

Brooklyn Park Park Pages

www.brooklynpark.org

Brooklyn Park Newsletter • September / October 2025



BrookLynk turns 10

A decade of youth work, employer engagement and community impact!



BrookLynk is turning 10! As we look back on the past decade, we're excited to celebrate this impactful milestone together as a community. In 2024, 513 youth participated in one or more of our five programs, with 95 internships hosted by 20 employer partners. Together, we helped generate over \$359,000 in wages and stipends for youth and their families, with 90% of supervisors reporting high satisfaction. BrookLynk continues to serve young people in Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, and beyond through the support of cities, schools, and businesses.

As we celebrate our anniversary year, we are expanding career pathways with the launch of our first-ever BioTech/Manufacturing Training Program in 2026, joining established programs like Construction & Trades and Youth Entrepreneurship. We will celebrate this milestone with stakeholders and the community on November 21, 2025.

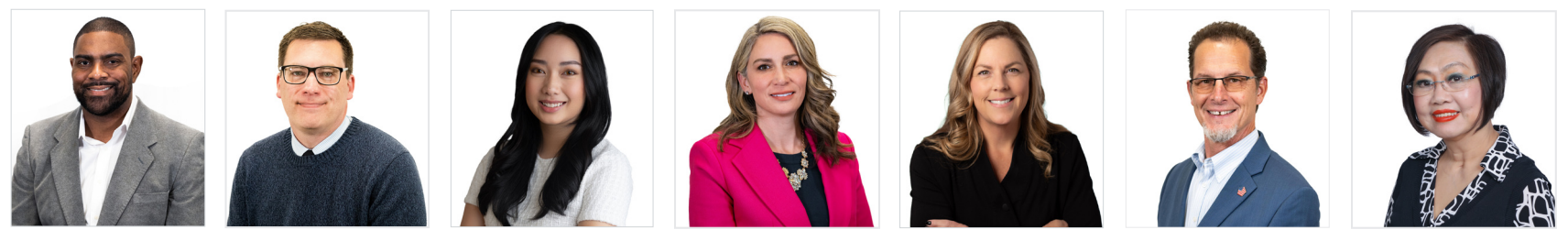
Are you an employer?

Employers interested in pledging interns or becoming a career pathways partner in 2026 can reach out to Jolene.Rotich@brooklynk.works or visit www.brooklynk.works.

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Brooklyn Park City Council



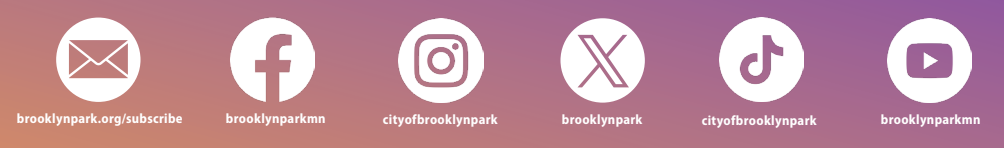
HOLLIES WINSTON Mayor <i>(Elected through 2026)</i>	CHRISTIAN ERIKSEN East District <i>(Elected through 2026)</i>	AMANDA CHENG XIONG East District <i>(Elected through 2028)</i>	NICHOLE KLONOWSKI Central District <i>(Elected through 2026)</i>	SHELLE PAGE Central District <i>(Elected through 2028)</i>	TONY MCGARVEY West District <i>(Elected through 2028)</i>	MARIA TRAN West District <i>(Elected through 2026)</i>
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City of Brooklyn Park
City Hall
5200 85th Ave. N.
Brooklyn Park, MN 55443

Stay informed!

Watch City Council meetings live, at 6PM on the second and fourth Monday of every month.

Access meeting agendas and the livestream at www.brooklynpark.org/city-council.



For other languages, formats or more accommodations, email access@brooklynpark.org or call 763-424-8000.
Si usted necesita esta información en español llame 763-424-8000.
Yog xav tau kev pab, thov hu rau 763-424-8000 lawv mam li nrhiav ib tus neeg txhais lus rau koj.

