



Fridley

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

MAY/JUNE 2024
NO. 247

Parks and
Recreation Brochure
Enclosed

WE BELIEVE FRIDLEY WILL BE A SAFE, VIBRANT, FRIENDLY AND STABLE HOME FOR FAMILIES AND BUSINESSES.

7071 University Avenue NE
Fridley, MN 55432
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FridleyMN.gov

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Mayor – Scott Lund
Councilmember-at-Large – David Ostwald
Councilmember 1st Ward – Tom Tillberry
Councilmember 2nd Ward – Ryan Evanson
Councilmember 3rd Ward – Ann Bolcom
City Manager – Wally Wysopal

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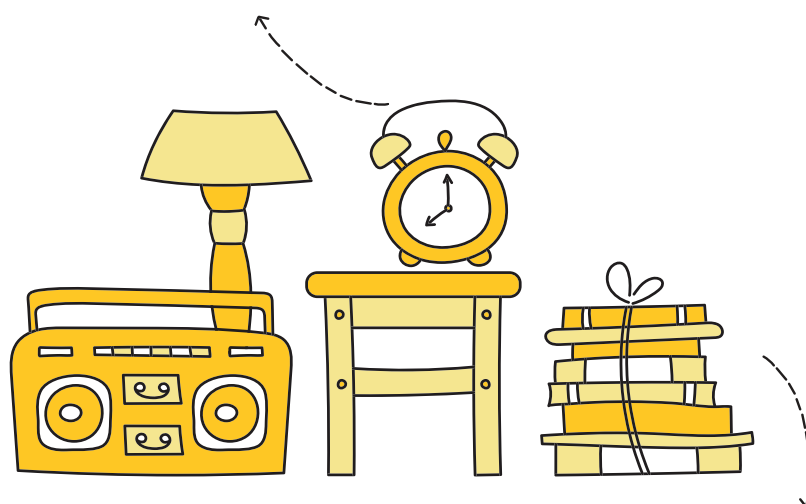
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Citywide Garage Sale: June 7 - 8



Our annual Citywide Garage Sale is happening on June 7-8 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Whether you are looking to host a sale to declutter your home and earn some extra cash, or looking to shop the sales, there is something for everyone!

Visit FridleyMN.gov/CitywideGarageSale by May 31 to register your sale. Registration is free and includes a spot on our Citywide Garage Sale map.

Host a Garage Sale

Register your sale online at FridleyMN.gov/CitywideGarageSale by May 31. Registration is free and includes a spot on the Citywide Garage Sale map.

Shop the Sales

In 2023, more than 150 sales participated in Fridley's Citywide Garage Sale! If you are looking forward to shopping the sales again this year, a map of participating sales will be available online and at City Hall beginning June 5.

New this year: Fridley and Columbia Heights will be hosting their sales the same weekend for double the fun! Visit Columbia Heights' website and social media for more information about their sale.

Trash to Treasure Day - Sunday, June 9 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Fridley residents can participate in Fridley's Trash to Treasure Day by placing items they no longer want on the curb or at the end of their driveways from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. on Sunday, June 9. Please mark these items as "Free." Community members can pick up these marked items. No registration is required.

Please remove any remaining items from the end of your driveway at 6 p.m. on June 9. The City of Fridley will not be picking up items for disposal.

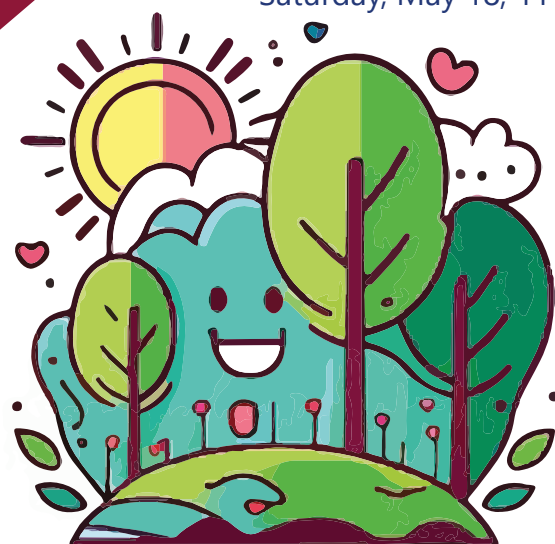
Additional Questions

If you have any questions about the Citywide Garage Sale, please contact Olivia Gnadke, Communications and Engagement Specialist, at Olivia.Gnadke@FridleyMN.gov or 763-572-3579.

FREE

ENVIRONMENTAL FUN FAIR

Saturday, May 18, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. • Springbrook Nature Center



Mark your calendars! A variety of outdoor and environmental exhibitors will be present to help us appreciate our wonderful natural world.

