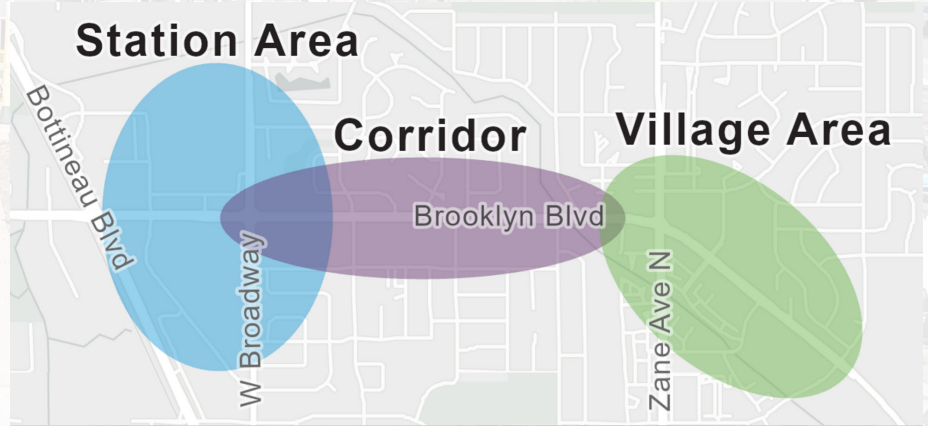


Brooklyn Park Park Pages

Brooklyn Park Newsletter • January / February 2026 • www.brooklynpark.org



Brooklyn Boulevard Corridor Plan



Do you love walking or rolling along Shingle Creek? Do you have ideas for the vacant land near Zane Ave N and Brooklyn Blvd?

Brooklyn Park has started a new area plan that will focus on Brooklyn Blvd between Bottineau Blvd and Regent Ave and the surrounding neighborhoods.

The plan will guide future new development and redevelopment, including housing and business space, by studying economic conditions, the real estate market and working with property owners to determine what is achievable in today's environment.

Read more on Page 3

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Brooklyn Park City Council



HOLLIES WINSTON
Mayor
(Elected through 2026)



CHRISTIAN ERIKSEN
East District
(Elected through 2026)



AMANDA CHENG XIONG
East District
(Elected through 2028)



NICHOLE KLONOWSKI
Central District
(Elected through 2026)



SHELLE PAGE
Central District
(Elected through 2028)



TONY MCGARVEY
West District
(Elected through 2028)



MARIA TRAN
West District
(Elected through 2026)

Brooklyn Park
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.



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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 nrhiv ib tus neeg txhais lus rau koj.

Teen Center Update

The new Teen Center at Zanewood Recreation Center, has been under construction for the last several months, and is on track to open early 2026! Look out for more information to come on a ribbon cutting and open house.

Key features include

- Our first city-owned gymnasium
- Best Buy Teen Tech Center with computer access
- Music and podcast production studio
- Art studio and gallery to showcase youth art
- Game lounge
- Workforce development opportunities

Want to work at Zanewood or the Teen Center?

Keep an eye out for new job opportunities with Brooklyn Park Recreation & Parks!



January events

Snowday at the Farm

Saturday, January 10, 10AM-2PM
Historic Eidem Farm

Paint for Peace

Thursday, January 15, 5:30-7:30PM
Zanewood Recreation Center

February events

Winter Fun with Three Rivers Park

Thursday, February 5, 5-7PM
Zanewood Recreation Center

Winterfest

Saturday, February 7, 1-3PM
Central Park

All Abilities Resource Fair

Thursday, February 19, 5:30-7:30PM
Community Activity Center

Black History Month Showcase

Friday, February 20, 5-8PM
Community Activity Center



Picnic Shelter reservations

Brooklyn Park is one of Minnesota's most diverse communities, and our park spaces are designed to welcome it all - from traditional gatherings to vibrant cultural events.

Reservations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis beginning in January for the current year only.