Shine a light

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Domestic abuse is an issue that often goes unreported and happens behind closed doors. It can take many forms, from physical, emotional, psychological, and even financial. This month is a reminder to educate ourselves, recognize signs of abuse, and support those affected.

Brooklyn Park is participating in the **Purple Light Initiative** to honor survivors and those lost to domestic violence. Residents can pick up a free purple light bulb at City Hall (5200 85th Ave) or the Community Activity Center (5600 85th Ave) and use it to light up their homes in solidarity. Share photos of your purple lights by emailing communications@brooklynpark.org, and see them featured on the City's social media.

Help is out there

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence, visit www.thehotline.org. **For emergencies, always call 911.**

September events

Soul Arts & Music Festival

Saturday, September 6, 4:00PM

Central Park

Latinofest

Saturday, September 13, 11:00AM

Community Activity Center

Happy Hour & Movie: Legally Blonde

Friday, September 19, 4:30PM

Community Activity Center

October events

Oktoberfest Luncheon

Thursday, October 1, 11:30AM

Edinburgh USA

Fire Department Open House

Saturday, October 4, 11:00AM

Central Fire Station

Rotary Beerfest

Saturday, October 4, 2:30PM

Edinburgh USA

Howl-o-Ween

Friday, October 10, 2:00PM

Mississippi Gateway Dog Park

Fall on the Farm

Saturday, October 11, 11:00AM

Historic Eidem Farm

Ghostly Gala

Friday, October 24, 5:30PM

Community Activity Center

Spooktacular

Saturday, October 25, 2:00PM

Community Activity Center

New Teen Center construction update



Construction has started on the new Brooklyn Park Youth and Teen Center!

We have recently built the exterior structure of the first city owned gymnasium, where we are excited to give our community access to open gym, training, camps and clinics and small tournaments ranging from basketball, volleyball, wrestling, and martial arts.

Steel framing for the two-story programming space and offices have also been constructed, which will house activities such as art, technology, workforce development, a game lounge, and much more.

On the existing side of the building, we have started renovations for our Kindergarten through 5th grade programming, which we have refreshed with new paint, new floors, new lighting, and new programming spaces.

We have also improved parking with more spaces and better flow of traffic. Contractors have also begun to pour curbs, sidewalks, and an outdoor basketball court to give our community another outdoor amenity.

Grand opening is expected near the end of December of 2025.



Restaurant Week returns!

September 22-28, 2025

Brooklyn Park is proud to be the home to a diverse selection of over 100 restaurants. This year, our sixth annual Restaurant Week will run from September 22-28, 2025.

Like and follow Brooklyn Park on social media for the latest updates and featured deals! The participating restaurants will be featured throughout the month of September.

Visit www.brooklynpark.org/restaurant-week for more information.



Questions?

Josephine Thao

763-493-8145





CEE accomplishments

The Community Engagement and Experience (CEE) team

had an incredible time connecting with our residents this summer, and we're excited to share highlights from recent events—as well as ways you can get involved this fall!

Juneteenth

Over 300 community members joined in to celebrate African American history and culture with more than 50 vendors, 10 food trucks, live music, educational programming, and more! Thanks to the City of Brooklyn Center and North Hennepin Community College for their partnership.

Brooklyn Center will host the 5th annual Juneteenth event on Saturday, June 20, 2026. Stay tuned for more information!

Good in the 'Hood Shoe Drive

Thanks to the generosity of our community, we collected 1,438 pairs of shoes between March 10 and May 9. Over 50 pairs were then sold at affordable prices at our Shoe Away Hunger event. All proceeds go to hunger relief in our community!

Our next drive is September 3-30, with a Shoe Away Hunger event at Zanewood Recreation Center on October 14 from 12-2PM. Donations can be brought to City Hall, the Community Activity Center, or Zanewood.

HOA workshop

Over 50 participants attended our Spring HOA workshop! Attendees learned about governance, bylaws, legal resources, and building a strong community.

Another HOA workshop will be held this fall. Stay tuned for details at www.brooklynpark.org/HOA

Upcoming Civic engagement series

We're launching a three-part Civic Engagement Series in partnership with Youth Civic Leaders, ACER, and Brooklyn Bridge Alliance. Join us at North Hennepin Community College to learn how you can shape the future of Brooklyn Park!