Join us for the fun:

- Exhibitor Activity Tables
- Passport Activity and Prizes
- Bouncy Castle
- Food Truck
- Live Music by Will Hale and the Tadpole Parade
- Book Swap
- Community Toy Store
- Migration games, live bird shows and bird hikes

Stop by the **Pop-Up Community Toy Store** to shop for a FREE toy or game to bring home!

Drop off Items from April 16 - May 16

Drop off gently loved toys, puzzles, books, art supplies and games for kids. Learn more about accepted items at FridleyMN.gov/FunFair.

Collection boxes are at Fridley City Hall and Springbrook Nature Center.





Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in Fridley

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), an invasive insect pest, is spreading rapidly through Fridley. All ash trees are susceptible to EAB infestation. Once an ash tree shows signs of infestation, it has a very low chance of survival. Residents with ash trees that are not chemically treating them should plan for the tree’s removal in the next few years.

Step 1. Identify if you have an ash tree

Ash trees are one of the most common trees in Fridley. They were widely planted after the 1965 tornado and the proliferation of Dutch Elm Disease, since they grow quickly and provide excellent shade.

Look for these key attributes of an ash tree:

1. Compound leaves with 5-9 leaflets
2. Leaflets, buds and branches growing directly opposite from each other instead of in an alternating pattern
3. Diamond-shaped bark ridges on mature trees

Step 2. Decide to remove and replace or treat your ash tree

Start your treatment before your tree shows symptoms. If you wait to start the treatment until your tree looks infected, it will likely be too late. Residents interested in chemical treatment should contact a licensed arborist to chemically inject the tree. Non-injected forms



EAB Treatments for Private Ash Trees

2024 Contract Rate:
\$6 per inch tree diameter

To schedule a treatment for your ash tree at the contract rate, visit [BirchTreeCare.com/Emerald-Ash-Borer-Treatment](https://www.birchtreecare.com/emerald-ash-borer-treatment).

The “Contractor Rate” is a guaranteed price that the City obtains on behalf of residents as part of the City’s contract for treatment of public ash trees (e.g. parks and boulevards).

Residents may also hire any City-licensed tree contractor with a commercial pesticide applicator license to treat an ash tree.

of chemical treatment are less effective and are more likely to negatively impact pollinators and water quality.

As part of the contract with the City to treat high-quality ash trees, Birch Tree Care is offering a bulk-rate pricing discount for EAB treatment to Fridley residents. Trees that should be considered for chemical treatment are greater than 10” in diameter, do not compete with other trees or infrastructure, and show no more than 30 percent of canopy decline if infestation is suspected. Due to the low cost of EAB treatment, it is likely more cost effective to treat the tree than cut it down. Ash tree removal is expensive and becomes more costly following EAB infestation due to the

safety risks of removing a hazardous tree. If you remove an ash tree, you are encouraged to replace it with another tree in order to preserve the benefits of Fridley’s urban forests.

Step 3. Be on the lookout for EAB infestations

One of the most noticeable symptoms of EAB is increased bird activity, particularly woodpeckers and nuthatches looking to eat the borers. As the birds search for the borers, they strip the bark which exposes the lighter inner-colored bark in a process called ash-blonding. If you peel back the tree’s bark, you may find serpentine grooves of the borer’s path or d-shaped exit holes where an adult borer blew away. Another symptom of advanced EAB infestation is a sparse canopy due to leaf dieback.

Learn more about EAB, visit the City’s website at [FridleyMN.gov/EmeraldAsh](https://www.fridleymn.gov/emeraldash).

Tree City USA

As a result of the City’s urban forestry efforts, the City has been awarded the Tree City USA status through the Arbor Day Foundation for the past seven years. Trees help make our community great—consider planting a tree in your yard this year. Check back in our July/August newsletter for information about our 2024 Tree and Native Plant Sale.



Buckthorn Volunteers

A small and dedicated group has begun work on management of invasive buckthorn at Innsbruck Nature Center and is looking for additional volunteers to help in the effort. Invasive buckthorn is a small tree that came from Europe and grows densely in our Minnesota forests. Left unchecked, it crowds out native trees and plants, reducing diversity in our parks. This volunteer group will provide some basic training and work can be completed at a time that works best for the volunteer. For more details, please contact Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director, at Mike.Maher@FridleyMN.gov.

Fridley Community Calendar

May

- May 2 | Housing and Redevelopment Authority Meeting
- May 6 | Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
- May 13 | City Council Meeting
- May 14 | Environmental Quality and Energy Commission Meeting
- May 15 | Planning Commission Meeting
- May 20 | Charter Commission Meeting
- May 27 | City Offices Closed for Memorial Day
- May 28 | City Council Meeting

June

- June 1 | Town Hall and Moore Lake Park Open House
- June 3 | Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
- June 6 | Housing and Redevelopment Authority Meeting
- June 10 | City Council Meeting
- June 11 | Environmental Quality and Energy Commission Meeting
- June 24 | City Council Meeting

NOTE: City Council and Commission meetings start at 7 p.m. Meetings are held at the Fridley Civic Campus, 7071 University Avenue NE. The public is welcome.

Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in any City of Fridley services, programs, or activities. Hearing impaired persons who need an interpreter or other persons who require auxiliary aids should contact the City at 763-572-3450.

2024 Real Estate Reassessment

The annual reassessment occurs each year starting in April and lasting through September. The 2024 reassessment will be conducted in neighborhoods primarily on the north side of the city. The first area is bounded by 73rd Avenue to the south, Osborne Road to the north, Stinson Boulevard to the east, and University Avenue to the west. The second area is bounded by the Fridley city limits to the north, Osborne Road to the south, University Avenue to the east, and the Mississippi River to the west.

Inspection – Things to Know:

- The Assessor’s office will send a postcard in advance of their visit to your neighborhood. They might arrive anytime within two weeks of that notice.
- Staff will be driving City vehicles numbers 117, 118 or 119 (black SUVs) or 120 (white Chevrolet Malibu). All have a City logo on the front door of the vehicle.
- The Assessor is required to review property information once every five years, and this review may or may not require both an interior and exterior inspection.
- Staff will knock first and wait for a response. If no response is received, staff will place a door tag with instructions, the staff

member’s name and the telephone number to call back. Staff will complete the exterior portion of their inspection at that time, and move on to the next home.

If a Tag is Left on Your Door:

The tag left on your door will include a parcel identification number at the top, two options with boxes, the date the tag was left and the name of the staff member who visited. Only one box will be marked, and that option will give direction on the next steps. The first option indicates that we have all the information we need but offers contact information if you have further questions. The second option is a request to make an appointment for a review of the home’s interior. The staff member’s contact information will be provided so that an appointment can be scheduled. You are welcome to call the assessors at 763-572-3536 or 763-572-3537.

You are not required to allow the appraiser into your home. You are encouraged to call and discuss what information the appraiser is interested in, and if there is an alternative means to accomplish an update of the record without going inside your home. Your participation is appreciated, as it helps to ensure a fair and equitable assessment for all.

Thank You for Helping Inventory Service Lines!

Thank you to the residents who provided information about their water service line to us! While the online tool did not work for all, the majority of residents were able to submit images of their service line to help us prepare for the mandated inventory of lead service lines. To date, no services have been found to contain lead.

If you have not submitted information to us yet, there is still time! Here is how you can help:

1. Locate your water service line in the lower level of your home.
2. Take a photo of the service line and upload it to FridleyMN.gov/ServiceLine.
3. If you are unable to locate your service line, need assistance identifying the pipe material, or have questions about drinking water and lead, contact Public Works at 763-572-3566.

We appreciate your participation!

2024 Elections: Here’s What You Need To Know

Presidential Primary Elections

The City’s first election of 2024 was held in March. Voters participated in the Presidential Nominating Primary (PNP), where they were able to cast their ballot for who they want their political party’s presidential candidate to be in the General Election in November. Turnout for the PNP was 14%. Detailed election results may be viewed at SOS.State.MN.US/Elections-Voting/Election-Results.

Upcoming Elections

This year, the City will conduct two more elections: the State Primary on August 13 and the General Election on November 5. Voters may cast their ballot in person beginning 46 days prior to Election Day at City Hall. Or, voters may request their ballot be mailed to their home by going to SOS.State.MN.US/Elections-Voting/Other-Ways-To-Vote/Vote-Early-By-Mail.

Become an Election Judge

To conduct elections, the City hires up to 120 Election Judges to administer the City’s 10 voting locations. Election Judges are responsible for the administration of election procedures in each polling location on Election Day. They are citizens who help ensure the election process is fair and in accordance with Minnesota and federal laws.

Election Judges are an integral part of making the election process work smoothly for voters. Election Judges administer the City’s polling locations in several different capacities such as greeting voters, registering new voters, demonstrating how to mark a ballot, maintaining accurate ballot counts and certifying polling location results.

There are a few requirements to serve as an Election Judge:

- Must be eligible to vote in Minnesota;
- Must be able to read, write and speak English fluently;
- Must attend mandatory Election Judge training;
- Must not be a candidate in the election, or a family member of a candidate; and
- Must not be a family member of any other Election Judge at the same polling location.

Please consider serving your community as an Election Judge in 2024. For more information visit us on the web at FridleyMN.gov/elections, email Elections@FridleyMN.gov or call 763-572-3573.

Moore Lake Park Grand Opening and City Open House

Saturday, June 1 at 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Moore Lake Park (5890 Central Avenue NE)



Join us to celebrate the grand opening of the recently renovated Moore Lake Park. We will cut the ribbon and then enjoy the park with music, food trucks, fishing, pickleball and more! Part of this event will serve as the reimaged town hall meeting.

More information will become available on our website at FridleyMN.gov and our social media channels.



