

2017 Small Area Plan



- **References:**
City of Brooklyn Park
- **Land Uses:** Residential,
Retail Commercial, Parks

Model 3B: Business As Usual 2040 Comprehensive Plan



- **References:**
City of Brooklyn Park
- **Land Uses:** Residential,
Commercial

Model 3B: Business As Usual 2040 Comprehensive Plan



- **Range of Heights:**
1 - 2 Stories
- **Site Considerations:**
Natural features,
existing retail and
housing forms, site
lines, connectivity

Models 3A & 3B: Business As Usual



- **Reference:** City of Brooklyn Park
- **Land Uses:** Residential, Commercial



- **FAR:** 0.70
- **Range of Heights:** 1- 2 Stories
- **Site Considerations:** Natural features, existing retail and housing forms, site lines, connectivity

Comparing Apples-to-Apples

Feasibility Analysis Summary - July 24, 2023	Model 1	Hybrid Model 1.5	Model 2	Model 3A (2017 Small Area Plan)	Model 3B (2040 Comp. Plan)
Range of Heights	4 - 7 stories	2 - 7 stories	1 - 5 stories	1 - 2 stories	1 - 2 stories
Housing (units)	4,905	3,371	2,020	374	741
Affordable Unit Count	736	506	303	56	111
Housing (SF)	4,494,400	3,087,836	1,850,320	387,468	768,417
Housing %	67%	61%	63%	28%	60%
Retail (SF)	194,023	194,026	143,984	236,300	66,006
Retail %	3%	4%	5%	17%	5%
Office (SF)	0	0	30,085	0	0
Office %	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%
Park/Public Space	91,000	91,000	91,000	159,890	0
Parks %	1%	2%	3%	12%	0%
Total Parking	8,605	7,460	3,706	2,638	2,023
Parking Square Footage	1,936,125	1,678,468	833,850	593,479	455,175
Parking %	29%	33%	28%	43%	35%
Total Development Square Footage	6,715,548	5,051,330	2,949,239	1,377,137	1,289,598
FAR	3.56	2.68	1.56	0.73	0.68
Total Development Model Cost	\$1,734,693,776	\$1,231,700,240	\$654,744,800	\$216,123,087	\$275,167,012
Total Up-Front Affordable Housing Subsidy	\$41,832,291	\$28,703,074	\$17,199,706	\$5,335,620	\$10,581,480
Total Up-Front Public Parking Subsidy	\$81,758,333	\$70,306,905	\$4,632,500	\$0	\$0
Annual Property Tax Revenue (City)	\$9,540,816	\$6,774,351	\$3,601,096	\$1,188,677	\$1,513,419
Value/Acre	\$40,062,212	\$28,445,733	\$15,121,127	\$4,991,295	\$6,354,896

610 Corridor Engagement-Background

NEOO Partners used various methods to engage with decision makers and the public to ensure input on the 610 Corridor in Brooklyn Park. At each engagement event participants were asked about what they wanted to see more or less of in the area and how this development could help Brooklyn Park reach its 2025 goals. Key decision makers in Brooklyn Park provided feedback on three development scenarios (business as usual, medium density development and high density development) and dove deeper into these different scenarios during breakout sessions at the Joint Session of the City Council and Planning Commission. The open house, video, and survey gave the greater Brooklyn Park community an opportunity to give input in person and online. The following report provides a snapshot of the methods of engagement and key themes.

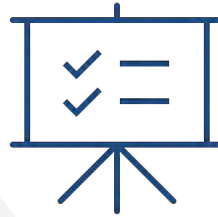


610 Corridor Engagement-Snapshot

NEOO Partners used various methods to engage with decision makers and the public to ensure input on the 610 Corridor in Brooklyn Park.



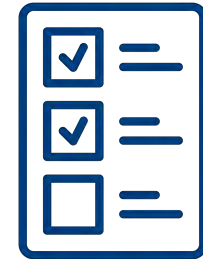
JOINT SESSION
(1 session)



1 OPEN HOUSE
(30 attendees)



1 VIDEO
(500 views)



SURVEY
(259 responses)

610 Corridor Engagement: Joint Session

On June 20, 2023, the City of Brooklyn Park held a joint session of the Planning Commission and City Council.

Key themes:

- Shared desire to move toward the medium and high density development models with more retail amenities
- Keep money within Brooklyn Park and make it a destination for residents, rather than having to go to neighboring developments in places like Arbor Lakes in Maple Grove or West End in St. Louis Park
- Consider the relationship between population density and more amenities
- Actively engage with desired businesses rather than waiting passively for input



610 Corridor Engagement: Joint Session

Concerns/challenges raised with the higher density development models



- Public safety and reputational concerns
- Additional traffic that comes with more housing
- Ability for the City to ensure that the projects developed will be long-term assets (quality of design, construction, and long-term property management)

610 Corridor Engagement: Joint Session

Key wants raised with the higher density development models



- Both alternative development models were economically appealing
- Incorporate hotels, restaurants, medical facilities, and other amenities to attract residents and investment
- Understand impact of high- and medium-density models on the city's population and the goal of closing the tax base gap with other cities
- Need for more housing due to the regional housing shortage
- Engage and communicate with the community, by tying it to the Brooklyn Park 2025 Goals

610 Corridor Public Engagement: Open House

On June 26, 2023 an all day Open House was held at the Brooklyn Park Public Library.

At the open house attendees were presented with an overview of three models: (1) high density (2) medium density, and (3) business as usual.

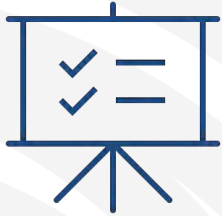


After a Q&A Session, these questions were asked:

1. What does the development area need **more** of?
2. What does the development area need **less** of?
3. Which **connectivity amenities** would you like to see in the area?
4. What **pedestrian amenities** would you like to see in the area?
5. Which elements make you excited about **living in this area**?
6. What activities would you like to **engage in**?
7. How can development help support the City's **2025 Community Goals**?

610 Corridor Public Engagement: Open House

Key themes from the June 26, 2023 Open House



- A desire for destination retail
- Less industrial/warehouse uses
- More housing is needed
- More places for gathering, recreation, trails, scenic views, etc.
- Traffic concerns with so much additional housing

610 Corridor Public Engagement: Video

A short video released on July 5th, 2023 described the three development models and directed the community to fill out a short survey with the same questions from the Open House.



- The video was viewed 500 times
- The City of Brooklyn Park and NEOO Partners promoted the video on their respective social media channels
- [Link to video](#)

610 Corridor Public Engagement: Survey

An online survey opened from July 5 - 14, 2023 asked similar questions to the open house. The survey provided more details on the types of pedestrian amenities and types of connectivity-see Appendix C for full questions and results.

Repondent key themes for amenities and activities :



- Excited by green spaces (66%), retail (61%), and entertainment options (55%)
- Top activities were shopping & dining (84%), nature (63%), and summer recreation (58%)
- Wide sidewalks (82%), pedestrian-priority street crossings,(63%) and dedicated bike lanes (37%) were the top choices for connectivity
- Shading trees and awnings (68%), green spaces and required seating (61%), and resting and seating areas (54%) were the top choices for pedestrian amenities

610 Corridor Public Engagement: Survey

Key themes continued , see Appendix C for full questions and results

Repondent key themes continued :



- MORE retail, public gathering & programming, green spaces, and affordable housing
- LESS housing and office due to traffic and safety concerns
- Public safety concerns associated with higher density rental housing
- Retail with lots of public amenities and sustainability could support the 2025 goals

610 Corridor: Overall Engagement Themes

The following are the common themes from the joint session, open house, and survey

**Destination retail
& entertainment**

**Traffic concerns
tied to additional
multifamily
housing**

**Public safety
concerns with
additional
multifamily
housing**

**Connectivity and
public gathering
spaces &
programming**

**Alleviate property
tax increases**

610 Corridor: Recommendations

Based on the engagement to date (joint session, open house and survey), there is a clear desire for change in Brooklyn Park focused on **destination retail and green and public gathering spaces**.

More housing is needed, and there are strong concerns that commercial scale housing will not increase **public safety**, and will **stress traffic** in the area.

The **survey revealed that less housing and office** was desired in the area, while the medium and high density model incorporate housing to support public amenities, to get the best tax base return, and meet the 2025 City goals.

Overall, there is support for pursuing development that creates new and safe destinations for the community.



Appendix A: 610 Corridor Engagement-Joint Session Detailed Summary



Appendix A: Joint Council Summary Report

On June 20th, 2023, the Brooklyn Park Mayor, City Council, and Planning Commission held a special joint session to discuss the benefits and drawbacks to three development models prepared for the 610 Corridor. NEOO was hired by the City to model different developments that increase tax revenue, minimize property taxes of residents over time and create a new vision for future large scale development in Brooklyn Park. The three models presented included:

- (1) high-density
- (2) medium-density and
- (3) business as usual

After the presentation there was a large group discussion followed by 3 breakout sessions where elected officials and City staff dove deeper into the content.

Joint Session (Council and Commissioners) Key Themes:

- A desire to shift from business as usual to move toward the medium and high density development (models)
- Keep money within Brooklyn Park and make it a destination for residents, rather than having to go to neighboring developments in places like Arbor Lakes in Maple Grove or West End in St. Louis Park
- Consider the relationship between population density and more amenities
- Actively engage with desired businesses rather than waiting passively for input

Breakout session:

Key Concerns

- Capacity of street infrastructure to withstand more housing even if development produces good economic value
- Public safety and reputational concerns
- Need for more housing due to the regional housing shortage
- Ability for the City to ensure that the projects developed will match the density with quality of design, quality of construction, and quality of long-term property management
- Too many one-bedroom units and naturally occurring affordable housing (NOAH)
- Address traffic concerns that come with increased development

Key Wants

- Both alternative development models (high and medium density) were economically appealing
- Incorporate hotels, restaurants, medical facilities, and other amenities to attract residents and investment

- Impact of high- and medium-density models on the city's population and the goal of closing the tax base gap with other cities
- Need for more housing due to the regional housing shortage
- Engage and communicate with the community, by tying it to the Brooklyn Park 2025 Goals
- Create bike and pedestrian-friendly streets
- Minimizing parking while maximizing land use

Overall, there is a strong interest in developing Brooklyn Park as a destination with a focus on retail, amenities, and higher-quality development. Attracting local businesses, retaining local spending, engaging the community, creating a unique identity along with traffic concerns, sustainability, and balancing housing types for the City were recurring themes throughout the feedback and discussions.

Appendix B-610 Corridor Engagement-Open House Detailed Summary



Appendix B: 610 Corridor Open House Summary Report

Background

NEOO hosted an all day (10:00am-7:00pm) in-person open house for the City of Brooklyn Park's 610 Project at the Brooklyn Park Library to provide the public with three different models to consider for the area: (1) high density (2) medium density, and (3) business as usual. Two presentations were held at 12:00 pm and 6:00 pm to review the models in more detail, done intentionally so residents could stop by on their lunch hour, or after the end of the traditional workday. The open house format allowed residents, business owners, and key stakeholders to stop by on their own time around work or personal schedules. Participants were asked to comment on the development area using post-it notes with specific prompts to respond to. The questions were as follows: (1) What does the development area need more of? (2) What does the development area need less of? (3) Which connectivity amenities would you like to see in the development area? (4) Which elements make you excited about living in this development area? (5) What activities would you like to engage in? (6) What pedestrian amenities would you like to see in the development area? (7) How can development help support the City's 2025 Community Goals? City and NEOO staff were present all day to answer questions and provide any clarification.

Key Themes

1. A desire for destination retail
2. Less industrial/warehouse uses
3. More places for gathering, recreation, trails, scenic views, etc.
4. Traffic concerns with so much additional housing

Overall comments

- Property owners expressed concerns about higher property taxes and emphasized the importance of minimizing tax bill increases over time.
- Potential to see more amenities like public gathering, programming, and recreation amenities; like district-wide infrastructure, district heating, cooling, renewable energy, and multi-modal transportation systems with higher density development
- Zoning implications for current property within the area if the higher density development is permitted
- The role of City Council and how decisions will be made regarding the different models presented
- Attendees expressed a desire for aspirational change, specifically keeping in mind the desires of neighboring North Minneapolis families and supporting women entrepreneurs.
- An artist in attendance emphasized the need for consistent standards, such as landscaping, and highlighted existing rules that should be followed for new buildings.
- Concerns were raised from residents about their perception that Brooklyn Park struggles to attract and retain business beyond chain establishments

- Maintenance of city-owned areas, including sidewalks, bushes, and trees, was a concern, and reference was made to a financial model in Maple Grove that ensures proper upkeep

Model 1 and Model 2

- Participants appreciated the idea of open site lines that would facilitate programming and the provision of public and private shared parking. existing ownership balanced with a long term vision and how residents and key stakeholders interests would be addressed
- Balancing the development with the nearby Target station area and determining market demand w
- Parking requirements of two spots per unit of housing.
- Potential connection of the project to the Blue Line Light Rail station area and the Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) principles that will accompany it, was raised, along with the availability of pre-development and development funds through the Met Council.
- Economic environment and decision-making process regarding rental properties versus offices

Post it notes from the boards

*What does the development area need **more of**?*

- Quality committed landscape maintenance
- Cleanliness
- Public park needs to be more visible
- Walkability w/in existing (or new) structures
- Access from point A-B-C, etc.
- More round-about instead of stop lights
- Business opportunities
- Interesting shopping - gift stores, places for people to browse
- Higher business exterior standards
- Model 1 (high density model) takes into account a lot of what BP needs and wants
- Medical Facilities – Existing medical facilities are overwhelmed
- Will water quality improvements result from this development?
- Great walkability setting BP as a destination place for surrounding cities
- Nice affordable housing
- Senior housing
- More accommodation for bikes, scooters, e-bike, outside of shops to encourage less use of cars
- Local and small businesses
- Finer dining or destination dining
- Improvements and updates to the community center to offer and attract more opportunities for diversity → age, appropriate
- We were told the only thing that could be built was senior housing – 101st & Zane - where Schreiber farm is! Senior housing - great. Retail - no!

- More engagement w/ existing residents in the development area
- Nice sit-down restaurants
- More retail, more low/density/townhome living
- Landscaped boulevards and city parks
- Green space
- Shopping, so we don't have to go to surrounding cities
- I would like to see the city move towards model 1 (high density model)
- Destination bars and restaurants
- Destination bars and restaurants

*What does the development area need **less of**?*

- Less fast food and drive-thru food places
- How will this development intensity impact the school districts?
- Euro-centric spaces
- Tip-up warehouses
- Warehouses
- Less warehouses
- Less warehouses

Which connectivity amenities would you like to see in the development area?

- Neighborhood planning committee(s)
- Small business Saturdays: Make it a big deal!
- Want to attract people to BP from around the region
- Many trees and water features
- Movie theater
- How will Highway 252 improvements impact this development? Will it constrain it and become a safety issue?
- Connection to Shingle Creek trail
- More police community outreach
- Kids STEM activity areas
- Trails for walking and biking
- Play theater/musical theater
- Traffic concerns. Right now everywhere in the city is accessible quickly. How do we maintain this?

Which elements make you excited about living in this development area?

- Higher-end living options
- Model 1 or 2 (high and medium density, respectively) – Gives “city living” vibes that’s attractive for businesses and entertainment kind of like Maple Grove
- I want to find activities within the community instead of going somewhere else
- Nice restaurants and shopping

- More restaurants
- Restaurants are very important
- Having spaces where we can walk, shop, eat, have some culture in our own city
- Retail is “awesome”
- Will make Brooklyn Park more desirable
- More development of restaurants in our area vs. fast food drive-thrus
- I second higher-end living options
- Playground and swimming pool

What activities would you like to engage in?

- Retail, especially supporting small business
- Playground for kids
- Kid-friendly safe play spaces
- Want activities within BP rather than having to go downtown Mpls
- Desirable example of development – West End (St. Louis Park)
- Spaces where we can get together as a community and just be with each other
- Splash pad like in Champlin
- Is office and high density residential compatible? How do you get people to stay after work?

What pedestrian amenities would you like to see in the development area?

- Electronic crosswalk signs
- Designated bike paths
- Parking ramps should be surrounded by activities – not isolated
- Zane is a very busy, high traffic road. For walkability to increase, pedestrian bridges would be crucial
- Designated green spaces, trails, walkways
- Places to take walks, w/ water scenery
- Maple Grove parking ramp – good example of what is desired

How can development help support the City's 2025 Community Goals?

- Model 1 (high density) unites community with activities and diverse spaces to gather, beautiful places and thriving economy
- Need to update the community center to attract more activities and diversity → age, gender, race
- Updated community center with facilities for growing families
- How will an increase in population density impact police presence/growth of the department?
- Vote for medium density model, lower stories, reference photos more appealing
- Integrated ethnic groups that generate their culture in business applications
- If we had places and spaces that become destinations, can help BP thrive economically. Need to be purposeful in creating spaces representative of BP's diversity (cultures, SES, ages, etc).

Appendix C: 610 Corridor Engagement-Survey Detailed Summary



Appendix C: 610 Corridor Survey Summary

Background

An online survey, open from July 5th to July 14th 2023, allowed a wider audience (n=259) of Brooklyn Park stakeholders to weigh in on development for the 610 Corridor. The survey asked questions centered on desired amenities, activities and connection to the 2025 Plan. A video promoting the survey provided a visual for what amenities medium and higher density could provide and directed stakeholders to complete the survey. The video and survey were promoted by the City of Brooklyn Park and NEOO Partners.

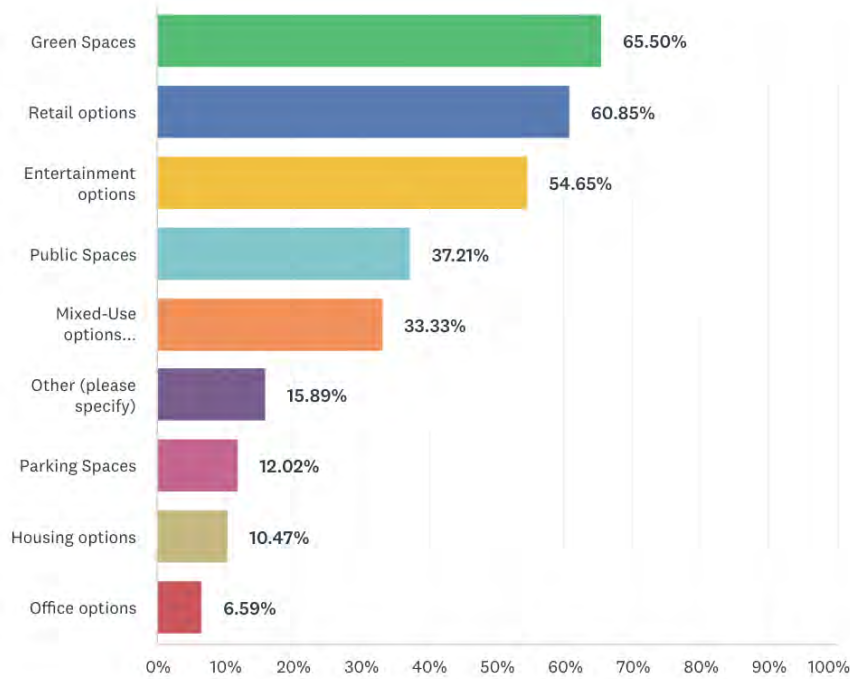
Key Themes

- Excited by green spaces (66%), retail (61%), and entertainment options (55%)
- Top activities were shopping & dining (84%), nature (63%), and summer recreation (58%)
- Wide sidewalks (82%), pedestrian-priority street crossings,(63%) and dedicated bike lanes (37%) were the top choices for connectivity
- Shading trees and awnings (68%), green spaces and required seating (61%), and resting and seating areas (54%) were the top choices for pedestrian amenities
- MORE retail, public gathering & programming, green spaces and affordable housing
- LESS housing and office due to traffic and safety concerns
- Public safety concerns associated with higher density rental housing
- Retail with lots of public amenities and sustainability could support the 2025 Plan

Below are the questions asked along with their results. Respondents were allowed to pick more than one response for each question.

Which elements make you excited about living in this development area?

Answered: 258 Skipped: 1

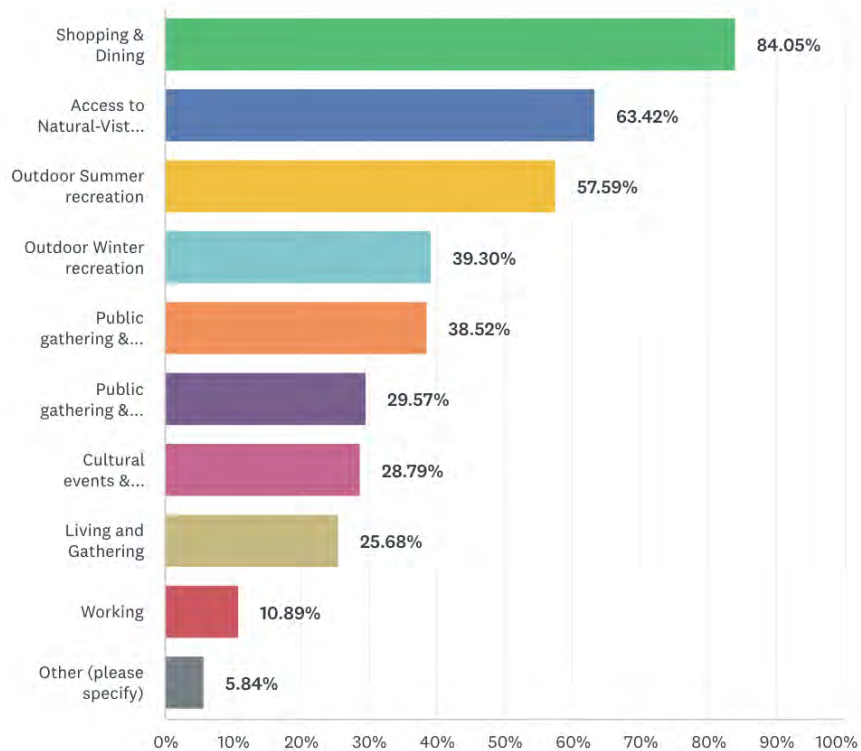


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Green Spaces	65.50% 169
Retail options	60.85% 157
Entertainment options	54.65% 141
Public Spaces	37.21% 96
Mixed-Use options (Housing + Retail)	33.33% 86
Other (please specify)	Responses 15.89% 41
Parking Spaces	12.02% 31
Housing options	10.47% 27
Office options	6.59% 17
Total Respondents: 258	

Of the 258 respondents who answered this question, over 60% are excited about increased green spaces and retail options, and 54% are excited about entertainment options.

What activities would you like to engage in within the development area?

Answered: 257 Skipped: 2

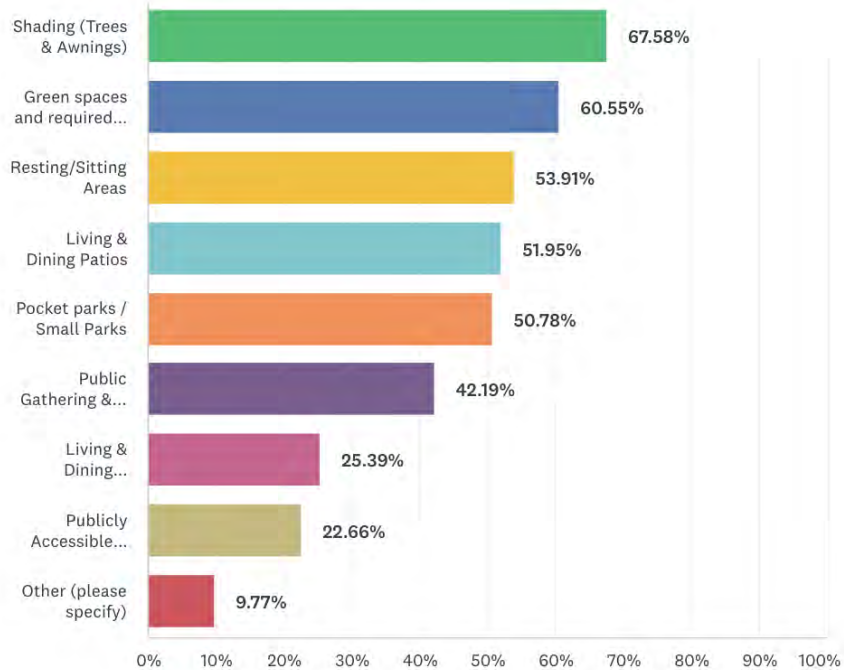


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Shopping & Dining	84.05%	216
▼ Access to Natural-Vistas & Trails	63.42%	163
▼ Outdoor Summer recreation	57.59%	148
▼ Outdoor Winter recreation	39.30%	101
▼ Public gathering & event spaces (outdoor)	38.52%	99
▼ Public gathering & event spaces (indoor)	29.57%	76
▼ Cultural events & programming	28.79%	74
▼ Living and Gathering	25.68%	66
▼ Working	10.89%	28
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses 5.84%	15
Total Respondents: 257		

Of the 257 respondents who answered this question, 84% would engage with shopping and dining experiences, 63% would engage with nature vistas and trails, and 57% would engage with a space that accommodates outdoor summer recreational activities.

What pedestrian amenities would you like to see in the development area?

Answered: 256 Skipped: 3

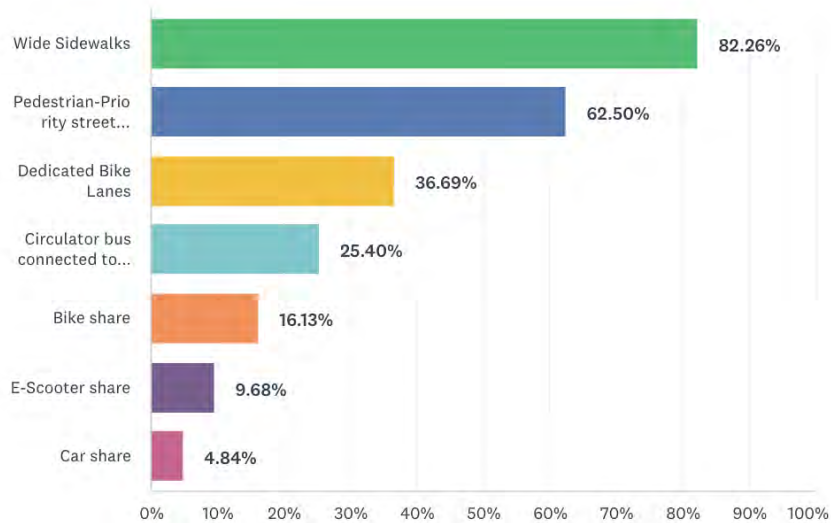


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Shading (Trees & Awnings)	67.58%	173
▼ Green spaces and required landscaping	60.55%	155
▼ Resting/Sitting Areas	53.91%	138
▼ Living & Dining Patios	51.95%	133
▼ Pocket parks / Small Parks	50.78%	130
▼ Public Gathering & Performance Areas	42.19%	108
▼ Living & Dining Balconies	25.39%	65
▼ Publicly Accessible Green Roofs	22.66%	58
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses 9.77%	25
Total Respondents: 256		

Of the 256 respondents who answered this question, 67% would like to see shading (trees and awnings), 60% would like to see green spaces and required landscaping, and 53% would like to see resting/sitting areas as pedestrian amenities. Other responses that received high votes are living and dining patios (51%), pocket parks/small parks (50%), and public gathering and performance areas (42%).

Which connectivity amenities would you like to see in this development area?

Answered: 248 Skipped: 11

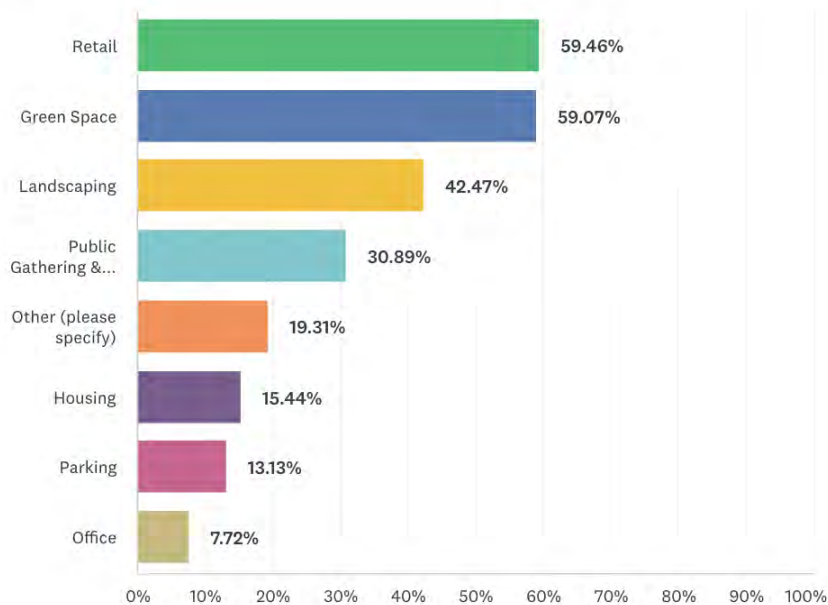


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Wide Sidewalks	82.26% 204
Pedestrian-Priority street crossings	62.50% 155
Dedicated Bike Lanes	36.69% 91
Circulator bus connected to Blue Line station	25.40% 63
Bike share	16.13% 40
E-Scooter share	9.68% 24
Car share	4.84% 12
Total Respondents: 248	

Of the 248 respondents who answered this question, 82% would like to see wide sidewalks, 62% would like to see pedestrian-priority street crossings, and 36% would like to see dedicated bike lanes as connectivity amenities.

What does the development area need MORE of?

Answered: 259 Skipped: 0

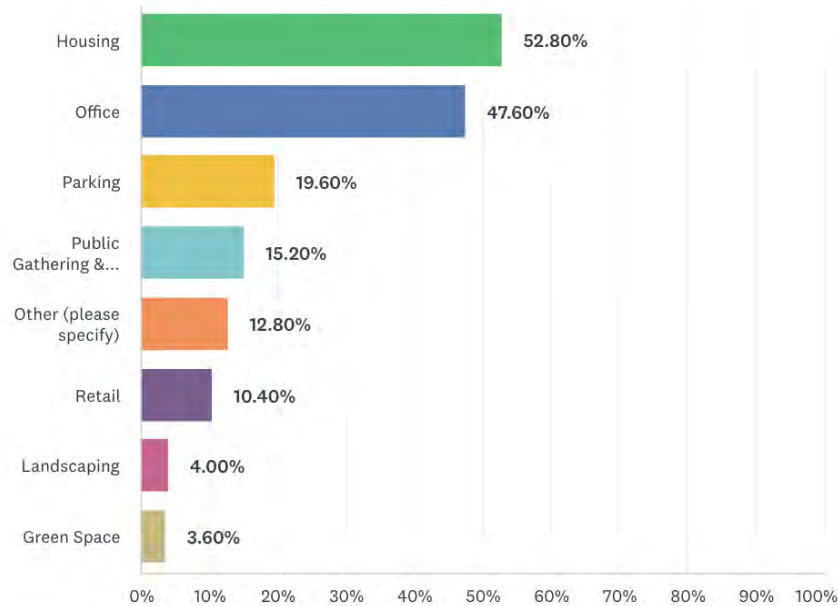


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Retail	59.46%	154
▼ Green Space	59.07%	153
▼ Landscaping	42.47%	110
▼ Public Gathering & Programming Space	30.89%	80
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses 19.31%	50
▼ Housing	15.44%	40
▼ Parking	13.13%	34
▼ Office	7.72%	20
Total Respondents: 259		

Of the 259 respondents who answered this question 59% would like to see more retail, another 59% would like to see more green space, and 42% would like to see more landscaping in this development area.

What does the development area need LESS of?

Answered: 250 Skipped: 9



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Housing	52.80%	132
▼ Office	47.60%	119
▼ Parking	19.60%	49
▼ Public Gathering & Programming Space	15.20%	38
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses 12.80%	32
▼ Retail	10.40%	26
▼ Landscaping	4.00%	10
▼ Green Space	3.60%	9
Total Respondents: 250		

Of the 250 respondents who answered this question, 52% would like to see less housing, 47% would like to see less office, and 19% would like to see less parking in this development area.

The final questions in the survey were opened-ended. Question 7 asked how the development could support the 2025 Plan and question 8 asked respondents to provide any remaining feedback.

City of Brooklyn Park - 610 Corridor Development Survey

Q7 How can development help support the City's 2025 Community Goals?
-A united and welcoming community, strengthened by our diversity-
Beautiful spaces and quality infrastructure make Brooklyn Park a unique
destination-A balanced economic environment that empowers businesses
and people to thrive-People of all ages have what they need to feel healthy
and safe-Partnerships that increase racial and economic equity empower
residents and neighborhoods to prosper-Effective and engaging
government recognized as a leader

Answered: 152 Skipped: 107

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Need Parks and play spaces for all ages. Access to lots of green space. Solar, clean energy, and energy efficiency is a must! Diverse businesses and diverse housing opportunities.	7/14/2023 2:44 PM
2	Brooklyn Park has an abundance of residential properties, but lacks the retail and business (not light industrial) that services the residential and generates taxes.	7/12/2023 9:25 PM
3	Control crime Enforce consequences Local jobs	7/12/2023 5:31 PM
4	Seems the only large gathering space is the community center. There needs to be more than one area so multiple events can take place.	7/12/2023 4:20 PM
5	A strong police department that is proactive in preventing crime in our communities	7/12/2023 1:18 PM
6	Economic equity is increased by giving all an opportunity to advance, based on hard work, not by using taxpayer dollars to fund everything.	7/12/2023 10:07 AM
7	reducing our high property taxes	7/11/2023 8:47 PM
8	retail and restaurants with outdoor seating can bring the community together. places where we can meet.	7/11/2023 8:42 PM
9	Location is wrong. Should have been located in center near Zane and Noble. Very poor planning once again.	7/11/2023 7:57 PM
10	affordable housing, encouraging black/POC-owned businesses in the area, active and healthy residents, healthy but affordable restaurants. Sustainability such as solar panels, etc.	7/11/2023 7:11 PM
11	Future development has to address our current realities that are present such as a need for affordable housing, youth programming and reduction of crime to be successful.	7/11/2023 5:25 AM
12	More retail and high end restaurants, no more townhomes and apartments, no lightrail	7/10/2023 11:31 PM
13	Less retail spaces, look at Maplebagrove and how many store fronts are sitting empty. Please also look at redevelopment of other areas of Brooklyn Park that need an upgrade before adding. The city as a whole needs to present well, not just one area.	7/10/2023 11:38 AM
14	Brooklyn Park has TOO MUCH high density housing. We would like to see more single family homes. Restaurants and retail would bring people from outside BP to our area to dine and shop. We need more upscale housing and dining options.	7/10/2023 11:33 AM
15	Less apartments Enough with diversity crap Nothing that will bring in more trouble	7/10/2023 11:27 AM
16	We had a special place and threw it away. Drove out the animals, tore down trees. Built, built, built. Increases our property taxes	7/10/2023 9:06 AM
17	Strong transportation connections to southern Brooklyn Park to give access to residents in lower income areas Our city needs restaurants and entertainment so residents don't have to go	7/10/2023 8:42 AM

City of Brooklyn Park - 610 Corridor Development Survey

	to Maple Grove	
18	Find some areas for solar panels and public vegetable gardens. Some local bus options would help replace some of the need for cars and get seniors out and about. Right now we are so car focused we are a city of garages with attached bedrooms and not much living because it's not very people friendly. I like the idea of building up instead of the usual suburban giant flat one story boxes taking up space. Also consider natural landscaping instead of all manicured lawns to use less water and no chemicals and more climate friendly.	7/10/2023 12:35 AM
19	Less density	7/9/2023 2:54 PM
20	Building more attractive small city public areas, increased retail (no fast food). A mini Arbor Lakes type retail/entertainment area. No more warehouse looking offices which have deceeded the beauty of Brooklyn park. Places for kids and families to enjoy nature and each other.	7/9/2023 12:16 PM
21	All of the above	7/9/2023 11:12 AM
22	Creating a common space for the community to gather and be proud of. Where you can see and greet your neighbors and meet new members of your city. Generate excitement and programs and events that will bring others outside our city here and want to consider moving to our city as well	7/9/2023 9:00 AM
23	Create a center for the arts in this area and ensure increased police presence in this area to avoid blue line criminal activity.	7/9/2023 8:35 AM
24	We need an area in Brooklyn Park, similar to what they have in Maple Grove. We do all of our shopping there and it would be nice to remain closer to home. The space should include walking paths that connect to the bike trails, small ponds and an outdoor venue for watching concerts.	7/9/2023 7:31 AM
25	Creating beautiful and safe spaces for the community to use and interact in. Particularly safe play areas for children.	7/9/2023 6:55 AM
26	Hold rental properties to a higher standard, hold landlords and tenants accountable for the company they bring to our city. Eliminate panhandlers, clean and maintain all areas of BP not only the higher street numbers near and beyond 610	7/8/2023 9:16 PM
27	-Beautiful spaces and quality infrastructure make Brooklyn Park a unique destination	7/8/2023 3:25 PM
28	All design and implementation needs to focus on a green approach, using purposeful conservation, with safety in mind. Don't create areas for people to live and gather just to do unsafe, unsanitary, and unlawful activities.	7/8/2023 3:18 PM
29	If the goal is to increase the city's tax base while reducing property taxes, it would make sense to me to have more businesses than housing and not giving the businesses huge tax breaks which then results in making up the revenue by keeping property taxes elevated for residents. But Minnesota's anti-business climate is not helping your case.	7/8/2023 12:22 PM
30	Less fast food. Encourage sit down restaurants.	7/8/2023 7:35 AM
31	Beautiful spaces, economic thriving	7/8/2023 7:22 AM
32	Brooklyn Park desperately needs a "main street" area that models after Maple Grove, Edina or St. Louis Park. A mixture of unique retail & diverse restaurants & cafes, along with a green space for kids to play would be perfect and would definitely add curb appeal to Brooklyn Park.	7/7/2023 10:18 PM
33	By creating a contemporary retail and dining area that is pedestrian friendly. This would attract people to spend their money in Brooklyn Park instead of driving over to Maple Grove.	7/7/2023 9:49 PM
34	Not sure the question here.	7/7/2023 9:00 PM
35	Upscale landscaping and water parks	7/7/2023 4:20 PM
36	I see the opportunity for BP to become more of a destination for people to come to. I love the connectivity that could happen with the blue line as well.	7/7/2023 3:30 PM
37	Please include rooftop gardens and LARGE spaces and places for pollinators like monarchs and bumble bees....Brooklyn Park is lacking in ecological soundness already! An ecological educational center would be advantageous. 😊🌿🐞🦋🐝🌻🌼🌸🌹🌺🌻🌼🌸🌹🌺	7/7/2023 2:50 PM
38	3	7/7/2023 1:59 PM

City of Brooklyn Park - 610 Corridor Development Survey

39	It is well known Brooklyn Park's high density development in it's past has been very problematic. Based on that, the use of high density planning here should be used very cautiously. The original zoning for a town center has not panned out. Times changed, but history does not. You have the opportunity and responsibility to create a safe and successful future for our Brooklyn Park. Please be mindful of our past and current problems.	7/7/2023 1:32 PM
40	Make a Brooklyn Park a more economic welcoming destination	7/7/2023 11:35 AM
41	Restaurants and small businesses of culturally diverse groups.	7/7/2023 11:23 AM
42	I'm sorry. I don't know. I am older. I will likely be moving out of this city by the time you get this thing built.	7/7/2023 10:49 AM
43	Brooklyn Park, the 6th largest city in Minnesota has a decided lack of shopping, restaurants, entertainment venues, and areas that might draw in people from outside the city.	7/7/2023 10:48 AM
44	Outdoor spaces like in Champlin and Maple Grove, nice restuarants with patios, more upscale, NO MORE FAST FOOD PLEASE, more bikeable and walkable places.	7/7/2023 10:37 AM
45	A skate board park absolutely meets all of these goals and it would be an excellent/unique/diverse youth program.	7/7/2023 9:47 AM
46	We do not need any more apartments.	7/7/2023 9:46 AM
47	Safe, Family friendly areas for all ages.	7/7/2023 9:22 AM
48	No more large warehouses such as across the street from your residential area of Oxbow Creek. Our neighborhood pays highest property taxes in the city and now we get to have extreme traffic and noise. Terrible planning. Not at all interested in mass transit. It won't be used.	7/7/2023 9:11 AM
49	Police HUB station and increased patrol	7/7/2023 8:51 AM
50	Crime prevention and deterrence. -Beautiful spaces and quality infrastructure make Brooklyn Park a unique destination -A balanced economic environment that empowers businesses and people to thrive -People of all ages have what they need to feel healthy and safe	7/7/2023 8:42 AM
51	Keeping the spaces open and clean. Do not add more apartments. You are going to over populate the area	7/7/2023 8:24 AM
52	Invest in a green space that everyone can use, maintain a safe corridor and make it attractive for businesses to remain in the city.	7/7/2023 7:57 AM
53	Reroute blue online somewhere else. We do not want the problems with crime and loitering that it will bring	7/7/2023 6:52 AM
54	Beautiful	7/7/2023 6:46 AM
55	Needs to reduce the property tax burden on all us residents in BP who have been here for the long term and want to stay.	7/6/2023 11:56 PM
56	Rent control, community solar with community owners or at least not for profit; are there any spaces for healthcare services? Chargers for electric vehicles and bikes? Will it be all electric with heat pumps and electric stoves, etc.?	7/6/2023 10:53 PM
57	All of the above! Would love for Brooklyn Park to have their own "Mainstreet"	7/6/2023 10:44 PM
58	Affordable spaces for small business owners of retail and dining. We've lived in this corridor for 19 years and have always hoped the 610/Zane land would be a place where people can come together. Be it parks, entertainment and sit down dining.	7/6/2023 10:37 PM
59	Help make Brooklyn Park a destination. We're a big city and right now I drive to Maple Grove or Coon Rapids for everything. We need green spaces, entertainment, restaurants, cultural celebrations, outdoor pools and recreation spots for families in our community.	7/6/2023 10:37 PM
60	A place where cars are NOT at the focus of development. The city is slowly becoming too car-centric and wide roadways become too hostile to pedestrians and bycyclists today. Mixed-use development alongside dedicated and buffered/separated bike lanes help bring Brooklyn Park closer. Not only that, we need "modern" and updated parks to provide more to communities. Warehouse space is becoming the norm especially in the northwest region. I understand it can be beneficial but too much of it deteriorates the city's reputation and looks by having sprawling	7/6/2023 9:21 PM

City of Brooklyn Park - 610 Corridor Development Survey

roads/parking lots. Lastly, we also need more sidewalks, space for people, community outreach groups, and transit in our city to meet its goals.