- Tuesday, September 23
- Tuesday, October 21
- Thursday, November 20

BrookLynk Intern Julieta



This summer, we were honored to host Julieta, a BrookLynk intern and Hamline University student studying Criminology and Criminal Justice. Julieta brought energy, professionalism, and a deep passion for community work. She supported several events including Juneteenth, the Shoe Drive, Huntington Place Housing Fair, and more.

During her internship, she met with City Council members, staff, and local organizations, as well as Hennepin County Sheriff Witt (pictured above), former Minneapolis Police Chief Arradondo, and City Attorney James J. Thomson, arranged by CEE Manager Cindy Devonish.

Thank you, Julieta—and best wishes to all our 2025 BrookLynk interns!

Charge into fire safety

Lithium-ion batteries at home

Most of the electronics we use in our home every day are powered by lithium-ion batteries. Smartphones, power tools, headphones, toys, and pretty much anything rechargeable use this battery!



As common as they are, they can also be a fire risk. If damaged or used incorrectly, lithium-ion batteries can overheat, start fires, or even explode. It's important to know which devices in your home use them and the warning signs.

Remember to always Buy, Charge, and Recycle Safely.

Buy only listed products

- When buying a product that uses a lithium-ion battery, check the packaging for proof that it meets safety standards from a nationally recognized lab.
- Many products sold online and in stores may not meet any safety standards, and could have an increased risk of fires.

Charge devices safely

- Use cables that came with the product.
- If you need a new charger, purchase from the manufacturer or approved sources.
- Charge your device on a hard surface. Charging on under pillows, blankets, and other flammable surfaces can be a fire risk.
- Don't overcharge your device—unplug it when it's fully charged.

Recycle batteries responsibly

- Don't throw lithium-ion batteries in your trash or recycling, in case they catch fire.
- Look into your nearest battery recycling location for safe disposal.

Are you prepared for emergencies?

The recent ten-hour shelter-in-place order highlighted just how quickly situations can arise. Being prepared for anything, from shelter-in-place to neighborhood evacuation, is crucial for your family's safety and peace of mind.

Create a communications plan

Know how to reach each other and where to meet if separated.

Inventory your daily activities

Consider what essentials you rely on each day.

Create your master emergency supplies list

Plan for essentials like food, water, medications, and documents.

Assemble your emergency supplies

Keep supplies in an accessible location.

Pack your Go Kits

Prepare kits for quick evacuations, including one for your car.

Track your supplies regularly

Ensure your kits stay updated and ready for anything.

Seasonal reminders

Street sweeping starts soon

Fall street sweeping is set to begin soon. As trees lose their leaves and strong winds blow them all around, it's important to keep obstacles out of the way. Please keep your garbage cans, recycling carts, and vehicles off the streets. Brooklyn Park staff will conduct two sweeps throughout the city.

Furnace tune-ups

Nobody wants to be stuck with a broken furnace in the cold weather months. Professional furnace tune-ups can help you stay safe and comfortable all season long.

Safety

A furnace tune-up includes inspecting for gas leaks, carbon monoxide (CO) leaks, and electrical issues, all of which can be dangerous.

Efficiency

Regular maintenance ensures your furnace operates at peak efficiency, saving you money on energy bills.

Longevity

Proper maintenance can extend the life of your furnace.

Parking restrictions begin Nov. 1



To ensure that streets are clear for unexpected winter weather, vehicles may not be parked on city streets from November 1 to March 31, between 2AM and 5AM.

Vehicles left on city streets between those times will be ticketed and towed. Learn more about on-street parking and snow emergencies at www.brooklynpark.org/snow.



Secure your mailbox

Fall is a great time to inspect the sturdiness of your mailbox post! As winter approaches and heavy snow is plowed from the street onto the boulevards, mailbox posts can break off or loosen.



Special election

Tuesday, September 16

A special election for Minnesota House District 34B will take place on Tuesday, September 16. Part of the City of Brooklyn Park is included in District 34B. Polls will be open between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Early voting begins Tuesday, September 2 through Monday, September 15 at City Hall (5200 85th Ave).