Options for every occasion

- **Park buildings (20 - 50 people)**
Great for indoor fall and winter get-togethers.
- **Picnic pavilions (20-150 people)**
Sizes range from cozy to large, for everything from family picnics to community celebrations.
- **Kitchen access**
Kitchens are available at some sites, making it easy to bring your own food!



February is Black History Month

Celebrate Black History Month with the Brooklyn Park community on Friday, February 20 from 5-8PM at the Community Activity Center.

This year's celebration embraces the national theme, "100 Years of Commemoration," honoring a century of preserving, uplifting, and reflecting on Black history and contributions.

Attendees can enjoy, for free, live performances, a vendor/resource fair, and food from a local Black owned business (limited supply).



Friday, February 20
Beginning 5-8PM

Community Activity Center
5600 85th Ave N



Join a City Commission!

Do you wish you had more of a say in how Brooklyn Park is run? Volunteer for a City Commission - no experience necessary!

- Budget Advisory Commission
- Human Rights Commission
- Emerging Leader Commission
- Citizen Long-Range Improvement Commission
- Planning Commission
- Recreation & Parks Advisory Commission

Apply today!



www.brooklynpark.org/commissions

tip 411



Stay connected with us!



Stay informed this year with the latest Brooklyn Park news and events. Plus, keep yourself and your neighbors safe with anonymous reporting and alerts from Brooklyn Park Police.

- Follow Brooklyn Park on social media
- Sign up for emails to get city news sent right to your inbox, or receive texts from the City
- Sign up for Tip411 to receive alerts and submit tips online

Brooklyn Boulevard Corridor Plan



What to expect from the Plan



The plan will guide future new development, such as housing and business space, by studying economic conditions, the real estate market and working with property owners to determine what is achievable in today's environment. The project team will also look at the areas already maintained by the City and identify updates that could create a safer and more welcoming environment.

For example, the team will review existing transportation conditions and make recommendations to improve walking, biking, driving and public transportation. This could include new walkable streets, neighborhoods, infrastructure for bikes and pedestrians, and maintenance of existing elements.

There is a thriving and unique retail culture on Brooklyn Blvd. Once the project team has an understanding of current conditions, the City will identify actions that may support existing businesses, and understand the impact new developments may have.

What are the project goals?



Create opportunities for development on private and publicly-owned land.



Cultivate healthy and thriving retail and services that serve our unique culture.



Provide new and diverse housing opportunities.



Improve access to public spaces and provide a connected network that serves all transportation modes.



Create a safe and welcoming environment for all who use and visit the corridor.

How can I participate?

There will be several opportunities to provide feedback including an online survey, focus group meetings in February, and an open house expected in March. Learn more at www.brooklynpark.org/brooklyn-blvd-corridor-plan.

Fee Assistance

Need help paying for recreation programs?

The City of Brooklyn Park provides fee assistance for all residents of Brooklyn Park to participate in programs. Assistance will reduce fees up to 75% based on income and household size. Additional reduction may be available. Learn more online at www.brooklynpark.org/feeassistance.



Budget adopted by Council

City Council approved Brooklyn Park's 2026 budget in December, strategically determining how to use the City's \$232 million budget to continue bringing valuable services to residents. View the entire budget online at www.brooklynpark.org/financial-reports

Highlights of the budget include:

- Six full-time firefighters to meet increased demands for service and enhance public safety
- Adding drone technology that can be deployed immediately to emergencies, providing real time video to police and fire in the newly built operations center for a faster and safer response
- An asset management system to help Operations & Maintenance (Public Works) better plan for future equipment needs and improved delivery of services such as snow plowing
- Construction of a water tower that is needed to support new development in the BioTech Innovation District

Fund category	2026 Adopted	2027 Adopted
General Fund	\$81,248,647	\$85,306,915
Special Revenue	\$9,615,365	\$7,884,139
Debt Service	\$3,221,418	\$4,270,270
Capital Projects	\$55,584,627	\$52,460,590
Enterprise	\$54,628,711	\$46,790,186
Internal Service Funds	\$24,635,504	\$19,933,347
Grand Total	\$228,924,272	\$216,645,447

Brooklyn Park's Legislative priorities

The 2026 Minnesota Legislative session will soon be upon us! Brooklyn Park leaders have celebrated major legislative wins in recent years bringing in millions of dollars for to the city for projects like establishing the BioTech Innovation District, securing funds to support our public safety efforts, workforce development initiatives, and resources to keep our infrastructure up to date.