Fridley Municipal Television is Everywhere!

Did you know you can watch Fridley Municipal Television without cable TV? Roku and Amazon subscribers can stream Fridley Municipal Television on their devices by searching for "Fridley Municipal Television." You can also stream it online by going to the City of Fridley's website and clicking on the City TV icon or it can be found at Cloud.Castus.TV/VOD/Fridley.

2024 Construction Update

The 2024 construction season in Fridley includes street, utility, trail/sidewalk and park improvement projects. Reconstruction of one mile of street will occur on five local streets east of Trunk Highway 65. Utility projects include lining of three miles of selected sanitary sewer mains and replacement of 1,655 feet of water main in the City. Construction on new trail connections on both sides of Trunk Highway 47 near Mississippi Street is also scheduled to begin this year. The Park System Improvement Plan will continue into its second year of construction with Edgewater Gardens, Logan and Plymouth Square parks receiving improvements this year, and extensive plan development for Commons Park.

Other projects in Fridley include MnDOT construction of safety and accessibility improvements on Trunk Highway 47 at 69th and 73rd Avenues. Anoka County will be constructing a new roundabout on 85th Avenue at Evergreen Boulevard and the entrance to Springbrook Nature Center. At the end of 2024, Anoka County is hoping to begin reconstruction of the 44th Avenue bridge between Main Street and East River Road.

These projects are slated to begin May through October of this year. Please visit FridleyMN.gov/Projects for more information or to subscribe to receive notifications on projects. If you have a concern regarding a project in Fridley, please contact the Engineering Division at 763-572-3554.

Volunteer with ACCAP

Anoka County Community Action (ACCAP) Senior Chores & More program is looking for volunteers and paid independent contractors to assist our seniors who need help maintaining their yards and homes. Interested in volunteering? Contact ACCAP at 763-783-4767 to learn more.



CELEBRATE '49ER DAYS WITH US

2024 marks the 75th birthday of Fridley and the 50th birthday of the Fridley '49er Days Festival!

Everyone is invited to join the celebration on June 13-15!

THURSDAY, JUNE 13

4-7 p.m. | **Pre-parade party** | Commons Park

Join Fridley Parks and Recreation and a variety of Fridley organizations and businesses for some active fun before the '49er Day's Parade! Carnival games, inflatables, DJ, food trucks and more!

6:25 p.m. | **Fridley Fun Run** | Meet at St. Philip's Lutheran Church

Run on the parade route in front of the Fridley Lions '49er Days Parade. No pre-registration.

6:30 p.m. | **Fridley Lions '49er Days Parade**

Held rain or shine! The route starts at the corner of 61st Avenue and 7th Street.

The Fridley Historical Society Museum will be open Thursday, June 13 from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

At 1 p.m. Mayor Scott Lund will be opening the 50th Anniversary Time Capsule that was sealed in 1999.

FRIDAY, JUNE 14

5-8 p.m. | **Classic Car Show** | Friendly Chevrolet

Look at classic cars, stop by a food truck, enjoy food grilled by the Fridley Lions, and listen to great music by Tunes to Go!

7-10:30 p.m. | **Family Fun Night** | Commons Park

- All-ages BINGO
- Presentation of our flags by the American Legion Post 303
- Music by Tuvok the Word (7-9 p.m.)
- Movie night in the park (dusk)
- Food trucks

Second Annual Mike Spencer Heart of Gold Foundation Baseball Tournament.

This 14U tournament will start in the afternoon of June 14 and finish on June 15 at Commons Park. Come watch the tournament players play in their home run derby at 5:30 p.m. on Friday.

SATURDAY, JUNE 15 – FESTIVAL FUN

Noon - 10 p.m. | Commons Park

All activities are FREE unless noted with \$

- BINGO | Noon - 2 p.m. | Age 18+ | \$0.50/card
- Inflatables bouncers and games | 2-7 p.m.
- Kid's activities | 2:30-5:30 p.m.
- Art market and vendors | 2-6 p.m. | \$
- Fridley Time Capsule | 2-6 p.m.
- Food trucks | Noon-10 p.m. | \$
- Beer and wine | 2-10 p.m. | \$
- Fridley City Band | 2-2:45 p.m.
- Youth sports clinic | 3-5 p.m.
- Birthday cake decorating contest | 3 p.m. | \$
- Mingling Magicians | 4-6 p.m.
- Salsa Del Soul Band and Dance Instruction | 4-6:30 p.m.
- Fridley all school class reunion | 6-10 p.m.
- Birthday cupcakes | 6:30 p.m.
- Medallion winner presentation | 6:45 p.m.
- Power of 10 Band | 7-10 p.m.
- Magic Brad Performance | 8:30 p.m.
- Fireworks | Dusk

This event is made possible by the Fridley '49er Days Festival Committee volunteers and many sponsors. For more event information and the full list of sponsors visit Fridley49erDays.org.