61	Modern, clean, fun spaces to shop, eat, and hang out with a focus on sustainability & culture, along with plenty of parking to support ease of access	7/6/2023 9:20 PM
62	Stop the Blue Rail project until the crime, drug, and public urination/defecation problem on the trains can be solved. Install turnstiles if you go ahead to ensure that it's paid transportation and not a rolling homeless shelter.	7/6/2023 9:09 PM
63	Safety needs to be a priority. Residents come first. Need sit down restaurants with patios. Appropriate lighting with open green spaces	7/6/2023 7:40 PM
64	Why is everything in Brooklyn Park about race?	7/6/2023 6:32 PM
65	All of the above.	7/6/2023 4:42 PM
66	More safe areas. It's getting that you don't feel safe. Get control of crime, make people accountable. I see more low income housing as bring in more crime. You had a comparable option to Brooklyn center. Is all I see is businesses pulling out because of all the unrest and theft. So where are these people coming here. Brooklyn Park is always on the news because of crime.	7/6/2023 4:14 PM
67	We need green space. I live in this area of Brooklyn Park because of the bike trails, the quiet space and low crime area. I don't want to live by retail and crowded, loud areas. We have Arbor Lakes for this, we don't need it here.	7/6/2023 3:47 PM
68	Have affordable rental spaces or kiosks for small business owners and up and coming entrepreneurs and artists to showcase their work.	7/6/2023 3:28 PM
69	None of above. End moratorium Open up	7/6/2023 2:08 PM
70	Sustainability. Both in terms of the infrastructure - that the city can keep in good/clean condition, and in long-term financial viability. It's important to make sure that the plan is not something that in 10 years will result in vacant retail/office space or vacant housing, due to missing the mark on long-term demand for the type of development.	7/6/2023 2:07 PM
71	There has been much attention, new economic equity programs and support brought to the city for racial equity over the last few years which is SO great!! But this does not apply to ALL RACES and this does NOT equal true racial equity. You speak of diversity but many of these programs are for the benefit of one race only. If you truly want racial equity you must include ALL RACES of the economic targets that you are aiming for.	7/6/2023 2:02 PM
72	I think my answers above help. Right now people use 610 to get to Maple Grove faster. Give them something to stop here for.	7/6/2023 1:52 PM
73	Proposed solutions are going to make Brooklyn park look like downtown Minneapolis. A dense urban area. Brooklyn Park will lose its identify as a suburban city. Time to move.	7/6/2023 1:36 PM
74	A balanced economic environment that empowers business and people to thrive. Currently, Brooklyn Park is very limited with the retail opportunities.	7/6/2023 1:27 PM
75	TBH, based on recent shootings, car thefts, and other criminal activity in BP, I'd prefer that there be little-to-no reason for people to visit the north side of the city. It's being proven that bored and unsupervised young adults in BP find crime to be their entertainment. Unfortunately, by providing gathering spaces, retail, and entertainment, we are providing meeting places for large groups of bored "kids" to cause problems. Case in point: River Park, Noble Sports Park, Mama T's, Flava of Soul, etc. As much as I'd love the convenience of retail, restaurants, and green spaces, I'm happy to visit neighboring cities rather than invite more crime to the city's north end.	7/6/2023 12:30 PM
76	Did the video refer to St Louis Park Excelsior area? Have you tried to drive that? It's a headache I try to avoid (if not then never mind)	7/6/2023 11:48 AM
77	My biggest concern about this space is keeping it safe.	7/6/2023 11:34 AM
78	Great goals achieved in part by neighborhood support	7/6/2023 11:16 AM
79	N/A	7/6/2023 10:40 AM
80	-Beautiful spaces and quality infrastructure make Brooklyn Park a unique destination	7/6/2023 10:21 AM

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81	Safe area	7/6/2023 9:49 AM
82	ensure the housing is AFFORDABLE - there is great opportunity to couple any housing developments with the LRT, but only if housing isn't too expensive	7/6/2023 9:45 AM
83	Entertainment, shopping, dining, green spaces, and heavy police/security presence.	7/6/2023 9:15 AM
84	Fewer warehouses and truck traffic through neighborhoods!	7/6/2023 9:05 AM
85	Beautiful space and quality infrastructure	7/6/2023 8:55 AM
86	People of all ages need to feel healthy and Safe	7/6/2023 8:54 AM
87	The retail space needs to be a blend of small business and large business, so that it doesn't become gentrified, but also doesn't go under because the small businesses can't survive. I'm interested in public gatherings and programming space, but I've been worried about the gatherings that turn dangerous. How do we curb that?	7/6/2023 8:39 AM
88	?	7/6/2023 8:28 AM
89	Police and security are not mentioned. BP had a horrible problem with crime and it is not being addressed. I feel like our city welcomes it	7/6/2023 8:24 AM
90	Bringing retail and office to the city without new housing can revitalize our current neighborhoods - raising depressed housing values and encouraging pride in home ownership.	7/6/2023 8:15 AM
91	Safety	7/6/2023 8:11 AM
92	-People of all ages have what they need to feel healthy and safe Safety? We have a chop shop run out of a guy's garage in our neighborhood that is likely also involved in drugs. The parks are regularly overrun by teenagers. Where is the safety? You think increasing the population is going to increase safety? There are already too many people in BP.	7/6/2023 8:04 AM
93	None of those. Less government. Unity, not division/diversity.	7/6/2023 7:39 AM
94	The ideas will be very helpful to these goals, but ideally for Brooklyn Park it should be in the center of the city, think of Brooklyn Blvd or 85th Ave. Not in the more advantaged area. But having it somewhere in the city is better than not having it at all.	7/6/2023 7:17 AM
95	All of the above	7/6/2023 7:08 AM
96	Need more resturant (sit down patio style) options and retail shops. More small flower/plant landscaping pillars/planter boxes along the main streets with small benches to make the area inviting. Less multi-housing development and warehouse buildings.	7/6/2023 7:05 AM
97	A united and diverse community with beautiful spaces that support those in all age ranges.	7/6/2023 6:41 AM
98	The less you invest, the better. Leave the few remaining prairie acres unblemished. Leave the land as a beautiful green space that it already is as buffer from the freeways. Invest in the upkeep of the trails, parks, and connections that already exist.	7/5/2023 11:59 PM
99	Recognize potential problems so we can find solutions.	7/5/2023 11:26 PM
100	Less crowding compression of people	7/5/2023 11:21 PM
101	Reduced high density and warehouse. More dining and recreation space.	7/5/2023 10:57 PM
102	The people of Brooklyn park deserve desirable infrastructure. Developing retail and lifestyle amenities comparable to that of West End/Arbor Lakes disrupts the stigmas that plague the engaged, professional, tax paying residents of NW Brooklyn Park. Give us spaces to be proud of.	7/5/2023 10:13 PM
103	Surveys like this. Brooklyn Park does not have a high end commerce center like Maple Grove or St. Louis Park. We have no identity other than the violence from too many shootings. We have too much affordable housing.	7/5/2023 10:00 PM
104	Agree	7/5/2023 9:45 PM
105	An eye to community, sustainable development, blue line, bike and walking	7/5/2023 9:28 PM
106	None	7/5/2023 9:25 PM

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107	We need more businesses and restaurants that can support our tax base and shift the heavy tax burden that is placed in home owners. We also need more housing for our aging population, single level townhomes and market rate apartments.	7/5/2023 9:01 PM
108	Allow for more gathering and meeting venues. Housing Developments with community pools and community rooms.	7/5/2023 8:08 PM
109	It can provide all the things listed above	7/5/2023 8:04 PM
110	Business incubator and shared work space (library like) with services to support the growth of the start-ups. Maybe people would come from other areas to support a platform that is supporting development and growth of future businesses.	7/5/2023 8:03 PM
111	Access to as many retail and dining options as possible while maintaining safety and security. More business-friendly zoning with appropriate and effective traffic control.	7/5/2023 7:40 PM
112	Well balanced development would make BP a go-to place in NW Hennepin Co. Something we don't have now except for Arbor Lakes in Maple Grove. BUT Arbor Lakes is so busy and traffi. Is awgul so I don't enjoy going there. With development comes more traffic. The police dept. does ZERO traffic enforcement now—I can't imagine what it will be like with more development	7/5/2023 7:31 PM
113	BP needs to keep people in the city. Too many of us leave to shop, dine and recreate. My money is hardly ever spent in the city.	7/5/2023 7:17 PM
114	Beautiful spaces and infrastructure	7/5/2023 7:14 PM
115	Yes	7/5/2023 7:00 PM
116	Get a better police department	7/5/2023 6:56 PM
117	-A united and welcoming community, strengthened by our diversity. How does the city plan to include children and youth living in apartments from 63rd to 85th Ave in these developments? Will there be transportation for families, children, and youth living along the Zane corridor to access these developments? -Beautiful spaces and quality infrastructure make Brooklyn Park a unique destination. Does the city have plans to develop a similar model south of 85th?	7/5/2023 6:42 PM
118	A unique gathering place Brooklyn Park can be proud of.	7/5/2023 6:39 PM
119	The goals should include more single family homes. Brooklyn Park has too many apartments and if you check the police/fire records you will see that 90% of their costs are related to calls from apartments,	7/5/2023 6:39 PM
120	Safe and crime free zone	7/5/2023 6:26 PM
121	Wise thoughtful, human scale development could. I would not call the proposal that. More like a pipe dream that takes a lot of subsidy! And no thought or tie to what is already in the master plans for the LRT station area.	7/5/2023 6:21 PM
122	.	7/5/2023 6:10 PM
123	-People of all ages have what they need to feel healthy and safe -Partnerships that increase racial and economic equity empower residents and neighborhoods to prosper	7/5/2023 5:59 PM
124	Retail and better-than fast food dining.	7/5/2023 5:59 PM
125	Keeping the trees and landscape. No buildings	7/5/2023 5:54 PM
126	Forward-thinking infrastructure,	7/5/2023 5:41 PM
127	We have enough park spaces, entertainment and housing. Business that provide well paying entry level jobs.	7/5/2023 5:41 PM
128	I like the "town centered" High density model that was shown in the video, I think it does well to match the goals.	7/5/2023 5:35 PM
129	I agree	7/5/2023 5:35 PM
130	Gathering spaces with activities summer concert series. We go to smaller cities like Champlin and Anoka because we don't have these here or lack of publicity around events like this.	7/5/2023 5:33 PM
131	By encouraging private enterprise and limiting barriers such as taxes and regulations.	7/5/2023 5:26 PM

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132	Open spaces that are welcoming for people to use. Nature accessible for residents.	7/5/2023 5:23 PM
133	I really liked the first plan with the main street kind of feel.	7/5/2023 5:20 PM
134	Having what people need	7/5/2023 5:19 PM
135	Safety needs to be improved and a priority across the entire city otherwise no one will want to come here with better surrounding area shops/dining/recreational spaces. Maintain all areas of Brooklyn Park better so it doesn't look so run down, dirty, and impoverished. Landscaping in Brooklyn Park is very poor!	7/5/2023 5:19 PM
136	The blue line extension should not be a part of this, as it is not needed. People are not in the office and have no need for this. Fix the bus routes and express lines for those who use it. The timing and amount of money for this line exceeds the needs, current and future, of the residents. I would love to see what possible businesses we can get into these locations, particularly sit down restaurants. Please make sure you are also focusing on the long term residents. Many things focus on the here and now and not always those who plan to use these for the long term and want to remain residents of the city.	7/5/2023 5:16 PM
137	There is nowhere to shop in Brooklyn Park other than grocery stores. Everyone I know goes to Maple Grove to spend their money. We need businesses in Brooklyn Park for our money to be kept here. Example: A Target would be great!	7/5/2023 5:14 PM
138	Beautiful spaces make BP a destination	7/5/2023 5:13 PM
139	A central place to gather, walk, and shop.	7/5/2023 5:11 PM
140	More opportunities for small business + restaurants to thrive inside Brooklyn Park, less chain restaurants + stores or an incentive given to bring local shops + restaurants to the area.	7/5/2023 5:07 PM
141	Higher engagement with local businesses like Target to amplify the capabilities of the new development	7/5/2023 5:06 PM
142	Parks and green space where public can meet and interact	7/5/2023 5:06 PM
143	Safe environment for all	7/5/2023 5:06 PM
144	make it safe for both businesses (restaurants, shopping) areas by attracting medium to high end businesses. No more oil change, gas station, vaping, car washes, convenient stores, fast food chains! Keep to sit down eateries, organic or farmer market groceries, brew pubs/wineries, associated retail shops	7/5/2023 5:05 PM
145	It won't, but it can pretend it does.	7/5/2023 5:04 PM
146	Any developments should be sure to maintain peaceful neighborhoods (for example turn residential streets with houses in them into streets with fast speeds) The residents of Brooklyn park should still be a priority - not the people visiting the city in order to visit the retail spots. Residents of Brooklyn park need to feel healthy and safe by having safe speeds limits out their front doors.	7/5/2023 4:59 PM
147	Public performance and event space could provide opportunity for BP talent to be highlighted. If highlighted in this corridor specifically, could be welcoming to surrounding communities to see what this suburb has to offer, what makes BP unique.	7/5/2023 4:55 PM
148	We need a true downtown and mainstreet to increase racial and economic power. We cannot go mediocre like Brooklyn Center did which has been a disaster.	7/5/2023 4:49 PM
149	Safety should be the number one priority.	7/5/2023 4:46 PM
150	Nice restaurants for all the families and office staffers to gather, soccer fields for youth sports	7/5/2023 4:46 PM
151	People coming together	7/5/2023 4:45 PM
152	We have so many warehouses and so many apartments/senior housing facilities in the area. Please do something different to make our community more livable and so we don't have to go to surrounding communities to shop or for a nice meal.	7/5/2023 4:36 PM

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Q8 What else?

Answered: 119 Skipped: 140

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Really want a lot of green space, parks, tree line boulevards, play grounds, and large common recreation areas for gathering. Important to make this as energy neutral as possible. Mixed use residential/shops. Want it to feel like a walkable "main street." Easy access for walking and biking.	7/14/2023 2:44 PM
2	It would be great if this area became a destination people came to like Central Park in Maple Grove. With the right design I believe that could happen here and then the retail intermixed could be very valuable.	7/14/2023 8:30 AM
3	We have an abundance of residential, and a significant number of light industrial areas. What is lacking is the retail to round out the city. I encourage the city to engage successful retail business owners in other cities to understand what is needed to foster similar business development in BP.	7/12/2023 9:25 PM
4	Restaurant with outdoor seating	7/12/2023 5:44 PM
5	Focused leadership in city hall & police	7/12/2023 5:31 PM
6	NO LARGE PARKING STRUCTURES!!! WE DON'T NEED TO PROVIDE GATHERING SPOTS FOR STREET RACING AHOLERS IN OUR COMMUNITY.	7/12/2023 4:20 PM
7	A place where our new immigrants can learn English and understand our laws. So they can help their children succeed.	7/12/2023 1:18 PM
8	Not sure how many of my friends would ever move to Brooklyn Park after the rash of 'shots fired' in the last few months. The city has a bad reputation with some.	7/12/2023 10:07 AM
9	Thank you for being thoughtful about the limited spaces that are left to develop.	7/11/2023 8:47 PM
10	Don't see this working for this area!	7/11/2023 5:43 PM
11	Security. Crime appears to be getting worse in the next tier of suburbs outside of Minneapolis getting closer to this area. More cameras, more personnel, and other crime deterrents are needed.	7/11/2023 12:16 PM
12	I am disappointed with the multitude of apartment/townhouse/ condo developments in the area already. One after another. Too many people stuck together causes problems. We need more dining, retail and public spaces.	7/11/2023 8:31 AM
13	It sounds exciting and I hope there is thoughtfulness around impact on traffic and community.	7/11/2023 5:25 AM
14	More roadways into the area will be needed if that much housing and retail will be built. 610 is already so backed up that this will make commuting to and from the area really difficult.	7/10/2023 5:55 PM
15	BP needs to be more thoughtful in its traffic control patterns before putting in any additional development	7/10/2023 1:25 PM
16	Living close to this space I am concerned about my property value.	7/10/2023 12:52 PM
17	The crime rate needs to get under control and our law enforcement needs the support of the city to stop crime. Add more police before developing areas	7/10/2023 11:38 AM
18	Brick and mortar are closing in maple grove, why spend the money here to have the same thing, build a nice oak and be done.	7/10/2023 11:27 AM
19	This is an opportunity to create an "identity" for the city. I would like to see more of a small town feel rather than a typical suburban feel.	7/10/2023 10:29 AM
20	Do not make a shopping street with no car access (like Maple Grove's Shoppes at Arbor Lakes). With Minnesota winters, people don't want to do shopping by walking outside from	7/10/2023 8:42 AM

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	store to store. Businesses won't make it.	
21	Always consider green space. People need to connect to nature. And, consider noise levels when bringing in more business Right now the additional cars and trucks make it almost impossible to have windows open or sit on patios. Freeway noise goes up over the noise barriers and into the neighborhoods a few blocks away. And consider the lighting type as well as the direction.Lighting should be directed down. Otherwise in addition to being a waste, it shines into any above retail homes and interferes with sleep as well as disturbing bird flight And glass in the buildings should be bird friendly as well as insulating to be energy efficient.	7/10/2023 12:35 AM
22	We lived in this development 10 yrs ago and moved back last fall. The increase in traffic and accompanying noise from then to now is shocking. Noise abatement from 610 and Oak Grove Pkwy needs to be a priority to make this area livable.	7/9/2023 2:54 PM
23	Be smart with the land to help improve the reputation of Brooklyn Park and to make it a desired location.	7/9/2023 12:16 PM
24	Sounds great	7/9/2023 11:12 AM
25	Please consider less high density housing. In the 15+ years we have lived here it seems as those with the increase in these developments comes an increase in crime and damages the reputation of the city. I would love to see more activities like summer concert series , art fairs, more sit down restaurants, and other amenities that other smaller cities have.	7/9/2023 9:00 AM
26	See answer for 7. Minnesota is rated amongst the worse for crime within the light rail system. At the top of any program, finding ways to avoid this needs to be at the utmost priority.	7/9/2023 8:35 AM
27	Please consider an art center, I think with Brooklyn Park's diversity it would be really cool to see the creativity that comes out of this community! See Bloomington Center for the Arts, Minnetonka Center for the Arts, Edina Art Center, etc. I have many connections in the ceramics community and would happily teach pottery classes too!	7/9/2023 6:55 AM
28	More cameras to address bad behavior sooner. No more unsupervised gatherings by juveniles in parks, harsher penalties for gun charges, hold parents accountable for not supervising their children. Charge parents more severe than juvenile hold them both accountable.	7/8/2023 9:16 PM
29	The area referred to in St. Louis Park is littered with excessive cars and feels claustrophobic. Doesn't seem good to plop that in the middle of this development area.	7/8/2023 3:25 PM
30	Keep an eye on safety and what crowds this space will attract. Building the right type of amenities and spaces will attract more families, folks looking to be active in the area.	7/8/2023 2:24 PM
31	We live less than 0.5 mile from the proposed blue line extension maintenance site by Winnetka and 101st Ave N. We do not want the blue line coming up here and we certainly don't want any more congestion in the area with more housing especially since our local schools are already busting at the seams.	7/8/2023 12:22 PM
32	Although I see the value to bike share & scooter share, from what I've observed working in Mpls is that people are oftentimes careless with where they leave their bikes and scooters. Their etiquette isn't always great either while riding the equipment. I would skip the bike/scooter share and focus on the retail & restaurant spaces.	7/7/2023 10:18 PM
33	Middle income and high end housing options.	7/7/2023 9:49 PM
34	Please, less office and retail space. Take note of what is happening over in Arbor Lakes. Constant turn over and vacancy. People don't shop like that anymore. Would love to see more green space for kids to play outdoors. A public pool would be awesome.	7/7/2023 9:00 PM
35	NA	7/7/2023 3:30 PM
36	One more time....Please include rooftop gardens and LARGE spaces and places for pollinators like monarchs and bumble bees....Brooklyn Park is lacking in ecological soundness already! An ecological educational center would be advantageous. 🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷	7/7/2023 2:50 PM
37	Shopping mall	7/7/2023 11:35 AM
38	Including efficient energy sources is exactly what we need to do bigger and better.	7/7/2023 10:48 AM
39	Add another teen center in the city. The city is so large & diverse it would be nice to have a teen center in the northern part of the city also. Zanewood isn't convenient for us and I don't	7/7/2023 9:22 AM

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feel safe in that area.

40	Please consider high quality dining and entertainment. We have plenty of small "diverse" restaurants and shops in Brooklyn Park. As a BP resident I do all my shopping and dining in Maple Grove. Any plans for an updated Community Center?	7/7/2023 9:11 AM
41	Noise limits. Common respect for all.	7/7/2023 8:51 AM
42	Stop with the apartments. We are already struggling to control crime. I am scared as you continue to add more homes that our city will be the next north minneapolis. Please think of your current residents. We like where we live. All you are currently doing is pushing people to move out of BP.	7/7/2023 8:24 AM
43	We need an area similar to Arbor Lakes and less high density apartments.	7/7/2023 7:57 AM
44	Don't love the idea of tons of apartments. Like walkability and some restaurants. Thanks	7/7/2023 6:46 AM
45	Def don't install gas stoves. Terrible for health, especially for children. The research is now very clear on that. Might as well put gas grills indoor or run your gas car inside. Burning gas inside is not good for health.	7/6/2023 10:53 PM
46	See above	7/6/2023 10:44 PM
47	Multi level housing will create congestion for the area and doesn't lend to the suburban lifestyle.	7/6/2023 10:37 PM
48	A Target store in Brooklyn Park off 610 would be amazing!!	7/6/2023 10:37 PM
49	I hope the city picks the high-density plan as this becomes the "real" downtown of Brooklyn Park. The city lacks a sense of place and an area where people are thriving, walking, shopping, and being together. Mixed-use spaces for offices and retail reduces reliance on automobiles and when you pair that with the METRO Blue Line extension, it's a perfect spell for prosperity. I still have some concerns, the roads in the northwest region (Target, Cub Foods North, Fairview) are overbuilt. The "stroad" needs a road diet and give space to pedestrians + bikers + transit. I hope Brooklyn Park decides to become the next paradise for people, not cars!	7/6/2023 9:21 PM
50	I live nearby and am so excited! We have talked about our hopes for this space since we moved in years ago. We would love more sit-down food options or food hall, nature elements like water features (love a zen vibe), a focus on environmental sustainability (so instead of open lawns maybe bee-friendly landscape gardens), splash pad for kids, climbing gym, shopping options, shaded places to sit, plenty of parking. Thank you!	7/6/2023 9:20 PM
51	?	7/6/2023 9:15 PM
52	I first want to feel safe.I want to go out to nice places in my city. Not have to take all my money to other areas because I have no options except fast food. Every where I go I see warehouse business that don't pay taxes for years. My taxes are high because of it. And the public really doesn't get any benefits from it	7/6/2023 4:14 PM
53	There isn't a need for this.	7/6/2023 3:47 PM
54	Offer classes and activities for all ages to learn about the different cultures represented in the community.	7/6/2023 3:28 PM
55	More ammenaties for elderly and handicapped..	7/6/2023 2:24 PM
56	Open up for all developers..no restrictions	7/6/2023 2:08 PM
57	We all want a city that is happy and economically and medically healthy. Different groups obviously want different things sometimes. But we never run out of things or amenities to offer those with an upper middle income or upper income. We do NOT have nearly as much to offer to residents and families of ALL ages that do not make nearly that amount of money. We have gyms and gym memberships available but no YMCA which benefits people of all ages. We have a wonderful library which benefits ALL people. We have beautiful parks and playgrounds which benefit ALL people. We need more available for activities, entertainment and care for ALL people of ALL incomes and ALL races. There is too much division. You speak of wanting racial equality but this program is for one group or race only, or this activity is for one group or race only ect. We need more activity that brings people of ALL races together. Otherwise your statement of truly wanting racial equity in this city is missing the mark and will continue to	7/6/2023 2:02 PM

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miss that mark. Right now in this city, we have families of many ethnicities living next to each other who have nothing to do with each other due to all of the division that the last few years have brought to our country. I have lived in this city nearly forty years and neighborhoods have never been as divided as most of them are now. You have all of these people and families living in solitary houses and living their solitary lives. There is very little mixing of ethnicities. Many just want to keep living their culture within their house and city but not wanting to be a part of branching out to get to know other people and other cultures. More division here now than I have ever seen or experienced in all of my time in this city.

58	People have been asking for sit down restaurants and retail for years. We're running out of space.	7/6/2023 1:52 PM
59	There is very restricted bus access above 610 right now, and nothing that runs along 610. Easy transportation helps everyone in a community!	7/6/2023 1:27 PM
60	None of these grand ideas will yield the desired results if the blue line light rail extension to Brooklyn Park is ever completed. Light rail is just a haven for criminals.	7/6/2023 12:49 PM
61	Comes down to money. Our taxes are high which I don't understand considering all if the single family developments	7/6/2023 11:16 AM
62	N/A	7/6/2023 10:40 AM
63	We moved into Brooklyn Park because it felt like the suburbs instead Maple Grove which is much more urban and densely populated. This development borders where we live and we don't want our suburban feel to change. Already we see multiple level buildings and it feels confined and urban. We don't like it. We'll move if more dense housing, etc. is put in place.	7/6/2023 10:34 AM
64	Partnerships that increase racial and economic equity empower residents and neighborhoods to prosper	7/6/2023 10:21 AM
65	Get rid of blue line - not safe!	7/6/2023 9:49 AM
66	I'd like a one stop location were you could spend the entire day and get everything done on my to do list. For example services (dry cleaning, salon, chiropractor, etc), shopping, home improvement, dining options, sports(indoor and outdoor), parks, gathering space, bank, grocery store, coffee, movies, bakery, family entertainment center, Costco and or Sam's Club. Lot's of police and/or security presence (cameras and physical security that can be seen patrolling to area. If this were the case it would bring me to that location at least once a week spending my money at multiple stops within that area. I would say to my friends, family, Internet this place is great, so much to do and can get everything I need without having to spend the day driving to the 5 places I need to go that are not all in Brooklyn Park like I do now. Things that would not make me want to step one foot in and despise that area are high density housing, no trees/grass etc, no security, and crime. If this were the case I'd recommend to my family, friends, and social media to stay as far away from this place as possible. Thanks for your time!	7/6/2023 9:15 AM
67	Fewer big box retail hubs.	7/6/2023 9:05 AM
68	I'm excited by these plans and the chance for BP to be a leader in some ways. It's very important we don't divide our city into the "nice developed side by 610 and the 'forgotten' side south of 610." I know this may not be the place for this comment, but I was disappointed to see the dispensary opened by Park Center Senior High on Brooklyn Blvd. We need development on that corner, but are there other ways instead of bringing in vices to our communities?	7/6/2023 8:39 AM
69	Brooklyn Park has no central shopping or eating area. Maple Grove has proved the value of this!	7/6/2023 8:15 AM
70	Safety	7/6/2023 8:11 AM
71	Public subsidies? That just means I'll be paying more property taxes so you can give my money to developers to get rich off building things that aren't needed. Why should I stay in BP? Your assessors LOVE to falsely inflate my housing value so you can take more of my money. Sucks to be me, but great to be you and the developers! What I'd really like to see is a return to the old style of selling the land and letting the developers use their own money to build what they think will work (within the zoning rules). Stop giving my money to consultants for unneeded advice!	7/6/2023 8:04 AM

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72	Stop spending tax dollars.	7/6/2023 7:39 AM
73	Looking forward to a beautiful destination place	7/6/2023 7:08 AM
74	Target is a shell of a facility. Wasted space. It does fill its parking lots with commuters who spend on local dining or its courtyard with happy workers who enjoy the green spaces.... So wait!!!! Don't throw money away attempting to shine a turd.	7/5/2023 11:59 PM
75	Work on communication that is based on facts and have all public comments reviewed for clarity.	7/5/2023 11:26 PM
76	Create a corridor of connected mixed use Micro communities	7/5/2023 11:06 PM
77	Add nicer restaurants like Texas Roadhouse, Craves, Outback, etc.	7/5/2023 10:57 PM
78	I am not sure how this new idea fits in with the previous goal of creating all of the industry business areas. Where exactly are these areas going to go and merge with the rest of the city areas/neighborhoods.	7/5/2023 10:35 PM
79	Thank you	7/5/2023 10:13 PM
80	Stop the shooting violence south of 85th Ave across the city. This must be done otherwise no one will want to come to anything Brooklyn Park has to offer. We have too many affordable housing units. No one wants to say this.	7/5/2023 10:00 PM
81	Focus on quality vs quantity.	7/5/2023 9:45 PM
82	The first option may be expensive but it is by far the best for a growing community	7/5/2023 9:28 PM
83	Splash pad, more kid friendly community spaces,	7/5/2023 9:25 PM
84	Connecting new development with existing housing, retail and public spaces.	7/5/2023 9:08 PM
85	We seem to already have issues keeping our city clean and plowed and roads Maintained. I wish we would fix up what we already have before dumping more money into new buildings and more people.	7/5/2023 8:17 PM
86	Retail and event space. More Patio Dining. Community Center in the Southern part of the city.	7/5/2023 8:08 PM
87	The tonal quality of the video is bright for the first option, less bright for the second option. The second option has "less" ... but it must be relevant, I just didn't get what that was. Also, the comparison of a St Louis Park development to the Brooklyn Center development is fairly stark. Again, a "haves" and "have nots" unbalanced representation.	7/5/2023 8:03 PM
88	Increased visibility to cameras, police presence, and safety. Less large areas for gathering of impromptu groups like street racers and gang-like groups, leading to increased issues with littering, loitering, violence, and interference with residents and their safety.	7/5/2023 7:40 PM
89	In addition to traffic, the Blue Line is going to be an issue. I don't use the LRT because of the crime on the trains and at the stations. The blue line will be no different-bringing problems from Minneapolis to BP. The police dept does zero proactive patrols or traffic and seem to be focused on the south part of the city, where it borders Crystal and Brooklyn Center. The police dept. will need to be visible and proactive for folks to feel safe	7/5/2023 7:31 PM
90	What happened to the indoor aquatic center with lap lanes?????	7/5/2023 7:17 PM
91	Broaden retail and sit down dining. Establish the city as a recreational destination	7/5/2023 7:14 PM
92	Stop all the speeding down Regent next to Central Park.	7/5/2023 6:56 PM
93	It is important to balance the developments in Brooklyn Park not just across 610 to the exclusion of residents living south of 85th. Where are the plans for that part of the city?	7/5/2023 6:42 PM
94	BP deserves a great place for its community to gather.	7/5/2023 6:39 PM
95	The message is: No more apartments. More single family homes. If the area is large enough some basic retail like a grocery store, bank, medical, could be allowed to support the owners of the single family homes.	7/5/2023 6:39 PM
96	Less density. I prefer the trees and fields and no people. Hasn't BP developed enough of its city what's wrong with corn and hay fields?	7/5/2023 6:26 PM

City of Brooklyn Park - 610 Corridor Development Survey

97	Did we not learn from our history (think Zane ave corridor)? Density, soley for the sake of it, is not answer. There was no accommodation for water runoff or additional services that will be needed more pepole means more services. Where the markert info on the market for retail with housing over it. The example used in SLP, is actually a miserable place to visit. This should be more holistic look at the whole city including the area left to develop not just this small area. Public spaces in a dense housing project would be a joke to think others are going to feel comfortable there.	7/5/2023 6:21 PM
98	That's it. More pickleball courts in BP. Have room for 24 people and 40+ show up every day.	7/5/2023 5:59 PM
99	Safe structure dedicated to youth with indoor and outdoor spaces and programs	7/5/2023 5:41 PM
100	Less housing density and parks, more mid level employment opportunities for younger citizens.	7/5/2023 5:41 PM
101	Nothing at this time.	7/5/2023 5:35 PM
102	Really not excited about big buildings, lots of traffic and difficult parking/long walks to where we want to go.	7/5/2023 5:23 PM
103	BP needs something like this.	7/5/2023 5:20 PM
104	Seems like it could turn into a spot for large group dynamics that have not been welcome as of late (ie large group fights at the dam and park and ride)	7/5/2023 5:19 PM
105	Make the city look and feel cared for, safe, updated, and welcoming!	7/5/2023 5:19 PM
106	Would any of this change from the Northtown 2040 plan? How can we plan to keep this different and have the businesses and residents want to keep using these spaces in the future?	7/5/2023 5:16 PM
107	When campaigning a few years ago, one of Mr. Winston's platforms was that businesses in Brooklyn Park are not paying their fair share back to our city. He would change that. Is that happening now?	7/5/2023 5:14 PM
108	Variety of housing, but not sure what is planned for thr housing - apartments, senior housing, co-ops???	7/5/2023 5:11 PM
109	NA	7/5/2023 5:06 PM
110	Safety!!! It's been lacking	7/5/2023 5:06 PM
111	Why not clean up the dump houses in the city before beautifying a different part of it. No one is held accountable for the outside of their homes. It's embarrassing to invite people from outside BP to come over.	7/5/2023 5:04 PM
112	Residents should not be overly taxed for this ... the retail stores should pay for themselves and pay for the project. Make sure to plan for pollinator friendly green spaces	7/5/2023 4:59 PM
113	I thought the high density approach in the video seemed like an amazing opportunity and preparing us for the future. I am a homeowner close to the corridor but would be willing to adapt to more crowding/more traffic etc - in order to have access to that space.	7/5/2023 4:55 PM
114	The city should allow for condo towers above 10 stories. Our development should be on par with Bloomington and not like a declining Brooklyn Center.	7/5/2023 4:49 PM
115	Don't create housing that will create more problems in the city.	7/5/2023 4:46 PM
116	Movie theater, fancy restaurants and casual restaurants	7/5/2023 4:46 PM
117	I personally am against this. We do not need anything more built in Brooklyn Park.	7/5/2023 4:45 PM
118	We need a kids wadding pool or splash pad!!	7/5/2023 4:44 PM
119	No buildings higher than 3 or 4 stories!	7/5/2023 4:36 PM

Associate Planner McDermott replied that the shipping containers would be permitted through outdoor storage, therefore the shipping containers would count towards the allowed outdoor storage for that property. She explained that the size of the property/building dictates that allowed amount of outdoor storage space.

Planning Director Mogush again reiterated that the maximum dimensional standards he read aloud are already included in the ordinance.

Commissioner Wako referenced easements, noting that adjacent businesses sometimes have easements in between. He asked how this would impact those easements.

Associate Planner McDermott replied that if outdoor storage were established over an easement that would be addressed through code enforcement. She commented that they have not run into that issue in the past where someone has attempted to place outdoor storage over an easement.

MOTION FRASER, SECOND TURNER TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 152 OF THE BROOKLYN PARK CODE OF ORDINANCES PERTAINING TO OUTDOOR STORAGE AND ACCESSORY STRUCTURES IN BUSINESS ZONING DISTRICTS.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. 610 Corridor Development Study Comprehensive Plan Amendment – Case #23-112 for a Comprehensive Plan amendment consistent with the goals of Interim Ordinance 2023-1287

Planning Director Mogush stated that there has been quite a bit of discussion on this topic by the Commission, City Council and broader community in the past few months. He provided background on the interim ordinance which placed a moratorium in order to ensure that new development would be done in a manner that increased the value of development and the tax base in order to reduce the property tax burden on residents. He noted that a large portion of that work focused on the 610/Zane area. He stated that the City contracted with a consulting firm to go through a process of testing various hypothetical development models for a portion of that larger 610/Zane area that would achieve the goal to increase the value of development. He provided an example of a model that was considered along with details on the engagement that was conducted. He summarized the recommendations that arose from the engagement noting positive support for creating a walkable, mixed-use environment as well as a desire and need for additional green space, retail, and public gathering spaces. He stated that the next step would be to amend the City's Comprehensive Plan, which will be followed by zoning regulation changes. He stated that after the moratorium expires, they will discuss the level of public investment that will be focused on this area. He compared the current future land use map to the proposed future land use map. He then reviewed the proposal for substantive changes to the mixed-use development related to scale, land use and design. He stated that as currently written the Comprehensive Plan provides review criteria that should be considered when thinking about an amendment, noting that the staff responses are included within the staff report. He reviewed the next steps, following the recommendation of the Planning Commission.

Commission Chair Cavin opened the public hearing.

Seeing no one approach the podium, Commission Chair Cavin closed the public hearing.

Commission Chair Cavin asked if outdoor seating and/or parking would be allowed along the main thoroughfares in the area.

Planning Director Mogush replied that there would be a challenge with an existing large County road such as Zane as that does not currently lend itself towards a walkable environment, which is why the focal point for walkability would be more on Xylon. He commented that they will write the zoning regulations as such to support those elements where appropriate, while also thinking about how development should look from Zane. He noted that it would also be unlikely that the County would allow on-street parking along Zane.

Commission Chair Cavin commented that he believes that this will be enticing to a number of existing property owners. He commented that the residents of Brooklyn Park have committed to work with the Mayor to achieve the goal to ensure the value of development and noted that it would be nice to see something formalized that would agree to give something back to the residents in terms of a lower property tax as that has been stated as the desire.

Commissioner Wako asked the definition of neighborhood mixed use and neighborhood services.

Planning Director Mogush replied that the majority of those properties are designated as community commercial, which only allows commercial uses under the current Comprehensive Plan. He stated that the neighborhood mixed use category found in the legend does not appear in this area and primarily exists in the Village Creek area.

Commissioner Wako commented that most of this corridor is adjacent to residential properties and asked if there has been a survey of those residents related to these changes and the impact that this would have on those residential properties.

Planning Director Mogush confirmed that there were public engagement opportunities through multiple opportunities. He stated that every academic study he has seen has shown no financial impact, or a positive impact, as a result of development. He noted that the overall goal is to ensure the development brings value, and additional properties taxes which will relieve the burden on existing residents.

Commissioner Fraser stated that it is great that they are trying to increase the value of development and ease the burden on taxpayers, but asked if opening this to mixed use would open the City to a surplus of housing. She asked if there is a way to contain the amount of housing.

Planning Director Mogush replied that regional wide it would be a good problem to have if there was a surplus of housing as this area is tens of thousands of units short in terms of meeting the demand for housing as the population continues to increase. He stated that if that day were to come that the demand for housing decreased, that would be the type of market shift that would trigger a review of the Comprehensive Plan.

Commissioner Yu asked when they would have a clear definition of the mixed use on the City website.

Planning Director Mogush replied that within the staff report there is a table that shows the definition found within the Comprehensive Plan as well as the third paragraph that would be added.

Commissioner Yu commented that it would appear that both housing and commercial uses could be found within mixed use. He asked if housing could be found above commercial use within the same building.

Planning Director Mogush replied that it can be a number of combinations such as vertical mixed use or horizontal mixed use. He noted that the Code will need some work in how it is organized and provided additional examples.

Commissioner Yu noted that people will be moving between the LRT station and this mixed-use area and asked if traffic and pedestrian patterns had been considered. He also asked if it has been considered as to how to avoid this traffic from going through the low-density housing areas.

Planning Director Mogush replied that the street network is already designed to funnel traffic onto these larger volume streets rather than the smaller residential streets and that would not be changed. He also agreed that it would be critical to provide connections for pedestrians and transit to move between this area and the LRT station.

Commissioner Borer referenced the language that the City would establish minimum intensity development standards to ensure efficient development and asked how that would be done as she would imagine there has to be a higher density of people in that area.

Planning Director Mogush replied that this language gets to the overall goal of the Council to ensure the City is developing in a manner that increases the tax base. He stated that clear zoning rules would need to be established about what would be allowed, not allowed, and as to the nature of development. He stated that if there was a proposal for a small building in a large parking lot, that would not meet the intent, therefore there needs to be a minimum standard to weigh applications against. He stated that the standard has not yet been developed as they will begin those discussions at the worksession to follow in two weeks.

MOTION FRASER, SECOND WAKO TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF DRAFT RESOLUTION #2023- APPROVING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT #23-112 CONSISTENT WITH THE GOALS OF INTERIM ORDINANCE 2023-1287.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

None.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

City of Brooklyn Park Request for Council Action

Agenda Item:	6.2	Meeting Date:	August 28, 2023
Agenda Section:	Land Use	Originating Department:	Community Development
Resolution:	N/A	Prepared By:	Erin McDermott, Associate Planner
Ordinance:	FIRST READING		
Attachments:	2	Presented By:	Paul Mogush, Planning Director
Item:	Zoning Code Text Amendment: Outdoor Storage and Commercial Accessory Structures		

City Manager's Proposed Action:

MOTION _____ SECOND _____ TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT ON FIRST READING AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 152 OF THE BROOKLYN PARK CODE OF ORDINANCES PERTAINING TO OUTDOOR STORAGE AND ACCESSORY STRUCTURES IN BUSINESS ZONING DISTRICTS.

Overview:

Businesses across Brooklyn Park have consistently requested the opportunity to expand their businesses through additions to the principal structure, by storing materials and equipment outside, or through the construction of accessory structures to accommodate their storage needs. Presently the only option for many of these commercial properties would be through a costly addition to the principal structure as code requirements are a barrier to accessory structures and outdoor storage.

Accessory Structures

The Zoning Code currently prohibits accessory structures in Business districts. Staff reviewed zoning ordinances from neighboring and comparable cities in the Twin Cities metro area and found that several cities, such as Bloomington, Plymouth, and Eden Prairie, permit accessory structures on business properties.

Outdoor Storage

Outdoor storage is currently a conditional use in Business districts, requiring a Conditional Use Permit. Proactive code enforcement sweeps by the Environmental Health Division have revealed many commercial properties with outdoor storage that meets all code requirements apart from having been issued a Conditional Use Permit, many of which have been operating in this manner for decades.

Intermodal Shipping Containers

Another common enforcement issue across the City is the use of intermodal storage containers for long term storage. Shipping containers can be an affordable alternative to new construction. As a result of the 2022 commercial vehicle parking code amendment, the current code permits intermodal shipping containers in staging areas as a temporary use (up to 90 days). Shipping containers may be permanently located on a business property if they are on a trailer, because in that instance they are considered a commercial vehicle.

Proposed Changes

Accessory Structures

Storage sheds up to 120sq.ft. are currently allowed on Business district properties, but only when they are accessory to religious institutions or daycares. Staff propose to allow accessory structures on all Business district properties, and to increase the allowable to 2,000 square feet or 15% of the principal structure, whichever is

less. Height would be capped at 16 feet or the height of the principal structure, whichever is less, to work within safety requirements of the Building and Fire codes. This height will also allow semi-trucks and other commercial vehicles to drive into the structure without the need for modified trusses, and limiting the structure to the height of the principal structure will ensure visual harmony on the property. Staff determined that due to sprinkling requirements it is reasonable to allow detached accessory structures under 2,000 sq. ft. with a consistent ratio of 15% of the principal structure or 2,000 sq. ft., whichever is less. Accessory structures would be required to have a similar exterior finish to the principal structure.

Outdoor Storage

The proposed changes move Outdoor Storage from a conditional use to a permitted use in Business districts, allowing property owners to establish outdoor storage without applying for a Conditional Use Permit. Outdoor storage would still be subject to the location and screening requirements in the current code. This does not impact properties on which outdoor storage was prohibited by Planned Development Overlay.

An additional technical change will remove the minimum lot size required for outdoor storage, as the amount of outdoor storage permitted by property is percentage based with no minimum amount of outdoor storage prescribed.

Intermodal Shipping Containers

The proposed amendment would allow for long term storage in intermodal shipping containers without the requirement of a trailer. Each property would be limited to two containers, and each container would be subject to current screening requirements. The square footage is required to be included in the outdoor storage area calculation.

If the containers are being utilized for short term storage, they will still be limited to 90 days and are limited to the staging area of the property.

BP 2025 Goals

These code barriers that businesses are facing have largely been in place since 1972. Many businesses that were established prior to that have been allowed to continue having outdoor storage and accessory structures as legally nonconforming uses, a special status not available to newer businesses and entrepreneurs. Under the current rules, establishing outdoor storage requires paying a fee to apply for a Conditional Use Permit in addition to any enforcement-related fees. Both of these issues raise concerns about equity. Addressing this through a code amendment will help achieve the BP 2025 goal of increased equity.

The inclusion of accessory structures would exemplify the goals of Beautiful Places as well as Thriving Economy. The proposed language requires detached accessory structures to meet architectural requirements. This will allow businesses to invest in their Brooklyn Park location and expand their businesses in an orderly manner that will reduce the need for business owners to rely on outdoor storage.

Enforcement

The City uses several mechanisms that would allow for the effective enforcement of excessive or disorderly outdoor storage, the first being the Environmental Health team. This code change would empower staff to administer a consistent code without being hindered by the need to locate historical approvals in a timely manner. The reduction in time spent on outdoor storage cases would reduce the timeframe of proactive enforcement sweeps, allowing sweeps to occur more regularly across the city.

The current zoning code addresses screening standards for all accessory uses, specifically addressing exterior storage areas, loading docks and service areas. This section of the code requires architectural wing walls or landscaping to maintain aesthetic standards set within other sections of the ordinance and to uphold property values through the concealing of unsightly items that are necessary for the operation of many businesses. A lack

of visual barrier from the outdoor storage, or intermodal shipping containers would remain a violation of the zoning code and would be subject to corrective action.

Planning Commission

Planning Commission considered this item, and held a public hearing at the August 9, 2023 Regular Meeting. There were no members of the public present for comment. The Planning Commission unanimously (6-0) recommended the approval of this zoning text amendment.

Primary Issues/Alternatives to Consider:

1. Approve the text amendment as presented.
2. Approve the text amendment with modifications.
3. Decline to approve the text amendment.

Budgetary/Fiscal Issues: N/A

Attachments:

- 6.1A ORDINANCE
- 6.1B PC MINUTES

ORDINANCE 2023-

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 152.033, 152.361, 152.362, 152.364, and
152.365 OF THE BROOKLYN PARK CITY CODE PERTAINING TO OUTDOOR
STORAGE

The City of Brooklyn Park does ordain:

Section 1. Section 152.033 of the City Code, titled "SITE PLAN REVIEW" is amended to read as follows:

§ 152.033 SITE PLAN REVIEW.

(A) *Purpose.* This section establishes Site Plan Review procedures and provides regulations pertaining to the enforcement of site design standards consistent with the requirements of this chapter. These procedures are established to promote high quality development to ensure the long-term stability of residential neighborhoods and enhance the built and natural environment within the city as new development and redevelopment activities occur. The specific goals of the city are:

- (1) To ensure the application of quality design principles within new and redevelopment projects.
- (2) To ensure active participation and review of site plans by the affected public.
- (3) To mitigate to the extent possible, the impact of one development upon another.
- (4) To ensure new developments ~~to~~ contain elements of internal and external cohesiveness to promote good neighborhood atmosphere.

(B) *Exemptions to Site Plan Review.* The following are exempt from the Site Plan Review process:

- (1) Agricultural structures in the R-1 Urban Reserve District provided they comply with all sections of the City Code.
- (2) Accessory structures in residential developments under 120 square feet and 18 feet in height or the height of the principal structure, whichever is less, provided they comply with §§ 152.260 through 152.263.

(C) *Approval required.*

- (1) Without first obtaining site plan approval it is unlawful to do any of the following:
 - (a) Construct a building.
 - (b) Move a building or structure to any lot within the city.
 - (c) Expand or change the use of a building or parcel of land or modify a building, accessory structure or site or land feature in any manner that results in a different intensity of use, including the requirement for additional parking.
 - (d) Grade or take any action to prepare a site for development, except in conformance with the requirements for a grading permit, an approved neighborhood development plan or an approved Conditional Use Permit.
 - (e) Remove earth, soils, gravel, or other natural material from or place the same on a site, except in conformance with the requirements for a building or grading

permit or an approved neighborhood development plan or an approved Conditional Use Permit.