The City's 2026 legislative platform contains requests related to every area of the city, including proposals for policy changes and requests for funding in areas such as:

Northwest Regional Athletic Facility Funding

State bonding dollars to help construct new gymnasium space at the Community Activity Center to be used for basketball, volleyball, pickleball, etc. while allowing for the preservation of the CAC's two existing ice arenas.

BioTech Innovation District

State bonding dollars to finance the expanded water infrastructure (underground water mains and water tower) that is needed to support the district as it is developed.

Congregate Care Facilities

Proposed policy changes to provide statewide consistency of facility distribution and better care to residents of congregate care facilities in the community.

Water Supply Infrastructure

Resources to support cities in remediation of PFAS chemicals in the water supply and improve overall water quality for the community.

Shelter-in-place vs. Evacuation

During emergencies, the City may issue one of two instructions: shelter in place or evacuate. Knowing the difference—and how to respond—helps keep you safe!

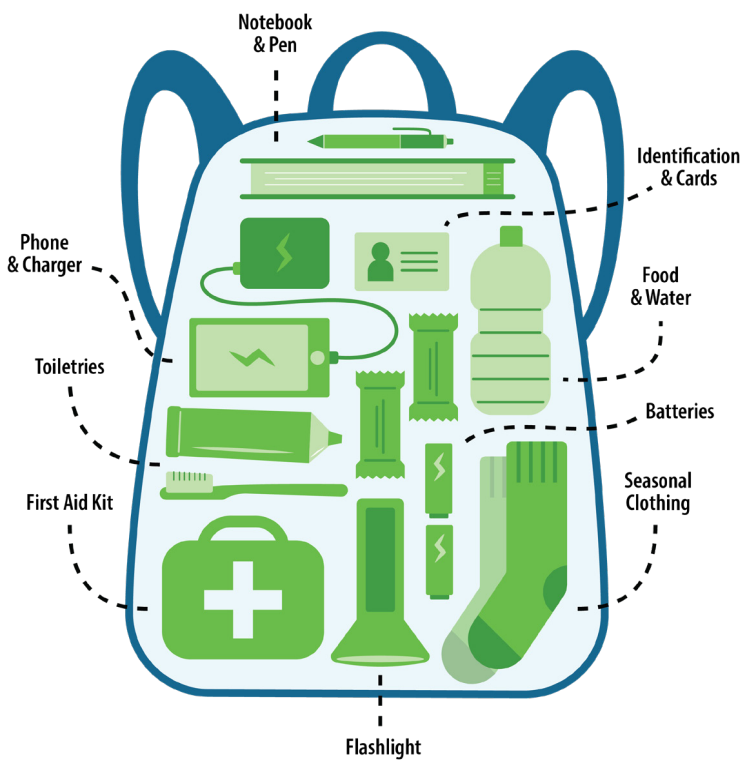
You may receive these instructions through wireless emergency alerts, city text notifications, social media, local news, or by first responders in the area. No system reaches everyone instantly, so it's a good idea to sign up for multiple information sources.

Shelter in place

Shelter in place means stay where you are and protect yourself from an outdoor hazard such as severe weather, a nearby police incident, or a hazardous materials release. Go inside, close doors and windows, move to an interior room, and follow official updates. Grab your cell phone and charger and monitor official channels for more info.

Evacuation

Evacuation means it is not safe to remain in your current location. Leave immediately and follow the route announced by authorities. Bring only essentials such as medications, identification, a phone charger, and pets.



Pack a go-kit for emergencies

Prepare ahead by putting together a go-bag in case of emergency. These are just a few suggested items that could help in an emergency.

For your own go-kit, consider the items *you* need every day, and what items would help you and your family feel better in an emergency situation.