NEW! CITYWIDE MEDALLION HUNT
June 9 - 15
 Clues will be listed online at 7 a.m. daily beginning on June 9. The winner will receive \$500 or \$750 if you own a 49er Days sticker! Visit Fridley49erDays.org for a list of local businesses selling stickers and for the daily clues.





Fridley Art Initiative Gaining Ground

In the fall of 2023, the City was alerted that an anonymous donor had provided a \$100,000 donation to a public art initiative that the City had expressed as a goal when building the Civic Campus. The City was aware that at least three important things needed to happen to embark on the City's Public Art Initiative: public engagement, an art task force, and a non-profit organization separate from the City to fundraise, accept the art donation and partner with other organizations.

Public Engagement

The City hosted a series of three public engagement meetings. These meetings were well attended and facilitated by Gretchen Nicholls and Barbara Raye, CDI, Minneapolis. The goal of the sessions was to prepare a plan and provide recommendations for the City Council to help direct the initiative in a way the public saw Fridley's identity moving. The final report was posted on the City's website after Council received the document in December 2023.

Formation of the Art Task Force

Great things have grown out of those recommendations. The City now has an Art Task Force, has created a 501C3 non-profit as the fundraising arm, and has started small with the installations so policy can form around the installations. This will allow the Art Task Force to make a final policy plan document that includes not only suggested art installation locations, but set a policy for rotation (if appropriate), temporary installations, maintenance, etc.

The Art Task Force has so enthusiastically taken on its role that the Mayor and Council have asked that the Art Task Force be formally recognized as the Fridley Art Commission. The Council considered the ordinance to transition the group from a task force to a commission at the April 8, 2024, City Council meeting. Earlier this year, the Art Task Force named the 501C3, Fridley Creative Arts Foundation. The formative legal documents necessary for a 501C3 are being reviewed and finalized at this time.

What about art?

The first piece in the Public Art Initiative Program may come as a partnership between the City and the Rice Creek Watershed District. The Rice Creek Watershed District has a Minnesota Water Stewards program associated with the arts to promote water quality and environmental care as one of nature's assets. Jessica Turtle, an artist associated with the White Bear Center for the Arts, just completed the Watershed Certification Program and has been certified through the Minnesota Water Stewards program. She has chosen Moore Lake Park as a perfect location for one of her creations.

The Fridley's Art Commission and Parks Master Plan team working on Moore Lake Park will now convene to work out details of the first piece of public art to be installed. The City looks forward to this partnership with the Watershed District, the artist, and the public art that will be created.

Environmental Game Night

Join the North Suburban Center for the Arts (NSCA) and the City's Environmental Quality and Energy Commission for a night of environmentally-themed board gaming at NSCA (110 77th Way NE, Fridley) on May 16 from 7-9 p.m.!

Play artfully designed boardgames that explore the natural world (like Wingspan!). Take in the NSCA's "Art of the Game" exhibition and enjoy light refreshments. Board games will be provided. Learn more at NorthSuburbanArts.org.



Co-sponsored by
NSCA and the City of Fridley Environmental Quality and Energy Commission.



2023 Water Quality Report

Once again, we are proud to report that your drinking water meets all state and federal standards. Your drinking water continues to be safe, and we continue our commitment to keeping you informed. The 2023 Water Quality Report includes details on the results of water quality testing last year and news relating to Fridley's water system. The report will be available for online viewing in June at FridleyMN.gov/WaterQuality.

We are driven to ensure your drinking water exceeds standards. For the latest water supply updates, please visit us online at FridleyMN.gov/Water. We are happy to answer any questions or concerns—just call us at 763-572-3554.

Rent City Facilities For Your Next Gathering!

Park Shelters: Fridley has park shelters available for rental between May 6-October 29. Shelters are located at Commons, Flanery, Moore Lake and Locke Parks.

Moore Lake Community Building: This beautiful, year-round, indoor gathering place is perfect for your next gathering and conveniently located near I-694 and Central Avenue.

Reservation requests for the Moore Lake Community building and Fridley Park Shelters can be submitted online at FridleyMN.gov/Rec.

Springbrook Nature Center Shelter and Facility: Springbrook Nature Center offers four indoor classrooms and an amphitheater for rent between 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on a daily basis. This is a great venue for family gatherings, showers, birthday celebrations, business meetings and more. Picnic shelter rentals are available on weekends from May 1- October 1.

Call 763-572-3588 to schedule your Springbrook rental.



Keeping Fridley Buzzing: Your Lawn can be a Pollinator Paradise

As the days get longer and the weather gets warmer, many Fridley residents are starting to think about sprucing up their yard. However, consider this before firing up your lawnmower: your lawn can be more than just a neat, green carpet. It can be a vital habitat for pollinators like butterflies, bees and hummingbirds!