(2) *Procedures.* The procedures for application and public hearings for City Council approved Site Plan Review are outlined in § 152.031 of this subchapter.

(3) *Plan modification.* A modification to the plans previously approved through the City Council approved Site Plan Review process, which do not qualify for an administrative Site Plan Review, must follow the City Council approved Site Plan Review procedure.

(4) *Conditions.* The City Council may impose conditions that affect the intent of this chapter to the approval of a Site Plan Review. No building or grading permit can be issued except in compliance with the approved site plan and the conditions of approval.

(D) *Administrative Site Plan Review.*

(1) *Approval criteria.* Site and building plans for projects may be approved by the City Manager in lieu of City Council approval if they meet the following criteria, except as otherwise expressly provided in this chapter:

(a) Residential properties with one dwelling unit per parcel, including those residential properties within the Planned Community Development District, the Planned Unit Development District or a Special Zoning Overlay that have already been approved through another procedure and are in compliance with the approved plan.

(b) Sites, buildings and uses that are permitted in the zoning district and do not require any variances from this chapter or any other city code, with the exception of the following:

1. Nonresidential uses in a residential district.
2. Uses with drive-through service.
3. Nonresidential structures in a nonresidential zoning district that are not adjacent to any property zoned or guided for residential development other than property in the Urban Reserve District (R-1).
4. Uses in the Public Institution District (PI).
5. Religious institutions, either free-standing or within a multi-tenant building.
6. Projects that received a Conditional Use Permit, site plan approval, or are located in a PUD or PCDD district, or a Special Zoning Overlay, and are an expansion of no more than 10% of the floor area of an existing building, and/or affect no more than 10% of the site. They may include, but are not limited to, changing parking and circulation routes, changes in buffering or landscaping against abutting adjacent residential, etc. The site and building plans must also be in compliance with the previously approved permit, its conditions and plan requirements.
7. Public and private elementary and secondary schools, including charter schools.
8. Detached accessory structures in compliance with §152.362

(2) *Procedure.*

(a) Administrative Site Plan Review may be combined with the established building permit process when applicable. The City Manager may impose conditions

on the approval to implement the intent of this chapter.

(b) Administrative approval, including all applicable conditions and requirements may be made either in writing separately or attached to the submitted plans. The applicant must fulfill all applicable conditions of the approval prior to the issuance of any permits.

(E) *Evaluation criteria.* The city must evaluate the effects of the proposed site plans. This review may be based upon, but not be limited to, the following criteria:

- (1) Consistency with the Comprehensive Plan, the City Code, and this chapter.
- (2) Enhancement of the site to create a meaningful and harmonious development.
- (3) Creation of a functional and harmonious design for structures and site features, with special attention to the following principals:
 - (a) A functional relationship of the building(s) on the site to its intended use(s); accessory site improvements, public street and sidewalks, and adjacent uses and structures.
 - (b) The provision of a desirable environment through building and site design for occupants, visitors, and the general community.
 - (c) A balance of open space and landscaping with site intensity, building height and parking requirements.
 - (d) The utilization of building materials, textures, colors, and construction details as an expression of design concept and quality.
 - (e) The functional internal design of vehicular and pedestrian circulation, location of access points to public streets, design of parking areas incorporating landscape elements, and separation of pedestrian and vehicular circulation movements.
 - (f) The use of landscape design and materials to augment significant native species existing on the site, create an aesthetically pleasing environment, and a sense of character between site elements.
 - (g) The design of site elements to adequately provide for drainage resulting from development, mitigation of off-site impacts from the development, mitigation of impacts from adjacent property such as noise, poor air quality, and unsightliness.
- (4) The height, scale and massing of new buildings and structures should complement similar buildings within the same zoning district in which the application is made.

(F) *Conformance to the Approved Site Plan Review.* All developments must remain in continual conformance with the approved Site Plan Review until or unless amended in compliance with this chapter.

Sec. 2. Figure 152.361.01 in Section 152.361 of the City Code is amended to read as follows:

**Figure 152.361.01 Accessory Uses in Business
Districts**

“P” = Permitted Use “C” = Conditional Use “NP” = Not

<i>Permitted</i>						
Figure 152.361.01 Accessory Uses in Business Districts						
<i>“P” = Permitted Use “C” = Conditional Use “NP” = Not Permitted</i>						
<i>Accessory Use</i>	<i>B-1</i>	<i>B-2</i>	<i>B-3</i>	<i>B-4</i>	<i>BP</i>	<i>I</i>
Antennas, satellite dishes and the like as regulated by §§ 152.090 through 152.096	P	P	P	P	P	P
Beekeeping	P	P	P	P	P	P
Buildings temporarily located for purposes of construction on the premises for a period not to extend beyond the issuance of a certificate of occupancy or the end of construction	P	P	P	P	P	P
Car wash (automatic) when accessory to a fuel station in compliance with § 152.362	NP	C	C	C	C	NP
Cocktail room	NP	NP	NP	NP	C	C
Commercial vehicle parking in compliance with § 152.148	P	P	P	P	P	P
Community garden as regulated by § 152.184	P	P	P	P	P	P
Crematories/Crematoriums when accessory to a funeral home subject to the state license and regulation process	P	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP
Drive-through windows	C	C	C	C	C	C
Farmers' market in compliance with § 152.362	C	C	C	C	C	C
Gas tanks (above ground) for propane, liquid nitrogen, etc. (excludes motor vehicle fuel) when fully screened or located out of public view	NP	P	P	P	P	P
Intermodal shipping containers in compliance with § 152.362(K)	P	P	P	P	P	P
Live entertainment in conjunction with a Class I, II, or brewpub restaurant	NP	P	P	P	P	P
Live entertainment in conjunction with a taproom or cocktail room	NP	NP	NP	NP	P	P
Live entertainment in conjunction with a Class I, II, or brewpub restaurant where a cover charge is required	NP	NP	C	C	C	C
Live entertainment in conjunction with a taproom or cocktail room where a cover charge is required	NP	NP	NP	NP	C	C
Loading docks in compliance with §§ 152.140 through 152.148	P	P	P	P	P	P
Mobile food units in compliance with §152.362	P	P	P	P	P	P
Outdoor pet runs in conjunction with a	NP	NP	NP	NP	C	C

commercial kennel						
Outdoor sales and display in compliance with § 152.362(D) and (H)	NP	NP	C	C	NP	NP
Outdoor storage in compliance with § 152.362(I)	NP	NP	<u>GP</u>	<u>GP</u>	<u>GP</u>	<u>GP</u>
Overnight recreational vehicle/recreational equipment parking or camping	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP
Repair of vehicles when accessory to a vehicle sales business in conformance with §§ 152.340 through 152.345	NP	NP	NP	C	NP	NP
Restaurants, Class I, in compliance with §§ 152.033 and 152.362(C)	P	P	P	P	P	P
Restaurants, Class II, in compliance with § 152.362(C)	NP	C	C	C	C	C
Retail and service businesses as regulated by § 152.362	P	NP	NP	NP	P	P
Seasonal (temporary) greenhouses and garden centers in compliance with § 152.362(B)	NP	C	C	C	NP	NP
Seasonal sales (temporary) of Christmas trees	NP	P	P	NP	NP	NP
Seasonal sales (temporary) of fireworks between June 15 and July 5	NP	P	P	NP	NP	NP
Signs as regulated by Chapter 150 of the City Code	P	P	P	P	P	P
Solar energy system in conformance with § 152.187	P	P	P	P	P	P
Staging area in compliance with §§ 152.140 through 152.148	P	P	P	P	P	P
Storage shed when accessory to daycare facilities or religious institutions <u>Detached Accessory structure</u> in compliance with § 152.362	P	P	P	P	P	P
Structures designed to house environmental monitoring equipment	C	C	C	C	C	C
Taproom	NP	NP	NP	NP	C	C
Telecommunication towers as regulated in §§ 152.090 through 152.096	C	C	C	C	C	C
Transient sales, in compliance with § 152.344	NP	NP	C	NP	N P	NP
Exterior, food and beverage vending machines, ice machines, and propane tank exchanges in compliance with § 152.362	NP	P	P	P	P	P
Warehousing, incidental repair, or processing in compliance with § 152.362	P	P	P	P	P	P

Waste and recycling storage as regulated in §§ 98.01 through 98.16 of the City Code and §§ 152.290 through 152.293	P	P	P	P	P	P
Wind energy conversion system in conformance with § 152.187	P	P	P	P	P	P

Sec. 3. Section 152.362 of the City Code, titled “ADDITIONAL STANDARDS FOR ACCESSORY USES” is amended to read as follows:

§ 152.362 ADDITIONAL STANDARDS FOR ACCESSORY USES.

Certain accessory uses have characteristics that require additional regulation by the city to assure compatibility with other business properties and neighborhoods. The following accessory uses must comply with the following additional performance standards:

(A) *Car washes in the B-2 district.*

- (1) The use must be accessory to a vehicle fuel station.
- (2) The lot must be a minimum of two acres.
- (3) The building/structure housing the car wash must be no closer than 100 feet to the residential district boundary.
- (4) Additional regulations may be required through the Conditional Use Permit process to mitigate noise and/or other potential nuisances.

(B) *Seasonal greenhouses or garden centers.* The Conditional Use Permit may reflect the location, extent, content and allowable time period, the location, appearance and size of any outdoor seasonal greenhouse or garden center. The Conditional Use Permit must also comply with the following:

- (1) The area(s) designated may not be located in the required parking areas, block sidewalks, or interfere with public safety.
- (2) The area(s) designated may not be permitted in the required setback from residential districts or public rights-of- way.
- (3) The proprietor of the business must keep a copy of the Conditional Use Permit on the premises and demonstrate compliance with the permit upon inspection.
- (4) Conditional Use Permits may be revoked by the City Council if the activity is not used on an annual basis or if violations to any of the above regulations have been documented and were not corrected in a timely manner as determined by the City Manager.

(C) *Restaurants and retail or service businesses as accessory uses.*

- (1) May be located within the principal building or as a single tenant in a multi-tenant building.
- (2) The area of the building for restaurants or retail or service businesses are restricted to one-half of the total floor area of the ground level floor of a multistory building, but may not be restricted to any location in the building, or 10% of the floor area of a single story building.

(D) *Exterior food and beverage machines, ice machines, and propane tank exchanges.*

- (1) Must be in conjunction with approved fuel or vehicle service businesses and convenience or full-service grocery or variety goods store.
- (2) Must be adjacent to and project no further than five feet from the primary building.
- (3) Where sidewalks are present, a minimum access width of four feet must be provided and may not be blocked by the vending machines or containers.
- (4) In addition to subsections (1) through (3) above, propane tank exchanges must be located within a metal cabinet painted to blend into the building. The cabinet, not to exceed 52 cubic feet, must receive a permit from the Fire Chief.
- (5) In addition to subsections (1) through (4) above, propane tank exchanges in the Planned Unit Development (PUD), Planned Community Development District (PCDD), and Town Center (TC) Zoning Districts may be approved through the conditional use permit process as described in § 152.035.
- (6) Exterior food and beverage vending machines, ice machines, and propane tank exchanges must be in good repair at all times.

(E) *Warehousing, incidental repair, or processing.*

- (1) In the B1 - B-4 Districts, accessory warehousing may only be conducted in up to 30% of the gross floor area of the principal building.
- (2) Must be necessary and related to the permitted principal use.

(F) ~~*Storage shed when accessory to a daycare facility or a religious institution.*~~
Detached Accessory Structure

- (1) ~~Setback adjacent to rights-of-way. No storage sheds~~ Detached accessory structures are permitted between a public right-of-way and the principal structure.
- (2) ~~Interior side or rear setbacks. No storage sheds~~ Detached accessory structure is permitted closer than five feet from interior side property lines.
- (3) ~~Structure size. Storage sheds~~ Detached accessory structures may not exceed ~~420-2,000 square feet, or 15 percent of the principal structure footprint,~~ whichever is less.
- (4) ~~Structure height. Storage sheds~~ Detached accessory structures may not exceed ~~42-16~~ feet in height, or the height of the principal structure, whichever is less.
- (5) No more than one ~~storage shed~~ detached accessory structure is permitted per lot of record
- ~~(6) The storage shed must be on the same lot of record as the daycare facility or religious institution and the lot of record must not have more than one detached storage shed.~~
- (6) ~~Storage sheds~~ Detached accessory structures shall not be designed or used for human habitation.
- (7) ~~Storage sheds~~ Detached accessory structures shall have the same or similar ~~facade and roof colors~~ exterior finish as the principal building.

~~(8) The storage shed must be removed upon change of use of the principal building to a use other than a daycare facility or a religious institution.~~

(G) *Farmers' market.*

(1) No portion of the use or event shall take place within 200 feet, as measured in a straight line from the closest point of the property line of the property upon which the farmers' market is located, to the property line of any R-1 zoned property with residential buildings.

(2) A farmer's market shall be conducted only within a parking lot that has a minimum of 200 off street parking spaces. It is not required that all 200 spaces be used for the market.

(3) Parking and display areas associated with the sale shall not distract or interfere with existing business operations or traffic circulation patterns.

(4) Display areas and parking spaces shall use those parking lot spaces that are in excess of the minimum required parking for the primary use of that property.

(5) A farmers' market shall provide one and one-half parking stalls per producer and one and one-half customer parking stalls per producer.

(6) Sales merchandise trailers, temporary stands, etc., shall be located on an asphalt or concrete surface.

(7) The owner/operator shall have the written permission of the current property owner to locate on a specific site.

(8) No uses or displays shall be permitted in required green areas, parking setback areas, or any right-of-way or other public property.

(9) Signage shall be limited to one sign not to exceed 32 square feet. The sign may be a banner, shall have a professional appearance, and shall be mounted or erected in an appropriate location. The sign may be illuminated, but must comply with all requirements of Chapter 30 of this title.

(10) All lighting shall comply with the lighting standards of Chapter 150 of the City Code.

(11) All producer merchandise shall be unloaded prior to the opening of the market and confined to the off-street parking lot area. No on-street parking or unloading shall be allowed.

(12) No public address system or speakers shall be used.

(13) The site shall be kept in a neat and orderly fashion, free from litter, refuse, debris, junk, or other waste, which results in offensive odors or unsightly conditions.

(14) Display of items shall be arranged in as compact a manner as reasonably practicable with particular reference to vehicle and pedestrian safety and convenience, traffic flow and control, and access in case of fire or other emergency.

(15) All products, materials, quantities to be sold or displayed, and the dates, times, and duration of the market must be approved by the City Council.

(16) If the farmers' market is operated by a person other than the property

owner, the property owner must notify the city of the full name, address, date of birth and telephone number of the operator in writing. The property owner is responsible for the actions of the operator and for compliance with the conditions of this section.

(H) *Outdoor sales and display.*

- (1) The designated area must be identified on the site plan.
- (2) The designated area cannot block sidewalks.
- (3) The designated area must not encroach into setbacks.

(I) *Outdoor storage.* Outdoor storage of materials, equipment, and products accessory and necessary to the principal use must ~~obtain a Conditional Use Permit and~~ comply with the following:

- (1) The items in the area designated for outdoor storage must be completely screened from view from adjacent public rights-of-way or adjacent properties.
- (2) The area must not be used for the storage of junk vehicles, trash, debris, or other nuisance items as defined elsewhere in the City Code.
- (3) The area designated for storage must be clearly defined by fencing, striping, paving, or other means. ~~Any storage outside of the designated area shall be a violation of the Conditional Use Permit.~~
- (4) Outdoor storage is not permitted in the Highway Overlay (HO) District.
- (5) Height of materials, vehicles, or equipment in outdoor storage area shall not exceed the height of the principal structure.
- (6) The following performance standards apply to outside storage:

Figure 152.362.01: Outdoor Storage Requirements					
		Zoning Districts			
		B3	B4	BP	I
Figure 152.362.01: Outdoor Storage Requirements					
		Zoning Districts			
		B3	B4	BP	I
Minimum lot area to allow outside storage		25,000 sq. feet	2 acres	4 acres	40,000 sq. feet
Area limit on storage allowed		50% of site	70% of site	15% of building footprint	80% of site
Setbacks	From ROW	15 feet	15 feet	75 feet	15 feet
	From side and rear	5 feet	5 feet	50 feet	5 feet
	Adjacent to	35 feet	35 feet	NP	35 feet

	residential districts				
Location restriction	Side or rear yard only	Side or rear yard only	Must be located to the rear of the front entrance	Side or rear yard only	

(J) *Mobile food units.*

- (1) The owner/operator shall have written permission of the current property owner to locate at a designated area.
- (2) The proprietor of the business must keep a copy of the mobile food unit license with the unit and demonstrate compliance with the license upon inspection.
- (3) The area(s) designated for the mobile food unit and accessory outdoor seating may not block sidewalks, impede pedestrian or vehicular traffic, or interfere with public safety.
- (4) No mobile food unit or accessory outdoor seating area may occupy parking spaces which may be leased to other businesses or used to fulfill its minimum parking requirements or any handicap accessible parking space.
- (5) Mobile food unit locations are limited to private property located in a Business District as listed in §152.361.
- (6) Mobile food units shall be located on an asphalt or concrete surface.
- (7) The owner/operator must provide trash receptacles for customer use and keep the site in a neat and orderly fashion, free from litter, refuse, debris, junk, or other waste which results in offensive odors or unsightly conditions.
- (8) Temporary signage is permitted in accordance with § 150.06(A)(6) pedestrian signs.
- (9) Mobile food units cannot be located within 100 feet of ~~from~~ the main entrance of an eating establishment or any outdoor dining area.

(K) *Intermodal shipping containers.*

- (1) ~~One intermodal shipping container is permitted as a temporary accessory use per property for a maximum of 90 days per calendar year.~~ Two intermodal shipping containers are permitted for outdoor storage on nonresidential properties.
- (2) Shipping containers utilized for permanent storage must be located in a staging the designated outdoor storage area of a property, in compliance with §152.362(l).
- (3) Shipping containers used for temporary storage are limited to 90 days per calendar year and must be located in a staging area.
- (4) The maximum dimensions of an intermodal shipping container are 40 feet long, ten feet wide, and ten feet tall.

Sec. 4. Section 152.434 of the City Code, titled “CONDITIONAL USE” is amended to read as follows:

§ 152.434 CONDITIONAL USES.

No permit may be issued for construction ~~for~~ of a building, structure or land use considered conditional unless a Conditional Use Permit has been granted by the City Council in accordance with §§ 152.030 through 152.039.

(A) Telecommunication towers as regulated by §§ 152.090 through 152.096.

~~(B) Outdoor storage of equipment, landscaping materials, etc. when accessory to a government building or maintenance facility.~~

Sec. 5. Section 152.436 of the City Code, titled “ACCESSORY USES” is amended to read as follows:

§ 152.436 ACCESSORY USES.

(A) The following accessory uses are permitted for all uses; however, they are limited to 10% (each) of the total building area if they are located within a religious institution or non-profit community agency:

- (1) Retail sales.
- (2) Class-I restaurants.
- (3) Assembly halls (other than for religious worship).
- (4) Day care.
- (5) Commercial vehicle parking in compliance with §152.148.
- (6) Intermodal shipping containers in compliance with § 152.362(K).
- (7) Detached Accessory structure in compliance with § 152.362

(B) The following accessory uses are conditional for all uses; however, they are limited to 10% (each) of the total building area if they are located within a religious institution or non-profit community agency:

- (1) Class-II restaurants.
- (2) Rectories for religious institutions (either within the principal structure or as a separate building).

HOLLIES J. WINSTON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

DEVIN MONTERO, CITY CLERK

Approved as to Form by City Attorney
Passed on First Reading:
Passed on Second Reading:
Summary Published in Official Newspaper:



UNAPPROVED MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE BROOKLYN PARK PLANNING COMMISSION Regular Meeting – August 9, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

2. ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Those present were: Commissioners Cavin, Fraser, Kiekow, Turner, Wako and Yu; Planning Director Mogush; Principal Planner Turnquest; and Associate Planner McDermott.

Those arrived late: Commissioner Borer

Those not present were: Commissioners Gaye-Bai and Udomah (with prior notice).

3. EXPLANATION BY CHAIR

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION FRASER, SECOND TURNER TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 9, 2023 AGENDA.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes – July 12, 2023

MOTION FRASER, SECOND KIEKOW TO APPROVE THE JULY 12, 2023 CONSENT AGENDA.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Outdoor Storage – Zoning Code Text Amendment #23-109: Outdoor Storage and Commercial Accessory Structures.

Associate Planner McDermott introduced the application for a zoning text amendment for outdoor storage. She provided background information on the outdoor storage, intermodal shipping containers, and accessory structures. She explained that increased proactive code enforcement has led to numerous requests by local businesses for accessory structures and changes to outdoor storage requirements. She explained that the proposed change would not visually impact the community and would allow staff to be more efficient in addressing code violations by removing the time requirement of obtaining a CUP. She noted that the remaining standards would remain in place for outdoor storage with the only change proposed to remove the requirement for a CUP. She removed the proposed changes related to intermodal shipping containers and accessory structures. She provided different examples of legal nonconforming uses related to these elements, proposed requests for these uses, and examples of properties that are currently in violation of outdoor storage only because of a lack of a CUP.

Commission Chair Cavin opened the public hearing.

Seeing no one approach the podium, Commission Chair Cavin closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Kiekow commented that this change would allow up to two intermodal shipping containers and asked if the containers could be stacked.

Associate Planner McDermott replied that the screening requirements would request that the outdoor storage not exceed the height of the fence noting that the maximum height for a fence would be eight feet six inches. She commented that alternatively, landscaping could be used for screening as well. She stated that containers could not be double stacked as that height would be exceeded.

Commissioner Fraser asked how consistency would be ensured to make sure the storage containers blend with the existing structure.

Associate Planner McDermott replied that an accessory structure would need to match the principle structure on the property. She stated that staff would be able to ensure the integrity and appearance of the intermodal shipping containers because of the standards in place for that as well.

Commissioner Kiekow asked if these would only be allowed on paved areas.

Associate Planner McDermott replied that a paved surface would be required.

Commissioner Chair Cavin asked the difference between permanent and temporary.

Associate Planner McDermott replied that the term for temporary use would be up to 90 days. She stated that anything exceeding 90 days would need to follow the outdoor storage requirements.

Commission Chair Cavin used the example of the Small Business Center (SBC) which was under construction for some time and noted that he had noticed shipping containers used for storage for a time exceeding 90 days. He asked how that would be factored in.

Associate Planner McDermott replied that the current ordinance allows 90 days per year. She explained how the proactive code enforcement sweeps are focused, noting that the areas not being focused on at that time still follow the complaint-based response.

Planning Director Mogush replied that another portion of the ordinance addresses construction materials and things associated with construction that allow those things to be onsite during active construction.

Commission Chair Cavin asked if a temporary gazebo could be used by a business for something in the summer.

Associate Planner McDermott confirmed that special event permits would allow those types of uses while this ordinance language would be focused on structures that require a building permit.

Commissioner Fraser asked if there is guidance on the location and placement of these structures to ensure the views are not obstructed.

Associate Planner McDermott confirmed that there would be language guiding the placement, similar to residential accessory structures.

Commissioner Kiekow referenced the definition of intermodal containers and the number of containers that could be used to reach the maximum length capacity.

Associate Planner McDermott replied that two containers could be permitted regardless of size.

Commissioner Kiekow suggested that language be clarified.

Commissioner Wako asked for more clarification on the perspective of equity and bringing the ordinance up to date. He asked if there is a study on the cost in relation to enforcement of the ordinance.

Associate Planner McDermott replied that many of these businesses were established between 1950 and 1972 and at that time not many of the residents were black residents, therefore this would provide the opportunity for black property owners to have the same property rights without the additional steps and cost. She stated that legal nonconformities cannot expand and therefore code enforcement ensures that those uses stay within their legal nonconforming rights. She stated that this would not have any additional budget impacts. She stated that this change would allow staff to reduce the time spent at properties and conduct proactive sweeps more efficiently.

Commissioner Wako commented that many commercial properties are near residential properties and asked if the impact to those properties has been considered.

Associate Planner McDermott replied that screening requirements would not be changing, noting that the City has one of the most thorough landscaping and screening requirements. She noted that the standards would not be changing, the property owners would simply not be required to obtain a CUP.

Commissioner Turner wanted to ensure that there would not be any additional cost implications for the City as a result of these changes.

Associate Planner McDermott replied that there would be no additional cost implication on enforcement while this may bring benefits such as permit fees. She stated that growing businesses and improvements to the properties would increase property values and therefore property taxes.

Commissioner Kiekow commented that in his quick internet search, shipping containers vary quite a bit and perhaps there should be more standards on what would be allowed.

Planning Director Mogush replied that there are dimensions included in the ordinance as proposed.

Associate Planner McDermott replied that the shipping containers would be permitted through outdoor storage, therefore the shipping containers would count towards the allowed outdoor storage for that property. She explained that the size of the property/building dictates that allowed amount of outdoor storage space.

Planning Director Mogush again reiterated that the maximum dimensional standards he read aloud are already included in the ordinance.

Commissioner Wako referenced easements, noting that adjacent businesses sometimes have easements in between. He asked how this would impact those easements.

Associate Planner McDermott replied that if outdoor storage were established over an easement that would be addressed through code enforcement. She commented that they have not run into that issue in the past where someone has attempted to place outdoor storage over an easement.

MOTION FRASER, SECOND TURNER TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 152 OF THE BROOKLYN PARK CODE OF ORDINANCES PERTAINING TO OUTDOOR STORAGE AND ACCESSORY STRUCTURES IN BUSINESS ZONING DISTRICTS.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. 610 Corridor Development Study Comprehensive Plan Amendment – Case #23-112 for a Comprehensive Plan amendment consistent with the goals of Interim Ordinance 2023-1287

Planning Director Mogush stated that there has been quite a bit of discussion on this topic by the Commission, City Council and broader community in the past few months. He provided background on the interim ordinance which placed a moratorium in order to ensure that new development would be done in a manner that increased the value of development and the tax base in order to reduce the property tax burden on residents. He noted that a large portion of that work focused on the 610/Zane area. He stated that the City contracted with a consulting firm to go through a process of testing various hypothetical development models for a portion of that larger 610/Zane area that would achieve the goal to increase the value of development. He provided an example of a model that was considered along with details on the engagement that was conducted. He summarized the recommendations that arose from the engagement noting positive support for creating a walkable, mixed-use environment as well as a desire and need for additional green space, retail, and public gathering spaces. He stated that the next step would be to amend the City's Comprehensive Plan, which will be followed by zoning regulation changes. He stated that after the moratorium expires, they will discuss the level of public investment that will be focused on this area. He compared the current future land use map to the proposed future land use map. He then reviewed the proposal for substantive changes to the mixed-use development related to scale, land use and design. He stated that as currently written the Comprehensive Plan provides review criteria that should be considered when thinking about an amendment, noting that the staff responses are included within the staff report. He reviewed the next steps, following the recommendation of the Planning Commission.

Commission Chair Cavin opened the public hearing.

City of Brooklyn Park Request for Council Action

Agenda Item:	8.1	Meeting Date:	August 28, 2023
Agenda Section:	Discussion Items	Originating Department:	Recreation & Parks
Resolution:	N/A	Prepared By:	Brad Tullberg, Recreation & Parks Director Kelly Becker, Recreation Program Supervisor
Ordinance:	N/A		
Attachments:	2	Presented By:	Kelly Becker
Item:	Age-Friendly Brooklyn Park Update		

City Manager's Proposed Action:

Update on Age-Friendly Brooklyn Park.

Overview:

In 2019, City Council accepted the *Becoming an Age-Friendly Brooklyn Park Recommendations Report* based on the findings of a year-long community engagement process that informed the strategic steps to become a more age-friendly community. They included both internal actions that focused on local government itself, as well as external actions concerning how the city can partner with other agencies and organizations throughout the community to advance this work.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020, the older adult population were some of the most vulnerable individuals and withdrew from activity more than most. The older adult population was also generally slower to return to pre-pandemic levels of activity which impacted the Age-Friendly work in 2020 thru 2022. Agencies serving seniors paused or scaled back services from 2020 through 2022 due to safety concerns during the pandemic.

Since the pandemic has subsided, city staff have worked to complete several items to meet the Age-Friendly Brooklyn Park Goals:

- Developed a Community Resource list for ease of access to information on more than a dozen topics
- Purchased Access Trax portable, accessible pathways and ADA portable seating for community events through AARP Community Challenge Grant
- Actively working with NHCC to offer Life-Long-Learning classes for older adults on NHCC campus
- Continue work on AARP 3-year Action Plan
- Continue to build relationships with organizations serving older adults
- Modify department fee assistance program to include older adult programs
- Outreach to cultural communities through Hennepin County SHIP grant funding

Staff will provide an overview of the opportunities offered for older adults to engage with their community including specific outreach efforts to build connections in the multi-cultural senior population to determine best ways to expand programming.

Primary Issues/Alternatives to Consider: N/A

Budgetary/Fiscal Issues: N/A

Attachments:

- 8.1A SERVING SENIORS IN THE COMMUNITY
- 8.1B AGE FRIENDLY REPORT



Serving Seniors in the Community

AARP Age-Friendly Network of States & Communities

- Age-Friendly Brooklyn Park – put an age-friendly lens on the work in the city
- Community Resource List – now live on City website
- Networking within agencies that serve the aging population
- Age-Friendly Minnesota – including state, counties, cities in the network
- MN Housing Focus group for MN Housing Finance Agency (affordable housing for seniors)

Activity Groups (Weekly) at the Community Activity Center

(Yearly membership \$12/resident | \$18/non-resident)

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| ▪ Handcrafts | ▪ Poker |
| ▪ Quilters | ▪ 65 Rummy |
| ▪ Mah Johgg | ▪ 500 Card Club |
| ▪ Bingo | ▪ Book Club |
| ▪ Cribbage | ▪ Mexican Train Dominoes |
| ▪ Knitting | |

Adult Fitness (fee is dependent on number of classes per session, or insurance reimbursement is used with no cost to participant)

- Daytime classes offered 9 am & 10 am Monday & Wednesday mornings
- Medicare Supplemental Insurance reimbursement benefit can be used for daytime and Tuesday 5 pm classes
- New instructor in fall 2023 to teach 1 or 2 additional mornings each week
- Tuesday evening Hatha Yoga
- Afro-Beats Dance Workout Wednesday evenings

BIPOC Senior Initiative with Hennepin County Funding

- Working with Hennepin County, grant funding will help to identify senior needs in the African, Hmong, and Latino communities
- Goal of the engagement sessions are to listen to elder community wants and needs and to gain insight on gaps and barriers to opportunities and services in Brooklyn Park and the Recreation & Parks department
- Create programs and services to meet needs and interests of BIPOC elders and address barriers to participation
- Staff are planning to implementing 1 – 2 pilot engagement listening sessions with African elders in 2023 and will expand outreach to additional communities in 2024 and beyond
- Grant provides funding to secure community liaisons to facilitate the engagement events, incentives for participants, food/beverages, and interpretation services



- Have identified St Alphonsus Pan-African Network, CAPI, ACER, CEAP, and Hmong senior day care services as community organizations to work with

Community Engagement Advisory Team (CEAT) Maple Grove Hospital

- Staff representative on CEAT
- Identify & establish community health priorities, plans and programs to improve the health status of the community

Driver Insurance Discount Classes (fees paid to AAA or MHSRC \$21 - \$30)

- 3-4 classes offered a month at the CAC from 2 organizations
- 8-hour initial course and 4-hour refresher courses offered
- Take class every 3 years to maintain a 10% discount on auto insurance
- AAA Roadwise Driver Course
- Minnesota Highway Safety Research Center 55+ Driver Discount Course

Fee Assistance

- Assistance is available to help residents access programs and services
- Qualifying programs include fitness, weekly activity groups, luncheon, speakers
- Up to 75% off qualifying programs

Life-Long Learning (most presentations are offered at no cost; classes have a minimal cost to cover instructor fee and supplies)

- Presentations around travel, housing, Medicare 101
- Community partner / resource presentations
- Brooklyn Community Band

Living Well Resource Fair (no fee to attend – vendors pay a booth fee)

- Offered 1 time a year
- Next resource fair will be Fall 2024 (was last offered May 2023)
- Working with Community Engagement to invite cultural community groups elders and their care givers
- Community resources around: housing, health care, travel, wellness
 - Including cultural nurses' associations
- Health screening opportunities

Luncheons (\$18 per meal)

- Catered Meal
- Entertainment
- Offered 4-6 times a year with a seasonal theme

North Hennepin Community College (fee will be based on instructor & supplies)



- Developing non-college classes with NHCC faculty to offer Life-Long Learning for community members on campus
 - Opportunities could include ceramics, creative writing, watercolor painting, photography, drawing, music

Technology Support / Tech Help (free service)

- Partnership with Senior Community Services
- Offered Wednesday mornings in-person at the Community Activity Center
- In-home help available with appointment

Travel Opportunities (fee is dependent on trip – most day trips are \$75 - \$100)

- Monthly Day Trips with Medicine Lake Tours
 - Fees include coach bus transportation from the CAC, meals, tickets/tours
- Travel Talks – Extended Travel with Landmark Tours

Pickleball (indoor \$3/day or insurance reimbursement | outdoor no fee)

- Indoor October – May at the CAC / Armory Gym
- Outdoor May – October at Norwood and Bass Creek Parks



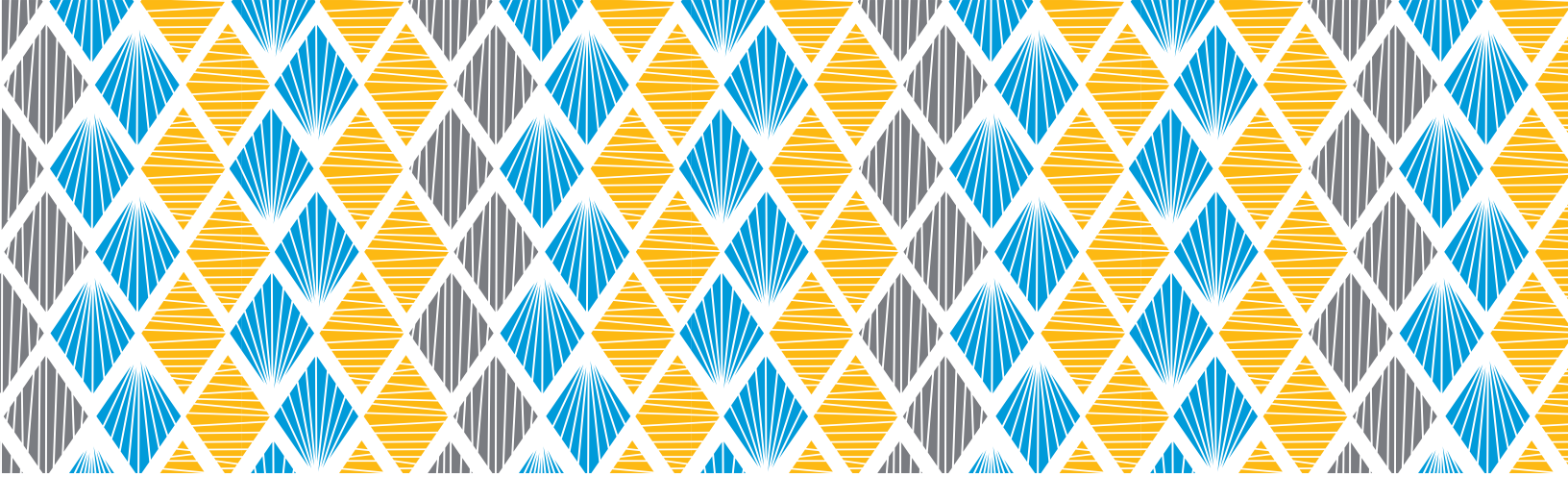
Being an Age-Friendly Brooklyn Park

Recommendations Report February 2019



Becoming an Age-Friendly Brooklyn Park

Recommendations Report



Prepared for the City of Brooklyn Park by Lydia Morken Consulting

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Executive Summary

This report presents a case for making Brooklyn Park an age-friendly city and includes a set of recommendations for how the City can take formal and strategic steps to do so. Age-friendly cities are places that support and value older residents, recognize their enormous social and economic contributions to the community, and enable them to live with independence and dignity. More cities are undertaking this work in response to the aging population, but it is also about the fact that older adults, like everyone else, have a right to be able to participate in city life. Yet they are often excluded by default.

Age-Friendly Brooklyn Park builds on earlier City efforts: *Brooklyn Park 2025*, the City-led community planning effort conducted in 2016, and the work of the resident-led Task Force on Aging from 2014-15. Both highlight the fact that supporting and planning for older residents is a top community priority.

This recommendations report digs deeper into opportunities around more meaningful inclusion of older adults. It was developed based on findings from a two-fold engagement process undertaken over the course of 2018.

Age-Friendly Brooklyn Park looked both outward to the community and inward to City department operational practices to uncover baseline age-friendliness on both fronts. It sought answers to questions such as:

- What is working well, and where does more need to be done?
- What is important to residents?
- Where do City staff see opportunities to be more systematically inclusive of older adult concerns?

Importantly, the effort also aimed to capture voices from Brooklyn Park's older low-income residents, residents of color, and immigrants and refugees, whose input had not been specifically sought by local government before.

Below is a summary of select recommendations that emerged from this process. (Find more detail in the full report.) They are organized into four age-friendly domain areas similar to those used by the Task Force on Aging and based on the World Health Organization's Age-Friendly Cities program: Community and Civic Participation; Housing; Public Spaces and Transportation; and Community and Support Services. An additional section addresses policies and practices specific to City departments. Some are straightforward and could be accomplished quickly, while others are broader in scope and have longer time horizons.

This is an exciting opportunity for the City and community members to think about how together we can fulfill the potential of the aging population.

This is an exciting opportunity for the City and community members to think about how together we can fulfill the potential of the aging population.



Summary: Recommendations for an Age-Friendly Brooklyn Park

1) Community & Civic Participation

- a) Bring information to people where they gather.
- b) Better utilize community organizations that can pass on information.
- c) Reach out to new senior housing residents who have relocated and know little about Brooklyn Park.
- d) Add an element of City support or partnership to an existing event in a community of color, immigrants, or refugees. The City can support rather than lead efforts to serve these diverse communities.

2) Public Spaces and Transportation

- a) Conduct a brief transportation audit as a means of better understanding current services and to highlight gaps and needs across various modes. Consider whether a circulator shuttle or other service would be appropriate to consider.
- b) Assess intersections known to be dangerous to pedestrians and develop a plan for safety improvements. Senior housing buildings are near problematic thoroughfares and intersections—such as Zane Avenue and Brooklyn Boulevard.

3) Housing

- a) Conduct a housing audit to assess current and planned housing stock, senior housing communities, current and anticipated need for affordable housing, etc. This information would help the City better understand its present circumstances and position it to create a more effective plan for appropriate and affordable housing options for older residents going forward.
- b) Develop an affordable housing plan related to older residents.

4) Community and Health Services

- a) Create a class on how to use local delivery services.
- b) Partner with/utilize existing organizations to better reach and support immigrant communities.
- c) Bring mini-versions of the annual resource fair to specific ethnic or cultural communities.
- d) Engage the business community in age-friendly business efforts through BP Business Forward, which has already expressed its interest in the work.

Inside City Government

Administration:

- 1) Consider pursuing a regional approach to age-friendly efforts. Maple Grove, Osseo and Hennepin County are all engaged in this work and opportunities may exist to collaborate on transportation, communication, and other areas.
- 2) Incorporate age-friendly training into staff training and new employee on-boarding.
- 3) Improve accessibility of City Hall. The front entrance is a long walk to where residents must go to pay bills or conduct other business.
- 4) Better address translation and interpretation needs that affect many older immigrants.
- 5) Develop a broader and more cohesive volunteer strategy.
- 6) Formalize practices for public meetings and similar events that ensure all attendees can hear and participate. E.g., require that all presenters and speakers—including attendees who comment or ask questions—use a microphone.
- 7) Consider age-friendly employment practices such as phased retirement, flexible schedules, and specific accommodations for working caregivers.

Summary: Recommendations for an Age-Friendly Brooklyn Park

Communication:

- 1) Be deliberate about messaging and communications related to older adults to ensure that negative stereotypes are not being perpetuated.
- 2) Ensure that City publications and the new website use age-friendly design practices in terms of font style and size, color contrast, etc.

Community Development:

- 1) Develop a housing strategy for older residents that goes beyond “senior housing.”
- 2) Use Age-Friendly Brooklyn Park to help operationalize existing age-friendly aspects of the comprehensive plan, such as residential universal design.
- 3) Develop educational materials urging landlords to incorporate universal design features into routine building upgrades.
- 4) Engage the business community in age-friendly business efforts through BP Business Forward, which has already expressed its interest in the work.

Operations and Maintenance

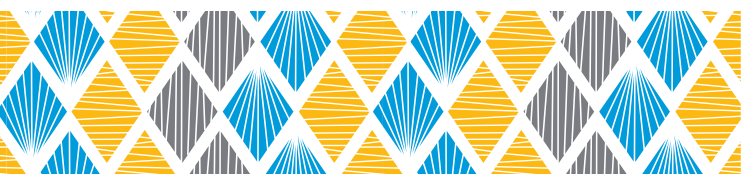
- 1) Invest in additional benches, lighting, and trail maintenance in key locations identified through Age-Friendly Brooklyn Park outreach and additional older resident input.

Police & Fire Departments

- 1) Consider an emerging model that involves embedding a social worker into the City’s emergency response teams. The dual benefits of this approach include better serving residents and freeing up police and fire resources to respond to real emergencies in a busy city by reducing the volume of repeated and unnecessary 9-1-1 calls.

Recreation and Parks:

- 1) Establish a policy to formalize giving space priority at the CAC to Senior Adult classes. This will help prevent the issue of those classes being cancelled when their rooms are rented for other events.
- 2) Increase older adult engagement in park bond reinvestment projects. The passing of the park bond referendum presents a well-timed opportunity to conduct older adult-specific engagement in major City projects.
- 3) Consider reduced-cost programming for low-income residents to allow their participation in Recreation and Parks programming.
- 4) Inclusion: Address the question of how people with physical limitations and/or cognitive decline can be accommodated in Recreation and Parks programming.



Introduction

In 2018 the City of Brooklyn Park dug deeper than it had before into learning about needs and opportunities related to its older residents. Like many other places, its population is aging. More than 20 percent of the city's population was 55 or older in 2016, up from 12.5 percent in 2000.¹

The health and wellbeing of older adults also emerged as a priority through *Brooklyn Park 2025*, a 2016 community planning process, reinforcing the work's importance for the community. A resident-led Task Force on Aging laid additional groundwork in 2014 and 2015, developing recommendations for how the City could better support older residents. (See Appendix E.)

This report is the culmination of the past year's work to better understand what older residents in Brooklyn Park want and need, and to help the City determine how best to respond to the findings. It is set in the framework of age-friendly cities. This rapidly spreading movement takes a community-wide approach to more deliberately including all ages to ensure that we can remain engaged and independent as long as possible as we grow older.

The report discusses the need for and value of age-friendly cities, and what was learned (and how) about older residents. It lingers on the findings from the city's older low-income residents and residents of color, including immigrants and refugees, as this is the City's first concerted effort of this degree to specifically explore the experiences of older adults in the many multicultural groups that reside in Brooklyn Park.

It closes with recommendations concerning how the City might choose to proceed given the needs and opportunities identified over the course of this process. This is primarily a strategy-level report to help the City understand the needs and determine how to approach this work in terms of time, funding, staff and other resources. It includes recommendations but is not an action plan laying out concrete steps and timelines to address specific issues. Instead it is an important step toward that stage.

¹ This report does not use a single age threshold to define the start of older age. It can be useful to break down the data in various ways to illustrate different things.

What is an age-friendly community?

In an age-friendly community, policies, services and structures related to the physical and social environment are designed to support and enable older people to "age actively" – that is, to live in security, enjoy good health and continue to participate fully in society.

Age-friendly service providers, public officials, community leaders, faith leaders and business people:

- Recognize the great diversity among older persons,
- Promote their inclusion and contribution in all areas of community life,
- Respect their decisions and lifestyle choices, and
- Anticipate and respond flexibly to aging-related needs and preferences.

— *World Health Organization*

Age-Friendly: Important for All

Population aging is pushing cities and other municipalities to confront certain realities. Most are moved to act by simple demographics, and the numbers are indeed compelling. The absolute number of older adults is growing, and so is the proportion.

- In the United States, in 1900 only one in 25 people was 65 years old or older. By 2030, one in 5 people will be 65-plus, and many places already approach or exceed that figure, including Hennepin County and the State of Minnesota.
- In Minnesota, more people will turn 65 in this decade than in the past four decades combined. In 1960, 38 percent of the population was 18 or younger and 10 percent was 65 or older. By 2030, those groups will each comprise about 21 percent of population.

- In Brooklyn Park, 10.2 percent of residents were 65-plus in 2017, up from 7.6 percent in 2010. (See more in Table 1.)

However, wise and truly inclusive communities know it is more fundamental than a demographic shift. People of all ages deserve to be deliberately included in a city's plans, projects, and policies, and cities benefit from enabling their residents to live with independence and dignity. The changing demographics simply highlight the fact that most governments have failed to adequately do so.