Find out if your address is located in the special election area at www.brooklynpark.org/special-election.



Ruth Bittner
GOP



XP Lee
DFL

Have you signed up for Organics Recycling?



The recycling program is now offering curbside organics collection. Organics include food scraps and non-recyclable paper such as napkins and paper towel.

Visit www.brooklynpark.org/organics for more information and to sign up to have a cart delivered. Organics will be collected weekly on the same day as your trash.

Organics should be put in a compostable bag. Compostable bags can be found in many stores such as Menards and Target. You can tell they are compostable because they will have the BPI logo on the box and bag. Paper shopping bags are also acceptable.

The \$2.90 per month charge for organics recycling is part of the recycling fee on your utility bill. There's no additional charge to sign up for the service.

Drop-Off Site Available

You can also use the free organics drop-off at the Hennepin County Drop-Off Facility, 8100 Jefferson Highway, Brooklyn Park. The drop-off is especially helpful for apartment residents who don't have access to curbside organics recycling service or for residents who may have extra organics.

Hennepin County Drop-Off Facility

8100 Jefferson Highway
Brooklyn Park, MN 55445



Fee Assistance

Brooklyn Park residents facing financial challenges can access fee assistance for Recreation and Parks activities. No income proof needed!

Enjoy up to 75% off program fees, with additional reductions for homeless families—up to \$400 per person annually.

Learn more about fee assistance online at www.brooklynpark.org/feeassistance or call 763-493-8333.



Special Materials Drop-off Day

Saturday, October 11
8:00AM-3:00PM

Here's your chance to recycle those items that can't go in your recycling cart! Drop off your mattresses, electronics, appliances, tires, scrap metal, bikes, batteries and more at Brooklyn Park's Operations & Maintenance facility. Fees may be charged for some items. There will also be free paper shredding.

Bulky waste curbside cleanup

Saturdays beginning September 13

Our annual bulky waste curbside cleanup is an easy way to get rid of your biggest unwanted items, like appliances and furniture. We will be collecting from select neighborhoods on four Saturdays beginning September 13. Find your date in the Brooklyn Park HRG Recycling app or on our website.

Learn more



Learn more about each event and which items are accepted at www.brooklynpark.org/recycling-events.

Operations & Maintenance

8300 Noble Ave N.
BPOM@brooklynpark.org
(763) 493-8006



Help us keep storm drains clean!

Leaves will be falling soon, and our crews will be out sweeping streets to keep those leaves out of our storm drains. Storm drains help channel rainwater away from the streets and into ponds and other bodies of water.

Too many leaves or debris around/entering the storm drain causes excess nutrients, sediments, and pollutants to build up in our waterways.



Here's how you can help:

- Avoid parking in the street or putting your garbage and recycling carts in the street. Street sweepers must maneuver around obstacles, meaning they can't pick up all the leaves.
- Clear leaves from the storm drain. Avoid blowing or raking leaves into the street.
- Consider a mulching mower. Shredded leaves decompose faster and can be used as mulch for your lawn.
- Dispose of leaves properly. Put them in your yard waste cart, compost them in your back yard, or bring them to the free Maple Grove Yardwaste Site.
- Never pour anything into a storm drain: Storm drains are designed to carry rainwater, not waste, chemicals, or other pollutants.

Take care of your leaves

By State law, leaves and other yard waste cannot go in your trash or recycling cart. That's because we don't want to waste a valuable compostable resource!

Put leaves in your yard waste cart, your backyard compost bin, or use them as mulch in your garden. Too many to dispose of at home? Drop off leaves, brush, and other yard waste for FREE at the Maple Grove Yard Waste Site through November 30, 2025.

Maple Grove Yard Waste Site

10300 Maple Grove Parkway
763-420-4886
www.mgyardwaste.com

Pumpkin disposal

After midnight, what does your pumpkin turn into? Turn it into valuable compost!

Pumpkins can be placed in your backyard compost bin, your yard waste cart, or your organics recycling cart. You can also use the free drop-off container in Central Park across the street from Brooklyn Park's Operations & Maintenance facility between Friday, October 31 and Monday November 10.