Adults on the Move

Meet people, explore new skills, and thrive in a social group with others who share your interests! Join weekly social groups at the Community Activity Center from Monday to Friday.

Read the quarterly Adults on the Move guide at www.brooklynpark.org/adults for complete information on trips, speakers, classes, resources and more!

Join our mailing list

Contact Kelly Becker at kelly.becker@brooklynpark.org or call 763-493-8254.

Programs & Activities

For more information and to register for programs, call 763-493-8333, go in-person to the Community Activity Center, or visit www.brooklynpark.org/registration.

Learn to Play Mah Jongg

Thurs & Fri | Jan 22, 23, 29, 30 | 9:30–11:30AM | \$65

Discover the fun and challenge of Mah Jongg—a game of skill, strategy, and luck. In this beginner-friendly class, you'll receive step-by-step instruction on setup, dealing tiles, the "Charleston" passing ritual, and the process of drawing and discarding. Register by January 19.

Introduction to Downsizing

Thursday | January 22 | 10–11:30AM | FREE

Thinking about moving into a smaller home or simplifying your living space? Learn about what downsizing really means, why people choose to do it, and what to consider – now and in the future. Preregistration is appreciated; walk-ins are welcome.

MN Railroad History

Thursday | February 5 | 9:15AM – 2:45PM | \$102

Visit Summit Avenue's most splendid mansion, the James J. Hill House built in 1891. The 36,000 square-foot mansion was once the largest and most expensive private residence in the state. Arrive at Union Depot for lunch at 1881 Eating House. Tour the elegant Union Depot, and learn how railroads shaped St Paul. Each tour is a 60 minute walking tour. Register by January 5.

Valentine's Day Luncheon

Thursday | February 12 | 11:30AM – 1:30PM | \$20

Enjoy lunch, dessert, and a musical performance by Vinnie Rose! Lunch catered by Lynde's. Register by February 5.

Looking for a rental?

Check out our new app to help you find licensed, verified rental options.



The City of Brooklyn Park has partnered with City Wise Software to launch a new rental housing website designed to make it easier for residents to find licensed, trustworthy places to live.

Every rental listed on the site is officially licensed by the City, helping ensure residents have access to safe, verified options, along with educational materials and resources. The site is now live and includes regularly updated listings submitted by licensed local landlords.

Get started at apartments.brooklynpark.org.

Key features include:

- Listings limited to licensed rental properties specifically in Brooklyn Park
- User-friendly design for desktop and mobile use
- Participation from local landlord, including smaller rental owners



Don't get towed when it snows!

Remember that on-street parking is not allowed after two or more inches of snow has fallen or when a snow emergency is declared. Vehicles must be off city streets so snow can be cleared, allowing emergency vehicles, school buses, and more to get to their destinations quickly.

Vehicles left on city streets after a snow emergency is called can get a ticket and be towed to an impound lot. The owner of the vehicle is responsible for all fees associated with snow emergency citation, towing and storing operations.

How to stay informed

- Sign up for alerts at www.brooklynpark.org/subscribe.
- Follow us on Facebook and Instagram
- Stay tuned to local TV and radio stations

Where to park

Residents without access to off-street parking may move their vehicles to an approved snow emergency parking lot for up to 24 hours after a snow emergency is called. Find a list of approved parking lots at www.brooklynpark.org/snow.



Smart Salting

Here are a few ideas to reduce your salt use this winter.

While de-icing salt can help prevent accidents on the road and around buildings, it comes at an environmental cost. When the snow melts, the salt runs into nearby lakes and can harm fish, ducks, and other aquatic wildlife.

Shovel

Try to keep your driveway and walkways free from snow when it first falls

Check the temperature

Most salts stop working around 15 degrees (F). When the temperatures drop, use sand for traction, but remember that sand doesn't melt ice.

Use salt sparingly

Use no more than one pound of salt for 250 square feet. One heaping coffee mug is about one pound of salt, and 250 square feet is roughly the size of two parking spaces.