Some researchers frame this as a “right to the city” issue: all residents have rights to participate in decision-making regarding their physical environment and access to resources. This pertains especially to older adults, as our “zones of activity” tend to shrink as we age, making our immediate environments and resources even more important.

TABLE 1: Percent of Area Residents Aged 60+

Municipality	2010 Residents Aged 60+	2017: Residents Aged 60+
Brooklyn Park	11.6	15.4
Brooklyn Center	16.8	16.3
Maple Grove	11.1	18.7
Minneapolis	11.9	13.9
Osseo	32.4	35.1
Hennepin County	15.7	18.7
State of Minnesota	17.5	20.7

Sources: US Census Bureau 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates and 2013-2017 ACS 5-Year Estimates

Brooklyn Park's proportion of older residents is less than its neighbors' (Maple Grove, Osseo, and Brooklyn Center) and the county and State as a whole, and slightly more than that of Minneapolis. But the numbers are on track to rise, and 14.6 percent of the City's approximately 80,000 residents aged 60+ amounts to more than 11,600 people— not insignificant.

²Purcell, M. 2003. Citizenship and the right to the global city: Reimagining the capitalist world order. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 27(3): 564–590.

Age-Friendly: Important for All

Yet cities and counties simply weren't planned with current lifespans in mind, and we continue to plan for and include older adults only minimally and usually with an outdated, ageist paradigm. While operating within the realm of "senior" is critical—senior housing, senior centers, senior services, etc.—age-friendly communities are much broader than this.

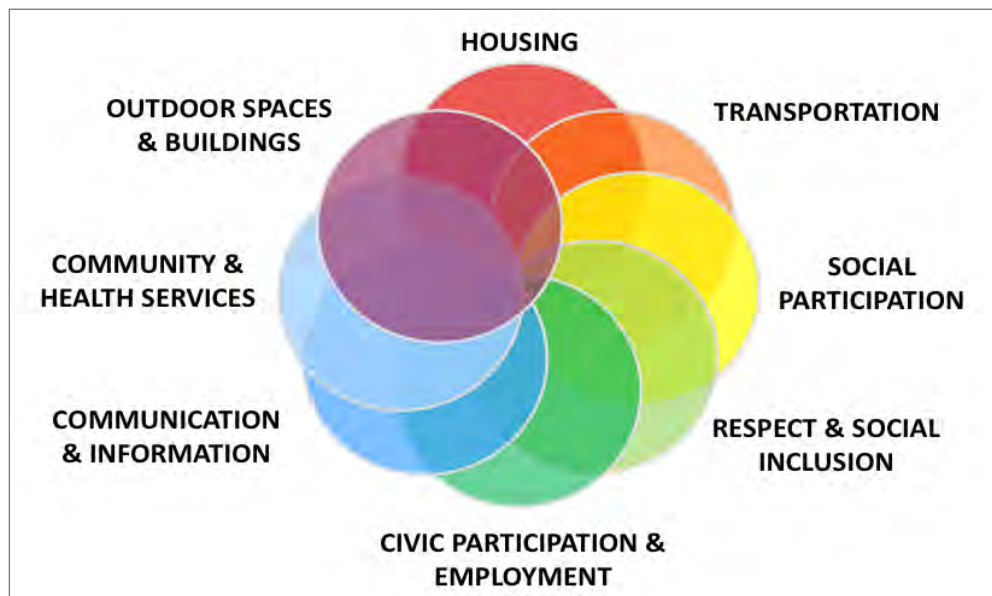
Instead of marginalizing older adults, we should recognize their value and help fulfill the potential of aging. After all, most of us will one day be a part of this group.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is the global leader of age-friendly cities work. It created the Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities around 2006, a program that provides a framework to guide member cities through steps to become better places for older people to live.

This work is spreading quickly, with more than 300 network members in the U.S., where it is now operated by AARP, and more than 700 worldwide. Many cities and counties are pursuing similar and substantial work outside of WHO's program, but the numbers are a helpful indicator of the interest in and uptake of this work. While Brooklyn Park has not (yet) joined the age-friendly network, it uses the program's framework as a guide. (See Appendix F for more on joining the network.)

The WHO/AARP program is organized into eight domains of livability, which identify key aspects of community life that should be explored and addressed through an age-friendly lens. Age-Friendly Brooklyn Park is using the below domains (Figure 1) to guide its work.

FIGURE 1: World Health Organization/AARP Domains of Livability



The WHO/AARP program is organized into eight domains of livability, which identify key aspects of community life that should be explored and addressed through an age-friendly lens.

³ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Madrid Plan of Action for Ageing*, 2002.

Attitude Adjustment: The Fundamentals

Engrained biases against aging can prevent us from effectively addressing the issues related to this inevitable phenomenon.

Whether or not we realize it, most of us carry negative views of aging, including our own aging, and this has real implications for our health, well-being, and even how long we live. People want to distance themselves from the idea of “old” because we tend to associate it only with loss, decline, and feeling invisible, devalued, and “other-ed.”

Our society and systems tend to support and perpetuate these negative views, doing us all a disservice. What if our communities were planned and funded in a manner that allowed us to move more seamlessly into older age, without having to give up the ability to get around, remain socially connected, and live independent lives as long as possible? Our dread of older age may be replaced with a sense of optimism and possibility. Not to mention that cities could reap the economic and social benefits of a more fully engaged and independent populace.

Raising awareness of these biases and working to shake them loose are important aspects of age-friendly communities because they truly do have concrete implications. Below are some key points and facts that must underlie this work.

- Older residents are as fundamentally important as all other community members who have a right to move around and take part in city life. In most places older adults are eventually excluded or discriminated against by default when they cease to drive or lose independence in other ways.
- Older adults significantly contribute to the local economy. The term “longevity economy” was coined for this reason. Older people:
 - Hold the majority of consumer purchasing power
 - Are a valuable and growing segment of the workforce
 - Play critical roles as caregivers to spouses, partners, grandchildren and others
 - Volunteer at high rates
 - Make significant philanthropic and charitable contributions.
- “Seniors” are often lumped into one broad category, which can span up to five decades. Older adults are not a single monolithic group and should not be regarded as such. Whether you believe that older adulthood begins at 50, 65, or 70, each decade presents different stages of life, opportunities, and needs. The experience of aging is universal, but as we reach older age we become more diverse. There is no such thing as a typical 75-year-old. The physical and cognitive capacities of older people vary greatly, unlike those of most 40-year-olds, for example.
- Age is part of diversity and inclusion. Brooklyn Park has worked hard to engage and include its racially, ethnically, culturally, economically, and otherwise diverse residents, and it must explicitly include older residents in this regard.
- Gender, earlier life experiences, and culture determine how people age. This is especially important in a city like Brooklyn Park where residents have widely divergent life experiences due to ethnicity, race, culture, immigration status, and income level.

⁴World Health Organization. <http://www.who.int/ageing/features/faq-ageism/en/>

⁵American Society on Aging. *Generations*, Fall 2015.

Aging in the Suburbs

Suburban populations are aging faster than those in cities.⁷ The Minneapolis/Saint Paul region's five all-suburban counties will see their 65-plus populations more than double—and in Carver County, quadruple—in the next 30 years.^{8,9}

Boomers raised their children in the suburbs and are staying put as they reach older adulthood.

Yet aging in suburbia poses challenges. As has been said, suburbs were designed to move cars, not people, and there are few other ways to get around. Low density and automobile-centric development made public transit impractical, expensive, and a low priority. Most of the suburban housing is single-family homes, often multi-level, with a yard to keep, and set apart from stores and services. Commercial areas have vast parking lots that are unfriendly to people on foot or bicycle, even if shops are relatively near each other.



Unlike pre-World War II eras, few people today walk to work, the store, or school. We've designed our suburban communities in a way that discourages physical activity and minimizes social interaction that was once part of everyday life. Today our daily routines rely almost completely on personal vehicles, which puts non-drivers of all ages in a particular difficult position.

This model doesn't work for most of us as we get older, yet more than half of the country's 75 million baby boomers live in suburbs.¹⁰ And it's not just about accommodating boomers; many people are already old, and younger generations, of course, eventually will age, too. The shift to an older demographic will not be a temporary one as people continue to live longer and birth rates remain low.

More suburbs are working to retrofit themselves to respond to changing demographic trends. Fewer households have school-age children, more households have single occupants, and both boomers and millennials state preferences for walkable and mixed-use communities.^{11, 12}

It takes time and resources to change or create new housing and transportation, and age-friendliness isn't about infrastructure alone.

The shift to an older demographic will not be a temporary one as people continue to live longer and birth rates remain low.

⁶ World Health Organization, Active Ageing Policy. 2002.

⁷ Frey, William. January 2003. Center on Urban and Metropolitan Policy, The Brookings Institution. "Boomers and Seniors in the Suburbs: Aging Patterns in Census 2000."

⁸ Minnesota State Demographic Center. County population projections by age and sex. March 2017.

¹⁰ Bergal, Jenni. "Can car-centric suburbs adjust to aging baby boomers?" June 20, 2016. Pew Charitable Trusts.

¹¹ US Census Bureau. 2016 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

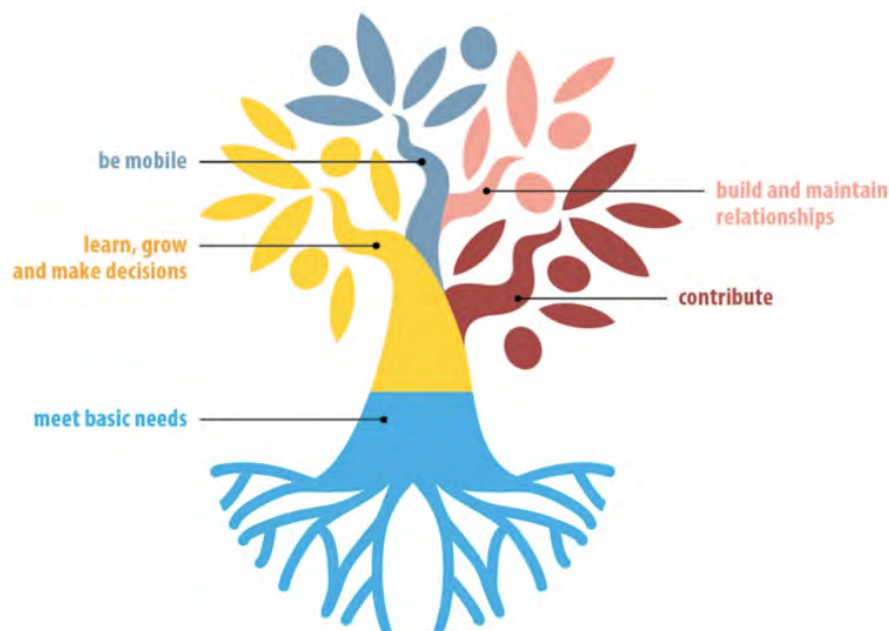
¹² American Planning Association. Investing in Place for Economic Growth and Competitiveness: Two generations' view on the future of communities: millennials, boomers, and new directions for planning and economic development. 2014.

The Role of Community

“Aging well” doesn’t happen only at the individual level. The term can imply that how we age is a function of factors all within our control—our choices and lifestyles. In fact, many variables and the interaction of those variables determine our health and well-being as we grow older.

The World Health Organization defines healthy aging as “the process of developing and maintaining the functional ability that enables well-being in older age.” Why functional ability? Because healthy aging is not just about our physical and mental—or intrinsic—capacity, but also about how well we can function in our environment given that capacity.

Figure 2 illustrates what WHO identifies as the five domains of functional ability: meet basic needs; be mobile; build and maintain relationships; learn, grow and make decisions; and contribute. Similar to the eight domains of livability that shape age-friendly communities (see page 9), the domains of functional ability are closely interconnected.



“These abilities are essential to enable older people to do the things that they value. Together they enable older people to age safely in a place that is right for them, to continue to develop personally, to be included and to contribute to their communities while retaining their autonomy and health.” –World Report on Ageing and Health, World Health Organization, 2015

We all want to be autonomous, connected to others, and able to enjoy life—that doesn’t change with age. Local governments and communities play a significant role in shaping how we experience older age.

Aging in community is an evolution of aging in place. In fact, the American Planning Association has developed a policy guide around this concept. Going far beyond simply being able to remain in one’s own home, which can be a lonely and isolating endeavor, aging in community refers to “building vital communities that engage people of all ages and abilities in a shared, ongoing effort to advance the common good.”¹³

The aging population will impact society and government in a myriad of complex ways, many of which are beyond the scope of Age-Friendly Brooklyn Park. But local and regional initiatives are critical to responding to the needs and opportunities tied to more of us being and becoming older adults. Important work is possible and necessary at the community level, which also informs, supports, and reinforces broader efforts.

¹³ Thomas and Blanchard. 2009. “Moving Beyond Place: Aging in Community.” *Generations: Journal of the American Society on Aging*.

Age-Friendly in Context: A Profile of Brooklyn Park

Brooklyn Park, Minnesota is a vibrant suburb northwest of Minneapolis in Hennepin County. Situated on the west bank of the Mississippi River, it is the state's sixth largest city, with a population of 80,800 people. It is also the 11th fastest growing city in Minnesota.

Once a traditionally Midwestern and mostly white suburb, the city's trademark over the past two decades has become its remarkable racial and cultural diversity. Brooklyn Park's present demographics reflect where the state of Minnesota's will be in 2040. Fifty-four percent of residents are people of color, 22 percent are foreign-born, and more than a quarter speaks a language other than English at home. It is home to large Asian (namely Hmong, Vietnamese, and Lao) and African (especially from Liberia, Kenya, Nigeria, and Ethiopia) populations, as well as many Hispanic/Latinx and African-American residents.

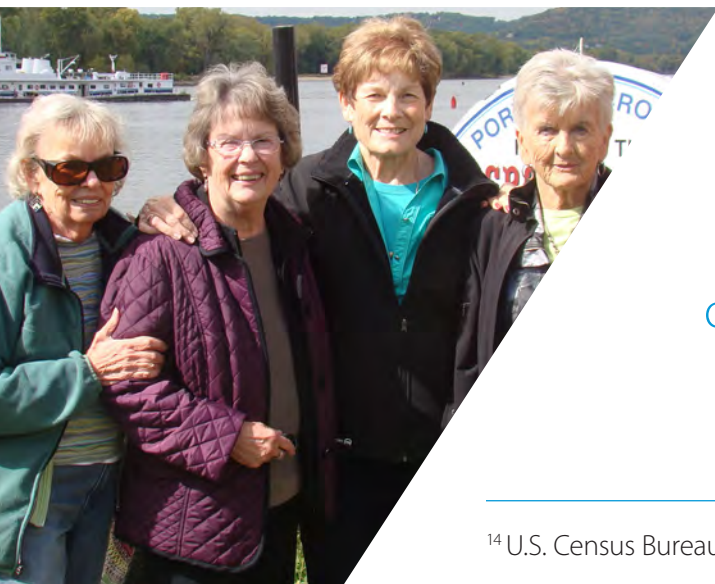
For this reason, the City has invested significant time and resources into community engagement to help ensure all residents feel welcome and included.

Brooklyn Park is unique in that it developed progressively, with homes in the south constructed largely in the 1960s and newer housing that spread north in later decades, with new developments still being constructed

in the northwestern neighborhoods. There is a \$90,557 difference in median household income between the highest and lowest median income census tracts. Therefore, as in other places with such income inequality, there are disparities in outcomes related to housing, employment, education and health.

This racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic diversity provides a fascinating but complex context for Brooklyn Park's age-friendly work. Residents' experiences of growing older vary widely. We all become more diverse as we age, experiencing change or decline at different ages and rates. The demographic diversity in Brooklyn Park heightens this reality, and this will become increasingly true over time. Younger cohorts are more racially and ethnically diverse than older ones, though this will change as those younger generations grow older. In Minnesota, for example, people of color comprise only four percent of those aged 85 or older but 31 percent of children five and under.¹⁴

Perhaps for this reason Brooklyn Park is collectively younger than its neighbors, the county, and state as a whole. But its overall older adult population is growing, too, and will continue to do so.



Perhaps for this reason Brooklyn Park is collectively younger than its neighbors, the county, and state as a whole. But its overall older adult population is growing, too, and will continue to do so.

¹⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, 2015, via the Minnesota State Demographer's Office.

The City's Foundation for Age-Friendly Work

Brooklyn Park's city government has a strong foundation for this work in terms of organizational culture and active support for the community's older adults. Leaders already invest in the growth and evolution of the city as an organization, establishing a culture of continuous improvement and actively seeking ways to function at a higher level in service to residents. The following information and observations support the notion that the City as an organization is prepared to undertake a new way of thinking and operating. It also presents some of the key ways it has invested in its older residents to date.

- The City led a year-long community planning process called **Brooklyn Park 2025**, which used extensive resident input to develop six overarching goals (see page 21) in support of its mission to be "a thriving community inspiring pride where opportunities exist for all." *Brooklyn Park 2025* demonstrates the City's commitment to better understanding and acting on residents' desires, concerns, and priorities for a better community.
- The Community Long-Range Improvement Commission (CLIC) was the sponsoring Commission within the City that guided the **Task Force on Aging**, which developed a substantial foundation for age-friendly work in 2014 and 2015. Its recommendations (summarized at right) reinforce much of what was learned through

this year's Age-Friendly Brooklyn Park efforts. They are organized into priority areas similar to the WHO domains of livability. Read more about the Task Force's conclusions in Appendix E.

- Brooklyn Park has developed a reputation for having an **exceptional senior center**, housed within the Community Activity Center (CAC). The

Recreation and Parks' Senior Adult programs are incredibly valued by and meaningful to participants and highly regarded by professionals in the community. This is due to the welcoming and caring culture established by key staff, popular classes, and the sense of community and lasting bonds that form between participants. One fitness instructor with extensive training

Brooklyn Park's Task Force on Aging's Recommendations (2015)



The City's Foundation for Age-Friendly Work

and education has helped many participants reduce chronic pain issues through a musculoskeletal approach. Other classes, such as watercolor painting, were also noted as having had profound impacts on participants.

- **The Dynamic Aging Resource Fair** is an important annual event that draws more than 350 attendees and 50 vendors, providing valuable opportunities for older adults and their families to learn about resources that are available within the community and to connect with key businesses and organizations. It includes quality speakers and workshops on a variety of topics, all free to the public. This event also provides an important chance for the City to share information with and gather input from older residents, most of which are in a “sharing and learning mode” at the event and ready to engage.
- City staff have a **learning mindset**, and the culture of continuous improvement encourages **ongoing professional development** opportunities—such as education sessions on various topics, access to consultants who share knowledge and expertise, and cross-departmental trainings. These include department-specific topics and cross-department topics—including age-friendliness—that help the City function as a single enterprise focused on the same goals and how to achieve them.
- Key leaders use **strategic approaches** to apply various lenses to the breadth of its work. Similar to age-friendly, race and equity lenses are being used to strengthen the City’s work in those realms across the board. The City also created a position in the City Manager’s office charged with ensuring that the City’s strategic initiatives—such as Age-Friendly Brooklyn Park—make sense and align with larger goals and activities.
- The City established a **Community Engagement division**, now with a staff of three, to more effectively engage the city’s increasingly diverse population in plans and projects. The City also has an internal racial equity initiative through which staff is trained in intercultural competence and how to apply a racial equity lens to policies, procedures and programs.
- Staff in key departments bring a **high-touch approach to service** to residents. Those extra efforts are especially important to older residents.
- Residents and professionals during the engagement process complimented the City’s **exemplary police and fire departments**, noting that they are well-trained, progressive, professional, and respectful.



City staff have a learning mindset, and the culture of continuous improvement encourages ongoing professional development opportunities—such as education sessions on various topics, access to consultants who share knowledge and expertise, and cross-departmental trainings.

Brooklyn Park 2025: Strong Alignment with Age-Friendly

The following six goals were identified through *Brooklyn Park 2025*, each with several guiding strategies to support them. Many of these guiding strategies align with age-friendly goals, findings related to the age-friendly community engagement, or recommendations that emerged from the age-friendly process so far. Those strategies, all original parts of *BP 2025*, are noted below each goal. This further reinforces that age-friendly efforts are a natural part and extension of priorities already identified by the community, and that working to advance *BP 2025* goals will simultaneously support age-friendliness.

1) A united and welcoming community, strengthened by our diversity

- Our community's activities, events and services are inclusive, multi-cultural, and accessible.
- We have places and spaces for diverse communities to gather.
- Residents of every age contribute to our community.

2) Beautiful spaces and quality infrastructure make Brooklyn Park a unique destination

- Modern transportation options (drive, ride, walk, bike) connect people to education, jobs, and recreation.
- Quality recreation and park amenities inspire activity for all ages and interests.
- People of all ages and backgrounds enjoy financial stability.

This further reinforces that age-friendly efforts are a natural part and extension of priorities already identified by the community, and that working to advance *BP 2025* goals will simultaneously support age-friendliness.

3) A balanced economic environment that empowers businesses and people to thrive.

- Aging adults have services and amenities to thrive and age in place.
- Everyone has access to quality healthy food options.
- People have access to quality medical and emergency care.

4) People of all ages have what they need to feel healthy and safe.

- The community provides necessary supports and services for community members to overcome life challenges such as hunger, mental illness, and homelessness.

5) Partnerships that increase racial and economic equity empower residents and neighborhoods to prosper.

- The community provides necessary supports and services for community members to overcome life challenges such as hunger, mental illness, and homelessness.

6) Effective and engaging government recognized as a leader.

- The City provides quality services at a reasonable cost.
- Elected officials, commissions, and city staff reflect the diversity of the community and are culturally competent.
- City information is clear, accessible, and delivered in ways that meet the community's needs.

On the Horizon: Regional Collaboration?

Future opportunities for a regional-level approach may exist. Maple Grove and Osseo, two immediate neighbors of Brooklyn Park, are pursuing similar age-friendly work. Maple Grove joined the WHO/AARP Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities in 2016; it launched and began implementing its three-year action plan in mid-2018. Osseo has been working with Hennepin County Public Health (HCPH) on a more “8 80” approach, which holds that if you build a city that works for an 8-year-old and an 80-year-old, it will be a great city for all.

Brooklyn Park could explore with these cities and others, perhaps in conjunction with Hennepin County, which has helped fund Osseo’s work and recently hired its first healthy aging coordinator, possible avenues of coordination and/or shared resources. This type of partnership would be new terrain but could ultimately save costs for all cities and acknowledges the reality that residents regularly traverse municipal boundaries for shopping, services, and recreation. It could also encourage support from state and federal government by demonstrating city and county commitment to and leadership around age-friendly efforts at a significant scale.

Potential avenues to explore:

Transportation: Several Twin Cities’ suburbs (including West St. Paul, Edina, White Bear Lake, and others) have launched circulator bus services aimed mostly at older residents. The shuttles run regular routes to key retail and other destinations, usually operating one day a week and charging only a small fare. Many Brooklyn Park residents raised the idea of creating a similar local service to address the issue of transportation as crucial to social connection and autonomy and as a means to staying active and contributing to the local economy. Because these types of services have been recently created and tested in the region, good models and experienced partners exist, though developing a municipally collaborative service would require some additional effort.

Communication and Information: Another issue frequently raised by residents was the need for a central information resource on issues related to aging. This could include health and medical needs, city services and programs, senior housing, public library information, county health and social services, transportation, recreation, and more. Existing services like Senior Linkage Line can be confusing and usually require callers to navigate through automated menus and wait on hold before speaking to a person. An information hub concentrated on resources and services in Brooklyn Park, Maple Grove, and Osseo—or perhaps northwest Hennepin County at large—could help residents easily find information about local or nearby services. This type of resource hub would involve partnership with relevant agencies and likely necessitate a dedicated part-time staff person. (The Northwest Hennepin Human Services Council, a Joint Powers Agreement of several area cities that included Brooklyn Park, formerly filled this role to some degree but was dissolved in early 2017.)

Economic development and local business: Local businesses are a very important part of community life. Regardless of our age and stage of life, we all need food, services, recreation, medication, and many household items. Businesses can work to understand and accommodate older customers’ needs concerning products, services, and physical design. Collectively, older adults wield enormous purchasing power, which should be additional motivation for businesses to actively cater to this growing group. The concept also includes local businesses as being age-friendly employers: how can they attract and support older workers?

Osseo created an age-friendly business guide, and Maple Grove is developing an age-friendly business program. In Brooklyn Park, BP Business Forward, a City-staffed initiative of local business owners, has stated interest in pursuing this work, and there may be value in exploring whether a regional approach to this topic holds possibility.

Methodology

This recommendations report was developed based on findings from a two-fold engagement process undertaken over the course of 2018. The process built on earlier work inside the City: *Brooklyn Park 2025*, the City-led community planning effort conducted in 2017, and the work of the resident-led Task Force on Aging from 2014-15.

Through *Brooklyn Park 2025* the community identified six goals, and the needs and well-being of older residents are woven throughout several of those goals and strategies. However, City leaders felt they needed to explore older adult needs more specifically. The Task Force on Aging, an effort of the Community Long-Range Improvement Commission, produced a set of recommendations, but it did not have the capacity to conduct more extensive engagement that would reflect varying needs of the city's diverse communities. Age-Friendly Brooklyn Park sought to capture those voices as well as to dig deeper into older adult concerns and opportunities community-wide.

This work involved looking both outward into the community and inward to city government to uncover baseline age-friendliness on both fronts.

- What is working well, and where does more need to be done?
- What is important to residents?
- Where do City staff see opportunities to be more systematically inclusive of older adult concerns?

Coordination with Hennepin County

It so happened that Brooklyn Park's Recreation and Park's Department Program, in partnership with Hennepin County Public Health, was undertaking a related project around the same time that Age-Friendly Brooklyn Park was getting under way. This partnership's focus was more targeted: gather input from older residents (50+) in Brooklyn Park related to needs, desires, gaps, challenges and barriers to accessing and/or participating in the City's Recreation and Parks Adult & Senior Adult programs. There was a specific focus on Brooklyn Park's low-income residents and/or residents of color, many but not all being immigrants or refugees.

This work included leading five focus groups for its project, and Age-Friendly Brooklyn Park participated in those sessions to gather insights for this report. The two projects were coordinated as needed throughout. While the Recreation and Parks Senior Program's report was written independently, the conclusions are consistent with those in this report. (See page 41 for more information about the conclusions; see Appendix G for the report.)



This work involved looking both outward into the community and inward to city government to uncover baseline age-friendliness on both fronts.

Methodology

External Engagement

The external community engagement for Age-Friendly Brooklyn Park involved 1) city residents, and 2) key community stakeholders, primarily professionals across various sectors whose work touches older adults.

City Residents

Age-Friendly Brooklyn Park followed the World Health Organization's principle of hearing directly from residents, understanding that the lived experiences of older adults are the core of the work. In Brooklyn Park this meant connecting with a cross-section of residents who reflect the community's ethnic and racial diversity. Ten focus groups and listening sessions were held, including five led by HCPH. This also included a presentation and discussion at a Brooklyn Park Community Assembly (regularly held forums for residents to learn about and discuss important community issues) and an interactive table at the Dynamic Aging Resource Fair, where input was gathered from many of the 350 attendees at that event. A handful of individual or small-group interviews with residents were also conducted. (See Appendix B for more details about resident engagement activities.)

Key Stakeholders/Community Partners

It was also critical to hear from professionals who work with older adults in various capacities to capture their perspectives and expertise. Meetings or interviews were held with 21 organizations and agencies across a range of sectors—including healthcare, senior housing communities, nonprofit service organizations, community education, churches and more. (See Appendix C for more details about stakeholder engagement activities.)

Internal Engagement

City Departments and Key Staff

Brooklyn Park also wanted to conduct a self-assessment of its own work as a local government to uncover opportunities to better serve and support older residents. The consultant presented to and led an interactive discussion with a large group of cross-departmental manager-level staff, and later met with small groups from individual departments. Both were opportunities to learn more about what staff observe and recommend from their varying roles and perspectives. (See Appendices A and C for more details about City department engagement activities.)

In Brooklyn Park this meant connecting with a cross-section of residents who reflect the community's ethnic and racial diversity.



Findings: Resident and Key Stakeholder Engagement

This section presents what was learned through many conversations with residents, key stakeholders, and professionals from different sectors whose work relates to the lives of older adults.

As previously noted, resident experiences vary widely in some regards. Defining factors tend to be race or ethnicity and socioeconomic status. These findings and subsequent discussion provide greater detail about the city's older low-income residents, residents of color, and immigrants and refugees due to associated complexities and the fact that there has been less exploration by government entities of their needs and circumstances. This summary reflects themes and notable responses; it is not exhaustive. Full results from any engagement session or interview are available upon request.

While the findings are roughly organized according to the WHO/AARP livability domains, keep in mind that all are interconnected. Improvements in one domain are likely to stimulate changes in another. For example, more transportation options will help address social isolation.

The findings are critical but not equivalent to a list of immediate action items for the City. Using this recommendations report, the City and community partners will develop a plan of action that identifies priorities, timelines, and resources.

(Note that some of the findings also function as recommendations; those have been pulled out and are included in the later Recommendations section.)

Outdoor Spaces & Buildings

- People want walkability.
- They appreciate the trail system, but trails designed for use by both cyclists and pedestrians can feel treacherous and unsafe for walking.
- Residents enjoy trails but often must drive to reach them.
- The availability of benches—or lack thereof—can determine whether older adults use trails. (Some are currently lacking near SummerCrest Condominiums.)
- Certain streets/intersections were noted as dangerous for pedestrians, e.g., Zane Avenue and Brooklyn Boulevard. And in fact, two separate pedestrian fatalities—both older residents—occurred on Brooklyn Boulevard near Zane Avenue in fall 2018.

Housing

- Affordable senior housing is a fundamental issue. This came from residents and professionals alike. If more senior housing is constructed, it must be affordable. There is also a shortage of affordable rental housing.
- Many homeowners (mostly white) are concerned about being priced out of the community when trying to downsize to one-level homes/townhomes. New homes, even if smaller, cost more than their current homes and are unaffordable.

“My split-level house won’t age with me.”

– Resident



“When you’re in the apartment and lock the door, you’re safe. But coming in and out, [you] don’t feel safe.”

– Resident

Findings: Resident and Key Stakeholder Engagement

- Property taxes can get high for older residents on fixed incomes. As the housing market and other factors beyond their control change, taxes can increase significantly even if no improvements have been made to the property.
- Some lower-income residents of apartment buildings have basic safety concerns. Leaving their apartment or the building can expose them to unsafe situations. This can perpetuate greater isolation.
- Older immigrants can be put in vulnerable positions concerning housing. They may be reluctant to complain to a landlord for fear of eviction, may not know their rights, and may not have an advocate to help them navigate such situations.

Transportation

- Transportation is likely the most significant and unifying challenge for older residents.
- Most non-drivers depend on friends and family to provide rides. Older adults may rely on adult children for transportation, but many of those children work and are available on a limited basis or only on weekends. Some residents described missing medical appointments or rescheduling surgeries because of their family's inability to give rides at needed times.
- A small percentage of residents use Metro Mobility, which requires a doctor's certification to ride. While it can be time-consuming and inconvenient, they still value it greatly because it provides a safe and affordable option.
- While most residents don't use public transit—in this case, the bus—some older Liberians take it regularly, and a handful of others rely on it. Of those who do not ride, reasons given include:
 - Play critical roles as caregivers to spouses, partners, grandchildren and others
 - No need for it because they drive
 - Don't know how to use the system
 - Safety concerns
 - Bus routes don't go to desired locations
 - Accessibility—concerns about being able to safely board and exit the bus without assistance
 - Fear of the unknown
- Many residents support the Bottineau light rail coming into the city and said they would ride it, though some said education on how to ride would be important. Those who drive also expressed concern about the need for convenient parking around the stations.
- A small number of residents, generally younger-older ones who still drive, have used ridesharing services like Uber and Lyft on occasion. For others there are concerns about cost, trust, and the ability of drivers to help riders in need of

“Let us participate in the economy.”

– *Tradition senior housing resident on the need for transportation services*



“I think of not being able to drive and it scares me to death.”

– *Recreation & Parks Senior Adult Program participant*



“Over time we have seen many of our neighbors stop driving, and that tends to isolate people. And then once they're isolated, the downhill spiral begins.”

– *Homeowners' association resident*

Findings: Resident and Key Stakeholder Engagement

extra assistance. So, while those services do provide important transportation options that allow spontaneity and autonomy, they are not being well utilized at this point for various reasons.

- Immigrants are most likely to walk as a means of transportation. This is mostly out of necessity, as they often do not have vehicles or licenses to drive.
- Many suggested the idea of a regular circulator shuttle service that would travel to grocery stores, pharmacies, restaurants, and other key destinations.
- Residents of senior housing tend to learn from each other about transportation options beyond driving a personal vehicle. Someone suggested a service that would help prepare people to transition to non-driving.
- Some senior housing communities have busses or vans, but the service is limited and does not allow for spontaneity.
- Some residents travel on scooters year-round as weather and sidewalk conditions allow. This provides an important means of getting around but can be treacherous in the winter.
- Some older immigrants may not drive or get licensed to drive because of concerns related to their immigration status. Many of these residents do or are willing to ride public transportation and would greatly benefit from additional options.

Civic Engagement & Employment

- Volunteering:
 - People would like a readily available, comprehensive source of local volunteer opportunity listings.
 - Others expressed the desire for more meaningful volunteer opportunities within the city—to help immigrants, school kids, the libraries, etc. in Brooklyn Park.
 - There is also desire for more sporadic opportunities rather than regular ongoing commitments.
 - Older adults are important to Recreation and Parks and other City departments as sources of volunteers and seasonal employees.
- Community groups and service clubs like the Brooklyn Park Lions contribute immensely through extensive volunteering throughout the community as well as by providing a source of purposeful social connection and support for its members. Membership in such organizations—Kiwanis and Rotary are other examples—is waning nationally, but these groups have served as important sources of social capital for years.

“It is hard to connect people to resources. You need that person-to-person help, and that’s what people want.”

– Senior Housing Administrator



Findings: Resident and Key Stakeholder Engagement

Communication & Information

- Communication is a complicated issue. People find, seek, and disregard information in their own ways.
- Numerous people noted a lack of easy-to-find information on topics related to aging and requested an information clearinghouse or resource hub. Existing services like the Senior Linkage Line can be confusing and overwhelming.
- Many residents, primarily white ones, value City publications and report reading them regularly—such as *Park Pages* (City newsletter), *Get Up & Go* (Recreation and Parks activity brochure), and *Adults on the Move* (Recreation and Parks Adult and Senior Adult brochure). Residents of color and immigrants were less likely to read these publications. Some aren't able to read English, some find the amount of information too overwhelming, and some are simply

disconnected from the world of City/CAC programming and don't consider the information applicable or of interest to them. Some suggested a more summarized flyer targeting older residents.

- Reaching older residents across the city's ethnic and multicultural communities can be especially difficult. For example, no one at the Lao focus group had heard about or attended the recent annual Tater Daze event, despite widespread marketing. However, they did attend the Brooklyn Park Lions Club smelt fry and said they learned about the event from posters around the city.
- Spanish-speaking residents said the lack of Spanish language marketing or informational materials feels exclusionary. Even though they know they can attend events or participate in certain activities, they still feel like guests and not truly part of it. Some of this is tied to immigration status or concerns.
- New residents of senior housing communities need more information about the city and local resources. Many move from out of town and are unfamiliar with the community but would like to become more connected.
- Some requested a class on how to use local delivery services. Who offers what and how do you use it?

“The more isolated you are the more vulnerable you are. That’s known in the neighborhood.”

– Resident



Findings: Resident and Key Stakeholder Engagement

Social Participation

- We heard from residents themselves as well as from others who work with them that social isolation and loneliness are real and pervasive issues.
- Lack of transportation underlies a good deal of social isolation.
- Living in senior housing can provide important social connections and sense of community for some.
- Identifying isolated older people in the community can be a challenge (though there are some individuals who prefer to be isolated).
- Preventing isolation and loneliness by providing opportunities for social connection earlier is helpful.
- Isolation leads to greater vulnerability and a host of other issues.
- Social isolation exists within immigrant communities as well. Even older immigrants who live with extended family can be isolated from their friends and peers. Family support is critical but does not replace peer connection.
- Senior Adult Programs at the CAC are profoundly important to many participants as a forum for forming and building close friendships and supportive relationships. Many even remarked on the lack of Friday fitness classes in summer months because even the loss of one day a week is missed.

“I love this community center. It is extraordinarily important. It is so easy to become isolated. I have grown as a person because your door was open.”

– CAC Senior Adult Program participant



Providing MORE for the 50+ community! ← **adults on the move** →

PROGRAMS

- Workshops
- Trainings
- Classes
- Defensive Driving

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

- Bingo
- Card Clubs
- Quilting
- Book Clubs
- Knitting Groups

FITNESS

- Silver Sneakers
- Silver 'n Fit
- Zumba
- Pickleball
- Nordic Walking

TRIPS

- Day Trips
- Tours
- Extended Trips
- Trips Abroad

EVENTS

- Lunches & Entertainment
- Senior Forum
- Holiday Parties
- Creative Chaos
- STEP TO It Kickoff

GetUp&Go

Findings: Resident and Key Stakeholder Engagement

Community & Health Services

- Caregiving takes a toll on an increasing number of residents. When asked about the mental health of older patients, one healthcare provider noted that it is caregivers who need the most support in assuring their own emotional and physical well-being.
- There is a need for broader understanding of and engagement with dementia.
- Grocery and pharmacy delivery services provide a lifeline to people who cannot easily get out. Hy-Vee and Walgreens were noted.
- Access to fresh and healthy food is an issue.
- There is a desire for more sit-down restaurants and less fast food.
- People would like more activities for grandparents and grandkids.
- Many residents—especially immigrants—are not aware of available resources, such as reserving rooms for free at City Hall or the library. Language differences also make it difficult for them to use the reservation systems.
- Many older immigrants from Liberia and Sierra Leone have limited health literacy, which contributes to high rates of hypertension, diabetes, high cholesterol, heart disease and stroke.
- One healthcare provider said that available resources don't really fit the community's older low-income residents of color, many of who are immigrants or refugees.
- Residents of SummerCrest Condominiums noted the City's thorough and well-trained fire department, and the mindful and respectful police department. Key stakeholders from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and Hennepin Health Care noted Brooklyn Park's progressive, well-trained and helpful police department.
- Some businesses that may not typically considered notable are valuable to some older residents. It is important to remember that people use business and services in ways that work for their circumstances, and that those choices are not always obvious or predictable. The list should not be considered exhaustive but was developed based on what was learned from residents and others involved in this effort.
 - ALDI is favored by older residents of Creekside Gables and Brooks Landing (affordable senior housing buildings) because they are able to walk to it and prices are low.
 - Convenience stores: Small markets like Kwik Trip, which sells fresh foods, and Speedy (formerly SuperAmerica) can become important sources of food and small necessities because of their proximity to some older residents' homes and the ease of going in and out of a smaller-scale business.
 - Wal-Mart is a preferred shopping destination due its low prices.
- Numerous Southeast Asian residents noted Dragon Star Supermarket (including its farmers market) and Sun Foods as important to them.
- The City's Farmers Market in Zane Sports Park is also valued by Southeast Asian and other residents.

Many residents—especially immigrants—are not aware of available resources, such as reserving rooms for free at City Hall or the library. Language differences also make it difficult for them to use the reservation systems.

Key Observations from Immigrant Communities

This section supplements the above findings by presenting some observations specific to the experiences of aging residents across varying cultural communities. They are, of course, to some extent generalizations, but were definite themes that ran through the course of the engagement for Age-Friendly Brooklyn Park.

Language is a barrier.

Many older immigrants do not speak or read English well enough to feel comfortable participating in existing community activities. They often aren't aware of community events and services in the first place for various reasons—including but not limited to language—but, moreover, attending English-based events is not appealing. Language has the power to make you feel seen, known, appreciated, and understood.

Integration is not a priority.

Generally, older immigrants expressed—sometimes via their family members—little interest in joining existing classes or programs. In addition to language, noted above, there are cultural differences. Hmong residents, for example, stated the need for purpose in their activities.

It is important to be learning or contributing. Activities just for fun, like Bingo, are of no interest. Further, fitness classes may include physical movements considered inappropriate in more conservative cultures. Even in cases where residents across cultural communities expressed interest in the same topics—such as learning to sew or use a computer—they prefer to do so within their own group.

But this sentiment extends beyond programs and activities. In general, older immigrants prefer to remain within their cultural communities. Connecting with the broader community for its own sake holds little value. While Brooklyn Park has one of the most active National Night Out events in the country, for instance, one Hmong focus group participant pointed to that event as the type that does not resonate with the Hmong community, particularly elders. They don't connect with the purpose.

In some cases, such as with many West African elders, residents continue to deal with trauma related to immigration and to live with significant daily stress due to health issues, food insecurity, financial concerns, and the ongoing demands of navigating a culture that may still be unfamiliar.

For older adults it is often even more important to connect with peers with common language, shared history, and a sense of familiarity and comfort. Integrating into the broader community was not a priority for multicultural residents, who preferred to stick to their own cultural groups. (In fact, white residents were the only ones to raise and encourage the idea of greater mixing of racial and ethnic groups.) Of course, this may change over time in immigrant communities as younger generations who were raised in the U.S. grow older.

“Alone Together”

Social isolation is common among older people from all backgrounds, but refugees and immigrants can experience it uniquely. Many live with their children and grandchildren but seldom leave the house or connect with friends in person. The care and support provided by family is critical, but people of all ages need connection with their peers, perhaps even more so for refugees and immigrants with difficult histories that continue to affect them. Providing or facilitating opportunities for social connection among isolated immigrants and elders would be of great value to them as well as to their families.

CASE STUDY: Fitness Class Pilot for Older Liberians

Following an Age-Friendly Brooklyn Park listening session with a group of Liberian elders, the City created a pilot fitness program for this community that ran between April and December 2018. Lessons from the pilot may help the City as it considers how to more effectively engage older residents of various ethnicities.

The listening session, held in partnership with the Organization of Liberians in Minnesota (OLM), involved mostly refugees who came to Minnesota due to civil war in Liberia. They have lived in Brooklyn Park anywhere from three years to two decades. Most had no formal education, and American English is their second language.

Although no participants had taken part in classes or programs at the Community Activity Center (CAC), many expressed interest in fitness or walking programs, among other things. Yet transportation challenges, cost, language barriers, and a general lack of interest in joining CAC classes meant existing programs weren't an option.

As a result, the City arranged to pilot a Walk With Ease class onsite at OLM, a known and trusted organization in Brooklyn Park's Liberian community. Walk With Ease is a program of The Arthritis Foundation and is regularly held at the CAC. The class was offered free of charge and taught by a highly trained and experienced instructor who teaches at the CAC and is a white woman native to Minnesota.

Between April and December 2018, the instructor taught Walk With Ease once a week at OLM to 10-12 participants—all but a few from Brooklyn Park—although participation decreased over time. The program duration was not pre-determined, and participants were not asked to commit to a nine-month session. (The City's Recreation and Parks fitness classes typically run on about three-month sessions.) Transportation and lunch were provided by OLM and/or participants. The class involved walking outdoors and inside and various other exercises provided by the instructor based on participants' interests and abilities.

Successes:

- Participants appreciated that the City came to them at a familiar and trusted location instead of asking them to travel to somewhere new or different, and they were more likely to participate as a result.
- Offering the class for free made it possible for people to participate in something that would typically be out of reach for them to access.
- A trusting and affectionate relationship formed between the instructor and participants, and participants appreciated the instructor's willingness to be flexible according to what they felt they were able to do on a given day.
- Participants engaged in movement and exercise for an hour each week when they otherwise would likely have just been sitting. They were also given exercise "homework," which, if completed, would increase their daily physical activity.
- The instructor's experience with biomechanics allowed her to help participants with immediate issues, such as knee pain while getting up from a chair, and participants greatly valued that type of help.



CASE STUDY: Fitness Class Pilot for Older Liberians

Challenges:

- Language differences made it hard to communicate details of physical movements and caused the instructor some concern about preventing injury. Nuances can be lost between Liberian English and American English.
- It was not uncommon to start late, end early, or have short-notice class cancellations. Cultural concepts of time and schedules did not always align.



Lessons:

- Success might look different for such a program. The City would need to rethink and define its desired outcomes at the start.
- Such a class requires an experienced and culturally competent instructor who can be flexible moment to moment and improvise as needed based on participants' needs, abilities, and interests.
- Holding the class every other week, instead of weekly, may be preferable for participants.
- A supportive and responsive partner organization is needed to help recruit participants, help with logistics, troubleshoot as needed, and generally serve as a trusted intermediary between the cultural group and city government.
- The City generally cannot afford to offer classes at no cost. Funding or budgets would need to be adjusted to accommodate participants who are unable to pay.
- There can be culturally driven misperceptions or lack of understanding about the availability of City funds to offer such programs. Additional education and communication on this topic could help.
- More time than usual may be needed to plan and teach a similar class in the future as City staff learn and evolve their processes and expectations to work across diverse cultures. Building relationships alone will take time in some cases.

A trusting and affectionate relationship formed between the instructor and participants, and participants appreciated the instructor's willingness to be flexible according to what they felt they were able to do on a given day.

FINDINGS: City Departments

Age-friendliness should permeate organization-wide. It involves all departments and staff at every level, though people often think of “seniors” in a more limited way.