Remember to remove all candles, wax, and decorations before you drop off your pumpkins. They'll be transformed into compost to help keep our soil and landscapes healthy!



Tales from Tim's Recycling Bin

I am Vintage

I had a milestone birthday this year. Let's just say I'm vintage now. As we went through old photos to display at the party, I realized that in some of them I am wearing the same shirt that my older brothers wore in photos from a few years before. One of the ways my big family saved money was handing down clothes.

Nowadays there are fancy terms for this such as vintage, shabby chic, and reuse economy. No matter what you call it, reusing items is beneficial to our budgets and to the environment.

We have some opportunities coming up where you can share and swap and save. I have highlights here – look for details on the City's website and in our emails.

Until next time, I'm calling myself chic (and vintage), my friends.

Swap Event

Sunday, October 12
Brookdale Library, 6125 Shingle Creek Pkwy

We're partnering with Hennepin County on a holiday decor swap event. You can drop off and pick up items for free. We'll be holding more of these events and the items to be swapped will vary based on the time of the year.

Donation Day

Saturday, September 13, 9AM – noon
O & M Facility, 8300 Noble Ave.

We're partnering with Bridging and Better Futures to accept your reusable mattresses, furniture, small appliances, and building materials.

NORTH HENNEPIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Engaging Students, Changing Lives

New Resources for Student Parents

North Hennepin Community College is excited to launch comprehensive resources to support students who are pregnant and/or parenting while enrolled at the college. We recognize there are unique challenges students face while balancing school and childcare responsibilities and are dedicated to helping our student parents and soon-to-be parents succeed!

RESOURCES INCLUDE:

- **Dedicated Parent Navigator** – a caring guide who connects you with resources to help you succeed academically and as a parent
- **Parent Resource & Study Space** – a welcoming space to study, relax, and access resources while kids play
- **Parent Support Group** – a supportive space to share experiences and learn strategies for balancing school and family life
- **Parent Support Scholarship Program & Cohort** – free financial assistance and network of resources
- **Lactation Rooms & Resources** – dedicated spaces for pumping, breastfeeding and related needs



Dori Cabrera, Business, Computer Systems, and Management student parent

"Now that we have our own space, it's such a relief because we can do what we need to do on campus and not feel guilty leaving our children with other people, or in an unsafe environment, no matter their age. My daughter is the one to ask, 'Are you going to be on campus today'? If she knows that I'm going to be on campus, she wants to be here."



Scan for more information and to view a virtual tour of the space!

SAVE THE DATE:

College Knowledge Month, October 1-31

Apply for free and attend special events! More info at nhcc.edu/visit.

Paralegal program ranks again

The results are in! For the seventh consecutive year, readers of *Finance & Commerce* and *Minnesota Lawyer* voted NHCC's Paralegal Program as one of the best in Minnesota in 2025. To learn more about one of only a few programs in the Twin Cities that is approved by the American Bar Association, visit nhcc.edu/paralegal.



Brian Wentz Joins NHCC Foundation Board



North Hennepin Community College Foundation welcomes Brian Wentz to its Board of Directors. A longtime community volunteer and current Twin Cities Regional President at CCFBank, Brian brings both professional expertise and a personal passion for education.

He has served on several local boards, including the Brooklyn Park Development Corporation and is committed to helping NHCC students succeed. "Education gives people opportunities and options," he says. "I want to help open those doors." Read more about Brian's journey and why he chose to serve at bit.ly/44GWeBS.



UPCOMING EVENTS

ART

New Acquisitions — August 25–September 27

Creativity Unbounded: An Exhibition Showcasing Work by Artists with Disabilities — October 6–November 8

SHOP

Brooklyn Park Farmers Market — Wednesdays through October 9, 1–6pm in the NHCC West Parking Lot.
brooklynpark.org/farmersmarket



Welcome to campus!

Have a great fall semester, students!



Engaging Students, Changing Lives

Equal Opportunity Educator and Employer. To receive this information in an alternative format, call 763-493-0555 (Voice) or via the Minnesota Relay at 1-800-627-3529.