Clean up any extra/spilled salt

If you can see sand or salt on dry pavement, it means that it is no longer working and could be washed away. Try to reuse salt or sand, or sweep it up and throw it away.

Look out for household leaks

Did you know 10% of homes in the U.S. have leaks that can waste 90 gallons or more per day?

Common types of household leaks are worn toilet flappers, dripping faucets, and other leaking valves. These leaks are often easy to fix, requiring only a few tools and hardware that can pay for themselves in water savings. Fixing easily corrected household water leaks can save homeowners about 10 percent on their water bills.

Find tips on how to check for leaks at www.epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week.

RECYCLING JUST GOT EASIER.

Download the Brooklyn Park HRG Recycling App today!

Available for iOS and Android

Say goodbye to guessing with our Waste Wizard!

Brooklyn Park



2026 Toilet Rebate

Brooklyn Park is providing rebates of up to \$400 to replace an existing toilet with a WaterSense certified model! Applicants must have income at or below 80% of the median income for the metro area. The program will provide a 100% reimbursement for income-qualified residents, up to \$400 for each toilet and installation supplies – up to two toilets per home. Apply now – the rebate is set to expire June 30! Learn more at www.brooklynpark.org/water-rebate.

The program is funded by a grant from the Met Council with funds from the Minnesota Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment.

Fire in the Load

I work for four cities, and I recently got an email from one of the fire chiefs sharing some photos from a recent fire they put out. There were no buildings or big rigs, just a pile of batteries.

Yes, batteries are a significant fire danger, and to paraphrase Smokey the Bear, "Only you can prevent battery fires." Don't put batteries in your trash or recycling carts. Rechargeable batteries can get punctured when a truck compacts its load. And when the material inside the battery is exposed to air, it can start on fire. Check out the photo of crews putting out a burning battery fire in the back of a garbage truck on the street in Brooklyn Center – what we refer to as a hot load. Most garbage and recycling facilities in Minnesota have had at least one battery fire.



Tales from Tim's Recycling Bin

February 18 is National Battery Day - a good time to remind you to recycle batteries at the Hennepin County Drop-Off Facility, 8100 Jefferson Highway. We also accept batteries at the Special Materials Drop-Off Days we hold each spring and fall. If you can get the batteries out of, say a cordless screwdriver, drop off the whole device.

Until next time fight fire by better battery recycling my friends.



Advance Your Career with New Cybersecurity Certificate

Protecting digital information has never been more important, and skilled cybersecurity professionals are in high demand. NHCC's new Cybersecurity Certificate equips students with hands-on, project-based skills to protect critical information systems. In just three semesters, you'll learn to design secure networks, apply cryptographic algorithms, and identify threats through advanced protocol analysis. This flexible, hybrid program prepares graduates for entry-level roles in a rapidly growing field, projected to grow 32% nationally through 2032.

Scan to learn more and apply!



Celebrating the Generosity of Our Community

On November 5, NHCC gathered for our annual Celebration of Generosity to honor the many ways our community uplifts students.

With the community's help, the Foundation was able to award \$175,000 in scholarships for the 2025-2026 academic year.

At NHCC, we know that lifting one student can uplift an entire community. Donor generosity through the NHCC Foundation makes that possible. Thank you for believing in their potential and in the power of education to transform lives.



"Your gift has made a meaningful difference in my life. To know that my dreams are seen, heard, and supported is one of the greatest encouragements." - Evelyn Vang, scholarship recipient

Generosity also fuels innovation. Last spring, donor support made it possible to purchase state-of-the-art braille technology enhancing access for nearly 40 blind or low-vision students.



"The braille embosser helps me finish homework, improve my reading, and feel more confident. I'm happier and more comfortable now." - May Spooner, student

Nourish & Flourish Food Drive

NHCC's Nourish & Flourish Food Drive on November 20 generated **8,531 lbs. of donations** for the college's Food Cupboard!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit nhcc.edu for more information.

Spiraling Upwards: Encaustic Mixed Media by Kathleen Kvern — January 12-24

Northwestern High School Art Exhibition — February 9-26

9th Annual JazzFest — January 31