The City engages with residents in many different capacities. Frontline staff such as members of the Police and Fire departments help residents in their homes every day, and front desk staff assist people visiting City Hall and the CAC. Others develop budgets and create plans, policies, and projects. Age-friendliness pertains to them all.

This section includes key observations and informal recommendations made by staff—or developed based on discussions with them—during meetings between June and October 2018. While important insights and information were shared at these meetings, a true action plan would require additional meetings and input, as well as engagement from community partners, to set priorities and determine strategies and timelines.

The following reflects a general assessment of each group or department based on input of staff that attended the meetings. Note that while the meetings were very productive, not all key staff were able to attend, and the information below should not be considered exhaustive. More details from meetings with each department can be found in Appendices A and D.

Note: Recommendations specific to each department can be found on page 34.

Age-friendliness should permeate organization-wide. It involves all departments and staff at every level, though people often think of “seniors” in a more limited way.

Administration and Finance (Public-facing staff)

This group included staff that perform a wide range of functions and interface with the public related to budget, community engagement, human resources, residential appraisals, utility billing, communications, and guest services via the front desk at City Hall. Several staff members were quite attuned to specific issues concerning older residents, especially those who had worked at the City for many years and observed shifts over time, due to an increasing number of older residents as well as changes in their attitudes, engagement, and expectations tied to generational shifts.

General readiness seemed to vary given that this discussion spanned a cross-section of departments that perform a variety of functions. Some had knowledgeable suggestions for improvements based on their experience and observations, while others were considering the issue for the first time.

Community Development

Community development touches a range of critical areas related to age-friendliness—planning for land use, housing, and transit; environmental and public health; building inspections and rental properties; and more. Because of the scope and importance of their work, additional meetings would need to be held, ideally with subsets of staff, to develop specific recommendations for this department.

Overall readiness appears to vary. This is a large department with many facets important to age-friendliness. Additional education or training for some would be helpful to increase understanding and better position staff to uncover opportunities for where older adults’ concerns could be integrated into their work. There is willingness and curiosity that with additional support and structure could translate into meaningful changes.

FINDINGS: City Departments

Here especially there would be both short-term and long-term approaches. For example, a short-term effort could be developing educational materials urging landlords to incorporate universal design features into routine building upgrades. A long-term effort could be developing a housing strategy for older residents that goes beyond senior housing buildings.

Because so much planning happens in this department, it is also a critical place for building age-friendly considerations into practices for City projects large and small. For example, one suggestion raised at the meeting was to make the incoming Bottineau Line light rail project age-friendly. This represents a great (and rare) opportunity on several fronts: ensure that older residents can easily use this important new infrastructure into which so much is being invested; gain experience and education for staff on how to make public transit maximally inclusive; and provide age-friendly leadership with other levels of government involved in the project.

While the light rail represents a special opportunity, more standard and routine projects are equally important as they, too, have direct impact on residents' lives and reflect the City's values and priorities on an ongoing basis.

Operations & Maintenance

Operations and Maintenance is a unified, well-organized department that is strongly positioned to take on age-friendly efforts. With an established ethos of high-touch customer service, Operations and Maintenance is attuned and responsive to older residents' needs. Because of the nature of its work and its existing department-wide culture of providing high-level service, there are fewer systems-level recommendations for this department, but a few items are noted in the recommendations section.

Worth noting:

One of the most distinctive things about this department is that it manages a unique relationship between the City and homeowner associations (HOAs) that greatly benefits HOA residents, many of whom are older adults. Instead of hiring and paying a contractor directly, an HOA can tag onto an existing City project—such as a street improvement—and pay the City instead. This saves HOA residents a good deal of money, although it does involve extra staff hours to plan and oversee the HOA dimension of these shared projects. As many HOA residents are older adults, this arrangement, which predates any formal age-friendliness efforts, is a good example of how a city can adopt a system-level approach to an aspect of its work and benefit a great number of older residents over time.

Police and Fire Departments

Leadership from the Police and Fire departments is primed to act to advance age-friendliness in their departments. All clearly identified and concurred about priority needs and gaps—namely, an inability to provide follow-up to residents after emergency calls that would connect them with appropriate resources and prevent future unnecessary calls. With older adults this usually means calls from people who have fallen, need assistance related to a chronic health condition, or simply need some human connection. The number of calls received and amount of time spent at the city's many group homes—a significant number of which house older adults—was also noted.

Department leaders hold visions for systems-level change that would bring more strategic and effective responses to what they see as the true issues that need to be addressed.

FINDINGS: City Departments

Recreation & Parks Department

Recreation and Parks holds possibility on several fronts but requires more exploration. Readiness seems to vary given the spectrum of roles and different levels of familiarity with the topic. Additional education and discussion would help some staff better understand how their roles connect with age-friendliness and where opportunity lies to integrate older adults.

This department plays a major and very visible role with older adults through its popular Adult and Senior Adult Programs—including numerous fitness classes, book and cards clubs, knitting groups, educational classes, trips, special events, and more. Recreation and Parks dedicates a full-time staff person to Senior Adult (50+) programming, and the department is well known for its varied and well-run programs that cater to older adults across a spectrum of programs and services for all ages, interests, and ability levels.

Less obvious but also very important is the fact that older residents are highly valued seasonal employees of the Recreation and Parks Department, and many older adults take advantage of Edinburg USA, a public golf course owned and operated by the City of Brooklyn Park. Older residents also serve as volunteers in various capacities through Recreation and Parks, including at Historic Eidem Farm and for Senior Adult Programs.

Some youth-focused parks programming indirectly relates to older residents due to the fact that many grandparents provide regular care for grandchildren who are involved in the Recreation and Parks programs. Particularly through Recreation on the Go, which brings programming to youth on-site at apartment buildings and complexes (among other locations), there may be opportunities to connect with and support the grandparents who also are present because they serve as full- or part-time caregivers to the children who participate. Those residents may also benefit from Recreation and Parks programming but may be unlikely to otherwise seek it out.

Community Activity Center (CAC) Customer Services and Maintenance Team

Many staff at the CAC have been in their roles a long time and have had the opportunity to observe changes over the years—related to the culture of aging as well as changes to the CAC facility itself.

The CAC front desk often functions like a concierge service. People ask all manner of questions—from simple information about a trip to recommendations for which class suits them best. There is a strong element of customer service involved in these roles, including maintenance staff, who themselves frequently interact with residents and program participants. Staff at all levels seem to strive for high-level customer service and work to “get a yes” for people as much as possible.

While the CAC’s front desk and lobby areas need improvement in their physical design and accessibility, staff are attentive and welcoming and provide a positive first point of contact for participants, which can be especially important for some older adults who make a point of stopping to visit on their way into the building.

Because they deal with older residents very frequently, overall readiness to undertake age-friendly work is quite high.

These are all important facets of Recreation and Parks’ interface with older adults, yet they are all largely disconnected at present. A more unified strategy, framed by age-friendliness, would be helpful.



RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations are organized into three categories:

1) Recommendations by Age-Friendly Domain

2) Integration into City Government, including:

- Department-specific recommendations
- Recommendations for how to better serve and support older low-income residents and residents of color, including immigrants and refugees.

3) Beyond City Hall: Partnering to lead change in the broader community.

Recommendations by Age-Friendly Domain

The following set of recommendations is organized according to the four priority areas identified by Brooklyn Park's Task Force on Aging in 2015 and slightly modified here. Many are pulled from earlier sections of the report and are compiled here for easy reference. Some represent general tactics the City could employ to advance age-friendliness, and some could be translated to an action plan by adding partners, timelines, progress indicators, etc.

These should be considered a starting point; recommendations on topics like housing and transportation, especially, would need more in-depth analysis and input from City departments and community partners who have more intimate knowledge of current issues and efforts and the local and regional landscape in their respective areas.

1) Community Information and Participation

a) **Create a central information resource** for a range of topics related to aging and community services and programs. Subsections of this hub could target key ethnic or cultural groups. This could also include information about current volunteer opportunities, or that could be a separate effort. Dedicated staff, or perhaps a volunteer coordinator, would be

needed to keep this current and useful and ideally to be available to speak or meet with people who have questions.

b) **Bring information to people where they gather.**

Finding residents at their familiar and trusted locations will likely be an effective way to supplement existing communication tactics. It would require more staff time, but that in-person outreach will also help cultivate connection to the City.

c) **Partner with community organizations to pass on information.**

Organizations like CEAP, for example, could help disseminate information through its channels, such as Meals on Wheels, and the Lao Assistance Center of Minnesota could help reach Lao residents of Brooklyn Park. This may involve developing new partnerships—or new facets of existing partnerships—of which funding would be an appropriate part.

d) **Better address translation and interpretation needs in the City.**

Older immigrants rely on their family members to take care of bill payment, phone calls, transportation, and many other things—in part because of the language barrier. As the City considers its Inclusion Plan, developing a process and plan for interpretive services will be important.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- e) **Reach out to new senior housing residents.** Many residents of senior housing buildings have relocated from other cities or states and know little about Brooklyn Park. It is easy for them to remain somewhat disconnected from the local community as many needs are often met within the facility, even for those still relatively independent. The City could work with senior housing administrators to:
- i. Develop materials from the City that would be included in new residents' welcome packets. They could include a city profile, information about elected officials, Recreation & Parks adult programs, a city map, etc.
 - ii. Organize guided tours of the city to acquaint new residents with their new home and show them where key destinations are located. In addition to making new residents feel valued and included, this could also encourage them to patronize local businesses rather than leaving the community for shopping and other outings, and be a chance to inform them of volunteer opportunities within the City.
- f) **Add an element of City support or partnership to an existing event in a community of color, immigrants, or refugees.** The City can support rather than lead efforts to serve these diverse communities.

2) Public Spaces & Transportation

- a) **Conduct a brief transportation audit** as a means of better understanding current services and modes of transit in Brooklyn Park and to highlight gaps and needs across various modes. Include exploration of a municipally collaborative approach.
 - b) **Use findings from the audit to determine whether a circulator shuttle or other service would be appropriate to consider.**
The audit could also help make the case for the need.
- c) **Assess intersections known to be dangerous to pedestrians** and develop a plan for safety improvements. Senior housing buildings are near problematic thoroughfares and intersections—such as Zane Avenue and Brooklyn Boulevard—and older residents frequently cross those streets on foot. Hennepin County's Public Health and Public Works departments worked with Creekside Gables to improve safety at Zane Avenue and Brooklyn Boulevard intersection, which resulted in a new crosswalk sign.
Additional safety improvements in this area would be beneficial, partnering with the County as needed.
- d) **Add benches for resting** at key locations along trails.
- e) **Adapt current venues or provide space** for what cultural communities have said is important to them—e.g., Hmong residents would like running water and basic kitchen facilities at local park shelters.

3) Housing

- a) **Conduct a housing audit** to assess current and planned housing stock, senior housing communities, current and anticipated need for affordable housing, etc. This information would help the City better understand its present circumstances and position it to create a more effective plan for appropriate and affordable housing options for older residents going forward.
- b) **Develop an affordable housing plan related to older residents.**
- c) **Consider how partnerships with senior housing communities** could mutually benefit residents and the City. For example, classes could be held on-site at facilities where space allows, administrators could help share information with residents; or facilities could partner in a future transportation service program.

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4) Community and Support Services

- a) **Create a class on how to use local delivery services.** Who offers what and how do you use it? This could also be a way to engage the business community.
- b) **Partner with/utilize existing organizations**—such as the Liberian Health Initiative and Sierra Leone Nurses Association—to better reach immigrant communities.
- c) **Bring mini-versions of the resource fair to specific ethnic or cultural communities.** This would help reach residents who would benefit from the resources but would not attend the larger resource fair held annually at the CAC.
- d) **Develop or support more activities aimed at grandparents and grandchildren.** The growing number of grandparents who spend time caring for grandchildren is creating greater need for such programs. This could include adapting Recreation and Parks' Recreation on the Go program for older adults, either separately or in conjunction with youth.

Integration into City Government

This portion of the recommendations deals with how exactly the City could embed age-friendliness into its own inner workings. The recommendations are not, for the most part, mutually exclusive.

The City should work to ensure that:

- There is broad-based awareness and understanding of the work among City employees.
 - It develops an action plan that is included as part of its annual work plan.
 - There are known, understood, and routinely followed procedures for integrating age-friendly considerations into the work of each department.
- The City's interface with older adults is not limited—in perception or reality—to Recreation & Parks Older Adult programs, although this remains a critical dimension of the work.

Department-Specific Recommendations

These recommendations were developed as a result of meetings with—and in some cases specifically suggested by—key staff in various departments. They are a strong basis for this work but should not be considered the final word. Additional discussion would be needed in all departments to identify and vet additional strategies and priorities. For more context see assessment on page 29 and Appendix A.

Administration Department

- 1) **On-boarding:** Add age-friendly training to onboarding for all new employees. This could include written materials as well as discussion of age-friendliness with designated staff (to include conceptual framework, how it is operationalized across the City, how it would apply to the given employee's role/department, etc.).
- 2) **Staff trainings:** Perception and understanding of aging should be addressed as a critical foundation of this work.
 - a. Frameworks Institute's "Reframing Aging" offers social science-based toolkits and presentations that address appropriate language and communications to use when promoting positive aging and related policies. This would help dismantle ageist beliefs we all carry and be important to establishing an informed organizational culture.
 - b. Dementia Friends or other dementia education training improves understanding of, compassion toward, and respect for people with dementia and their caregivers. Such trainings are around one hour in length and available from various trainers in the area. All staff could

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benefit from this work, especially those who regularly interact with the public.

- 3) **Improve physical spaces in City Hall** to accommodate residents with mobility limitations. Handicapped parking is close to the front door, but the front door is far from the area inside where people must go to pay bills or conduct other business.
 - Some residents have requested that wheelchairs be made available for in-building use, but liability concerns have been reported as an impediment. Revisit this possibility as a potentially simple way to help accommodate people with mobility challenges.
 - The DMV counters have one wheelchair accessible counter, but the walk-up counters do not allow for walkers or similar devices.
- 4) **Better address translation and interpretation needs.** Older immigrants rely on their family members to take care of bill payment, phone calls, transportation, and many other things—in part because of the language barrier. (Note: this issue will be addressed as part of other City efforts related to inclusion and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).)
- 5) **Formalize practices for public meetings and similar events that ensure all attendees can hear and participate.**
 - a. Audio: Require that all presenters and speakers—including attendees who comment or ask questions—use a microphone to ensure that everyone present can hear what is being said.
 - b. Visual: Ensure that City presentations use large, sans-serif fonts to improve readability by attendees with poorer vision.
- 6) **Be an age-friendly employer.**
 - a. Explore the possibility of arrangements such as phased retirement, flexible schedules, or similar programs that allow a more gradual transition from full-time work to retirement. These programs could also benefit the City by preventing abrupt loss of institutional knowledge that many older workers carry with them.
 - b. Ensure employees know that Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) policies include paid time off for caregiving of aging family members. And, as the number of working caregivers is increasing, consider going above and beyond FMLA by expanding such policies to allow for accommodations such as flexible schedules, paid or unpaid time off specifically for caregiving, HR staff trained in eldercare resources, and ensuring a workplace culture supportive of caregiving. In addition to more satisfied and productive employees, recent research also shows that employers get a positive return on investment on such policies.¹
- 7) **Educate residents about assessments:** Provide additional information on and/or hold community meetings to educate property owners about the process used to appraise homes to determine property tax increases. Some find it confusing and frustrating to receive a property tax increase following an appraisal, even if they haven't made any improvements to their homes.
- 8) **Volunteerism: Develop a broader and more cohesive volunteer strategy** to evaluate the nature and effectiveness of the current approach and determine where needs and opportunities exist. Meaningful and well-organized volunteer opportunities are mutually

¹ AARP and ReACT. "Determining the Return on Investment: Supportive Policies for Employee Caregivers." (2016).

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beneficial for the City and residents, but the City must be realistic about the fact that managing volunteers is a time-consuming and delicate business that must be done well in order to attract and retain volunteers. Older adults already provide a great deal of volunteer capital to the City, but the work could be made more effective with a more thoughtful and strategic approach. (Note: While this recommendation is currently noted under Administration, the City will want to determine exactly how this should be approached and whether key departments, such as Community Engagement and Recreation and Parks, should develop their own strategies or whether it should be City-wide.)

- 9) Overall, formalize the application of an **age-friendly lens to all routine upgrades** made across the City—to buildings, intersections, parks, etc.
- 10) Consider pursuing a **regional approach** to age-friendly work. Maple Grove, Osseo, and Hennepin County have been working on age-friendly initiatives in various ways, and opportunities may exist to collaborate around transportation, communication, economic development, and/or other areas.

Communication

- 1) **Be deliberate about messaging and communications.** Develop key messages and communications for this work in keeping with research-based language and framing recommendations that promote updated thinking and don't perpetuate ageist stereotypes. Key staff could be trained for this (at no cost).

Recommended resource: FrameWorks Institute's Reframing Aging project

- 2) Ensure that **City publications and online information sources/publications use age-friendly practices** in terms of font style and size, color contrast, etc.

- 3) **Ensure new City website is designed using age-friendly practices.** As the City develops and prepares to launch a new website, it should adhere to best practices for age-friendly website design, which are readily available online. (This is separate from accessible web design).

Community Development Department

- 1) **Hold additional meetings with staff**, or subsets of staff according to their functions, to uncover more opportunities to integrate inclusion of older residents into planning and processes.
- 2) Develop a **housing plan for older adults** that addresses different types of senior housing buildings; single-level townhomes, condominiums and similar units; the size and design of new single-family homes; and home modifications that could help older adults live at home longer.
- 3) **Use Age-Friendly Brooklyn Park to help operationalize existing age-friendly aspects of the Comprehensive Plan**, such as residential universal design, life-cycle housing, and affordability. Age-Friendly Brooklyn Park could be used as a driver and a resource to help this department accomplish goals it has already set out.
- 4) Integrate age-friendly design elements in the incoming **Bottineau light rail project**. Ensure that older residents can easily use this important new infrastructure into which so much is being invested, particularly given the shortage of transportation options.
- 5) **Develop educational materials** urging landlords to incorporate universal design features into routine building upgrades.

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- 6) **Engage the business community.** BP Business Forward, an initiative led by local business owners and staffed by the City, would be a ready vehicle for leading age-friendly business efforts. This group works to ensure a strong business climate in Brooklyn Park and serves as an organized voice of the business community. Its Advisory Board actively supports the City's age-friendly work and is interested in spearheading efforts to make age-friendly local businesses part of that effort. This could include:
- Educating local businesses on age-friendly practices, both general and industry-specific
 - Developing age-friendly standards which, when met, could result in a certification
 - Creating marketing strategies that help promote local businesses as age-friendly

Operations & Maintenance Department

- 1) **Invest in additional benches, lighting, and trail maintenance** in key places determined through Age-Friendly Brooklyn Park outreach and additional older resident input. (Note: the Park Bond Reinvestment Plan should help support such efforts.)
- Trails in good repair with adequate seating and lighting can determine whether an older resident is able to take advantage of trails that the City and County have invested a great deal in creating. Residents from SummerCrest, for example, noted that although they have trails near their building, a lack of benches means that some residents are unable to use them.
- 2) **Continue to deliver the high-level service** that helps define this department. If additional resources are needed to uphold this service, they should be provided.

Police & Fire Departments

- 1) **Consider an emerging model that involves embedding a social worker into the City's emergency response teams.** The dual benefits of this approach include better serving residents and freeing up police and fire resources to respond to real emergencies in a busy city by reducing the volume of unnecessary 9-1-1 calls.

As mentioned earlier in the report, residents and professionals alike throughout the engagement process praised Brooklyn Park's police and fire departments for being well-trained, progressive, and respectful. The City should take fuller advantage of the department leaders' readiness to bring more meaningful assistance to residents who need help.

A promising model that some cities have adopted is embedding a social worker in their emergency response teams. In fact, Brooklyn Park will soon launch such a program, joining other cities like Saint Paul and Rochester in testing this approach. All three cities are focusing on mental health.

The social worker fills a critical gap by being able to connect residents with the resources they need, thereby providing long-term solutions in addition to simply resolving the immediate issue that triggered the emergency call. This not only benefits residents by connecting them to the appropriate services, but also relieves demand on City resources by reducing the number of unnecessary or preventable 9-1-1 calls.

Brooklyn Park is partnering with Hennepin County to launch and fund the effort. In Saint Paul, a nonprofit called People Incorporated, the Twin Cities' largest provider of mental health services, is paying for the social worker's position. In Rochester, the city is funding the position itself, being convinced of its value after a four-month pilot period.

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The City should consider taking a similar approach to address additional issues that face its Police, Fire, and Community Development departments. An embedded social worker with a broader focus could help older residents who call frequently for lift assist after taking a fall, for medical situations related to chronic health conditions, and even to assuage loneliness. While City Council may be reluctant to take on what historically has been the county's domain, Hennepin County caseworkers are overloaded and unable to attend to more than the most urgent cases.

Environmental health staff from Brooklyn Park's Community Development department articulated the same need: the ability to provide follow-up for residents with complex issues that can't be addressed in a single visit.

The current default approach involves City staff responding to repeated preventable 9-1-1 calls to address problems they can't solve. This serves neither staff nor residents well.

Recreation & Parks Department

- 1) **Establish a policy that formalizes space priority for Senior Adult classes.** This would address the issue of those classes being cancelled in favor of space rentals for other events and demonstrate that the City recognizes and values the classes' importance to participants. Establishing a dedicated space could also be explored.
- 2) **Increase older adult engagement in Park Bond Reinvestment Plan projects.**
 - a) Brooklyn Park voters passed a \$26 million park and natural resource bond referendum in November 2018. The City will soon begin work to implement this multi-faceted project, which presents a well-timed opportunity to conduct older adult-specific engagement in major City projects. Older residents' input and ideas are needed not only related to expanding the senior center, but also on improvements to the trail system, park reinvestments, and new ball- and other athletic fields. (Many grandparents attend grandchildren's sporting events!) A well-conceived engagement plan should be created to meaningfully capture the input of older residents for facilities that will directly impact them.
 - b) **Consider reduced-cost programming or scholarships for low-income residents to allow their participation in Recreation & Parks programming.** Budgets and funding would need to be structured accordingly.
 - c) **Inclusion: Address the question of how people with physical limitations and/or cognitive decline can be accommodated in Recreation & Parks programming.** As it stands, an individual who needs special assistance cannot safely participate in most BP Recreation and Parks standard programming, as current staffing does not allow for providing that assistance while also overseeing the other participants and activity. However, this situation can and does arise.

Currently, Recreation and Parks does offer adaptive



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recreation and inclusion services to accommodate people with varying physical and cognitive abilities. The City is aware of the need to more directly confront the issue of serving older residents with limited mobility and dementia.

- a) **Create an inclusion policy** (if none exists) and ensure it includes people with mobility challenges and those living with dementia.
- b) **Develop a plan** for how Recreation & Parks can put this into practice in its programs. Among other questions, address the following: What kind of staffing would be required? What kind of training would they need? How would participants who need extra assistance be identified? Are specific programs offered for people with dementia (and their caregivers) or mobility challenges, or would accommodations be added to existing classes or events to allow them to safely participate?
- c) When an **Inclusion Specialist** is hired, utilize that person to flesh out these strategies and policies.

RECOMMENDATIONS: How to better serve and support older low-income residents and residents of color, including immigrants and refugees

Community engagement efforts conducted among some of the city's various racial and ethnic groups were important and revealing. This was the first time that an effort targeting the experience of low-income residents and older residents of color—many of whom were immigrants or refugees—had been undertaken. Yet it became clear during that process these initial learnings are only a starting point. Deeper digging is needed to uncover enough about the needs and desires of various groups in order to really begin to respond effectively.

However, a few general lessons emerged:

This work will take time. Plan accordingly. In addition to seeking input from older residents of color and low-income residents for Age-Friendly Brooklyn Park over the course of 2018, Recreation & Parks also ramped up efforts to bring City programming and events to various cultural groups during this period. They included a series of fitness classes for older Liberians (see case study on page 31 for more details) as well as one-time events at Brooks Landing, an affordable senior high-rise with many black residents, and Eden Park Apartments, a market-rate apartment complex with many Hispanic/Latinx residents.

The experiences of planning and holding these activities, as well as the focus groups, provide “food for thought” concerning how to approach engaging multicultural communities. Considerably more time and effort than staff were used to were required to connect with appropriate contacts, get responses, gather participants, etc. There are likely various reasons for this and it is not objectively problematic, but it does mean that staff may need more time than is typically allocated to do this work. The experience is common enough that it should be factored in to planning and apportioning resources. This may change over time as relationships and routines are developed, but at present there is often more than meets the eye when it comes to engaging the city's various cultural groups.

Historically, most local government systems, processes, and organizational culture have been developed by and for white residents. As the population diversifies, the City of Brooklyn Park is working to become a more informed and culturally competent institution that both understands and can effectively respond to residents' needs and desires. This is and will continue to be a process during which City leaders and staff will both unlearn and relearn ways of engaging with and responding to its changing populace.

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Don't create; facilitate. Residents drew an important distinction. In some cases, they don't want, need, or expect the City to provide them with specific services, programs, or activities. Many needs are already met within the cultural community, so the City's role could be approached as one that complements or strengthens what's already happening inside the communities. For example:

- Add an element of City support or partnership to an existing event in a cultural community.
- Consider adapting current venues or providing spaces for what cultural communities have said is important to them. For example, catering policies at the CAC have required using one of three approved caterers. This has been a barrier for cultural groups who consider food a centerpiece of family gatherings and would otherwise like to rent space at the CAC for special events. Among residents specifically mentioned wanting park shelters with kitchen facilities; they currently leave the city to gather at venues in other communities. (Note: Since this input was gathered, the City has moved to change its catering policy, and park shelters with kitchen facilities may be constructed with funding from the park bond referendum approved by residents in November 2018.)

Better support and utilize partner organizations. Community organizations created by and for members of various cultural communities are vital links to better understanding and supporting diverse older residents. These organizations serve as bridges between residents and the City and the community at large and provide firsthand knowledge of needs and challenges. Partnership opportunities exist with larger more established organizations like CEAP; smaller and newer efforts like the Liberian Health Initiative; and several others.

Bring it to the people. The CAC is beloved by current participants, but many older residents who would benefit from its programs don't attend for a range of reasons including transportation, language, culture, and cost, among others.

Programs

The concept behind Recreation & Parks' successful Recreation on the Go program for youth could be adapted to bring older residents quality programming at sites that they prefer, such as senior housing communities, churches, or community partner organizations. Each class or activity would be developed collaboratively with a partner organization and residents. There also may be opportunity to engage grandparents of grandchildren who participate in Recreation on the Go.

Resource Fair

Mini-versions of the annual resource fair could be brought offsite to expand its reach. Working harder to broaden attendance at the existing resource fair is likely not the answer for immigrants who have language and cultural differences or other residents with no connection to the CAC. Instead, mini-resource fairs could be organized for specific cultural communities and held at familiar and convenient locations with resources and services customized to each group. Again, all content would be planned jointly with representatives from that community to ensure the resources and services are relevant and that residents are bought in to the effort.

(These efforts should be approached with the knowledge that organizing events with multicultural groups can require more staff time and effort, as discussed above.)

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Make translation official. Given the role of language as a major barrier to communication, participation, and inclusion, a recommendation was made to formalize and deepen how the City approaches translation. It is possible to provide impromptu translation services, but a translator could be more effective if s/he were acquainted with the context of whatever work was being discussed and understood the City's goals. This could be pursued in tandem with related efforts to further engage older residents from the city's varied cultural communities and could be brought in under broader inclusion efforts.

Hennepin County: On the Same Page

As noted in the Methodology section, the City's Recreation and Parks Senior Adult Programs and Hennepin County Public Health conducted a related and complementary effort over the course of 2018 while the City of Brooklyn Park undertook engagement for Age-Friendly Brooklyn Park. (See Methodology for more detail.) The resulting report, while developed independently from this one, reached many of the same conclusions concerning what was learned about older residents of color, low-income residents, and immigrant and refugee communities.

Notably, both reports conclude that:

- Transportation and communication are priority concerns that cut across all backgrounds, cultural groups, and income levels.
- The City's role can be facilitative in supporting older residents of color and from immigrant and refugee groups. It need not always lead the charge.
- Programs should be brought into the community at trusted locations where people already gather.
- Partnering with community organizations can help reach multicultural residents with important information about programs, services, and events.

- Consider offering reduced-cost Recreation and Parks programming for low-income participants.
- More conversation is needed to build relationships, understand needs, and determine the best ways to move forward.

This overlap reinforces the takeaways from both reports and can help guide both the City and County as they determine strategies and next steps for more effectively engaging residents of varying cultures, ethnicities, and income levels.

Beyond City Hall

A true age-friendly community requires action, commitment, and intellectual contributions from many community partners beyond local government. As City leaders consider how to advance age-friendliness in areas beyond its direct purview, they can opt for several approaches.

Strategic Partnerships: We Don't Do This Alone

Key organizations in Brooklyn Park provide critical services to many older residents, each offering its own expertise. More established partnerships with other community organizations, which may in some cases include funding, could be important to reaching various cultural communities with information about events and services. These partnerships could also help the City learn about needs and opportunities within various ethnic communities.

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The organizations listed below would be valuable partners in helping the City connect with and support older immigrants, refugees, and residents of color.

- **ACER (African Career, Education, and Resource Inc.)** is based in Brooklyn Park and supports, advocates for, and empowers African immigrants in north and northwest suburbs of Minneapolis. It could help the City understand and communicate with older Africans and their families in the community.
- **CAPI USA** is an immigrant-led nonprofit focused on helping the state's newest immigrants and refugees and could be an important link to those groups in Brooklyn Park.
- **Lao Association of Minnesota** is based in Minneapolis but serves many Lao residents of Brooklyn Park. It organized a group of Lao residents of Brooklyn Park to participate in a focus group related to Age-Friendly Brooklyn Park (see page 18 for more information). They could help the City better understand the needs of Lao elders, a culture distinct from Hmong, and connect older Lao residents to information and services.
- **Liberian Health Initiative** and **Sierra Leone Nurses Association:** These organizations are providing critical services to elders in the Liberian and Sierra Leonean communities by addressing social isolation and health literacy. Both organizations were begun out of passion for the work and have grown into small but significant organizations. Leaders bring firsthand knowledge of the culture and language and can effectively connect elders with health education and resources and opportunities to socialize with their peers. They are also important conduits of information to the City concerning the reality of elders' needs in their respective communities.
- **Organization for Liberians of Minnesota (OLM)** is an important organization in Brooklyn Park's Liberian community. It already provides some elder services and partnered with the City to pilot a fitness class to a group of older Liberian immigrants during 2018. The City has partnered with OLM in other ways, including a presentation from OLM to City staff related to the City's racial equity work.

These additional partners would also be important or helpful in becoming an age-friendly community more broadly. The list is not exhaustive.

- **Community Emergency Assistance Programs (CEAP)** is a critical service provider in the community. This forward-thinking organization is well equipped to do more on several fronts—including basic services, nutrition, and transportation—given more resources.
- **Community Education** is offered through the four school districts that cover Brooklyn Park. A partnership is currently being explored through Recreation and Parks and Anoka-Hennepin Community Education to share resources and coordinate planning.
- **Hennepin County Public Health; Hennepin County Active Living**
Hennepin County could provide technical or potentially financial assistance in some age-friendly efforts. It recently hired a healthy aging coordinator within the Public Health Department to help advance this type of work throughout the county, and Active Living could support the City's work to increase opportunities for greater walkability and health equity.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Convene and Facilitate

One proven model for achieving large-scale change is collective action, on which much has been written, but in short involves a group of people or organizations working together toward a common goal that cannot be accomplished individually.

Many organizations expressed interest in participating in this work, yet most lack the time, resources, or expertise needed to initiate and lead an effort. The City, though it has its own time and resource constraints, is well-positioned to convene partners and facilitate work. It has laid the groundwork for this role by investing considerable resources into Age-Friendly Brooklyn Park, and it can take advantage of momentum built and relationships developed during work to date.

The City would optimally hire a consultant due to the time and expertise necessary to launch such an effort. The City

would function as the “backbone” organization, meaning it would serve as the convener and project manager. It would also involve recruiting community partners, by getting them to come to the table and committing to actively participating in a process to achieve change a new scale in a new way, together.

To keep the project at a targeted and more manageable scope, it could involve one issue within the realm of age-friendly—such as housing, communication, or establishing greater connections between organizations that serve older adults to create a pipeline of information flow and referrals. It could also be a way to approach the possibility of a municipally collaborative transportation service.

This would likely be a multi-year effort to help develop and implement community-wide strategies involving multiple partners.

Possible Approaches

This section lays out broad strategies for tackling work in the first few years.

OPTION A

Phase 1:

1) Determine the *structure* of the first year's work: who will lead, and how will the work be formalized across the City?

- To advance the work to a meaningful level with real outcomes, someone must be officially charged with doing so. To this end, the City should continue its work with its age-friendly consultant. The work generally happens on two levels: higher-level strategy and project management. The consultant could lead strategy and implementation (in partnership with key staff when relevant), while staff could lead project management, especially with internal work. (Given recent staffing changes, the team may need to determine what arrangement would work best.)
- In addition to these day-to-day leads, an internal team should meet regularly to track and guide the work. This could be a continuation of the current team or an expansion thereof.

2) Develop an *action plan* to determine strategies for moving the work forward. The plan could span 2-3 years and include work both inside city government as well as out in the community. It would include or reflect recommendations from this report but differ in that specific goals and action items would be created, and each action item would be tied to partners, a timeline and indicators for progress. The plan could be organized by the Task Force on Aging's four priority areas, or a variation on those domains, and written by the consultant.

• **City Government:**

- Building on this report, the consultant could take City department work to the next level by conducting further work with staff to educate, identify opportunities, set priorities, formalize strategies, and establish timelines for internal integration of age-friendliness.

• **Community:**

- Use community engagement findings and this report as a basis for creating an action plan.
- Community partners should play a role in developing the action plan and would need to be engaged accordingly. Partners could be identified by City staff and the consultant.
- Partners must also help implement the plan. Their role in that stage should be addressed at this point, too, by getting their buy-in and commitment. Ideally a community-based age-friendly team or several smaller teams focused on specific domains would be developed as part of this process to help create the plan and prepare to implement it.

• **Consultant role:**

In addition to work with City departments, the consultant could help lead the work on various fronts, most importantly engaging community partners and writing the action plan. This should also include staying connected to Hennepin County's work in the age-friendly arena as they invest more resources in this work and identifying opportunities for partnership with the County as well as individual cities related to a possible regional approach.

Possible Approaches

- 3) Quick Wins!** Based on this report, identify a few quick wins, get them done, and spread the word. This will help demonstrate the City's commitment, build excitement, and help balance out the longer-term horizons of much of the other work. Some candidates for "quick wins" are:
- Establish a policy that formalizes space priority for Senior Adult classes.
 - Reach out to new residents at senior housing communities with a tour of the city. (A tour was conducted with Tradition residents in October; St Therese also expressed interest in this and could be an early partner.)
 - Add benches in needed locations along trails near SummerCrest Condominiums.
 - Organize a community engagement session with older immigrants related to the park bond. (No one in our Lao focus group, for example, had heard about the aquatic facility proposal but all were supportive of the idea.)

Phase 2:

- 1) Implement action plan.** The nature of implementation will be determined by the structures set up and partners engaged during Phase I.
- a. **City government:** Departments will be doing internal work related to embedding age-friendliness into their own areas and engaged in the external aspects of the plan where it makes sense.
 - b. **Community:** Ideally, representatives from partner organizations will be actively engaged in implementing the plan they helped to develop.
 - c. **Consultant:** The consultant could continue to guide the work at this stage, though Phase I would also inform that role. It may include the following: ongoing work with City departments; leading or supporting implementation of action plan items; working with community partners engaged in the effort.

- 2) Create a progress report after year one** to evaluate and share updates with the community and stakeholders.

- 3) Reevaluate the structure of the work and adjust** according to City resources, successes and challenges to date, and partner engagement.

- 4) Determine the long-term structure of the work in terms of staff and work routines.** Formalize the approach and commitment with a written document describing how age-friendly considerations have been incorporated in the City's ongoing work.

Costs:

- Many recommendations from this report can be implemented at little to no cost beyond staff time. Specific projects, if pursued, could carry price tags—such as installing additional benches along trails.
- Consultant costs would vary depending on the scope of the work undertaken but could range from \$15,000 to \$30,000 for Phase I and \$15,000-\$25,000 for Phase II. This is a rough estimate.

Possible Approaches

OPTION B

This would be a scaled-back version of Option 1 in that Phase 1 would focus strictly on implementing recommendations related to embedding age-friendliness in City government (although that work would also, of course, involve and benefit residents). Only in Phase 2 would the City begin active engagement of community partners to create and implement a broader action plan. One advantage would be cost savings due to work being spread out. Another might be having fewer moving pieces at once.

Costs: This range would be less, closer to \$8,000 to \$15,000 in Phase I and \$15,000 to \$25,000 in Phase II.

Possible Funding Sources

The below list provides some potential sources of funding for various aspects of Age-Friendly Brooklyn Park. These could be applied to either Option A or B above. While the City would need to continue to invest its own resources, funding through these or similar channels would make additional or expanded work possible as well as help legitimize and energize the initiative by having been chosen to receive competitive grant funds.

1) Bush Foundation Community Innovation Grants

are awarded in amounts between \$10,000 and \$200,000. They fund initiatives that identify a need and work to create a solution, ideally engaging the community and working collaboratively with partners along the way. There are no deadlines.

2) AARP Livability Community Challenge Grants

are quick-action grants. The entire process—from application to implementation to reporting—lasts about nine months. Grants range from several hundred to several thousand dollars. They support quick changes that lead to long-term improvement in four key areas: transportation and mobility; creating vibrant public places; availability of housing; and other community improvements. The 2019 process opens on February 20, with more information available soon thereafter.

3) Allina Neighborhood Connection grants

support communities in building social connections, among the same group of adults, through healthy eating and physical activity. They must include at least six events for the same group of people, with priority given to people more likely to experience health inequities. The application period runs from November 2018 to February 14, 2019 and will likely be similar next year.

4) State of Minnesota SHIP grants

(through Hennepin County). Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) grants fund several areas each year, such as Active Living, Healthy Eating, Tobacco Prevention and Control, and others. Most relevant to Age-Friendly Brooklyn Park would be efforts related to dementia. Brooklyn Park could also work with the County to advance the idea of a regional-level age-friendly effort, particularly related to the possibility forming of a regional Age-Friendly Community Leadership Team (CLT).

APPENDICES: Appendix A

Notes from City Department Meetings

APPENDIX A: Notes from City Department Meetings

The following section summarizes notes from meetings between the initiative's age-friendly consultant and key staff from several departments. They are intended to provide a sense of issues, concerns, opportunities, and questions related to age-friendliness from the perspective of these staff, and to share what helped inform recommendations concerning City departments earlier in the report. The notes are summaries and not exhaustive. See Appendix A for more detail about meeting attendees and dates.

Administration and Finance (Public-facing staff)

• Physical design/infrastructure:

- o Physical spaces in City Hall should be improved to accommodate residents with mobility challenges who need to conduct business at City Hall. Handicapped parking is near the front door, but the front door is far from the ultimate destination inside the building.
- a. Residents have requested wheelchair availability in the building to help them travel this distance, but it is apparently not permitted due to liability concerns.
- b. Counter setups at the motor vehicle service desk are not conducive to people with walkers. There is one ADA compliant station to accommodate wheelchairs.

• Customer service:

- o There is a need to be able to step up customer service to assist older residents requesting additional services; they advocate for themselves more than they used to.
- o Some older residents seek general help almost like concierge services. Staff get requests to help arrange rides through Uber or similar or to track down various pieces of information, such as the address for and directions to the nearest Social Security office.
- o Finance is considering creating budget briefs for residents to provide more easily understandable information about how the city is spending taxpayers' money. This would benefit all residents, including older ones.

• Utilities:

- o Older residents have trouble getting to their basements to check their water meters. The City sends out personnel free of charge to help.
- o People want many options for paying their utility bills: in-person, over the phone, through the City's website, and through apps. There are a wide range of preferences and expectations, driven in part by age.
- o Utility rate increases are problematic for older adults on fixed incomes.

• Human Resources:

- o Not all job applicants have computer skills needed to apply for jobs, yet that is the only way to apply. Support systems are available over the phone and in-person, but sometimes HR staff will simply create and complete a simple application for someone for a straightforward seasonal position to simplify the process and as a service to the resident.
- o People dislike forced use of technology. They want to be able to reserve a room over the phone, but that service is no longer available. Staff get asked to find workarounds for using technology. "Can't you just...?"

APPENDICES: Appendix A

Notes from City Department Meetings

• Assessing:

- Older residents on fixed incomes can find it confusing and frustrating to receive a property tax increase. Even if they haven't made any improvements, their home can increase in value. The Assessing Department has recently started leaving information for people not home during appraisals, but more could be done to help communicate on this issue to resident homeowners, especially older ones.

• Inclusion/Language:

- Older immigrants rely on their family members to take care of bill payments, phone calls, and other business that may involve the City—in part because of the language barrier. There are translation needs for many residents.

Community Development

• Housing:

- There is a gap in senior affordable housing.
- The city needs lifecycle housing.
- There are few multi-unit options, though apartments are viewed negatively.
- Universal design:
 - Community Development does trainings for landlords related to keeping things up to code. This could be an opportunity to include recommendations promoting age-friendly and/or universal design features. It could be part of an inspection report as a recommendation, not an actual code issue. For example, what kind of doorknobs are being used? Accessible hardware comes up on commercial buildings but not yet on residential ones. The City could engage people in how these codes affect them.

- Residential universal design is a recommendation in the comp plan, but there are no details. The City could help educate developers or contractors about why it is important.

- Transit: What would age-friendliness look like for LRT? The City should consider this.
- Environmental and public health staff observe a strong need to provide more resources to residents who need help. "We need tools to connect people to. Who can we tell people to call?"

• Staff Training/Engagement:

- The City/Community Development could use more attention to staff training and behavior. For example, it would help to make microphone use in public meetings mandatory to ensure that hearing impaired attendees can hear. This has been an issue in the past.
- Would it be possible for staff to help residents on staff time? Perhaps 8-16 hours per year could be dedicated to volunteering in that way. This could be brought before Council.

Fire and Police Departments

- Overall themes from department leaders:
 - They believe they have an opportunity to be more strategic instead of just reactive and response-driven
 - They would like to shift to a community risk reduction approach and away from public education.
- The Police Department sees its role in age-friendliness as being able to make appropriate referrals to older people who need assistance.
 - An easy majority of fire department calls are medical and preventable. Many calls from older adults are related to lift assist, chronic illness, or simply loneliness. Responders can deal with the immediate situation but have very little capacity to connect residents to resources that would help them address

APPENDICES: Appendix A

Notes from City Department Meetings

the root problem (and prevent additional 9-1-1 calls). On an emergency call, responders don't have anywhere to refer or send people who need further help. Residents are sometimes brought to the hospital for lack of a more fitting next step.

- o The City has a regular referral program with North Memorial's Community Paramedic program, which can be used with residents who have made emergency calls more than twice. This program is effective in dealing with people who need additional help.
- o Many police departments are embedding social workers or mental health specialists in the department/on response teams, and that person takes charge of the follow up. While this is typically the county's domain, Adult Protection Services through Hennepin County can often do what is needed in terms of case management due to their own resource constraints.
- Council may not realize the degree to which group homes, of which there are many in Brooklyn Park, drain police resources. Minimal licensing requirements can mean that some homes are operated poorly, and police are at these places all the time. They estimate that about half of the city's group homes house older adults with cognitive or medical issues.
- Has the City come up with policies to allow city employees time deal with aging parents? This is needed and would be valued.

Operations & Maintenance Department

- Older property owners need help with snow shoveling/removal, and there are few community resources to help them. (Staff will sometimes go out and clear snow themselves!)
- This department has heavy contact with the public. They answer calls all day (two full-time staff answer phones) and are also out in people's homes and yards.

- Since 2003 they offer a unique arrangement with homeowner associations (HOAs) to the benefit of residents, many of whom are older. HOAs sometimes get to tag onto existing projects, such as a street improvement, and they greatly appreciate that because it is much cheaper than hiring their own contractors directly. (It does cost the City in terms of staff time.)
- They believe it is important to be able to be a resource for people, but "high-touch services stretch us."
- There are opportunities related to trails, such as wayfinding, benches, and lighting, but these cost money.

Recreation & Parks Department

- People in seasonal positions are increasingly older adults, and they are highly valued employees. City staff appreciate their attention to detail and their maturity that allows them to deal with a range of situations that might arise.
- There is the question of a volunteer coordinator, but this is delicate business given the way volunteering is currently structured throughout city departments right now. Volunteering can tricky business. People seem to think a volunteer coordinator could be housed in Community Engagement, but there is not consensus on the issue.
- There may be opportunities to use Recreation on the Go aimed at children to engage older adults who are grandparents and frequently care for grandchildren. Rec on the Go can help build trust through whole families, not just kids. There may be opportunities to be more active right on site at places such as Huntington Apartments.
- Integration and Inclusion Services: What does this look like for older adults? The department needs to address this question.