Why Pollinators Matter

Pollinators play a critical role in our ecosystem. They help pollinate fruits, vegetables, and flowering plants, ensuring a healthy and diverse food supply for us and wildlife. Unfortunately, pollinator populations are declining due to habitat loss and pesticide use.

Mow Wisely for a Healthier Lawn

Here are some tips for mowing your lawn in a way that benefits pollinators:

- **Raise the mower deck:** Leaving your grass a bit taller (at least three inches) shades the soil, retains moisture, and creates a more welcoming environment for pollinators.

- **Mow less frequently:** Mowing can often be staged to allow low-growing flowering plants to bloom while still meeting turf grass height requirements. You can typically mow just once a week during the growing season. This allows flowers to bloom, providing nectar for pollinators.
- **Leave clippings on the lawn:** Grass clippings decompose quickly, returning nutrients to the soil and reducing the need for fertilizer.

Transform Your Yard into a Pollinator Haven

While a healthy lawn is great, consider incorporating some pollinator-friendly plantings! Here are some ideas:

- **Plant native flowers:** Native flowers are adapted to our local climate and soil conditions, and they provide the best nectar and pollen sources for native pollinators. Research good options for your area! A mix of early, mid and late blooming species will provide a continuous food source for pollinators throughout the season.

- **Add low-growing flowering plants** to your grass.
- **Provide water and nesting habitat:** Pollinators appreciate having a water source nearby. Consider leaving areas of bare soil and leaf cover to provide nesting habitat for a range of pollinators.

Reminders

We encourage residents to create a pollinator haven in your yard, while reminding you that City Code requires that turf lawn must be kept shorter than 10 inches. Maintaining turf lawn helps to keep our community looking sharp and protects public health!

Want to learn more about pollinators? Visit [FridleyMN.gov/Pollinators](https://www.fridleymn.gov/pollinators).

Receive up to \$400 from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources to install pollinator habitat on your yard with a Lawns to Legumes grant. Submit your application by May 15 at [BlueThumb.org/Lawns-to-Legumes/Apply](https://www.BlueThumb.org/Lawns-to-Legumes/Apply).

Recycling Audit Results

Fridley residents are doing a great job recycling! In 2023, Fridley residents recycled more than four million pounds. A one-day audit of our curbside recycling composition by Republic Services, the City's contracted recycling hauler, found that Fridley's recycling was (by weight):

- 38% cardboard
- 17% mixed paper
- 10% plastics
- 10% glass
- 5% aluminum
- 2% tin
- 18% garbage

Garbage was primarily bagged material, plastic film such as bags and wrappers, and food. Help do your part by putting items in your recycling cart loose or in paper bags, but never in plastic bags. Keep doing a great job recycling. Brush up on recycling skills at [FridleyMN.gov/Recycling](https://www.fridleymn.gov/recycling).

2023 Real Estate Market Wrap

The residential real estate market in Fridley saw the continuation of a constricted supply of homes for sale, along with considerably higher mortgage interest rates. Despite sharply higher interest rates, there were still several buyers bidding for most homes that were new to the market. As a result, the median sales price rose just over 5% to \$300,000. Meanwhile, mortgage interest rates were consistently at or around 6.75% making affordability that much more challenging for first-time homebuyers especially.

In last year's example of a median home purchase in Fridley, we noted the difference in house payments on a \$275,000 home with a 5% down payment and an interest rate of 3.25% at the beginning of 2022 versus an interest rate of 6.5% at the end of the year. The payment was \$539 higher at the end of the year due to sharply rising interest rates. In 2023, the median interest rate was 6.81% and the median sale price was \$300,000. Assuming a 5% increase in tax and insurance escrows, a 5% down payment, and an interest rate at 6.75%, the monthly house payment would be

\$2,268. This means that a buyer who purchased a median priced home in the Fridley at the beginning of 2022 has a house payment of \$1,512 per month, while in 2023, that median priced home at median interest rates carried a house payment of \$2,268 or 50% higher.

With house payments rising so quickly, we are likely to see continued low sales volume in 2024 and modest price appreciation if any. Additionally, until rates drop below 6%, housing supply will continue at historic lows as current homeowners with low-rate mortgages will not be moving unless compelled by circumstances such as a job transfer, or a new addition to the family requiring the need for more space. Currently, there are only 20 homes on the market, with five of them having accepted offers contingent on inspection or other conditions. The range of price is from \$137,500 for a Black Forest condominium to \$450,000 for a single-family home in the northeast corner of Fridley. The median list price is at \$312,000 while the median sales price for the last 90 days has been \$300,000.

Fridley Public Safety Welcomes Embedded Co-Response Mental Health Clinician

In February, the Fridley Public Safety Department welcomed its new Embedded Co-Response Mental Health Clinician, Erin Buller MSW, LICSW, MJ. Buller will respond to calls alongside officers where she will offer support, crisis stabilization, and de-escalation. She also will help to connect individuals in need of mental health support to relevant resources.