APPENDICES: Appendix A

Notes from City Department Meetings

CAC Front Desk and Maintenance Staff

- The front desk almost functions like a concierge service, fielding requests and questions on a wide variety of issues.
- There is definite growth in number of older people using the CAC.
- There is a strong customer service dimension to this work.
- Staff try hard to “get a yes” for people or at least move in that direction.
- Participants are required to check in at the front desk for their classes. The City purposely does it that way because they value the personal contact with people.
- Brooklyn Park offers a lot compared to other community centers, and the staff are a big part of what make it special.

APPENDICES: Appendix B

Resident Engagement Details

APPENDIX B: Resident Engagement Details

TYPE OF ENGAGEMENT	PRIMARY DEMOGRAPHIC	EVENT/PARTNER ORGANIZATION	DATE
Listening session (about 20 people)	Liberian	Organization for Liberians of MN	3/28/18
Table at Dynamic Aging Resource Fair with interactive engagement	Primarily white, many were Senior Adult program participants	City: Recreation & Parks	4/11/18
Focus group—range of ages (10 people)	SE Asian, mostly Hmong and Lao	City: organized by Community Engagement and CM Susan Pha	4/24/18
Presentation and group discussion	Variety	City: Community Assembly event	4/26/18
Listening session/open house	Senior Adult program participants, primarily white	City: Recreation & Parks	4/30/18
Listening session/open house	Senior Adult program participants, primarily white	City: Recreation & Parks	5/10/18
Focus group with Meals on Wheels volunteer drivers through CEAP (9 people)	White	CEAP	5/11/18
Interview with two individuals (Pat)	Black	N/A	6/18/18
Focus group in partnership with Hennepin County Public Health (about 13)	Lao	Lao Assistance Center of MN	7/19/18
Focus group (10 people)	White senior housing residents	Tradition (rental senior housing)	8/1/18
Focus group (10-15 people)	Black senior housing residents (most not Liberian or other W African immigrants)	Brooks Landing (rental senior housing)	9/11/18
Focus group (8-10 people) in partnership with Hennepin County Public Health	Hispanic/Latinx residents of varying ages	Eden Park Apartments	9/18/18
Focus group (8 people)	White	SummerCrest Condominiums	10/9/18

APPENDICES: Appendix C

Key Stakeholder Engagement

APPENDIX C: Key Stakeholder Engagement

NAME	ORGANIZATION	SECTOR	DATE
Kay King	Older Adults Program Coordinator and Community Educator, NAMI MN	Mental health	4/3/18
Clare Brumback	Executive Director, CEAP	Nonprofit/social services	4/3/18
Brad Kerschner	Director of Programs, CEAP	Nonprofit/social services	4/3/18
Lyla Pagels	Coordinator, Faith Community Nurse Program, Mercy Hospital/Allina	Healthcare	5/8/18
Noella Fath-Cutter	Adult Learning Coordinator, Anoka-Hennepin Community Ed	Community Education	5/17/18
Anne-Marie Bartlett	Quality in Living Specialist, Saint Therese at Oxbow Lake	Senior housing	6/8/18
Mary Synstelien	Member of parish council, St Alphonsus Catholic Church	Faith community	6/13/18
Sunny Chanthanouvong (and other LACM staff)	Executive Director, Lao Assistance Center of MN	Non-profit/immigrant services	6/25/18
Arthur Biah	President & CEO, Liberian Health Initiative; Special Investigator/ Nurse Evaluator, MN Department of Health	Non-profit/immigrant health services	6/30/18
Renee Cardarelle	Associate Executive Director, Lao Assistance Center of MN	Non-profit/social services	7/8/18
Kumba Kanu	Founder, Sierra Leone Nurses Association; Certified Nurse Practitioner, Park Nicollet	Non-profit/immigrant health services	7/20/18
Emily O'Connor	Coordinating Librarian, Adult Services, Hennepin County Library	Library	7/20/18
Melissa Henderson	Marketing and Enrichment Coordinator, Osseo Area Schools	Community Education	7/23/18
Brenda Kennelly	Clinic Manager, Brooklyn Park, Hennepin Healthcare	Healthcare	7/24/18
Emilia Jackson	Community Health Worker, Brooklyn Park, Hennepin Healthcare	Healthcare	7/24/18
Paula	Community Health Worker, Brooklyn Park, Hennepin Healthcare	Healthcare	7/24/18
Candice Bartelle	Admissions Representative, North Hennepin Community College	Education	7/29/18
Jennifer Olson	Director of Community Relations, Tradition	Senior housing	8/1/18
Zenobia Carson	Office Administrator & Event Planner, Creekside Gables	Senior housing	8/8/18
Beth Lelonek	Director of Sales and Marketing, Waterford Living	Senior housing	9/17/18
Mary Rooney	Director of Community Relations, Waterford Living	Senior housing	9/17/18
Paul Metzler	Executive Director, Saint Therese at Oxbow Lake	Senior housing	9/24/18
Diane Dickmeyer	Robbinsdale Area Schools	Community Education	10/3/18
Advisory Board	BP Business Forward	Business association	11/9/18
Kylie Ryan	Registered dietician, Hy-Vee	Retail/grocer	12/4/2018
Brooklyn Park Lions Club	Community/Lions members	Community group	11/5/18

APPENDICES: Appendix D

City Department Engagement

APPENDIX D: City Department Engagement

EVENT / GROUP / DEPARTMENT	DATE
Kickoff Meeting – cross-departmental: Kaela Dickens, Kathy Fraser (CLIC), Cory Funk, Gretchen Garman (Hennepin County Public Health), Gina Magstadt, Todd Seitz, Josie Shardlow, Jay Stroebel, Jody Yungers, Dan Zelazny	2/15/18
Community Long-range Improvement Commission (CLIC) meeting	7/12/18
Manager-level staff meeting (large group, cross-departmental)	6/19/18
Joint Commissions and Council meeting	8/6/18
Rec and Parks: Don Berry, Eve Burlingame, Pat Busch, Greg Hoag, Jen Gillard, Pat Milton, Steve Gulenchyn, Michelle Margo, Pam McBride, Marc Ofsthun, Mark Palm, Brad Tullberg, Jody Yungers	8/7/18
Community Development: Bruce Bloxham, Kim Berggren, Erik Hanson, Keith Jullie, Jason Newby, Al Peterson, Gail Trenholm	8/10/18
Police and Fire departments: John Cunningham, Craig Enevoldsen, Jeff St. Martin, Todd Seitz	8/14/18
Operations and Maintenance: Dan Ruiz, Steve Nauer, Greg Hoag, Jon Watson	10/17/18
CAC Front Desk and Maintenance Staff: Pam Neuman, Mike Oravez, Mark Palm, Wayne Roehrich, Randi Schmidt	10/25/18
Administration and Finance: Jeanette Boit-Kania, Claudia Diggs, Chris Kuecker, Janis Lajon, Xp Lee, Linda Mozis, Josie Shardlow, Xai Vue, Joe Wulfing	10/29/18

APPENDICES: Appendix E

Task Force on Aging Recommendations

APPENDIX E: Task Force on Aging Recommendations

An effort of the Community Long-Range Improvement Commission (CLIC)¹⁴, the citizen-led Task Force on Aging developed the following conclusions and recommendations to the City of Brooklyn Park in 2015. The Task Force's work is an important foundation for the current age-friendly efforts and is referenced earlier in this report.

Becoming an Age-Friendly City August 2015

The Task Force on Aging was charged by the CLIC (Citizens Long-Range Improvement Committee) to review issues, assess resources, identify gaps and offer to assist the city when addressing the changing and aging demographics within Brooklyn Park.

Four themes kept resurfacing throughout the study:

1. It is difficult to define who is "senior." The Task Force defined seniors as persons over 50 years of age. The terms seniors, aging and 50+ are used intermittently throughout this report.
2. Many communities have already accomplished similar studies, developed policies and programs addressing the aging population in their areas. The Task Force utilized existing data and tools to help us locally.
3. Brooklyn Park has many good things going for seniors yet the areas needing improvement will require long term commitment and vision. Services need to be able to adapt with the diverse cultures and needs of seniors. Existing services such as those available through the Senior Center, Parks and Rec, and CAC will need to expand or enhance their capacity as this population increases.
4. The Task Force adopted the philosophy that when a community enhances and respects the lives of its youth and seniors the lives of all other age groups are more enhanced and respected.

The Task Force feels that a best practice way for Brooklyn Park to address concerns for seniors is to use the vision, tools and policies that already exist with the Age Friendly City initiative. By adopting these best practices, the lives of all age groups in Brooklyn Park will be enhanced and respected.

An Age Friendly City initiative is a comprehensive effort to prepare the world's urban centers for an increasingly older adult population. Age friendly cities optimize opportunities for health, participation, and security in order to enhance quality of life as people grow older.

The City of Brooklyn Park does currently have many strengths, as outlined below:

Community and Civic Participation

- Many opportunities for involvement through volunteer groups, city commissions/committees and Recreation and Parks Department
- Community Cafes hosting by city on important or trending issues
- Community Engagement Initiative
- City website, Get Up and Go brochure and Park Pages provided information on current activities and volunteer opportunities
- Nextdoor.com the Neighborhood Initiative, and National Night Out offer community building opportunities and connections

¹⁶CLIC has since been renamed the Community Long-range Improvement Commission.

APPENDICES: Appendix E

Task Force on Aging Recommendations

Housing

- City offers a variety of housing options in independent living, assisted living and subsidized housing.
- Range of housing prices and types are available, however limited in supply.

Public Spaces and Transportation

- Many existing parks in the city park system, as well as Three Rivers Parks
- New library to open in 2016
- Existing Senior Center, CAC, and Recreation and Parks Department
- Some transportation options in Metro Mobility, local bus system and taxi

Health and Social Services

- Hennepin County Service Center is on the border of Brooklyn Park
- City currently has medical clinics within city limits that offer general/basic medical care
- Four hospitals near the City of Brooklyn Park
- Recreation and Parks/CAC offer a fitness center
- Many of the existing private health clubs within the city offer senior fitness options
- Community offers some free meal services

The committee is making recommendations to the city to ensure effective planning for the dramatic demographic changes that are happening within the senior community.

The initiatives of an Age-Friendly City address:

- Transportation
- Outdoor spaces and building
- Community support and health services
- Communication and information
- Civic participation and employment
- Respect and social inclusion
- Social participation
- Housing
- Healthcare

Goals of an Age-Friendly City:

- Empower individuals as they age to live independently and vibrantly.
- Support communities as they foster quality of life and community connectedness in a manner that meets the wide-ranging needs and preferences of older individuals and their families.
- Ensure that city planning and city funded programs are responsive to the needs and preferences of older residents and are designed to support their lifestyles and choices.

The Task Force identified that many established services and resources are available for Brooklyn Park's aging population to utilize or participate in. The Task Force did identify three major areas for improvement where gaps currently have a negative impact on the lives of our 50+ population:

1. Seniors of all ages have limited awareness of their resources and have an extremely difficult time understanding, navigating and accessing departments, services and their policies.
2. Existing and new development needs to implement more age friendly standards when trying to accommodate growing needs and desires of the changing and aging population.
3. Seniors have great difficulty accessing transportation when it becomes desirable for them to reduce dependence on their automobiles.

APPENDICES: Appendix E

Task Force on Aging Recommendations

The Task Force is recommending the following:

1. Appoint a staff member and an advisory group to ensure a commitment to the citizens in regard to communication, programming, resource development and accessibility.

Ensure the group is reflective our culturally diverse community. A City appointed staff member with the support of the advisory group would manage the vision and goals of the Age Friendly initiative on an on-going basis. This position would be a point of contact to:

- Conduct on-going community assessment to determine age friendliness and cultural responsiveness.
- Ensure coordination of existing and new services with the community. This would include transportation, housing, health, recreation, volunteerism and social services.
- Identify opportunities in future programs or development to include age friendly initiatives (i.e. transportation options, healthcare services, design elements, business development, housing types, and recreational programs).

2. Establish a resource center (HUB). This would be a one stop shop resource for ease in disseminating information.

3. Review all housing and business development and redevelopment for opportunities to be age friendly. Future development/redevelopment planning is critical. City and staff need to be keenly aware of how future development will impact the residents. This is an opportunity for them to build into the new and redevelopment projects age friendly initiatives. This will be most important when reviewing upcoming transportation initiatives and future housing, healthcare and business development.

4. Address lack of and/or difficulty accessing transportation options for the short term as well as plan for the long term.

Lack of convenient, accessible and affordable transportation is a key issue facing the city today. While the possibility of the LRT coming through Brooklyn Park is on the horizon there is a direct need for immediate increased transportation options such as more frequent buses, more convenient routes, and alternative forms of transportation in cabs and ride sharing.

The 50+ population is a vibrant, talented, engaged demographic. The Task Force reviewed and suggested goals and recommendations in the following areas:

- Community and Civic Participation
- Housing
- Public Space and Transportation
- Health and Social Services

This is an approach used by the Age Friendly Initiative and is outlined in the attached power point. This information can be used as a guide and resource for the proposed Advisory Committee or identified staff to understand and address the needs and desires of the changing and aging population of Brooklyn Park.

In addition to the PowerPoint presentation, attached is a checklist for essential features in an age friendly city. City staff, the planning commission and developers should review the checklist to ensure whenever possible key features are being incorporated into all future development and redevelopment as appropriate.

APPENDICES: Appendix F

WHO/AARP Age-Friendly Network

APPENDIX F: WHO/AARP Age-Friendly Network: To join or not to join?

As a result of the Task Force on Aging's work, CLIC recommended that the City of Brooklyn Park become a certified age-friendly city by 2020. This referred to the WHO/AARP Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. To clarify, there is only membership in the network; there is no certification or designation of age-friendliness (a common misperception). A city that joins the network commits to a process and to be accountable for taking steps and demonstrating work through that process.

Joining the network involves the following steps over the course of five years:

Step 1: Complete an application and provide a mayoral letter of commitment.

Step 2: Conduct a community assessment of older adult needs.

Step 3: Create a three-year action plan.

Step 4: Implement the plan and evaluate progress.

Step 5: Refine as needed and continue the work. (Ongoing work makes this a cycle of continuous improvement.)

Brooklyn Park has already completed Step 2, which is significant, and would be poised to begin Step 3 of creating an action plan.

As the City decides whether to make this commitment, here are some considerations:

Benefits:

- Network membership can lend legitimacy or cachet to the work and officially put Brooklyn Park on the map of age-friendly communities. It could also help recruit community partners to participate, although cities can demonstrate their commitment and seriousness in other ways.
- There is no financial commitment involved in joining. Cities can undertake this work as they are able, and in many places' grassroots teams of community members and organizations lead the work. While cities do often invest some funds in the work—which certainly makes more possible—part of the idea is that many changes or improvements can be made at low cost.

Possible drawbacks:

- Committing to the process attaches set timelines and deliverables to the work. This structure can help keeping the work focused and moving and ensure that a thorough process is being followed. Some communities and initiative leaders find this beneficial or even necessary. However, if a city's work has enough substance, momentum, and leadership commitment already, the network structure and requirements may not be needed to drive the effort and can become another aspect of the work that needs to be managed. Many communities are doing this type of work—and doing it well—without joining the network.

Additional points:

- There is no funding support tied to membership. AARP offers occasional grant opportunities for such work, but any community is eligible to apply for and be awarded grant funding, not only network members.
- Resources on age-friendly communities through WHO and AARP are available to any community, not only network members.

APPENDIX G

Voice from the City's Diverse Senior Population: A Report on Brooklyn Park's Recreation and Parks Adult & Senior Adult Programs

**CITY OF BROOKLYN PARK'S RECREATION AND PARKS
ADULT & SENIOR ADULT PROGRAMS**

VOICES FROM THE CITY'S DIVERSE SENIOR POPULATION
A PROJECT WITH HENNEPIN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH



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INTRODUCTION

In 2017, Brooklyn Park's Park and Recreation Adult & Senior Adult Programs began a partnership with Hennepin County Public Health (HCPH) through a Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP), Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) contract. Through collaboration with local public health and city and community-led improvements, SHIP is working to create healthier communities across Minnesota by expanding opportunities for active living, healthy eating and tobacco-free living.

The goal of this partnership was to gather input from the 50+ community in Brooklyn Park on their needs, desires, gaps, challenges and barriers to accessing and/or participating in physical activity opportunities through Brooklyn Park's Recreation and Parks Adult & Senior Adult Programs. There was a specific focus on Brooklyn Park's diverse racial and ethnic populations.

Located in the suburban northwest outer ring of Hennepin County, the City of Brooklyn Park is a diverse community with populations of color being 54% of the population.¹⁷ The 50+ community makes us almost one third, or 27% of the city's population.¹⁸

Below is physical activity and social connectedness data from Hennepin County's 2014 Survey of the Health of All the Population and Environment (SHAPE) results for the Northwest outer ring suburbs 50+ population.

SHAPE is series of surveys collecting information on the health of residents in Hennepin County and the factors that affect their health across a broad range of topics. It is administered every four years and helps in understanding how healthy residents are, examine differences in health among different communities, and understand how social factors such as income, education, and employment affect health.

Knowing that zip code and social factors are indicators of population's health, it is important to consider this data while examining the health of the 50+ population in Brooklyn Park, with a close look at residents physical activity and social connectedness.

¹⁷ Metropolitan Council, Community Profiles. Population by Race and Ethnicity in Brooklyn Park. ACS 2012-2016. Available at https://stats.metc.state.mn.us/profile/detail.aspx?c=R11000#POP_RACE_ETH. (Accessed 11/7/18).

¹⁸ Metropolitan Council, Community Profiles. Population by Age and Gender in Brooklyn Park. ACS 2012-2016. Available at https://stats.metc.state.mn.us/profile/detail.aspx?c=R11000#POP_AGE_GENDER. (Accessed 11/7/18).

*Physical activity among residents 50 and older**

	# of participants that responded Yes	Percentage that responded Yes
<i>Any leisure time physical activity</i>	432	86%
<i>Sufficiently active, moderate/vigorous</i>	387	79%

*Social Connectedness**

How often are you involved in school, community, or neighborhood activities?

	Among 50-64		Among 65 and older	
	# of participants	Percentage	# of participants	Percentage
<i>Weekly</i>	75	27%	71	33%
<i>Monthly</i>	33	11%	25	11%
<i>Several times a year</i>	67	27%	34	14%
<i>About once a year</i>	39	12%	31	12%
<i>Less often than yearly</i>	23	6%	22	9%
<i>Never</i>	54	17%	52	21%

How often do you get together or talk with friends or neighbors?

	Among 50-64		Among 65 and older	
	# of participants	Percentage	# of participants	Percentage
<i>Daily</i>	104	33%	109	46%
<i>Weekly</i>	128	44%	90	40%
<i>Monthly</i>	32	12%	11	3%
<i>Less often than monthly</i>	25	10%	24	10%
<i>Never</i>	2	1%	2	0.4%

People in this neighborhood are willing to help one another.

	Among 50-64		Among 65 and older	
	# of participants	Percentage	# of participants	Percentage
<i>Strongly agree</i>	137	52%	110	48%
<i>Somewhat agree</i>	126	40%	112	48%
<i>Somewhat disagree</i>	22	7%	11	4%
<i>Strongly disagree</i>	5	1%	3	1%

**Includes: Brooklyn Park, Champlin, Corcoran, Dayton, Hanover, Hassan Township, Maple Grove, Medicine Lake, Osseo, Plymouth, Rogers*

OVERVIEW OF FOCUS GROUPS

Below are the locations where focus groups were held in Brooklyn Park, as well as a complete overview of the focus group participants, results from participant survey questions, highlights of focus groups' key findings, recommendations, and a summary of key findings from the focus groups and listening sessions.

Focus Group Sites	Date of Focus Group	Race/Ethnicity of Participants	# of Participants
<i>Creekside Gables Apartments</i>	5/23/18	African American (1), Hispanic (1)	2
<i>Lao Assistance Center of MN (LACM)</i>	7/19/18	Laotian (15)	15
<i>Organization of Liberians in MN (OLM)</i>	7/18/18	Liberian (9)	9
<i>Brook's Landing Apartments</i>	9/11/18	African American (8), Liberian (2), Indian & Nigerian (1), White (1)	12
<i>Eden Park Apartments</i>	9/18/18	Hispanic/Latinx (7), Black or African American (1)	8

- Number of participants who completed the survey: 46
 - Female participants: 34 or 74%
 - Male participants: 12 or 26%
- Age range: 40-86
 - Average age: 64
- City of residence: 91% of participants live in Brooklyn Park
- Range of years living in Brooklyn Park: 1.5-26 years
 - Average length of time living in Brooklyn Park: 12 years

FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT SURVEY QUESTIONS

Physical Activity

<i>In an average week, how many days do you walk or engage in other physical activity?</i>	# of Participants	Percentage
<i>0 days per week</i>	4	9%
<i>1-2 days per week</i>	5	11%
<i>3-4 days per week</i>	10	22%
<i>5-6 days per week</i>	8	17%
<i>7 days per week</i>	19	41%

Social Connectedness

<i>How often do you feel isolated from others?</i>	# of Participants	Percentage
<i>Hardly ever</i>	22	48%
<i>Some of the time</i>	19	41%
<i>Often</i>	4	9%
<i>Never</i>	1	2%

<i>How often do you get the social and emotional support you need?</i>	# of Participants	Percentage
<i>Always</i>	19	41%
<i>Usually</i>	5	11%
<i>Sometimes</i>	18	39%
<i>Rarely</i>	0	0%
<i>Never</i>	4	9%

<i>How often do you get together or talk with friends or neighbors?</i>	# of Participants	Percentage
<i>Daily</i>	26	57%
<i>Weekly</i>	15	33%
<i>Monthly</i>	1	2%
<i>Less often than monthly</i>	3	7%
<i>Never</i>	1	2%

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FOCUS GROUPS AND LISTENING SESSIONS

Notes: For detailed results from each individual focus group, please see Appendix A: Summary of Key Findings from the Focus Groups and Listening Session, starting on page 11.

Activities:

- Aging looks different for people of different ages. What a 50-year-old is interested in and able to do might be similar or different from a 70-year-old.
- Being an active, older adult is a combination of being physically and socially active, maintaining independence and being connected to one's cultural and faith activities.
- The majority of participants are not aware of Brooklyn Park's Park & Recreation Adult & Senior Adult Programs or the Get Up & Go magazine.
 - Participants who are aware of the magazine either cannot read it because English is not their first language or are overwhelmed by it and discard it.
- Activities participants wished the City of Brooklyn Park would offer include: walking; swimming; Zumba/dance; English classes; computer classes; cooking and baking classes; CPR classes; volunteer opportunities; and crocheting, knitting, sewing, embroidering classes.
 - Participants want activities that include the whole family and that are held at their apartment, cultural organization they are members of and/or neighborhood based.

Social participation:

- Socializing and connecting through one's place of faith (church or temple) is important.
- Participants who are members of an organization such as LACM or OLM rely on these groups for their social connectivity and learning about what is going on in their immediate community and the city.
- More than one focus group expressed a need for a community gathering space in Brooklyn Park in order to host culturally relevant activities and/or events, as well as to just gather and socialize.
 - The community gathering space needs to be a trusted, multi-generational place.
 - Participants are not aware of community gathering spaces already available in Brooklyn Park or how to use/reserve those spaces.

Access:

- All participants expressed that transportation is the number one barrier for participating in activities.
- The majority of participants from all cultural groups are dependent on their family and friends for transportation.
- Some participants walk or use their scooters to move around their neighborhood but that is often dependent on their health status, distance of activity and weather.

- A minority of participants use Metro Transit. Laotian seniors were less likely to use Metro Transit than any of the other participants groups.
- Challenges the participants experience in accessing activities include: cost, not understanding how to register and participate due to language differences, the location/distance of the activity, providing weekday childcare for grandchildren and the activities are not family-focused.

Communication and awareness:

- Participants, who are members of an organization such as LACM or OLM, learn about activities through word-of-mouth, phone calls, text alerts and the organizations' staff.
- Participants want to learn about activities through senior friendly flyers that can be shared through their place of faith, apartment building, and community leaders.

What will improve the quality of life for the aging in Brooklyn Park?

- Convenient, reliable transportation.
- Communication about activities is available in their language, as well as make sure the activities have staff and/or volunteers who can speak their language.

Additional information:

- The Minnesota Laotian interpretation of 'senior' is different from the Western interpretation. They do not identify with '50+'. An 'elder' is considered a first-generation immigrant who might be as young as 40 years old but is more connected to the Laotian culture and language.
- Elder isolation in the Lao community is a big issue. Adult daycare centers are becoming more common, but they are private, therefore expensive and you must have qualified insurance to cover the participant.
- Lao elders are aging in place with their adult children and their children's families. They experience mental health issues that stem from depression, their children not being successful, future finances, and trauma from immigration.
- Throughout all the cultural groups, there are residents who, daily, do not leave their apartment or apartment building and are very isolated.
- Many seniors rely on their adult children and grandchildren to help them understand, participate in and access neighborhood and city activities.
- When planning for inclusivity in activities, there is not a one-size fits all approach to including the diverse senior populations in Brooklyn Park.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

1. **Continued conversation and exploration.** Build off the relationships that have been developed through this project with the Lao, African-born, African-American and Hispanic/Latinx communities. Develop a 2019 plan to:
 - Share this report with the four cultural communities and community partners.
 - Explore further unanswered questions and/or next step ideas.

2. **Adult & Senior Adult Programming.** Take programming out into the neighborhoods.
 - Facilitate programs that different cultural groups are interested in and that the whole family can participate in.
 - Provide opportunities outside of physical activities. Opportunities where seniors can connect socially, as well as provide a learning/educational opportunity.
 - Hold programs at apartment buildings, trusted community gathering spaces, parks, etc.

3. **Transportation.** Explore further the transportation barriers seniors in Brooklyn Park experience.
 - Look at all modes of transportation – Metro Transit, walking, biking, using scooters, shared rides, etc.
 - Consider cost, accessibility, language of information, reliability, etc.
 - Provide educational opportunities on how to use the various modes of transportation to move around Brooklyn Park, accessing activities and services specific to the diverse senior populations.
 - Partner with local community-based organizations, cultural organizations, places of faith, etc. to identify possible solutions.

4. **Cultural expertise.** The city does not have to be the expert. The city can also play a facilitative role.
 - Provide physical space and opportunities in neighborhoods and the city where cultural groups can gather and hold activities and/or events.

5. **Marketing and communication.** Research and develop new communication tools and channels to reach the diverse senior populations in Brooklyn Park.
 - Always keep in mind age, language, reading ability, and where residents reside.
 - Utilize current groups to help communicate, such as established cultural organizations, places of faith, CEAP/Meals on Wheels, clinics, etc.
 - Consider culturally specific social media, radio, TV or newspaper as communication options.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Adult & Senior Adult Program budget.** Consider budgetary options and opportunities to provide free and/or reduced cost programming for disparate populations who cannot participate due to financial constraints.
2. **Resource Fair.** Host an annual resource fair intended for the diverse senior cultural groups in Brooklyn Park.
 - Organize a planning committee with leaders and volunteers from each of the cultural groups to identify the resources, classes, and activities that would form the resource fair.
3. **Health-in-All Policies approach.** As the City of Brooklyn Park considers its broader age-friendly strategy, including how that will be reflected in city policy and implemented, participate in a Health-in-All-Policies presentation and resources from Hennepin County Public Health.
4. **Measurement and evaluation.** Develop goals and tools to assess, measure and evaluate the impact and reach of any improvements or changes that are made.
 - Identify and include qualitative measures, such as participant impact stories and photos.

APPENDIX A: SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS FROM THE FOCUS GROUPS & LISTENING SESSIONS**Creekside Gables Apartments***Activities:*

- Aging looks different for different people of different ages. What a 50-year-old is interested in and able to do might be similar or different from a 70-year-old.
- Activities of interest: quilting, crocheting, using computers, vegetable canning, field trips, apartment activities
- Activities they wished the City of Brooklyn Park would offer: walks to nearby parks, sit and relax in

Social participation:

- Participants mentioned that when they are identifying places for their family to gather, they look outside the City of Brooklyn Park.
- Stay connected through their job.

Access:

- Transportation is the number one barrier for participating in activities.
- Roads and intersections are busy and unsafe for seniors.

Communication and awareness:

- Participants want to learn about activities/opportunities in Brooklyn Park through flyers and their apartment's monthly resident calendar.

What will improve the quality of life for the aging in Brooklyn Park?

- When asked where they see themselves in 5-10 years, neither participant indicated they see themselves living in Brooklyn Park.
- Participants expressed concerns about not being able to stay busy or engaged, leaving their home.
- Participants also express concerns about feeling unsafe and observing crime near the shopping plaza on Brooklyn Boulevard (that includes Aldi, Family Dollar, a pizza restaurant and other establishments).
- Participants value services offered through the Community Emergency Assistance Program (CEAP).

Lao Assistance Center of Minnesota (LACM)*Activities:*

- Physical activities: men play tennis (at Noble Sports Park, Park Center High School, and Central Park); golf; kawtwara; perform traditional dances at the Temple, Festival of

Nations, and LACM events; exercise at LA Fitness; walk and bike outdoors in the summer; exercise inside during winter.

- Other activities: women enjoy socializing (talking and sharing), fishing, gardening, going to Temple, volunteering at Lao Advance, picnicking by lakes or backyard
- Everyone grocery shops at the farmers market on Zane and 92nd, as well as Dragon Star and Sun Food. The Zane farmers market is bigger, and they like it better.
- Activities they wished the City of Brooklyn Park would offer: walking, Tai Chi, swimming programs, Lao water aerobics

Social participation:

- Participants connect with family and friends via email, Facebook, letters, in person conversations, phone calls and through being involved at LACM.
- On separate occasions, the director of LACM and a participant expressed a need for a community gathering space in Brooklyn Park to hold culturally relevant activities/events and to just gather and socialize.
 - Space needs to be a trusted place for people to gather and multi-generational
 - Seniors do not know how to reserve rooms via the library or city hall.

Access:

- Many participants receive rides from family members.
- If the activity/event/appointment is close, they walk.
- Some drive or call for a car service.
- No one takes bus or taxis because they do not understand how to catch the bus or how to read the schedule. If they understood, they would go. There was an interest in participating in a Metro Transit class.
- Challenges for participating in activities/events: money/no job, taking care of grandkids, language barriers, and location/distance.

Communication and awareness:

- Awareness of Brooklyn Park's Park & Recreation Adult & Senior Adult Programs: most participants said they have no awareness of this department or programs. Some do see the Get Up and Go magazine but discard it away because they cannot read it.
- Participants communicate through Facebook, word-of-mouth, phone calls, staff from LACM – one-on-one and via alert texts (but they do not text back and forth, just receive the texts).

What will improve the quality of life for the aging in Brooklyn Park?

- More security – more patrols near Brooklyn Boulevard, behind Bowlero.
- Gym or exercise space, swimming pool and classes.
- Lao language classes, especially for the youth.

- Participants enjoy going to LACM to learn about resources, programming and volunteering.
- They would like to be able to go to the Temple and fundraising parties and festivals more easily. The Temple is also a place where elders can receive information/learn what is happening in Brooklyn Park.

Additional information:

- The Minnesota Laotian interpretation of 'senior' is different from the Western interpretation. They do not identify with '50+'. 'Elder' is considered first generation immigrants who might be as young as 40 years old but are more tied to the Lao language and culture.
- Elder isolation in the Lao community is a big issue. There is adult day care, but it is private, and you have to qualify for it.
- Elders are aging in place with their adult children and their children's families.
- They have mental health issues that stem from depression, children not being successful, future finances, trauma from immigration.
- Core services are missing them.
- Middle-aged Lao people also experience stress. Many are immigrants and caring for their elderly parents with no support.

Organization of Liberians in Minnesota (OLM)

Activities:

- Being an active adult means: moving around, jogging, going to church, not being dependent on anybody, swimming, Walk With Ease class, visiting with their sister, walking their grandson to the park.
- Other activities: sewing, jogging, walking to the library.
- Activities they wished the City of Brooklyn Park would offer: small gym at Brook's Landing with an instructor providing classes, social activities such as cooking and baking classes' senior yoga, movie nights, singing together, English classes, knitting and sewing, organized field trip to the Mall of America.

Social participation:

- Residents want to connect and socialize in a non-living environment.

Access:

- Residents move around by city bus, their church provides bus services to and from church only, walk to the library for using the computer.

- Do not feel transportation is reliable. Metro Mobility does not bring them to places they want to go to. In general, they know how the city bus system works.
- Mentioned that there are many people who live in different places and want to socialize but are limited by transportation.
- Stressed that their number one challenge for participating in any type of activity is transportation.

Communication and awareness:

- Awareness of Brooklyn Park's Park & Recreation Adult & Senior Adult Programs: nobody was aware of programs except for the Walk With Ease program that Brooklyn Park's Park and Recreation, Department Adult & Senior Adult Programs is piloting with OLM.
- Learn about Brooklyn Park activities/events through church, friends, their community leaders, television, computer at the library.
- Participants would like to learn about Brooklyn Park activities/events through their leaders, newspapers/Star Tribune, younger community members (for elders who cannot read), and OLM.

What will improve the quality of life for the aging in Brooklyn Park?

- More computer knowledge, social activities, having a representative from the Liberian community at the Hennepin County Northwest Human Service Center, and accessible and affordable housing.

Additional information:

This additional information was learned from another listening session with OLM in May 2018 -

- Activities participants are interested in: cooking classes; learning how to knit, sew, embroidery; basic computer classes; read, write and speak American English.
- Transportation: some participants walk, most received rides from family and friends.
- What would improve their quality of life in Brooklyn Park? Better transportation - more buses, more convenient bus stops.

Brook's Landing Apartments

Activities:

- Being an active adult means: independence, being alive, being able to get things done, your part of civic community, moving around, jogging, going to church, not just sitting at home.
- Physical activities: fishing, making coffee for the community room, cooking and cleaning in the kitchen.
- Other activities: socializing with neighbors and friends, bingo, crocheting, playing cards, going to adult daycare. As a grandfather, go to the school for grandkids activities.

- Awareness of Brooklyn Park's Park & Recreation Adult & Senior Adult Programs: nobody was aware
- Activities they wished the City of Brooklyn Park would offer: how to use a computer, cooking and baking classes, physical activity instructor for seniors, sewing activities. Participants also expressed they would like these activities offered in their apartment building.

Social participation:

- Participants expressed that a big part of how they identify with their cultural community is through their church.

Access:

- Transportation is a barrier because it is not reliable, especially in the winter. Not everyone has access to Metro Mobility and public transportation is not a solution for most elderly people. Some participants do ride the local bus.
- Participants shared that some residents in the building use scooters and they even go to activities or run errands using their scooter when the weather is nice. Some participants walk. People would like a shuttle for Walmart, Cub, Walgreens, etc.

Communication and awareness:

- Participants learn about activities through flyers and booklets. Some do see the Get Up and Go magazine, but it is too much information, they do not read, throw away it away.
- Participants want senior friendly flyers. They do look at notices. See some updates on their building's community bulletin board.
- There is limited use of social media.

Additional information:

- Participants shared that most elderly residents do not often leave the apartment building. They hang out with friends and neighbors all day. Participants want more activities that are organized.

Eden Park Apartments

Activities:

- Being an active adult: gardening (Eden Park garden), having [community] space to go to and talk (many participants agreed), cooking classes, attending English classes (many participants agreed), helping in their neighborhood, volunteering.
- Physical activities: walking to and around the park, gardening, weight lifting. Participating in activities with a group were liked more, noting the importance of socializing.

- Other activities: church, volunteering, caring for grandchildren. Many [households] rely on one car per family and the person who works uses the car. Participants shared that many people from their community hold 2-3 jobs. Older adults depend on their kids to drive them places.
- Awareness of Brooklyn Park's Park & Recreation Adult & Senior Adult Programs: four participants said they have seen the catalog but do not understand it or what is in it because they do not speak English.
- Activities they wished the City of Brooklyn Park would offer: walking with a group, Zumba, dance, knitting and embroidering, CPR class, cooking classes, English classes, volunteer opportunities. Participants want activities that connect parents with kids, family activities.

Social participation:

- Activities: going to church, social activities, volunteering in their neighborhood.
- What do you need to be able to be connected socially in Brooklyn Park? Transportation, soccer games for men (comment by one male participant).

Access:

- Participants get to activities by bus, walking, depend on their children, their husband drives them.
- Challenges they have participating in activities: they depend on their daughter to go out (said one of the oldest participants), not speaking English is a barrier, cost, transportation, not knowing what is available, need activities for the whole family/neighborhood to socialize and connect.

Communication and awareness:

- Participants shared that they do not know what is happening in the city or where to find information.
- They want to learn about activities through a flyer, word-of-mouth, text message and invitation in Spanish. The activity or event needs to have staff/volunteers who speak Spanish.

What will improve the quality of life for the aging in Brooklyn Park?

- Decreasing barriers, such as language and transportation. Send invitations in Spanish. If information about city activities/events is in English, participants think it is only for the "Anglo" community.

Additional information:

This additional information was learned from an interview with a Latina staff member at Zanewood Teen Center. She was asked to provide her perspective on seniors in her Hispanic/Latinx community.

- Most grandparents do not work and are taken care of by their children and family.
- Grandchildren often translate conversations and written documents for their parents and grandparents.
- The staff member did not know about the concept of a retirement home. She thinks this is a cultural thing and would not place her parents or grandparents in a retirement home.
- Seniors socialize among family; family gatherings are at parks, near water.
- Immigrant families tend to live more collectively than individually.
- Seniors move around the community through their children or grandchildren driving them, walking or the entire family uses Metro Transit.
- Seniors grocery shop with the family, not individually.
- The best way to communicate city activities or events is through senior friendly flyers.



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February 13, 2019 9:03 PM

UPDATED

City of Brooklyn Park Request for Council Action

Agenda Item:	8.2	Meeting Date:	August 28, 2023
Agenda Section:	Discussion Items	Originating Department:	Community Development
Resolution:	N/A	Prepared By:	Michelle Peterson, Neighborhood Health Supervisor
Ordinance:	N/A		
Attachments:	8	Presented By:	Michelle Peterson
Item:	Discussion on Ordinance Change to Allow for the Keeping of Hen Chickens		

City Manager's Proposed Action:

Discussion on ordinance change to allow for the keeping of hen chickens in the City of Brooklyn Park.

Overview:

In follow-up to the brief council discussion at the June 5, 2023, work session, staff is providing information on the potential code changes related to the keeping of hen (female) chickens on residential properties. The proposed code changes were tabled during the first reading of the ordinance on April 11, 2022, on a vote of four to three primarily due to concerns related to avian influenza.

The City considered potential code changes to allow for the keeping of hen chickens in 2012 and 2019. In 2012, the proposed ordinance passed on first reading but failed on the second reading. On March 4, 2019, the Brooklyn Park City Council directed staff to engage with residents in the community to determine the level of interest in changing the ordinance in relation to different animal types (chickens, pot-bellied pigs, goats).

Environmental Health and Community Engagement staff utilized the following engagement tools to determine the level of interest in changing the ordinance:

- An online survey was open from May 5 to June 30, 2019, and
- On site community engagement at city events including Tater Daze and three City Hall on the Go events.

During this outreach approximately 57% of respondents were in favor of an ordinance amendment allowing up to four hen chickens on residential properties under five acres. The proposed ordinance failed on first reading on September 23, 2019.

A question was added to the 2021 resident survey to understand interest in allowing up to four female chickens in backyards with regulations. Of the responses in this statistically significant survey of residents, 67% supported or strongly supported changing the codes, 22% opposed or strongly opposed a code change, and 11% did not respond.

On January 24, 2022, City Council had a discussion related to a potential code change to allow for hen chickens to be kept on smaller residential parcels. The council directed staff to move forward with an ordinance. At its meeting on March 9, 2022, the Planning Commission considered the proposed amendments to the zoning code in Chapter 152. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the proposed ordinance amendments for sections of the zoning code as presented (vote was 3-2). The public hearing was opened on March 28, 2022, and continued to April 11, 2022. On April 11, 2022, the ordinance amendment was tabled during the first reading primarily due to concerns related to avian influenza.

The city continues to receive requests to change the ordinance to allow for the keeping of hen chickens. Brooklyn Park currently allows for the keeping of chickens on parcels over five acres in size. The proposed ordinance would allow for the keeping of up to four hen chickens with an approved registration on single and two-family residential properties.

Currently, complaints received about properties with chickens are handled by the department that receives the complaint. Some are handled by the Environmental Health Division, and some are handled by the Police Department. If an ordinance change was approved, this will transfer the handling of most chicken related complaints to the Environmental Health Division. Police will still be responsible for handling complaints related to animals at large.

The ordinance, as attached proposes a one-time registration, and staff recommends that an annual renewal for a small fee be added to provide information on the location of active coops each year. The initial registration allows staff to review a site plan which details the size and location of the coop and run to ensure setbacks and other code requirements are met. If the property has a rental license, the property owner must submit a letter of approval with the registration. If the property is located within a Homeowner's Association (HOA), a letter of authorization from the HOA must be submitted.

If the council is interested in moving forward, a fee of \$50 would be proposed to cover the costs associated with a site plan review and registration. The recommended fee for annual registration would be \$25.

The proposed ordinance does not include an inspection component. If the Council desires to require inspections as part of the registration process, there will be a need for additional staffing or reduced services in other areas to accommodate the new workload. Staff would continue to respond to complaints related to roosters (not allowed in the proposed ordinance) and complaints related to the coop and run setup, too many hens or cleanliness concerns.

Budgetary/Fiscal Issues:

Staff believes that the proposed ordinance can be implemented without additional expenses. Revenue from the proposed fees would be minimal.

Alternatives to consider:

- 1) Make a motion to end the tabling and direct staff to bring back on first reading at a future meeting as proposed or with modifications
- 2) Recommend no further action

Related information:

HPAI Factsheet <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/factsheet.pdf>

MN Board of Animal Health <https://www.bah.state.mn.us/hpai/>

March 28, 2022 Brooklyn Park City Council Meeting Public Hearing [https://nwsgcc-brooklynpark.granicus.com/player/clip/March 28 2022 CC Item 5.1](https://nwsgcc-brooklynpark.granicus.com/player/clip/March_28_2022_CC_Item_5.1)

April 11, 2022 Brooklyn Park City Council Meeting First Reading [https://nwsgcc-brooklynpark.granicus.com/player/clip/April 11, 2022 Item 5.2](https://nwsgcc-brooklynpark.granicus.com/player/clip/April_11,_2022_Item_5.2)

Attachments:

- 8.2A PROPOSED ORDINANCE
- 8.2B COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN FOR CHICKENS ORDINANCE
- 8.2C 2021 RESIDENT SURVEY
- 8.2D 2023 GOV DELIVERY EMAIL
- 8.2E COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMUNICATION WITH HOA REPRESENTATIVES
- 8.2F CITY COMPARISON CHART
- 8.2G 2022 PUBLIC COMMENTS
- 8.2H PUBLIC COMMENTS TO 2023 GOV DELIVERY EMAIL

ORDINANCE #2023-

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTERS 92, 94 AND 152 OF CITY CODE PERTAINING TO THE
KEEPING OF FOUR HEN CHICKENS ON SINGLE AND TWO-FAMILY PROPERTIES

~~Test with strikeout is proposed for deletion~~

Underlined text is proposed for insertion

The City of Brooklyn Park does ordain

Section 1. Chapter 92 of the Brooklyn Park City Code is amended by adding the following sections:

CHICKENS

§ 92.59 DEFINITIONS

CHICKEN. A domesticated bird (*Gallus gallus domesticus*) that serves as a meat or egg source.

CHICKEN COOP. A structure for the keeping or housing of chickens.

CHICKEN RUN. A fully enclosed and covered area attached to a coop where chickens can roam unsupervised.

HEN. A female chicken

ROOSTER. A male chicken

§ 92.60 Purpose

The purpose and intent of Sections 92.59-92.65 is to allow the keeping of chickens on a small-scale basis and addressing concerns related to keeping them in a clean and sanitary manner that is not a nuisance to or detrimental to the public health, safety, and welfare of the community.

§ 92.61 Chickens Limited

- (A) A person may keep, harbor, or maintain care, custody, or control over no more than four (4) hen chickens on a single-family and two-family residential zoned lot as defined by Chapter 152 with an approved registration. The keeping of chickens in any other zoning in the city is prohibited, except in the R-1 Urban Reserve District and the CD-Conservancy District where chickens are allowed to be kept at the rate of one animal unit per acre.
- (B) The keeping of roosters is prohibited.
- (C) The slaughtering of chickens is prohibited, unless part of a recognized religious practice of service.
- (D) The sale of eggs is prohibited.

§ 92.62 Chicken Coops and Runs

- (A) All chickens must be contained with the following requirements:
- (1) Chickens must be secured in a chicken coop from sunset to sunrise each day.
 - (2) Chickens are not allowed to free range unless the rear yard is completely fenced in and contains the animals.
 - (3) Coops and runs shall be maintained in a sanitary and humane condition.
 - (4) The coop and run area shall be well drained so there is no accumulation of moisture.
 - (5) The coop and run must be removed, and ground cover restored if the keeping of chickens is discontinued for more than 12 months.
 - (6) Location:
 - a. Chicken coops are not allowed to be located in any part of a home and/or garage. Chickens under the age of 6 weeks of age may be kept inside for brooding purposes.
 - b. Chicken coops must be located entirely within the rear yard. Lots with shoreline on the Mississippi River are permitted to maintain a coop and run in the front yard except within the first 100 feet of lot depth.
 - c. Chicken coops and runs must be located a minimum of ten (10) feet from the rear or side property lines.
 - d. Chicken coops and runs must be located a minimum of thirty (30) feet from adjacent residential dwellings.
 - e. Chicken coops and runs must be located a minimum of twenty-five (25) feet from a wetland or pond edge.
 - (7) Construction:
 - a. Chicken coops and runs must be constructed to keep chickens in and predators out. The coop shall be fully enclosed to prevent escape by chickens or entrance by migratory birds and rodents.
 - b. Coops must be fully enclosed and wind proof with a well-ventilated roof. The coop shall provide adequate protection from the elements and be able to be winterized.
 - c. Coops must be constructed with architecturally appropriate building materials including exterior grade siding and either a metal, composite, or shingle roof

or as an alternative, the coop shall be purchased from a commercial source that constructs structures specifically to be used as coops for chickens.

- d. Construction must comply with any applicable building and zoning requirements.
- e. A coop shall not exceed 120 square feet in size and shall not exceed six (6) feet in height.

§ 92.63 MAINTENANCE OF CHICKENS AND FACILITIES

- (A) No chickens may be kept or raised in a manner as to cause injury or annoyance to persons or other animals on other property in the vicinity by reason of noise, odor, or filth.
- (B) All grain and food stored for the use of the chickens on the premises shall be kept in rodent and leak proof containers with tight-fitting covers.
- (C) Chickens shall be fed within the confines of the chicken coop or run to prevent access from outside animals and migratory birds.
- (D) Chicken coops and runs shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition, and in good repair. Flies, rodents, and objectionable odors shall be controlled.
- (E) Coops and runs shall be kept free of fecal matter and collected fecal material shall be properly stored and removed from the property at least once a week.
- (F) Stored fecal matter must be kept in a leak-proof container with a tight-fitting cover until removal from the property.
- (G) Feces, discarded feed, and dead chickens shall not be composted on site.

§ 92.64 REGISTRATION

- (A) A one-time registration is required. The application for registration must be made upon a form provided by the city. All required information must be complete and include:
 - (1) Site plan detailing:
 - a. The size and location of the coop and run
 - b. The setback distances from the property line and neighboring houses
 - (2) If the applicant is a tenant, the property owner must submit a letter of approval
 - (3) If the property is located within a Homeowner's Association (HOA), a letter of authorization from the HOA must be submitted
- (B) Registration must be completed, and approval obtained prior to placing animals on the property.

- (C) The applicant agrees that the property may be inspected at all reasonable times by City Staff.
- (D) The fees for the registration will be determined by the City Council in the city's fee schedule.

§ 92.65 SPECIAL REMOVAL

- (A) The City reserves the right to require the removal of all chickens within the City limits if a pandemic regarding fowl and poultry is declared.
- (B) The City reserves the right to deny or revoke the right to keep chickens if:
- (1) The chickens become a nuisance.
 - (2) Fraud, misrepresentation, or a false statement contained in the registration application or during the course of registered activity.
 - (3) The owner has been convicted of cruelty of animals under a code, ordinance, or statute from this state, or from another state.
 - (4) Any violation of the applicable provisions of this chapter.
- (C) Notice of denial or revocation must be made in writing to the registrant. The registrant may request a hearing within 14 days of the date of the notification letter.
- (D) A hearing officer shall hold a hearing on a contested denial or revocation. The hearing officer shall be a person appointed by the city. At the hearing, the appellant may speak and may present witnesses and other evidence. Upon the conclusion of the hearing, the hearing officer shall issue a written decision that includes findings of fact. The city shall provide the registrant with a copy of the hearing officer's decision. The registrant may appeal the hearing officer's decision in accordance with state law.

Section 2. Section 152.243(B) of the Brooklyn Park City Code is amended to read:

§ 152.243 ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS FOR PERMITTED USES.

(B) Keeping domestic and farm animals, chickens, and beekeeping on residential properties.

- (1) Farm animals may be kept on parcels five acres or larger at the rate of one animal unit per acre.
- (2) Boarding or breeding for commercial purposes may not be permitted in residential districts.

(3) The keeping of animals must be in conformance with all other sections of the City Code.

(4) Beekeeping is allowed in all residential districts in compliance with the applicable provisions of Chapter 92 of this code.

(5) The keeping of no more than four (4) chickens is allowed only in single-family and two-family residential districts.

Section 3. Section 152.263(B)(2) of the Brooklyn Park City Code is amended to read:

152.263 ACCESSORY STRUCTURES.

(B) Standards for accessory structures (except fences and walls).

(2) Any accessory structures sheltering or housing more than two animal units on a farm, hobby farm, or the like may not be less than 50 feet from all dwellings other than that of the owner. Chicken coops and runs must be kept in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 92.

Section 4. Section 152.292(B)(1) of the Brooklyn Park City Code is amended to read:

152.292 USE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS.

(B) *Fences.*

(1) *Prohibited fence materials.* Electric, concertina or barbed wire, or chicken wire fences are prohibited. Chicken wire fences are allowed for use on chicken runs in accordance with the requirements of section 92.62.

Section 5. Section 94.01 DEFINITIONS of the Brooklyn Park City Code is amended to add the following definition:

DOMESTIC FOWL. Any domesticated bird raised as a source of food, either eggs or meat. This includes, but is not limited to, chickens, ducks, turkeys, pigeons, ostriches, rheas and emus which are raised for meat rather than for racing or as pets.

Section 6. Section 94.04(B) of the Brooklyn Park City Code is amended to read:

94.04 LIMITATIONS ON KEEPING OF ANIMALS.

It is hereby declared to be a public nuisance to permit, maintain, or harbor any of the following:

(B) ~~Chickens and other domestic fowl.~~ except up to four chickens as regulated by Chapter 92 of this code.



Chickens Ordinance Community Engagement Plan

Background Info

Over the years, city leadership has considered changing the city's ordinance to allow residents to have chickens. The Environmental Health division keeps a list of residents who are interested in having them. Staff also field what appear to be largely racially motivated complaints from residents who call to report their neighbors' chickens (90% of complaints in 2021 and 2020 received by Environmental Health were against BIPOC residents and complainants say the problem is a violation of city ordinance rather than that the chickens are a nuisance). Given the most recent resident survey results which showed considerable support, we will revisit this possible ordinance change with the community and City Council.

BP2025 goal(s) addressed

Goal 6d: City laws are understandable, equitably enforced and relevant to the community.

Previous history/community engagement conducted

2011 – Council discussion – directed staff to research regulations, enforcement, code changes.

2012 – Planning Commission discussed and there was a public hearing to consider ordinance amendment to allow. Staff engaged community to get input. 1st reading of the ordinance at the City Council meeting passed 4-3.

2013 – 2nd reading of the ordinance at City Council meeting failed 2-4.

2019 – Staff was directed by Council to conduct a community engagement process to gauge the community's interest in the city allowing chickens, pigs and/or goats. This was both an online and in-person opt-in (not statistically valid) survey with 2,246 total respondents. 57% of respondents were in favor of the city allowing four or fewer hens. The City Council opted to keep the current ordinance which disallows them. Having pigs and goats as part of the conversation seemed to have complicated the conversation at that time, which was somewhat unavoidable given the issue arose because of a beloved pet pig.

2021 – We included a question on chickens in the statistically valid 2021 resident phone survey. The results showed that 13% strongly support and 54% support allowing up to four female chickens (not roosters) in residential backyards with proper regulations, such as having a chicken coop. Therefore, by a 67%-22% majority, Brooklyn Park residents would support this policy change.

IAP2 Level of Public Participation

Level	Promise to public	Techniques	Stakeholder group
Inform	We will keep you informed	Website, emails, social media	All residents (Targeted communications to supporters* and Homeowners Associations)
Consult	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision	Website, emails, social media, public hearings (Residents encouraged to reach out to Council Members)	All residents (targeted communication to those listed above)
Involve	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision	Council previews ordinance language and provides direction at work session	City Council
Collaborate	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	Planning Commission to vote on changes to land use codes	Planning Commission
Empower	Council approves ordinance change	City Council meeting	City Council

*Environmental Health staff have this list

Rationale for IAP2 level

Given the recent survey results (both in 2019 and 2021) that indicated considerable support, we want to show the community that we have already heard them by not soliciting yet more feedback/input.

We also want to be transparent and inform residents that the Council will be considering this change again if they want to share their opinions with their Council Members.

In addition, staff has already done research and incorporated community feedback into the proposed ordinance language, so we are not looking for feedback on the language or nuances of implementation at this time.

This is an opportunity for the city to show we have heard the community and make this change in time for those who want to get chickens to do so this spring/summer.

Primary point of contact: Michelle Peterson, Neighborhood Health Supervisor

Timeline

January 24 – City Council meeting. Present background information, proposed ordinance language, and recommended community engagement plan to Council.

February – Implement communications/community engagement plan:

- Communications staff will develop communications campaign (see goals for campaign below).
 - Webpage with background (including survey results) and FAQ about what's proposed.
 - Emails and social media to link community members back to the webpage.
- Environmental Health staff will reach out to those who are interested in chickens to let them know it is going to Council.
- Community Engagement staff will reach out to Homeowners Associations to share background information on what is being proposed and remind them that HOAs can make their own rules disallowing chickens that would override the city ordinance.
- Planning commission will address changes to land use codes at their February meetings.

March – City Council meetings – 1st and 2nd hearings

April – Communication back to community as to the results of the hearings and next steps

Racial Equity Tool analysis:Potential risks of the ordinance changing:

- Police get more calls about noise/nuisance of animals.
- Homeowners associations may want to update their bylaws to prohibit animals.
- If more popular than anticipated, may need to add staff capacity to enforce.

Potential benefits of the ordinance changing:

- More welcoming and inclusive policy for those who want to have these animals
- Neighbors connect more by sharing eggs
- Members of various cultural communities see that the city is recognizing this is essential to their lifestyle/culture
- Residents see that the city responded to their feedback

Communications plan:**Goals:**

- Inform community members about the possible ordinance change and provide background information on what is being proposed.
- Encourage community members to contact the Mayor and Council Members with their opinions and attend the public hearings.
- Share back with the community if the ordinance passed or not and what it means for them if passed.

Activities:

Communications campaign to include: emails, social media, seeking coverage from local media, website, etc. in addition to targeted outreach to identified stakeholders.

2021 Brooklyn Park Resident Survey

Brooklyn Park's Resident Survey is one of the key indicators used by the city to measure the effectiveness of our *Brooklyn Park 2025* goals! We use your responses to assess the quality of life and satisfaction with the delivery of city services in Brooklyn Park. For this survey, we have a sample size of 800 residents. A sample this large allows us to compare the results of questions meaningfully and accurately from different locations and demographics in the city. The results are compared with past surveys, using the same scientific methodology, as an indicator for how residents rate staff and service quality, which is then used to determine how to better meet the needs of our community members!

32. Would you support or oppose the City allowing up to four female chickens, but not roosters, in residential backyards with proper regulations, such as having a chicken coop? (WAIT FOR RESPONSE) Do you feel strongly that way?	STRONGLY SUPPORT.....13% SUPPORT.....54% OPPOSE.....17% STRONGLY OPPOSE.....5% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED....11%
--	--

IF "OPPOSE" OR "STRONGLY OPPOSE," ASK: (N=179)

33. Why do you oppose this?

NOISY, 16%; BAD SMELL, 13%; MESSY, 6%; SHOULD ONLY BE IN RURAL AREAS, 45%; SPREADS DISEASE, 2%; ATTRACT WILDLIFE PREDATORS, 5%; WASTE OF MONEY FOR CITY TO MANAGE, 2%; INCREASE VANDALISM, 4%; SCATTERED, 7%.

This bulletin was sent to the following groups of people via Gov Delivery:

Subscribers of Business/development updates, City Council Members, City news, events and meetings, or Cultural Media, (10048 recipients)

From: City of Brooklyn Park <brooklynpark@public.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 16, 2023 4:36 PM
To: Michelle Peterson
Subject: Chicken Ordinance Discussion (August 28)



Chicken Ordinance Discussion

August 28, 2023 at City Hall



The Brooklyn Park City Council is discussing a code change that would allow chickens at residential properties.

In April 2022, the City Council tabled the first reading of an ordinance to allow for the keeping of chickens (hens only) due to concerns related to avian influenza.

The current city council will be having a discussion on the proposed ordinance to determine next steps and if this will move forward to a first reading. The proposed ordinance was brought to council in 2022 based results from the 2021 resident survey.

Here's a summary of the 2021 survey responses:

- Strongly Support – 13%
- Support – 54%
- Oppose – 17%
- Strongly Oppose – 5%
- Don't Know/Refused – 11%

Most residents who responded to the survey were in favor of this proposal, recognizing the potential benefits and responsible regulations it would entail.

If the ordinance change is adopted, the City would allow up to four female chickens to be kept in backyards, with proper regulations and care to ensure their well-being.

This means no roosters will be allowed, mitigating any potential noise concerns, while still providing residents with the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of having chickens as part of their home environment.

Next steps

City Council members will discuss the chicken ordinance at their **Monday, August 28 meeting**. Come in person to City Hall (5200 85th Ave N) at 6 p.m. or [tune into the meeting online](#).

Questions?

Contact Michelle Peterson at Michelle.Peterson@brooklynpark.org.

Para asistencia, llame al 763-424-8000 y solicite un intérprete.

Yog xav tau kev pab, thov hu rau 763-424-8000 lawv mam
li nrhiav ib tus neeg txhais lus rau koj.

For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats please contact
Josie Shardlow at 763-493-8388 or josie.shardlow@brooklynpark.org.



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This email was sent to michelle.peterson@brooklynpark.org using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on
behalf of: City of Brooklyn Park - 5200 85th Ave., N. - Brooklyn Park, MN 55443

govDELIVERY 

From: Shanna Woods <Shanna.Woods@brooklynpark.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2022 4:27 PM
Subject: Proposed city residential ordinances - Brooklyn Park HOA Neighborhood Relations updates

Hello and happy last Wednesday of February,

I am reaching out to inform members of homeowner associations in Brooklyn Park of two city ordinances the city is considering.

As you know, in many cases, homeowners associations have their own rules that differ from city ordinances and are responsible for enforcing those. If one or both of these city ordinances change, your HOA may or may not want to adjust your HOA rules according to your members desire.

Additionally, the city's Charter Commission is currently working on **redistricting** – rebalancing our Council districts according to new census data and redistricting principles. You can learn more about the process and submit feedback here: <https://www.brooklynpark.org/redistricting/>. Tomorrow (Thursday, Feb. 24) at 7 PM, the Charter Commission is hosting a special meeting to review draft redistricting maps. The meeting is open to the public to attend and offer comments. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

My goal is to help you be informed and engaged in city happenings. Please see the information below on the two upcoming ordinances to be considered by the City Council. Please feel free to reach out to the staff listed on each ordinance below with any questions.

Finally, you're receiving this email because the city has you as a contact for your homeowner association. If this is no longer true, please let me know. I am currently undergoing updating HOA contact records. If able, please send me updated HOA board member contact information, or please feel free to provide my contact information to respective members. I'd love the chance to attend upcoming HOA member meetings. Please let me know if your HOA has a meeting scheduled. I am happy to support and be a resource. Please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns. You can contact me through email or at 763-238-5216.

Chickens Ordinance Update



The City of Brooklyn Park is considering a code change to allow chickens at residential properties.

Keeping chickens on a small scale would allow residents to be closer to their food sources. This means access to fresh eggs for individual use and consumption. Up to four hens would be allowed – no roosters.

Chickens require daily care and owners must keep the coops and runs clean. The proposed ordinance would address these kinds of concerns.

Note: not every household will want chickens.

2021 Survey Results

We asked Brooklyn Park residents what they thought about chickens in the 2021 resident survey. Residents were asked:

"Would you support or oppose the City allowing up to four female chickens, but not roosters, in residential backyards with proper regulation, such as having a chicken coop?"

The results are as follows:

- 13% Strongly Support
- 54% Support
- 17% Oppose
- 5% Strongly Oppose
- 11% Don't Know/Refused

Did you know?

- Chickens are currently allowed in Brooklyn Park if you have a property larger than 5 acres.
- In the early 20th century, the U.S. Department of Agriculture recommended raising chickens in even the smallest of backyards.

Questions?

For more information, contact Michelle Peterson at 763-493-8116 or michelle.peterson@brooklynpark.org.

Commercial Vehicle Parking Ordinance

The City is proposing changes to the rules for parking commercial vehicles on private property.

Brooklyn Park has many residents who have jobs that involve driving vans or other commercial vehicles that are not permitted to be parked outside at home.

The City is proposing to allow additional vehicle types to be parked outside on residential property so that residents using these vehicles for their livelihood do not have to travel long distances to park (one per property on a paved surface).

Comments can be submitted in person at the public hearing on **March 9 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Council Chambers, or by calling 763-493-8056. You can also submit comments in advance to devon.miller@brooklynpark.org.

[Learn more about this ordinance and the proposal >](#)

Questions?

Paul Mogush, Planning Director
paul.mogush@brooklynpark.org
763-493-8051

Looking forward to connecting with you all!

Take care,

Shay

Shay

Shanna (Shay) Woods

(She, They)
Administration – Community Engagement
C. 763.238.5216
W. 763.493.8106

Currently allowed

- Personal vehicles
- Recreational vehicles
- Campers
- Taxis
- Limousines
- Enclosed trailers
- Dirt Bikes
- Snowmobiles
- Boats

Proposed additions

- Food truck
- Step van
- Cargo truck
- Trailer with attached equipment
- Work vehicle with attached equipment

City	Chickens Allowed	Number	Registration/permit	Notes
Brooklyn Park	*Yes			*Chickens are currently defined as farm animals. Farm animals are currently allowed, but only on parcels 5 acres or larger.
Blaine	Yes	6 hens	Yes	One time registration fee
Bloomington	Yes	4 hens	No	Allowed on single and two family properties. Complaints handled by Environmental Health & Animal Control.
Brooklyn Center	Yes	6 hens	No	Ordinance allowing chickens passed fall 2018
Champlin	*Yes			Farm animals allowed on parcels zoned for agriculture. Champlin City Council discussed, but decided not to amend the ordinance in 2021.
Coon Rapids	Yes	4 hens	Yes	Written consent from property owner required if a licensed rental property. HOAs must approve. Community Development issues permits and handles complaints.
Crystal	Yes	4 hens	No	Written consent from property owner if a licensed rental property. Complaints handled by Animal Control.
Eden Prairie	Yes	4 hens	Yes	Allowed on Rural and R-1 (one family) zoned properties only.
Edina	Yes	4 hens	No	In addition, allowed up to 18 hen chicks for educational purposes, must be directly related to the education.
Fridley	Yes	6 hens	Yes	Allowed on single and two family properties. Complaints handled by Code Enforcement.
Golden Valley	Yes	4 hens	Yes	Approved in 2013
Maple Grove	*Yes			All allowed on parcels zoned R-A & R-1. Keeping of chickens requires at least 1 acre of land. Council Work Session 10.4.21 to discuss potential changes to ordinance. Not proceeding with changes to allow chickens on smaller residential properties.
Minneapolis	Yes	See Tier Schedule	Yes	Different tiers (3) of license based on zoning and parcel size. Tier I - one (1) to six (6) hens, Tier II seven (7) to fifteen (15) hens, and Tier III sixteen (16) to thirty (30) hens. A permit to keep more than six (6) fowl or to keep roosters requires written consent of at least eighty (80) percent of the occupants of properties within one hundred (100) feet of the applicant's real estate. Animal Control handles complaints/inspections.
Minnetonka	Yes	1 hen per 1/10 acre (rounded down)	No	Chickens allowed at a rate of 1 per 1/10 an acre.
New Hope	Yes	4 hens	Yes	Complaints and enforcement handled by Animal Control. Increased from 3 hens to 4 hens allowed in September 2021. Also added coop conditions to ordinance.
Plymouth	Yes	6 hens	Yes	New ordinance approved 2.9.2021. Registration required every 2 years.
Robbinsdale	Yes	2*	Yes*	2 chickens allowed without a registration. More than 2 hens requires a permit from city council. No limit specified in code
St. Louis Park	Yes	4 hens	Yes	Chickens allowed since 2011 on single family properties
St. Paul	Yes	See Tier Schedule	Yes	Must submit site plan for review and approval. Tier I - one (1) to six (6) hens and requires written notice by applicant to all neighbors. Tier II seven (7) to fifteen (15) hens and requires submission of petition of approval by 75% of adjacent owners on same side of street within 150 square feet of property. Animal control handles permits and complaints.

* Zoning/lot size restrictions

From: Mary DeWolf <marydewolf@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 6:13 PM
To: Devon Miller <Devon.Miller@brooklynpark.org>
Cc: Paul Mogush <Paul.Mogush@brooklynpark.org>
Subject: Proposal for changes to commercial vehicles

Hello--I have been a taxpayer and resident of this city since 1977. Have you all lost all of your minds up there? You want to pass a law permitting people to park large vehicles, such as campers, recreational vehicles, and limousines on their personal property? These commercial vehicles and equipment tend to block the view of other vehicles and children playing in these neighborhoods as well as negatively impacting the aesthetics of a residential neighborhood. Everything south of 85th is already an eyesore with all of the run down properties, neglected rental homes/double bungalows, and the abundance of junk vehicles. Some of these food trucks I have seen look like "garbage trucks." Furthermore, any complaints that are submitted to Brooklyn Park Code Enforcement are either ignored or it takes weeks or even months for the code officers to respond to a complaint. Does this mean you have to hire more code enforcement officers at the expense of the taxpayers? The current enforcement officers cannot keep with the amount of complaints, or they simply refuse to follow up. There are no other surrounding communities in the Twin Cities area that allow the parking of commercial vehicles on their properties? I don't see the City of Maple Grove, Plymouth or Champlin passing this in their community. Your website advertises a "unique and united" community. This is not a united community when the city continues to plague our neighborhoods with more problems and passing laws that are not advantageous to the city or the taxpayers.

It is already unfathomable that the city is considering to pass a law where residents can own chickens. There again, you have to hire more code enforcement officers for cage inspections. Chicken droppings are smelly and rodents are often attracted to chicken coops and chicken feed; hens are also very noisy, creating more problems for those of us who pay taxes for peace and quiet. We already have to fend for ourselves in this city, as police no longer respond to noise complaints or any other problems arising with inconsiderate neighbors.

Please start listening to the taxpayers and homeowners who pay your salaries in this city.

From: Rich Xiong <rxiong12@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 6, 2022 10:27 PM
To: Michelle Peterson <Michelle.Peterson@brooklynpark.org>
Subject: Re: Chickens Ordinance Update

Please tally that my household and I are NOT in support of the ordinance allowing chickens. We have a household of 6 so not sure if that would count as 1 or 6. Thank you

Rich

From: DJ T <djacobtormenzleu@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2022 2:58 PM
To: Michelle Peterson
Subject: Support for raising backyard chicken

Hi Michelle,

I am David J. Tormentai and live at 7825 June Ave. N. Brooklyn Park. I support raising backyard chicken. This can be done without disturbing our neighbors as long as the chickens are raised/contained in a chicken coop/barn and limited to hens not roosters. Probably, we could be limited to a specific number of chicken at a given time. With the current level of inflation, having an alternative source of protein will save families some money.

Looking forward to starting my own backyard chicken barn.

Thank you.

From: mndebey@gmail.com <mndebey@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 8:40 PM
To: Xp Lee <Xp.Lee@brooklynpark.org>; Terry Parks <Terry.Parks@BrooklynPark.Org>
Cc: Lisa Jacobson <Lisa.Jacobson@BrooklynPark.Org>
Subject: Opposition to Backyard Chickens

Hi Councilmember Lee and Parks, I wanted to let you know that my wife JoAnn and I are opposed to allowing residents to house back yard egg laying chickens. I love the idea of growing and raising plants and animals. But the suburbs are not it in our opinion for farm animals. We have too many people in a small area with many differences of opinions and standards to be able to get this to work.

The amount of time, sanitation and humane care for the chickens will overwhelm most of the residents wanting them. The cost of eggs is very low compared to what the actual cost of building a coop, buying feed and other supplies will be. Below is a list of pro's and con's (found by google).

Positive	Negative
Teach cycle of food	Bugs
Promote sustainability	Attract Predators – bad for chickens, predators, dogs and cats
Fresh eggs	Noise; hens also make noise
Natural pest control	Messy & Smelly – chicken feces require daily cleaning
Family activity	Difficult to care for in winter
	Unwanted chickens – sick, past egg laying maturity
	Salmonella bacteria
	Neighbors at odds
	Coops eye sore
	Cost and time of city inspections

We currently live on a wooded area and have already seen unwanted pets – rabbits and birds being dumping in this area. Our winters are another issue for them – I am sure individuals will bring the chickens inside to care for them then you have another situation you need to control and have less authority to try and observe etc.

You can address all the positive attributes by having the families bring their children to the homestead(s) in the area i.e. Eidem Farms. Look into the possibility of having Eidem Farms offer discussions on "where food comes from". Get them more involved in community gardens – also look at the variety of care within our community gardens. It seem like a good comparison to what the variety of chicken coops and care would be within our city.

We appreciate you taking the time to read and understand our point of view. I had seen a pretty extensive plan thru Fridley, so it might be good to talk to them about the challenges involved.

Let us know if you have any questions.

Regards,
Terry & JoAnn DeBey
10018 Butternut Cir. N
Brooklyn Park 55443

From: John Hermansen <john@jhermansen.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2022 4:43 PM
To: brooklynpark@public.govdelivery.com
Cc: Michelle Peterson
Subject: Re: Chickens Ordinance Update

I seriously thought this was a joke.

As a local business owner and resident this seems like the biggest can of worms ever.

I already have single home dwellings up and down the street that each house two or three families it seems. With seven or eight cars all over the road, usually they like dogs dogs dogs dogs current neighbors five dogs at any given time at least.

Now add freaking chickens to the mix?

I can't even imagine the layers of trouble the city is going to run into. Seems there would be general codes in place 100% against such foolishness.

Nothing against chickens or people wanting chickens but right in the city?

PLEASE!

Thanks,
John

763-439-1099

<http://www.jhermansen.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/John-Hermansen-Associates-385239608310391/>

<https://www.facebook.com/John-Hermansen-Photography-190445271020738/>

From: Sharlene Pyrski <archerjonathon@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2022 7:00 PM
To: BPCouncil-MGR-DL <BPCouncil-MGR@BrooklynPark.Org>
Subject: Chickens

City Council,

I just recently became aware of the public hearing on raising chickens in Brooklyn Park. Why? We have grocery stores, several restaurants and fast food that serve eggs and chicken. My concern is people who have good intentions but no idea on what involves with raising chickens. Disease, noise, odor, pests, and waste management.

Ideally their coop and nesting box should be cleaned almost daily. They will poop on your deck, and walkways, but also scratch your mulch onto your walkways in search of worms and grubs. Chickens belong on farms not the city. I grew up on a farm so I know how much work they are. Plus if you let chickens in our city then it'll be other animals.

We have enough issues with lost dogs and cats. Of course with eagles, hawks, fox and coyotes there might not be loose chickens. Please don't allow any farm animals in our city.

Sharlene Pyrski
Brooklyn Park resident
Sent from my iPad

From: Harvey Haines <hmhaines@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 9:20 PM
To: Terry Parks
Cc: Jay Stroebel; Marlene Kryder; Michelle Peterson; Xp Lee; Lisa Jacobson
Subject: Re: Chickens in Brooklyn Park

Terry,

You and I have communicated regarding this issue before, shortly after I first moved to the city. Unfortunately, Covid has seriously hampered my ability to push this in Brooklyn Park, so I was ecstatic to get an email from Michelle that the council was once again considering an ordinance. My partner and I were devastated when the one in 2019 got shot down. I think it is for the best that this one only includes chickens.

My question to you is; where do you stand?

If you are against, what are your concerns?

Thanks,
Harvey

On Thursday, March 10, 2022, 01:26:39 PM CST, Terry Parks <terry.parks@brooklynpark.org> wrote:

Mr. Haines, thanks for your e mail. Ive been on the council for 7 years now and this debate has gone on since and before I got here. I appreciate your input on this. Ive never raised a chicken never was raised on a farm so any information I gather from someone who knows helps a lot. We have a public hearing coming up and I believe a vote by council shortly after that so any input is important. Again thank you for taking time in e mailing us. Hope you can make it for the public hearing if not at least all the council has your e mail.

From: Harvey Haines <hmhaines@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 7:47 AM
To: Lisa Jacobson <Lisa.Jacobson@BrooklynPark.Org>
Cc: Xp Lee <Xp.Lee@brooklynpark.org>; Terry Parks <Terry.Parks@BrooklynPark.Org>; Boyd Morson <boyd.morson@brooklynpark.org>; Tonja West-Hafner <Tonja.West-Hafner@BrooklynPark.Org>; Susan Pha <Susan.Pha@BrooklynPark.Org>; Wynfred Russell <Wynfred.Russell@BrooklynPark.Org>
Subject: Chickens in Brooklyn Park

Hello!

This is an update on an email I sent to city council members a couple years ago:

As first-time homeowners and new residents of Brooklyn Park, my partner and I have been learning a lot and working hard over the past several years months. Inside, we've been hanging wallpaper, fixing toilets, and replacing floors in order to be sure that our home keeps us happy, healthy, and safe. Outside we've made a lot of headway in creating a beautiful, sustainable, pollinator-friendly garden that we hope to soon see full of fruits, vegetables, herbs & more. I want you to understand that we are responsible homeowners who care about our property, our neighborhood, and our planet.

And that is exactly why we are so frustrated by the fact that we are not allowed to own chickens in Brooklyn Park. Responsible food practices and careful consumerism are extremely important to keeping our environment habitable. While it may not be cheaper to raise chickens for eggs, my partner and I would like to know that the chickens are treated

well. Additionally, their manure is an excellent environmentally friendly fertilizer for our organic garden, and they could help us reduce the level of ants in our yard without having to use pesticides which contribute to colony collapse in bees.

With so many major cities across the country allowing backyard chickens, and with nearby cities like Brooklyn Center doing the same, the question must be answered as to why Brooklyn Park doesn't permit chicken ownership. By and large, the response I receive from the surprisingly upset nay-sayers is that "Brooklyn Park is not a farming town." When reminded that Minneapolis, St. Paul, Manhattan, Portland, and the aforementioned Brooklyn Center allow chickens, I'm offered the hollow response, "We don't want Brooklyn Park to be like those cities."

Eventually noise is brought up, at which point I inform folks that hens aren't typically any louder than a normal human conversation, and that we allow people to bring home dogs which have the potential to be quite verbose at all hours. Sanitation is sometimes raised as a concern, usually with the nay-sayer blurting out "Bird flu!" Sanitation is obviously a valid concern to have, but it doesn't seem that other cities in our area have had many, if any, issues with this.

I enjoy living and working in Brooklyn Park. I enjoy being a part of this community and I want to see our community veer away from the empty and pointless mandates which prevent people from living lives to benefit their planet. Getting chickens into Brooklyn Park isn't going to fix the world, but it is one of billions of little steps that make a difference and get us moving in the right direction.

If you support the idea of chickens being allowed in our city, thank you! If not, please let me know what your concerns are.

Best,
Harvey Milledge Haines

From: Valerie Leone <vleone@newhopemn.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2022 10:40 AM
To: BPCouncil-MGR-DL <BPCouncil-MGR@BrooklynPark.Org>
Subject: keeping of chickens - March 28 public hearing

We are against the keeping of chickens at residential properties. Our main concerns are unpleasant odor, health concerns regarding sanitation (feces), and the aesthetics of a chicken coop. Sometimes people start an endeavor with good intentions but are unable to properly care for the chickens and coop. People who want such animals should not live in a metro area with close neighbors. Property owners should be able to enjoy their back yard patio or deck without having to see (and possibly smell) a neighbor's chicken coop.

We would prefer our tax dollars go towards public safety instead of inspectors or animal control responding to calls to ensure coops are properly constructed and that cleanliness is maintained.

If the proposal does pass, we hope there will be a limit of 4 chickens; rules on construction materials and size of coop; location of coop on property; sanitation rules; and screening requirements (wooden fence) of property from the neighbors. The coop should be near the resident's garage (farthest point from neighbors' properties).

Thank you.

Valerie and Michael Leone
7409 Beard Avenue North
Brooklyn Park, MN 55443

From: Ric Roderick <roder005@umn.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2022 1:58 PM
To: BPCouncil-MGR-DL <BPCouncil-MGR@BrooklynPark.Org>
Subject: Chickens

I'm writing concerning people having an issue with raising chickens in the backyard. If the majority expressed interest in allowing residents to have 3 chickens for egg laying purposes or simply having them for pets, the people with the problem with this should only have a say, but not to have their way. Why did we have a survey in the first place?

St Paul residents don't seem to have a problem with their chickens and they're allowed 5, I believe. The original problem that had people up in arms was because of the roosters, which no one owns these days.

Having chickens will not turn Brooklyn Park into a farming environment. The people owning chickens will still be an insignificant minority of the population, just like beekeepers. Does anyone even have a neighbor who's a beekeeper? Plenty of residents were upset about the city allowing for those wanting to save a dying breed.

Having simple freedoms make the city a better place to live. The world will never be free of complaints.

--

Ric Roderick
8356 Jersey Ave N
Brooklyn Park, MN 55445
612 597-0959

From: gabe <gabe@happyhomegutter.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2022 2:21 PM
To: BPCouncil-MGR-DL <BPCouncil-MGR@BrooklynPark.Org>
Subject: Chicken ownership in Brooklyn Park

Hello City Council Members,

My name is Gabe. I'm a small business owner and resident of Brooklyn Park and a Firefighter for the city of Minneapolis. My wife and I are raising our two girls, aged 3 and 5 in this community. I fully support allowing residents the opportunity to raise hen chickens within the city. I think it will be a great opportunity to increase our food independence for our household, for my kids to learn about where their food actually comes from, learn the responsibility of animal ownership, and assist with providing a high-quality compost for my vegetable garden.

I do feel that Brooklyn Park has fallen behind other cities when comes to chicken ownership. Many cities around us already allow it. The book does not have to be re-written regarding the regulations of how many, what kind, and where chickens can be raised. Some common sense regulation regarding chicken ownership will go a long way to ensure the success of a program that many residents surrounding Brooklyn Park are all already getting to enjoy.

Thank you,

Gabe Fetzek

Owner/Operator

Happy Home Gutter Care

612 801 1741

gabe@happyhomegutter.com

happyhomegutter.com

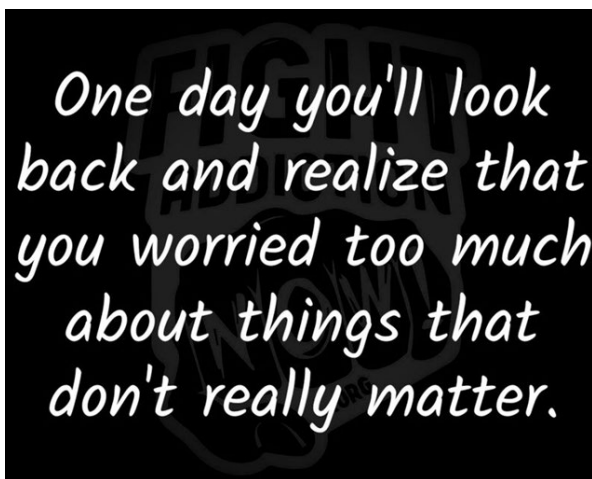


From: Joe Klohs <joeklohs@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2022 4:52 PM
To: Devin Montero <Devin.Montero@brooklynpark.org>
Cc: Boyd Morson <boyd.morson@brooklynpark.org>; Jay Stroebel <Jay.Stroebel@BrooklynPark.Org>; Lisa Jacobson <Lisa.Jacobson@BrooklynPark.Org>; Susan Pha <Susan.Pha@BrooklynPark.Org>; Terry Parks <Terry.Parks@BrooklynPark.Org>; Tonja.westhafner@brooklynpark.or; Wokie Freeman-Gbogba <Wokie.Freeman@BrooklynPark.Org>; Wynfred Russell <Wynfred.Russell@BrooklynPark.Org>; Xp Lee <Xp.Lee@brooklynpark.org>
Subject: Fwd: City Council

Devan - My submittal for the Chicken discussion - Monday night's Council meeting.

Residents will benefit from the City Council's attention on Crime, poverty, lack of food, homelessness, housing and medical care. There is extremely little to "Nothing" Residents will gain from chickens.

When you have fixed all of the above to everyone's basic needs you can use your time and the Cities resources on chickens.



From: Tim <timothymccarren@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 26, 2022 8:05 PM
To: Terry Parks <Terry.Parks@BrooklynPark.Org>
Subject: Chicken viewpoint for city council meeting

Hi Terry,

Below is my viewpoint for the chicken ordinance. Please share it with your other city council members and those who will attend the meeting in-person on Monday. The message will be pasted below, but I'll also attach it as a pdf for your convenience. Keeping my fingers crossed. Thanks Terry!

Tim

To city council members and residents of Brooklyn Park,

I am writing to express my support for allowing hens in residential properties. Currently the majority of cities in Hennepin County allow backyard chickens, including: Minnetonka, St. Louis Park, Eden Prairie, Golden Valley, Bloomington, Crystal, Robbinsdale, New Hope, Maple Grove, Edina and Minneapolis. I have two young children. Responsibly keeping chickens is a great way to teach my family about animal life, welfare, responsibility, and sustainability.

I understand the concerns of those who don't want this change. Luckily, the proposed ordinance is written in such a way to both validate those concerns and ensure that they are never realized. People may say that chickens are noisy. This proposed ordinance is for 4 **hens**. Roosters are the cause of noise complaints. By prohibiting roosters, residents will not have to worry about noise. People may say chickens are messy. The ordinance mandates chickens are kept in proper coops. Chickens kept in coops will not have the option to travel into a neighbor's yard. Additionally, keeping chickens in a coop allows the owner to properly manage the waste. You wouldn't worry about your neighbor's fenced-in dog ruining your yard, so why would chickens be any different? People may say chickens will attract foxes or coyotes. Again, chickens will be safe in coops and roosts. Any predator wouldn't stay long if they couldn't have access.

No one is going to turn their backyard into a farm or slaughterhouse. We just want the opportunity to raise a couple chickens, collect fresh, healthy eggs, and teach our kids about responsibility and kindness to all creatures. Thank you to the city council members who have brought this proposed ordinance to the table.

Tim McCarren

Good evening Mayor Jacobson and City Council

I would prefer that a minimum lot size with no variances be established in the chicken ordinance to guarantee the freedom of others neighbors and community at large be impacted less.

There will be costs associated with this change and many residents would rather have money spent on youth outreach workers, fire staff to have four stations 24 hour manned or more cameras to reduce crime and assist police for all residents. Chickens are not an issue for just one race either in support or opposition. It is a personal preference

I believe that the bird flu like reported on Channel 11. 9 and Channel 5 news will impact backyard coops more than city staff and coop owners estimate. It can transfer to humans and also per MN state Public Health it is not recommended for children under age 5 to be around backyard chickens or poultry.

*Collette Gimpff Hempel - submitted,
Brooklyn Park residence*

I do believe our police and fire staff will have increased calls for disputes as a number of issues are not in the ordinance. Also there is no 24 hour code enforcement in the city except the police officers and animal control issues are to call 911 per city website. Fire extinguisher near coop and clear winter path to coop for first responders is not mentioned.

So best practices not included in the proposed city ordinance:

***When violations occur how fast are corrective removal of chickens to occur and by whom and what fine or fee is imposed to assure neighbors it will not happen again??. Questions were asked at planning commission by commissioners but not answered.**

***What kind of fence and height as privacy, semi privacy and chain links are all very different in how well they provide screening for the neighbors, their children and guests, and pets dogs and cats. Feathers and dust**

dander etc, can go through chain link and chickens have been known to clear 4 and 6 foot high fences by flying over them. Ordinance does not include language that chickens should be contained in coop when owners are not present on the property. This is for the bird's safety and prevention of their being a nuisance to neighboring properties.

***The ordinance does not address who cleans and disposes of fecal matter or feathers on a neighbor's property if your birds get loose or in what amount of time. Bird fecal matter can contain various bacteria or allergen asthma trigger concerns especially for young children and those with health impairments of immune and mobility.**

The ordinance does not address the number of coops may be on a block or trail way for parks or sidewalks for walkability of neighborhoods. It does not address individuals with disabilities such as autism, Pervasive developmental, cognitive delays, mental health mobility or health impairments like asthma and allergies, cancers etc. that may be impacted by their

ability to go to neighborhood parks that have no parking lots such as Trinity Gardens. The ordinance does not reflect the impact on group homes serving these and other disabilities in our neighborhood and they are a protected class of all races. There is no one race that supports or opposes chickens it is a personal preference by individuals.

The ordinance does not discuss that a quality coop, run and containment, feed and bedding is likely to cost \$1000 for startup with an annual cost of about a \$1000 to feed twice a day, change bedding and clean coop 2 to 3 times per week.

The ordinance has been improved by staff from the first proposals but my listing of reasons why not to change the ordinance was not included in the packet or even mentioned when I attended the City Council Discussion night or the planning commission meeting and gave them a revised version. I encourage you to request modifications and more details of responsibilities of owners to reduce conflict in our neighborhoods.

Even farms of 7-160 acre or larger have township / county ordinances to follow re: setbacks and number of animals

3/23/22, 7:30 PM

Using Chicken Manure Safely in Home Gardens and Landscapes | Extension | University of Nevada, Reno

** biggest concern fresh fecal should "never" be used in gardens*

Using Chicken Manure Safely in Home Gardens and Landscapes

may affect ecoli/salmonella at farmers market

Introduction

Raising chickens at home is making a comeback. While a chicken can produce an egg every 24 hours, the average hen produces something else in abundance, one cubic foot of manure every six months (Anderson, 2010). With more than one hen, this rapidly adds up to a significant amount of manure that has to be managed. It can't continue to collect in the coop, or it will harm the chickens.



Raising chickens at home has increased in popularity. (photo: W. Hanson-Mazet)

What does a homeowner, particularly one who lives in an urban environment, do with all that manure? The answer is to use it as a soil amendment or fertilizer.

However, raw chicken manure can burn and damage plants. It should be composted or aged prior to use. In addition, raw manure can contain pathogens that can harm people and animals. If composting is done properly, the process destroys disease-causing organisms, making chicken manure safe to use around plants, people and pets.

Composition

What comes out of a chicken coop isn't simply fecal matter. It also consists of urine, feathers, undigested food and coop bedding material. Composting decomposes these materials into a form that is good for plants.

Benefits

Composted chicken manure provides a slow-release source of macro- and micronutrients and acts as a soil amendment. Compared to other manures, chicken manure and the associated litter are higher in nitrogen, potassium, phosphorus and calcium, and are also rich in organic matter (Zubieta, 1993). Addition of organic matter to soils increases a soil's water-holding capacity, improves aeration and drainage, reduces erosion, reduces fertilizer leaching and improves a soil's structure.

Additionally, organic matter provides a food source for soil microbes, which increases soil biological diversity, accelerating the breakdown of organic nutrients into forms more readily available to plants. All of these factors can improve plant health (Rosen, 2005).

The use of composted manure and litter can also reduce the need to apply additional fertilizers.

Safety

3/23/22, 7:30 PM

Using Chicken Manure Safely in Home Gardens and Landscapes | Extension | University of Nevada, Reno

Like other animal wastes, chicken manure and litter may harbor pathogens, such as *E. coli*, *Salmonella*, *Cryptosporidium* and others. To reduce risk to humans and pets, proper handling and precautions are necessary. Stockpiled manure should be kept in a protected area where children, pets and livestock do not have access.

Before applying manure or litter to the garden, it should be composted or aged.

Proper composting will generate temperatures of 140 F to 160 F, which is enough to kill most human and animal pathogens, such as *E. coli* and *Salmonella* (Griffiths, 2011).

Aging the manure and litter only reduces populations of disease-causing microbes by providing unfavorable growing conditions that cause them to die off gradually due to changes in moisture content, temperature and nutrient availability. Pathogens are not actively killed by aging, but instead are inhibited from reproducing, which results in a slow decline of the population.

Whether composted or aged, manure should be applied no later than 90 days prior to harvest of non-ground-contact crops such as trellised tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers; and no later than 120 days prior to harvest of ground-contact crops such as lettuce, strawberries and carrots (Rosen, 2005).

Storage

When planning how to handle chicken manure and litter, one must consider the storage requirements needed. The size of the storage area will depend on the amount of litter produced, but should always be isolated from children, animals and rain. Liquid runoff should not be allowed to stand or pool and the pile should drain well to prevent unpleasant odors and the buildup of disease-causing organisms (Griffiths, 2005). Additionally, the storage area should not be located where runoff could contaminate vegetable gardens, edible plants or children's play areas.

A laying hen will produce about a cubic foot (about 7.5 gallons) of litter every six months, which means a flock of 10 hens will produce about three-quarters of a cubic yard per year. If stored, this would create a pile that is about 3 feet long, 3 feet wide and 2 feet high. However, composting or aging will reduce this volume by about half over time.