“As Fridley’s first Embedded Co-Response Mental Health Clinician, I’m excited to work alongside the Public Safety Department to build a program that will meet the unique needs of this community,” said Buller. “In this role, I wear many hats to fulfill the specific needs of each individual. For some, this may look like crisis intervention, case management, or care coordination. Others may benefit from being connected to a variety of resources and services.”

Fridley’s Embedded Co-Response Mental Health Program

The Embedded Co-Response Mental Health Program is a collaboration with Canvas Health

that is modeled with input from multiple public safety organizations across the metro area and the state of Minnesota. These organizations see ongoing success by providing additional resources to the community, reducing calls for service, and reducing use of force.

Buller is contracted through Canvas Health, a nonprofit community mental health clinic that helps children, adolescents, adults and families find ways to heal as they cope with mental illness, substance use disorders, and crisis situations. Buller will be detailed out of the Anoka County Mobile Crisis Team, which is fully staffed and operated by Canvas Health and funded by Anoka County. The Public Safety Department is excited to partner with Canvas Health and Buller to build Fridley’s Embedded Co-Response Mental Health Program.

For more information about Canvas Health and the program, please visit CanvasHealth.org.

Introducing Fridley’s Newest Fire Truck

The Fridley Fire Division has anxiously awaited the arrival of our newest Fire truck; Engine 1. The 2023 Rosenbauer Commander was delivered in February and is now in service. Engine 1 boasts a 750-gallon water tank, 1,500 gallons per minute pumping capability, and state of the art safety features. Unlike Fridley’s other Fire trucks, Engine 1 is unique as it operates as the City’s “heavy rescue” fire truck. This means beyond its firefighting capabilities, it also carries a variety of specialty equipment for use in vehicle extrication, stabilization, cribbing, shoring and securing. With major roadways, the Mississippi River, and large industrial complexes, there is always a risk of serious accidents involving large equipment, vehicles, or hard-to-reach locations. The equipment on Engine 1 allows Firefighters to work on those emergencies beyond the normal tools found in a fire truck.



Engine 1 is replacing a 2001 Spartan which was smaller but served the same purpose for the City. After a formidable 22 years of service, the existing Engine 1 was sold to Lund Fire District in Western Wisconsin. Engine 1 will be stored at Station #1 adjacent to the Fridley Civic Campus and has an anticipated lifespan of 20 years.

See the new Engine 1 at numerous City events throughout the year, including ‘49er Days and the Fire Division Open House!



SAFETY CAMP

June 25 - 26 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

\$50 (Registration required and spots fill fast!)

Join Fridley Fire, Police and Recreation for this exciting program designed for kids to have fun while learning good safety practices. Children will get a behind-the-scenes look at the Police and Fire Divisions while learning and experiencing safety! Topics may include fire, seat belt, animals, electrical, bicycle, first-aid, water, weather and 911! The registration fee includes leadership, supplies, bike helmet, t-shirt, tote bag, snacks and lunch.

Gr 2-4 Tu & W June 25 - 26 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. \$50
Fridley Civic Campus (rain or shine)

Recycling Drop Off Event

May 11 from 8 a.m. - noon

On May 11, Fridley residents will have an opportunity for free and reduced recycling of bulky items such as mattresses, appliances, electronics and more! You can receive \$50 off your total with proof of Fridley residence (driver’s license, mail or utility bill).

What can that include?

- Two appliances
- A large 60” TV
- A small TV
- Four tires
- And more!

All drop-off events will be held at Recycle Technologies Inc. (formerly Green Lights Recycling). Enter at 1525 99th Lane NE, Blaine. See a full pricing list at FridleyMN.gov/Dropoff.

Save the Date:

NIGHT to UNITE!

Save the date for Night to Unite 2024! Join Fridley Public Safety on Tuesday, August 6, for an evening of fun and community connection.

What is Night to Unite?

Night to Unite is an annual event that builds community partnerships with Public Safety and gives residents an opportunity to get to know their neighbors. Neighborhoods across the City host block parties to celebrate, and members of the Public Safety Department, the

City Council and Fridley staff stop by to say hello and get to know Fridley residents. Some years, there have been more than 100 block parties across the City!

How do I participate?

Block party registration is now open through July 19. Learn more about Night to Unite or hosting a party online at FridleyMN.gov/NightToUnite.





Learn What's in Store for the Park System Improvement Plan in 2024

Fridley's Park System Improvement Plan is transforming the City's park system and providing new places for residents and visitors to gather, play, learn and recreate.

Completed Neighborhood Parks

Three brand new neighborhood parks are completed and ready to enjoy. Ed Wilmes Park, Creekview Park, and Skyline Park were substantially completed in the fall of 2023 with final touches coming in early 2024. Each park features new playgrounds, courts, park shelters and site amenities. Plan a visit today!

Fridley's first dedicated pickleball courts, a new basketball court, an amazing new playground and a beautiful new community building are open and ready for use at Moore Lake Park. The building is now available for rental and many exciting events and programs are planned throughout 2024 and beyond.

Moore Lake Park

The Moore Lake Community Building is a

stunning space with incredible views, an audio-visual system, kitchenette and seating for up to 72 people. Accommodations for up to 100 people are allowed for open-house events, and the space is perfect for graduation parties, showers, birthdays, small wedding receptions, business meetings, retreats and more. Finishing touches will come early this summer to the adjacent patio and covered plaza, with inviting spaces to gather and enjoy views of Moore Lake.

Locke Park

Residents can also enjoy the amenities and trails at Locke Park, which the City of Fridley now operates and maintains. This park, located on the Rice Creek West Regional Trail, has forested walking paths, beautiful views of Rice Creek and the largest open-air picnic shelter in the City of Fridley, with a capacity for up to 150 guests. Look for programs, camps, and special events to enhance this park space over the coming months.

Upcoming Projects in 2024

Four of our neighborhood parks will experience temporary closures for improvements in 2024 including Sylvan Hills, Edgewater Gardens, Plymouth Square and Logan Parks. Residents shared ideas and feedback for these parks last summer and exciting changes are coming soon!

Commons Park

Finally, 2024 will be a year of exciting planning for revitalization of Commons Park, which will be under construction beginning in 2025. This park will feature a splash pad, inclusive playground, new courts, and a recreation building to serve residents and create a destination park in our community.

For the latest updates on Fridley's Park System Improvement Plan or to find out more about facility rentals in Fridley Parks, visit FridleyMN.gov/ParkPlan.

Licenses Required for Door-to-Door Sales

Did a salesperson knock on your door recently? In Fridley, anyone soliciting door-to-door for the sale of goods or services is required to obtain a solicitor's license. This helps ensure your safety and protects your rights as a consumer.

How to Identify a Licensed Solicitor:

- Authorized solicitors will have a City-issued license number.
- You can verify a license's validity by visiting the City's website at FridleyMN.gov/791/Licensed-Solicitors

Remember—This requirement does not apply to individuals engaged in:

- Political speech or campaigning.
- Soliciting donations for religious, charitable, or other non-profit organizations.
- Delivering flyers only. If stopping to talk to homeowners or knocking on doors, a solicitor license is required.
- Selling goods or services by appointment.

Stay informed and protect yourself. If you encounter a solicitor without a license, you can make a report by calling 763-572-3629.

Together, we can build a safer and more informed community.

community concerts

FREE

Springbrook Nature Center – Tuesdays
Springbrook concerts are supported by a generous donation from the Springbrook Nature Center Foundation.
JULY 9: SOUTHSIDE ACES, JAZZ | 7 - 8 p.m.
AUGUST 13: LOS REBELDES , TEX-MEX | 7 - 8 p.m.

Civic Campus – Tuesdays
JUNE 18: THE INLAND SEAS, IRISH | 7 - 8 p.m.
 • Food Truck: Rustic Chef & Flamingo's Ice Cream
JULY 16: DIA TOTI, RnB | 7 - 8 p.m.
 • Food Truck: Rustic Chef & Flamingo's Ice Cream
JULY 30: SAWYER'S DREAM, ROCK/AMERICANA | 7 - 8 p.m.
 • Food Truck: Flamingo's Ice Cream
AUGUST 20: SOCAHOLIX, CARIBBEAN/CALYPSO | 7 - 8 p.m.
 • Food Truck: Rustic Chef & Flamingo's Ice Cream

Mondays at Moore
 Join us on Mondays this summer to enjoy concerts at our beautiful, newly renovated park, Moore Lake! Flamingo's Ice Cream Food Truck will be present at all Moore Lake events.
JUNE 24: FRIDLEY CITY BAND | 7 p.m.
JULY 22: MATT HANNAH, ACOUSTIC | 7 p.m.
AUGUST 5: JEFF LOVEN, ROCK N ROLL | 7 p.m.

Kids' Performance
JULY 24: COMMONS PARK: SHREK THE MUSICAL, JR. | 10:30 a.m.
 Let's go to the theater—but this time at Commons Park! We will watch ETC Production's Shrek the Musical Jr. *See page 4 of Park and Recreation brochure for details.*
Kid's Book Swap — Bring a book, take a book! Come early to find a new treasure at the kid's book swap before the performance.

Music in Our Parks – Mondays
FRIDLEY CITY BAND | 7 p.m.

JUNE 10: FLANERY PARK	JULY 1: MADSEN PARK
JUNE 17: LOCKE PARK	JULY 15: SPRINGBROOK NATURE CENTER
JUNE 24: MOORE LAKE PARK	JULY 29: BRIARDALE PARK

Bring a lawn chair

Enjoy live music with your neighbors

Free and friendly for all ages.

We hope to see you there!