Composting and Aging

Chicken litter is high in nitrogen, and can be composted in about five to six weeks. Composting "cools" the manure and litter material, meaning it reduces the ammonia content so it will no longer burn plants. It also reduces the total volume, weight and odor of the pile. Additionally, composting stabilizes nutrients enabling a slow, long-term release over a few years. Finally, the temperatures generated in the composting process will kill most pathogens and weed seeds.

In residential areas, odors caused by manure piles can quickly become a nuisance to both the chicken owner and surrounding neighbors, if not properly managed. Foul odors usually occur when the interior of a pile has an inadequate supply of oxygen, allowing the proliferation of microbes responsible for unpleasant, sewage-like smells. When composting, adequate pile drainage must be maintained and the pile turned weekly to introduce oxygen. A well-managed compost pile should have an "earthy" smell, like good potting soil.

If a compost pile cannot be turned each week, a better approach may be to dry out and age the manure before adding it to a pile.

Removing the moisture from the manure inhibits microbial growth and decomposition, preventing the associated smells. Each time a coop is cleaned, the manure can be thinly spread on a tarp or other impermeable surface to dry in the sun, before adding it to the pile. The drying pile should be protected from precipitation or other water sources, or decomposition (and odors) may occur.

Safety Tips

- Only apply composted or aged manure to soil, unless it is applied the fall before planting.
- Always wear gloves when handling manure.
- Wash raw vegetables thoroughly before eating.
- People who are susceptible to foodborne illnesses should avoid eating uncooked vegetables from manure-amended gardens. Those who face risks from foodborne illness include pregnant women, young children and persons with cancer, kidney failure, liver disease, diabetes or AIDS (Anderson, 2010).

Conclusion

"Poultry manure, properly handled, is the most valuable of all manures produced by livestock" (Mitchell and Donald, 1995). When a family raises chickens, they have a ready supply of brown gold from composted or aged manure to benefit their garden and landscape plants.

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Carcass Disposal | Minnesota Board of Animal Health

*Bird flu in MN
in backyard flock in
Meeker county - more expected*

Carcass Disposal

Overview of Carcass Disposal Options

Minnesota boasts a vast livestock population. Unfortunately, where there is livestock there will also be unexpected death loss. Proper disposal of animal carcasses is an important part of preventing the potential spread of disease and protecting air and water quality. Unless slaughtered for human consumption, animals that die need to be disposed of within 72 hours.

Backed by authority in Minnesota Statutes (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=35.815>), our carcass disposal experts can help you figure out the best solution for each situation.

Legal methods of disposal

The following are all legal methods of disposal for poultry, swine, cattle, horses, sheep, goats and farmed cervids:

- Compost
- Render
- Landfill
- Incinerate
- Bury

Household pets and wild animals are exempt by law. Consult city ordinance for household pets. Contact local animal control for wild animals. Contact the road authority for road kill (651-296-3000).

Contacts for additional information:

- University of Minnesota Extension: 612-624-1222
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency: 651-296-6300
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources: 651-296-6157

Carcass Disposal Contacts (<https://www.bah.state.mn.us/media/carcass-disposal-contacts.pdf>)

USDA Carcass Management Dashboard (<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/emergency-management/carcass-management/carcass>)

PCA Livestock Carcass Disposal (<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/wq-f8-07b.pdf>)

AASV - Approved Depopulation Methods (https://www.bah.state.mn.us/media/Carcass-Disposal_AASV-depopulation_recommendations.pdf)

AASV - Depopulation Record Document (https://www.bah.state.mn.us/media/Carcass-Disposal_AASV-Depopulation-Record.pdf)

Downloadable Carcass Disposal Guides:

English (<https://www.bah.state.mn.us/media/Carcass-Disposal-Guide.pdf>)

Spanish (https://www.bah.state.mn.us/media/Carcass-Disposal-Guide-New_SPA_508.pdf)

Hmong (https://www.bah.state.mn.us/media/Carcass-Disposal-Guide-New_HMO_508.pdf)

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Carcass Disposal | Minnesota Board of Animal Health

Somali (https://www.bah.state.mn.us/media/Carcass-Disposal-Guide-New_SOM_508.pdf)

Rendering

Rendering companies are the ultimate recyclers and provide a necessary service to livestock producers. Availability of rendering service in northern Minnesota is somewhat limited, but many producers in other parts of the state use rendering on a regular basis.

Vehicles that haul carcasses for rendering services need to be inspected and permitted by the Board, unless the vehicle belongs to the owner of the animal. To prevent disease spread and keep roads clean, carcasses and animal parts are transported in leak-proof vehicles or containers and covered. Please see the table below to find rendering companies in Minnesota, and note, the county column only describes their location. You can contact the individual plants to determine pickup routes and locations.

Licensed Rendering Companies	County	Phone
Behrendt Trucking	Redwood	507-829-5598
Big Dans Trucking	Winona	507-523-2297
Central Bi-Products Plant A (https://www.centralbi.com/)	Todd	1-800-767-2569
Central Bi-Products Plant B (https://www.centralbi.com/)	Redwood	1-800-767-2569
D & J Rendering	Rock	507-283-2553
Darling International Plant A	Faribault	507-526-3296
Darling International Plant B	Fillmore	507-526-3296
Hormel Foods Corporation	Mower	507-437-5373
JBS Swift and Company	Nobles	507-372-2121
Klarenbeek and Son Rendering	Rock	507-283-2506
Leroy Job Trucking	Sherburne	612-245-6085
Midwest Cremation Service	Wright	763-753-5510
Sanimax (http://www.sanimax.com/)	Dakota	851-451-6858
T-N-T Rendering	Lyon	712-348-2407

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Carcass Disposal | Minnesota Board of Animal Health

Licensed Rendering Companies	County	Phone
West Central Sanitation Inc. (http://www.wcsanitation.com/)	Kandiyohi	320-235-7630
Woodpecker Product Inc.	Mower	507-567-2993
Worthington Rendering Company	Nobles	507-376-4711

Composting

Composting is an inexpensive and environmentally-friendly way to dispose of animal carcasses. When done correctly, composting works for cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, horses, and poultry.

There are only four ingredients needed to start and maintain a successful compost pile:

- A carbon source, such as sawdust, wood chips or corn husks
- Nitrogen (found naturally in manure)
- Carcasses
- Water

These ingredients are layered. As long as all animal parts are completely covered with the carbon source, the internal temperature of the pile should begin to rise within 24 hours. Once the temperature of the compost pile starts to drop, add oxygen by stirring the pile using a tractor or pitchfork. Make sure the pile is always damp by sprinkling with water if needed.

There are many ways to tailor composting to fit your situation. One example is the grind and compost method, which uses a chipping machine to process carcasses and wood chips simultaneously. The grind and compost method speeds up the composting process by mixing the materials.

External Composting Resources:

U of M Extension - Composting Webpage (<https://extension.umn.edu/manure-management/composting-livestock-and-poultry-carcasses#space-requirements-2224811>)

U of M Extension - Horse Composting Video (<https://youtu.be/LCVZWdeLBjg>)

Landfill

Please contact landfills directly for information on quantities they can accept and timing of loads.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has a map of potential locations for disposal of animal carcasses during COVID-19 (<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/covid-19/potential-locations-disposal-animal-carcasses-during-covid-19>). It's important to note, you should contact the individual landfill before delivering any carcasses for disposal.

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Carcass Disposal | Minnesota Board of Animal Health

Burial

Burial is an inexpensive and biosecure way to handle dead stock, but it must be done in such a way that minimizes risk of groundwater contamination. Before digging, request an emergency locate from Gopher State One Call (<http://www.gopherstateonecall.org/>) at 800-252-1166 to find any power, pipe, or communications lines buried under your chosen site. Once the site is cleared, the next step is to check the level of the water table.

Above Ground Burial

Above-ground burial requires digging a shallow trench, lining it with a layer of carbon source, and placing a single layer of carcasses on top. The excavated soil is replaced over the top of the carcasses and seeded to provide a vegetative cover.

Deep Burial

Before digging, check with your power company. Once the site is cleared, the next step is to check the level of the water table. Dig the hole as deep as needed to completely cover the carcass and prevent scavenging by other animals. Then, dig down an additional five feet. Carcasses must be buried five feet above the seasonal high-water table, so if you hit water you'll need to find another location to bury.

Burial in sandy areas or areas within 10 feet of bedrock should be avoided. If you need a site assessment, complete the form above to contact one of our carcass disposal experts.

Incineration

Incineration is a cold-weather alternative to burial, but a more costly method of carcass disposal.

Carcasses must be incinerated in a Pollution Control Agency (PCA)-approved incinerator (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/?id=7011.1215>). Ash and gas emissions from the incinerator cannot exceed pollution standards set by the PCA.

Healthy animals for healthy people and communities.

All modern and up-to-date browsers are supported, which include: Google Chrome, Safari, Microsoft Edge, and Mozilla Firefox.

Minnesota Board of Animal Health
625 Robert Street North
Saint Paul, MN 55155
Ph: 651-296-2942
Fax: 651-296-7417
TTY: 800-627-3529

Animal Bytes ([/animal-bytes](http://animal-bytes.org))

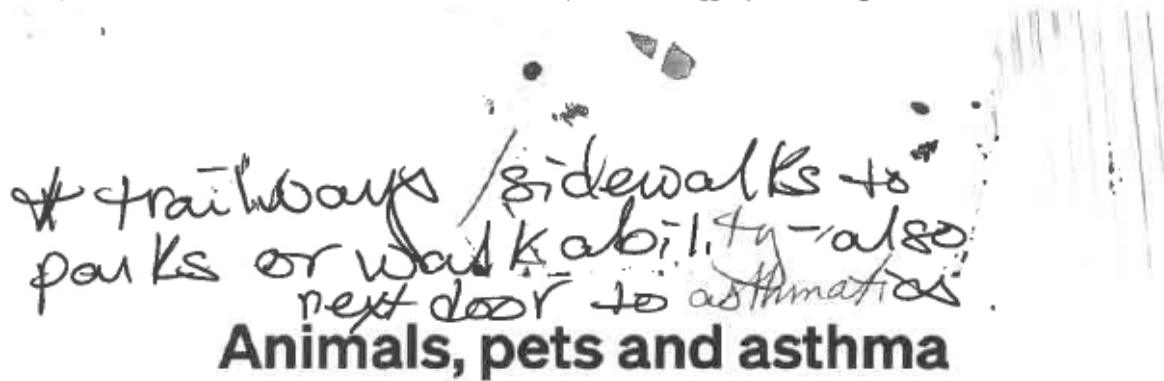
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Carcass Disposal | Minnesota Board of Animal Health

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Animals and pets as asthma triggers | Asthma + Lung UK



off trainways / sidewalks to
parks or walkability - also
next door to asthmatics

Animals, pets and asthma

Pets can often trigger asthma symptoms. Here's why – and what you can do about it

Why do animals and pets trigger asthma symptoms?

How do you know if animals trigger your asthma?

How to cut your risk of animals triggering your asthma

Hypoallergenic pets

Fish, reptiles, amphibians and asthma

Petting zoos and farms

Why do animals and pets trigger asthma symptoms?

People often think their asthma is triggered by animal hair, but if pets are a trigger for you, you're probably allergic to proteins found in the animal's flakes of skin (dander), saliva, urine or even fine particles from bird feathers known as 'feather dust'.

Touching or inhaling these allergens causes your immune system to overreact, leading to your asthma symptoms getting worse.

Lots of pets can trigger allergic asthma symptoms, from cats, dogs and horses, to rabbits, hamsters, mice and gerbils, and birds. You might be allergic to just one type of animal or more than one.

Allergies can develop at any stage of life. Even if you had a pet when you were young and didn't react to it, you could be allergic to the same type of animal now.

3/23/22, 7:50 PM

Animals and pets as asthma triggers | Asthma + Lung UK

How do you know if animals trigger your asthma?

Spot the symptoms

Most people with an allergy to animals react quickly – often within a few minutes. Some people might not notice symptoms until several hours later.

As well as asthma symptoms, you might have other symptoms like an itchy, watery nose and eyes, sneezing and coughing.

If you're highly allergic to animals, you might have severe breathing problems, as well as a fast heart rate, feeling clammy, feeling faint and even collapsing – an extreme reaction called anaphylaxis.

See if you feel better after time away from your pet

If your asthma symptoms get better after being away from your pet – for example on holiday – you may be allergic to them.

Remember, though, that moving your pet to a different room or outside may not prevent asthma symptoms, because the allergens can stay in your carpet, furniture and clothes.

Even if you re-home your pet, you may still have symptoms for some time.

Get an allergy test

The only way to confirm if you have an animal allergy is by getting your doctor to refer you for a skin prick test and/or blood test. Don't be tempted to buy a home allergy testing kit – these may not be reliable.

How to cut your risk of animals triggering your asthma

If you're confident that you (and anyone else who lives with you) don't have an allergy to animals, it's okay to have a pet if you have asthma.

But if you start getting asthma symptoms that you think are caused by your pet:

take your preventer medicines as prescribed. Taking your preventer medicine is the most important thing you can do to make it less likely that you'll react to your asthma triggers.

see your GP or asthma nurse as soon as possible. Tell them you think your symptoms might be caused by your pet or an animal. They can review your asthma treatment,

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Animals and pets as asthma triggers | Asthma + Lung UK

and update your written asthma action plan, to make sure your asthma is as well managed as possible.

keep pets outside as much as possible, or limit them to a particular area of your home – ideally without carpets. And keep them out of your bedroom.

ask someone who doesn't have allergies to groom or bathe your pet regularly. This might help to reduce the amount of allergens they shed.

wash your pet's bedding and toys regularly, and any soft furnishings they sleep on.

if your pet lives in a cage, clean it regularly. Ask someone who doesn't have allergies to do this and to do it outside. Replace any bedding or litter that has urine on it. If possible, don't use sawdust in their cage as this could trigger asthma symptoms.

think about trying an air filter and/or a vacuum cleaner with a HEPA filter. Some people find these helpful to manage pet allergies, although the evidence on the benefits remains unclear.

try using fans or air conditioning in the rooms where you spend the most time, or keep windows open when you can.

dust with a damp cloth as often as possible. This will help to keep pet dander to a minimum.

have an allergy test before you decide to rehome your pet. Something else may be setting off your asthma symptoms, such as smoke, dust or pollen.

If you're visiting someone who has a pet:

take an antihistamine (as a tablet or nasal spray) an hour before you visit someone with a pet or come into close contact with a pet owner. Their clothes or car could carry the allergens, as well as their home.

ask pet owners not to dust or vacuum just before you arrive. This will stop the allergens being stirred up into the air.

talk to your GP or asthma nurse about using a regular nasal spray to help control allergic symptoms like a runny, itchy nose if you can't avoid coming into contact with your animal trigger.

If you're thinking about getting a pet:

consider whether you have any other allergies, since people who do are more likely to develop others.

set up a trial run by spending time in a house where there's a pet you're hoping to get. Make sure you take your reliever inhaler with you.

could borrow an animal for a short time to see if you react to having it in your home. If no one you know has a pet similar to the one you want, another option is to

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- call your local animal shelter and ask if you can volunteer and get some pet contact that way.

Hypoallergenic pets and asthma

'Hypoallergenic' means something that's 'relatively unlikely to cause an allergic reaction'.

Some people believe that some pets - including certain breeds of cats and dogs - are 'hypoallergenic' and safe for people with asthma, but research shows there's no such thing as a truly non-allergenic pet.

Fish, reptiles, amphibians and asthma

Scaly animals such as fish, frogs, turtles, lizards and snakes could make good pets for people with asthma because they don't shed dander (skin flakes) and are less likely to trigger an allergic reaction.

Bear in mind, though, that some people do find their asthma symptoms are triggered by fish. This could be because of allergens in their food, or to algae growing in their tank.

If you think your asthma symptoms are triggered by a reptile or amphibian, you can ask your GP if you need an allergy test.

Alternative pet ideas for children with asthma

If your children love animals but can't keep a household pet, here are some other ways they could feel connected to an animal:

Sponsor an animal through a zoo, safari park or charity scheme.

Get your child a substitute pet such as an interactive toy like a Furby or Little Live Pet, or an animal app. Virtual pets let children feel like they're caring for an animal without the risk of triggering asthma symptoms.

Petting zoos and farms

Some people are allergic to farm animals like cows, sheep and chickens, as well as small animals that are often found in petting zoos, like guinea pigs and rabbits.

This could be a problem for children in particular, who might go on a school trip or to a petting zoo or farm, but schools have to make sure that pupils with medical conditions like asthma are able to take part in school trips.

<https://www.asthma.org.uk/advice/triggers/animals-and-pets/>

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Animals and pets as asthma triggers | Asthma + Lung UK

If your child is visiting a farm or petting zoo, make sure the adults who are going with them know about their asthma.

It's essential for your child to take their reliever inhaler (usually blue) with them, and if the school has a spare inhaler for emergency use, an adult accompanying the trip should take that with them, too.

Your child might need to take an antihistamine beforehand. They should avoid contact with the animals as much as possible, and always wash their hands after touching an animal.

For more advice on pets and asthma

It can be really upsetting to find out that your family pet is making your asthma worse. If you'd like more support and information you can speak to an asthma nurse specialist on our Helpline on 0300 222 5800 or message them on WhatsApp on 07378 606 728 (9am - 5pm, Mon - Fri).

Last updated March 2020

Next review due March 2023

Did you find this information helpful?

Yes

No

3/23/22, 7:50 PM

Animals and pets as asthma triggers | Asthma + Lung UK

Speak to one of our helpline team on 0300 222 5800 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm)

Or message us on WhatsApp

Find out more about our Helpline

From: Harvey Haines <hmhaines@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2022 1:17 PM
To: Lisa Jacobson <Lisa.Jacobson@BrooklynPark.Org>
Cc: BPCouncil-MGR-DL <BPCouncil-MGR@BrooklynPark.Org>
Subject: Subject Matter Experts - On Chickens in Brooklyn Park

Mayor Jacobson,

Thank you for the opportunity to talk at our city council meeting last night. It was my first time attending, so I was rather nervous, but I enjoyed hearing from you and the council regarding your positions on chicken ownership.

There was a point you raised that I would like to directly address; you referred to some of the nay-sayers who have previously worked with chickens as subject matter experts. You needn't entirely discount their testimony, but I do think it is important to take a step back from it for a handful of reasons.

As I said in my statement - Scale and Intent are integral to the consideration of this ordinance. The scale and intent of the farms spoken about last night are very different that what is being sought by residents in Brooklyn Park. Large groups of chickens maintained in small spaces adhering to standard modern agricultural practices are almost certainly going to be smelly. They're not being kept with care; they're being raised with efficiency and human profit in mind. Relatively little space per bird, no individual care per bird, and minimal cleaning effort. This is not how backyard chicken owners treat their birds.

Small flocks, such as the four hens proposed in our ordinance, do not need and cannot create the same conditions as those in industrial agricultural situations. I would offer some anecdotal evidence as well; My partner's family comes from rural Illinois. Several times a year we visit them and many of her relatives there have chickens. Maria's cousin, Katy, has a large coop and run housing more than a dozen chickens. Several turkeys enjoy roaming the area around the fenced-in run, as do a couple of goats. We've visited this coop in the dead of winter, the wet of spring, the boiling heat of summer. Not once has the coop smelled bad, not once have the chickens been audible from inside the house.

Katy's coop is only a few yards from her home. She has three children and a less-than-helpful husband. Despite caring for kids, goats, horses, turkeys, dogs, a house, and a full-time job, this woman's chickens don't smell. I have no interest in having as many chickens as Katy, but I could easily fit her coop into my back yard if I wanted to sacrifice some garden beds. Her birds are friendly, happy, and productive layers.

Existing backyard chicken owners should be considered subject matter experts in this situation, not people who come from a large-scale farming background. I've put a pair of links below to show two very different backyard chicken setups to give you an idea of what these things look like in practice, so you know what to have in mind when people talk to you about this.

[Best Practices and Tips for Raising Chickens in a Small Backyard](#)
[What I've Learned after 7 Years of Raising Backyard Chickens](#)

Talking to large-scale farmers, or even hobby-farmers about backyard chickens is like asking an orchardist what it is like to grow apple trees in a suburb. They're not going to understand the environment, the equipment, the needs of the situation. This is especially true if these people haven't owned chickens in many years, and several of the opponents had not. I hope you'll take this into consideration when it comes time to vote for the chicken ordinance.

You mentioned the concept of a sort of Pilot Program. I'm not against this, and I would be happy to participate if it came to that, but we should really be looking at Brooklyn Center as our pilot program. I could, perhaps with a little practice, throw a rock from my yard into Brooklyn Center. They've had their ordinance for long enough to find problems, and there aren't any. It hasn't caused community division, it hasn't cost the city a fortune, it hasn't had any of the issues that are always thrown around when chickens are discussed.

We need to allow this ordinance to pass in order for Brooklyn Park to achieve its potential as an inclusive, sustainable, equitable community. It is a small, but important gear in the big machine pushing us ahead. Like many people, I want chickens because I don't like industrial agriculture. I want to live a more sustainable and morally sound life. Being involved in my food supply offers sustainability and security. Chickens are important for that.

Finally, I think we should take something else into account; Not everyone has the time or ability to make it to a city council meeting and wait two hours to speak in support of chickens. This ordinance hasn't been well advertised, so not everyone who supports chicken ownership knows that it is up for discussion. And, after a decade of the council knocking this down, people are tired and distrustful, hopeless about the city actually doing something to support it. So, while a handful of people might be able to show up and rail against chickens, they aren't a good cross section of our city, or of the support that stands for hens in Brooklyn Park.

Thanks,
Harvey Milledge Haines

P.S. I have C.C.ed the general city council email so that the rest of the council can read through these points if they wish.

Councilmembers may have received email comments directly from constituents. Those are not included in this attachment.

From: Cheryl Avina <crlafon1@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 17, 2023 8:44 AM
To: Michelle Peterson
Subject: RE: Chickens

I am not opposed to this possibility. I'd entertain having chickens. The concern for me is the same as with other pets.

Keep them fenced in properly, don't let them roam into other people's yards, clean up after them. What about cats on

the prowl? What are some health hazards to be aware of? Just be respectful of your neighbors or I see the ordinance

office getting calls and reports.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Jim Ford <pw2052@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 17, 2023 1:20 PM
To: Michelle Peterson
Subject: Chicken Ordinance

Michelle Peterson,

My name is Jim Ford and I live in Minnetonka. I feel obliged to comment as my daughter and her family live in Brooklyn

Park. I also used to work for Hennepin County assisting Brooklyn Park with their HUD Community Development Block

Grant (CDBG) program.

I strongly support the raising of chicken for egg production and meat, as there are many indicators which suggest food prices will continue to rise at the same time as our population of lower income households will continue and possibly rise. Further, egg production -- normally -- is an easy and safe way to put needed protein into our diets. I will, of course, admit that Avian Flu is a threat that must be taken seriously whether one is raising 4 or 4,000 hens. I am glad to see that

this threat is being addressed in this proposed ordinance. I would also note that in my neighborhood, raccoons, coyotes

and other predatory species are fairly common, so I would strongly encourage careful attention to providing secure

fencing to anyone wishing to raise chickens.

I would also encourage the City to promote vegetable gardening for many of the same reasons I have cited

above. Significant production can be realized from very small gardens and multiple crops which will serve to

supplement both a household's food budget and diet. Perhaps these efforts are already in place in Brooklyn Park, but if

not I would strongly encourage it.

I thank you for the opportunity to comment on these matters.

James Ford
16300 Kensington Court
Minnetonka MN 55345
pw2052@gmail.com

From: Douglas Lossing <dslossing7325@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 17, 2023 3:19 PM
To: Michelle Peterson
Subject: Chickens

I am not in favor of chickens at all. There smelly and I do not want any coop close to my house.
Thank You
Sharon Lossing

From: Douglas Lossing <dslossing7325@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 17, 2023 4:21 PM
To: Michelle Peterson
Subject: Re: Chickens

Hello Michelle:

I see that this issue is coming up again and I am hoping on keeping my wife sane and I do agree with her opinions so please add my comment to your group that goes to the council.

Thank You much:

Douglas Lossing; comment follows

I don't think much about choosing to allow things that seem inappropriate and are a burden on others just because there is a group that have voiced their desire to have a right that negatively imposes on other people. Many who are not in favor would even feel strongly and be negatively impacted by it. Certainly the city would need to manage, control and regulate having farm animals in a suburban neighborhood, in addition to having personal to address complaints. There are many people who not only object but have valid personal health and wellness issues; my wife for example has a chicken phobia from an incident when she was young and this would more than likely terrorize her. I don't think the city is thinking this through or just doesn't care. That is certainly not unusual when a government imposes rules that create conflict and trauma on some because there are others who choose to live in an area that is family suburb and not an agricultural community.

Sent from my iPad

From: Mike White <emailmikewhite@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 20, 2023 3:56 PM
To: Michelle Peterson
Subject: Chickens in Brooklyn Park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

I sure hope you're going to license chicken ownership, and have some sanitary standards for the owners to follow.

With all the absentee landlords and investment companies that own so many homes in Brooklyn Park, this makes me nervous that it will turn out badly. Just like the unkempt state of rental homes and yards.

Thank you.

Janice White

7841 Vincent Ave No

Brooklyn Park, MN 55444

email: jwhite_minneapolis@yahoo.com

From: Kim Lawrence <lawrencek24@aol.com>

Sent: Saturday, August 19, 2023 1:03 PM

To: Michelle Peterson

Subject: Chickens

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

Hello

What would be the recourse of neighbors having chickens that would be a mess, a□ract mice etc We already have

neighbors that do not take care of their places, hoard, stock pile crap. Weeds, □res, old cars.

Why on earth would BP

want to add more problems that they can't handle now?

Thanks!

Sent from my iPhone

City of Brooklyn Park Request for Council Action

Agenda Item:	8.3	Meeting Date:	August 28, 2023
Agenda Section:	Discussion Items	Originating Department:	Community Development
Resolution:	N/A	Prepared By:	Keith Jullie, Rental & Business Licensing Manager
Ordinance:	N/A		
Attachments:	4	Presented By:	Keith Jullie
Item:	Cannabis and THC Edibles Licensing Discussion		

City Manager's Proposed Action:

Staff will provide an update to the City Council on the recent legalization and upcoming licensing of cannabis and THC edible products.

Overview:

The attached memorandum outlines cannabis legalization and THC sales in Brooklyn Park. Staff are seeking direction on potential changes to the ordinance including cannabis use in parks and other public spaces and location requirements for businesses selling low potency THC edibles (currently regulated) and for higher potency cannabis products (to be regulated in 2025).

Primary Issues/Alternatives to Consider: N/A

Budgetary/Fiscal Issues: N/A

Attachments: N/A

- 8.3A CANNABIS MEMO
- 8.3B MAP OF LICENSED THC EDIBLE BUSINESSES
- 8.3C MAP OF LICENSED TOBACCO AND LIQUOR BUSINESSES
- 8.3D TOBACCO FREE PARKS RESOLUTION (2011)



MEMORANDUM

DATE: Aug 22, 2023

TO: Jay Stroebel, City Manager

FROM: Kim Berggren, Director of Community Development
Keith Jullie, Rental and Business Licensing Manager
Jason Newby, Inspections and Environmental Health Manager

CC: Mark Bruley, Chief of Police
Brad Tullberg, Recreation and Parks Director

SUBJECT: Cannabis Legalization and THC Sales in Brooklyn Park

A new law enacted by the State at the end of the 2023 legislative session legalizes adult-use cannabis in Minnesota and establishes a regulatory framework over the cannabis industry. Since the enactment of the law, city staff has been collecting information from the League of Minnesota Cities and the State.

This memo aims to provide information to the City Council about the new law to assist in making decisions related to the law. Laws and practices for tobacco and liquor can serve as a guide for policy, regulations, and enforcement strategies. This topic is planned for discussion at the August 28 City Council meeting. Please let staff know before the meeting if you or the City Council would like additional information or have specific questions.

What is the city doing currently with THC sales?

In 2022 the Minnesota State legislature legalized the possession, use, manufacturing, and sale of limited edible THC products and allowed cities to create regulations and licensing requirements for those products. The Brooklyn Park City Council adopted an ordinance and licensing language which took effect on March 1st, 2023. Currently, Brooklyn Park has 9 THC licensed businesses and 6 requests for new THC licenses (Table 1). The number of THC licenses is limited to 15 in each council district (west, central, east) with a total of 45 maximum allowed city wide. THC licenses are allowed in any retail area so long as they are not within 300 feet of a school. Under the new State law, THC licensed business must register with the State by October 1, 2023.

Table 1: Current and requested THC licenses in Brooklyn Park by Council District

Map #	Business Name	Location	Council District	Total in District		
				Central	East	West
1	A&J Tobacco	8058 Brooklyn Blvd	West			X
2	Boone Tobacco	6284 Boone Ave	West			X
3	BP Smoke Shop (new license requested)	7654 Brooklyn Blvd	East		X	
4	Cellar's Wine & Spirits (new license requested)	7944 Brooklyn Blvd	West			X
5	E-Vapor and Tobacco	4658 85 th Ave	Central	X		
6	Good Zen (new license requested)	8509 Jefferson Ln	West			X
7	Ike's Wine & Spirits (new license requested)	9682 Colorado Ln	West			X
8	Lifted	8470 Xerxes Ave	East		X	
9	Love is an Ingredient	6276A Boone Ave	West			X
10	Love is an Ingredient	8505 Jefferson Ln	West			X
11	Neighborhood Gas and Tobacco (new owner with new license requested)	7416 Brooklyn Blvd	East		X	
12	New Superette	6290 Boone Ave	West			X
13	Speedy Market & Tobacco	7401 Regent Ave	East		X	
14	Winner Gas	1500 Brookdale Dr	East		X	
15	Cub Liquor (not shown on map) (new license requested)	7555 W Broadway	West			X
			TOTALS	1	5	9

What does the new law allow the city to do in the future?

In 2023, the Minnesota State legislature legalized the possession, use, manufacturing, and sale of additional cannabis products and created regulations regarding the future use and sales of these products. The State must now create an Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) and establish licensing requirements which is expected to occur in January 2025. After this date all licensing will be handled by the State with a registration component and City regulations handled locally.

When can Cannabis sales start?

Cannabis cannot be sold until the Office of Cannabis Management is able to issue licenses. And, before beginning sales a cannabis retailer must obtain a local retail registration. Any business attempting to sell cannabis before licenses are issued should be reported to the State Department of Health.

What can the city do right away?

- 1) Licensing of new THC edible products and renewals of existing licenses may continue until the State licensing is in place in January 2025. The City Council has discussed increasing the current 300-foot distance requirement between THC licensed businesses and schools as well as adding other restrictions such as a distance requirement for other uses such as childcare, playgrounds, and other THC licensed businesses. The Council also indicated interest in preventing clustering. State law allows distance requirements of up to 1,000 feet from a school, and 500 feet from a childcare center, parks or other areas frequently attended by children. Upon direction from the City Council, staff will bring forward additional distance requirements or clustering restrictions for discussion and consideration.

Changing the distance requirements or other regulations may cause current THC license holders to become non-compliant with city code. If that occurs, the likely scenario would be that they would be able to continue their business until the next license renewal date, at which time they would not be renewed and would have to stop selling THC edibles and unless the City Council wants to grandfather those licenses in. Further discussion and input from the city attorney is necessary.

- 2) **Prohibit sale of cannabis in public places.** The city could draft an ordinance to prohibit the sale of cannabis in public places (e.g., in parks) which would be a misdemeanor level offense. It is currently a petty misdemeanor. The police department supports this change.
- 3) **Consumption in parks and public spaces.** The city can regulate consumption in public places such as in parks, at public facilities, and on sidewalks. Currently the City has a Tobacco Free Parks policy, but no related ordinance making it a crime to violate this policy. Staff recommends updating the Tobacco Free Parks policy to also prohibit the use of Cannabis. Related to use, the City could choose to adopt an ordinance establishing a petty misdemeanor offense as detailed in A24 of the League of Minnesota Cities' FAQ document (web link provided below in the resources section). The police

department is not currently recommending this action. The City Council also has the option of prohibiting the use of Cannabis at public facilities and on sidewalks, similar to the current regulations for liquor consumption and example ordinance from the City of Maple Grove (see below).

- As discussed at the July 31, 2023, Council Work Session, one consideration may be the effects of secondhand smoke on others, especially young children. The CDC says that second hand smoke from marijuana can have some health impacts and has also been shown to be detectable in children exposed to second hand smoke from someone from their home
<https://www.cdc.gov/marijuana/health-effects/second-hand-smoke.html>
- Brooklyn Park City Code excerpt:

§ 112.047 DRINKING PROHIBITED.

The drinking of intoxicating liquor and/or 3.2 percent malt liquor on the public streets, public parking lots, public property, or in other public areas within the city is prohibited except in designated picnic areas approved by the City Council. The drinking of intoxicating liquor and/or 3.2 percent malt liquor in automobiles, on the public streets, public parking lots, or other public property within the city is prohibited.

- Example Ordinance from the City of Maple Grove
<https://www.maplegrovern.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/4545?fileID=16568>

- 4) **Interim ordinance.** Cities may adopt an interim ordinance prohibiting the sale, manufacturing, and distribution as detailed in A47 of the LMC frequently asked questions document (link below) to allow for a study. Staff are not currently making this recommendation.

What does the city need to do prepare for January 2025 when cannabis can be sold?

Under the new law, the city is required to register cannabis retail sellers and perform compliance checks, so related regulations need to be adopted by January 2025. The City is not allowed to prohibit cannabis sales; however, additional regulations the City could adopt include:

- **Distancing.** Distancing Cities may prohibit the operations of a cannabis business within 1,000 feet of a school, or 500 feet of a day care, residential treatment facility, or an attraction within a public park that is regularly used by minors, including a playground or athletic field. It is still unclear if cities are allowed to restrict the clustering of licenses.
- **Number.** Cities may limit the number of retailers to no fewer than one registration for every 12,500 residents, which would be seven (7) establishments with Brooklyn Park's current population.
- **Temporary Sales.** Cities can set standards for temporary sale at events.

Staff recommends waiting for model ordinances to be developed by the Office of Cannabis Management before putting regulations in place.

How does the city enforce Cannabis laws?

It is well documented that the enforcement of the use of Cannabis disproportionately has negative impacts on Black and Brown communities. Currently the City is doing limited enforcement of related law violations in recognition of the impacts of enforcement.

What are other key facts about the new Cannabis State Law

The city has the option of opening a city-owned Cannabis retail store.

- Cannabis retailers will not be allowed to also sell tobacco or liquor.
- Cannabis cannot be consumed in multifamily housing including on patios and balconies.
- Private property owners can prohibit the use of Cannabis on their properties.

Reference information

The League of Minnesota Cities has published a Frequently Asked Questions article which outlines the details of the new law and how it will affect cities across the State. Below are excerpts from that article.

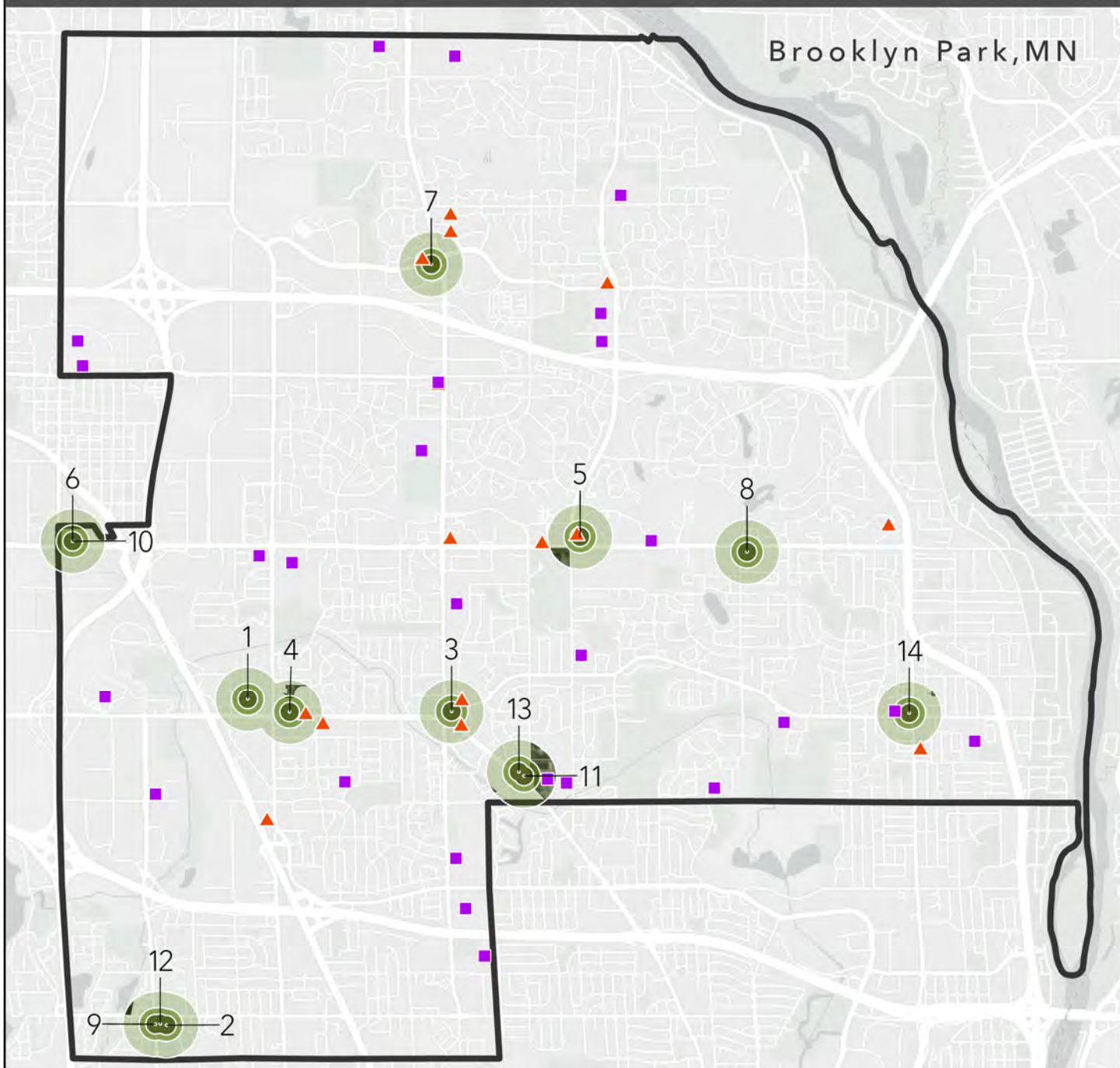
FAQ document can be located here: <https://www.lmc.org/resources/adult-use-cannabis-what-cities-need-to-know/#Q1>

New State cannabis website can be located here: <https://cannabis.mn.gov/>

Attachments

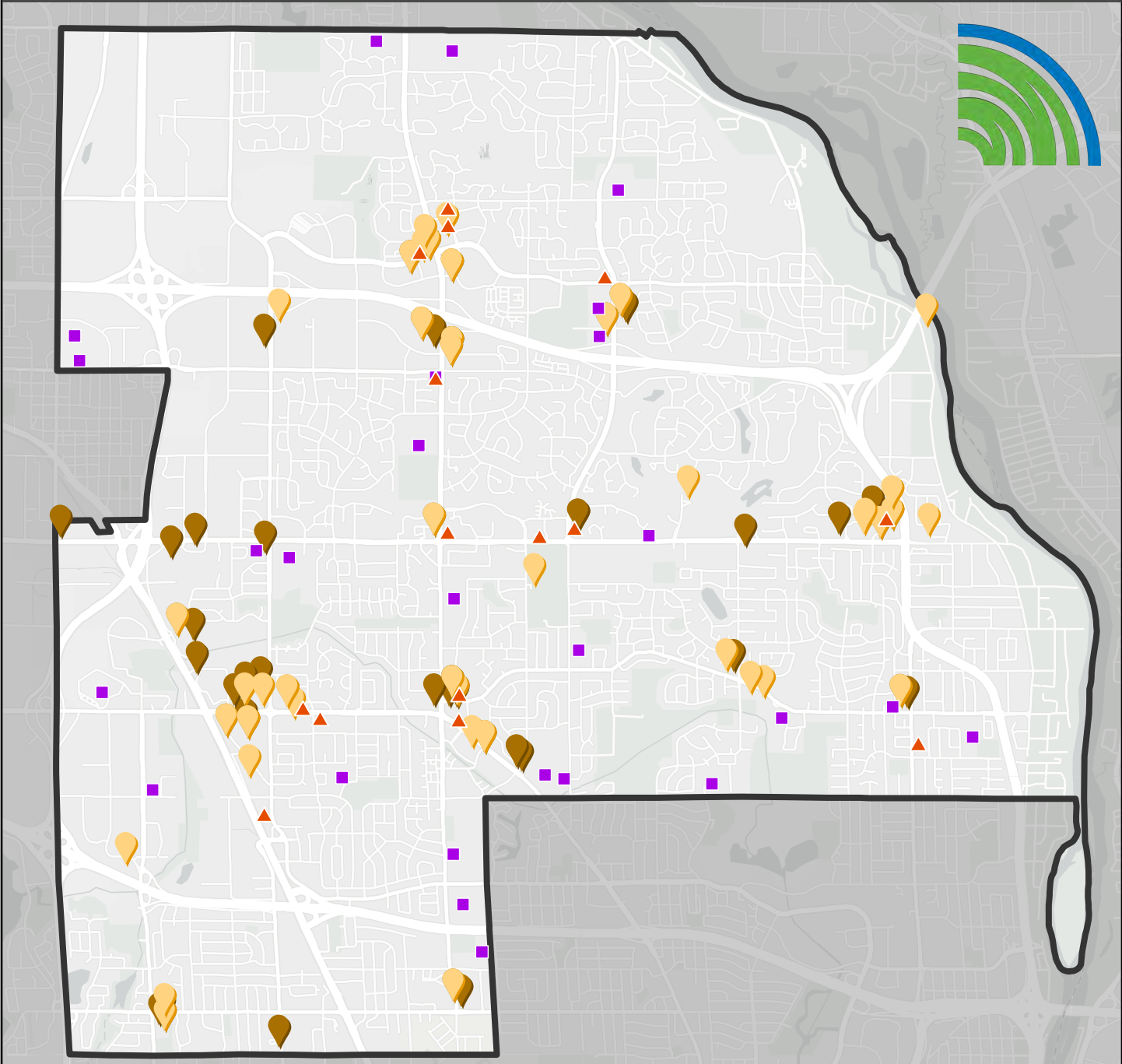
- Map of locations of existing THC licenses
- Map of Tobacco and Liquor licenses
- Tobacco Free Parks Resolution (2011)

PROXIMITY OF THC BUSINESSES TO DAYCARES AND SCHOOLS



- Schools
 - ▲ Daycares
 - THC Businesses
 - Parks within 1000ft of THC Business
- Distance from THC Business
- 0 - 300ft
 - 300 - 500ft
 - 500 - 1000ft

LIQUOR AND TOBACCO LICENSES IN BROOKLYN PARK



- ▲ Daycare
- School
- 📍 Liquor License
- 📍 Tobacco License

This map is for general reference only. It is not for legal, engineering, or surveying use. Please contact the sources of the information if you desire more details. Basemap source: ArcGIS Online.

RESOLUTION #2011-
RESOLUTION ADOPTING A POLICY FOR TOBACCO-FREE PARKS
IN BROOKLYN PARK

WHEREAS, THE City believes that tobacco use in proximity to children and adults engaging in, or watching, outdoor recreational activities at City-owned facilities is detrimental to their health and can be offensive to those using such facilities; and

WHEREAS, the City has a unique opportunity to create and sustain an environment that supports a non-tobacco norm through a tobacco-free policy and adult-peer role modeling on City-owned outdoor recreational facilities; and

WHEREAS, the City believes that parents, coaches, spectators, and officials involved in recreation are role models for youth and can have an effect on the lifestyle choices they make; and

WHEREAS, cigarettes, once consumed in public spaces, are often discarded on the ground requiring additional maintenance expenses, diminish the beauty of the outdoor areas, and pose a risk to toddlers due to ingestion; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation and Parks Advisory Commission unanimously supported the institution of a policy for tobacco-free parks.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BROOKLYN PARK to adopt a policy for tobacco-free parks, including playgrounds, athletic fields, trails, parks, spectator areas and excluding the two golf courses and designated smoking areas outside of the Community Activity Center.

City of Brooklyn Park Request for Council Action

Agenda Item:	8.4	Meeting Date:	August 25, 2023
Agenda Section:	Discussion Items	Originating Department:	Administration
Resolution:	N/A	Prepared By:	Dr. Marcellus Davis, REDI Manager
Ordinance:	N/A		
Attachments:	N/A		
Item:	Racial Equity Principles		

City Manager's Proposed Action:

Informational discussion on the design and implementation of racial equity principles for the City of Brooklyn Park.

Overview:

This presentation will provide an overview of the design and implementation of racial equity principles for the City of Brooklyn Park. These principles will help assure that in all development of policies, initiatives, and practices, racial equity is at the core of the design to assure that we are working towards eradicating racial inequities internally and city wide. These principles will also help with the design of the updated version of the *Brooklyn Park 2025 Community Plan* and elicit internal and external community input.

Primary Issues/Alternatives to Consider:

Addressing racial inequities citywide.

Budgetary/Fiscal Issues: N/A

Attachments: N/A