



Fridley

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Parks and Recreation
Brochure Enclosed

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2022
NO. 238

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

email: info@FridleyMN.gov

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

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-  Follow Us on Twitter: @CityofFridley
-  Watch City Programming: Search Fridley Municipal TV
-  Sign up for email notifications on FridleyMN.gov

Park System Improvement Plan – Moore Lake Park Open House

Saturday, September 10 from 10 a.m. - noon
Moore Lake Park (5890 NE Central Avenue)

As part of the Park System Improvement Plan, Moore Lake Park is scheduled for redesign and construction in 2023.

We want to hear from you! Join us for the open house to help select playground equipment, discuss park improvements and ask questions. There will also be games and activities, so bring the whole family!

Can't make it to the meeting? We still want to hear from you! Provide your feedback online at FridleyMN.gov/MooreLakePark.

Fridley has been working with residents since 2019 to develop a systematic plan to improve our parks. Amenities such as a splash pad, new playgrounds, rentable park buildings, trails, shelters and more will be added across our park system with construction scheduled from 2023 to 2029.



Pumpkin Night in the Park

Saturday, October 22 • 5 - 9 p.m.
Springbrook Nature Center, 100 85th Avenue NE, Fridley

ALL TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE.

Tickets on sale now at SpringbrookNatureCenter.org/PumpkinNight.

Beginning September 1, there will be a limited number of physical tickets available at Springbrook for \$10 each for ages 3-12 and \$12 each for 13+. Children 2 and under are free. Onsite ticket sales will end on October 22 at noon.

COMMUNITY PUMPKIN CARVING

Help Springbrook carve 1,000 pumpkins for Pumpkin Night in the Park. We provide the tools, the gutted pumpkin, and the fun! You supply the creativity.

October 16 - 20

Call 763-572-3588 to book your time slot or sign up online: springbrooknaturecenter.org

Learn more about the event, buy your tickets and reserve your carving slot today!



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Elections Update: What's on Your Ballot, Early Voting and More

What's on My Ballot for Fridley?

On your ballot November 8, you will see candidates for several City Council seats. Wards 1, 2 and 3 are up for re-election this year. Candidates who filed for office this summer will be on your ballots in November. The term for these Council seats begins in January 2023 and ends in December 2026. You can also view a sample ballot at MNVotes.org.

What if I Can't Vote on Election Day?

If you are unable to vote on Election Day, you have a few different ways you can cast your ballot early. From September 23 – November 7, Fridley residents can visit City Hall to vote. Voting is available Monday

through Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., as well as Saturday, November 5 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. and Monday, November 7 from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. You can also vote at the Anoka County Government Center, or request a ballot be mailed to your home by visiting MNVotes.org.

Redistricting

You may have seen information from the City regarding redistricting. Every ten years after the federal census, cities are required to analyze their election boundaries to ensure equal representation. In Fridley, redistricting resulted in a few changes to its precinct boundaries. This means some residents of Fridley will have a different polling location on

Election Day. If this applies to you, you would have received a green postcard from Anoka County informing you of your new polling location in July or August. The City sent a second postcard mailing reminding affected residents with their new polling location. Minnesota voters can always visit MNVotes.org or call 877-600-VOTE to check their polling location.

We look forward to seeing you at City Hall to vote early, or on Election Day. Polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. on November 8. Any questions about elections may be directed to Melissa Moore, City Clerk, by emailing CityClerk@FridleyMN.gov or calling 763-572-3523.

Fridley Community Calendar

September

- 1 Housing & Redevelopment Authority Meeting
- 5 City Offices Closed for Labor Day
- 6 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting
- 12 City Council Meeting
- 13 Environmental Quality & Energy Commission Meeting
- 19 Charter Commission Meeting
- 21 Planning Commission Meeting
- 26 City Council Meeting

October

- 3 Charter Commission Meeting
- 3 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting
- 6 Housing & Redevelopment Authority Meeting
- 6 Environmental Quality & Energy Commission Meeting
- 19 Planning Commission Meeting
- 24 City Council Meeting

NOTE: City Council and Commission meetings start at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are held at the Fridley Civic Campus, 7071 University Avenue NE. The public is welcome.

Hearing impaired persons who need an interpreter or other persons with disabilities who require auxiliary aids and would like to attend a meeting, should contact Roberta Collins at 763-572-3500 at least one week in advance.

Single Barrel of Whiskey Available at Fridley Liquor

FRIDLEY LIQUOR CATOCTIN SINGLE BARREL VIRGINIA RYE AGED IN BRANDY BARRELS 128 PROOF — INTRODUCTORY PRICE \$79.99

Fridley Liquor has once again purchased a single barrel of whiskey. This time we partnered with Cactoctin Creek Virginia's most awarded distillery.

At Cactoctin Creek, they believe in high quality food and spirits. They source the grain and fruit from local sources, free of pesticides and chemical additives that would come through in the spirits produced.

Tasting notes for our barrel: Big and bold, this 100% Rye finished in Virginia Brandy Barrels has rich aromas of dried date, molasses and toffee. On the palate the proof is carried well by notes of fig, maple, baking spice and almond. The finish is long and rounded reminiscent of chocolate, cinnamon and oak.



Follow us on Instagram or Facebook @FridleyLiquor to learn about upcoming samplings of our barrel.

Fridley Liquor Barrel Specifics:

- Barrel Number 650
- First Fill 06/08/2017 30 gallon #3 char Virginia oak
- Finish Fill 06/20/2018 59 gallon used Virginia Cactoctin Brandy Barrel
- Standard 100% Rye mash bill same as the award winning Roundstone Rye.
- Age: 4 years 10 months



BUY ONLINE

Pickup curbside or in-store

START SHOPPING AT

FridleyLiquor.com/Shop

Available only at the 57th Ave. location (next to Cub Foods)

73rd Avenue Corridor Study

The City of Fridley has been planning a future corridor study on 73rd Avenue from University Avenue to Central Avenue in Fridley prior to future roadway resurfacing in 2026. A corridor study is warranted due to the width of the roadway with limited traffic volumes, the existence of a frontage road, the flooding issues occurring both along and downstream of this corridor and the implementation of the Park System Improvement Plan and associated work at Madsen Park.

Staff had originally planned to initiate this study in 2024. However, they were notified of the opportunity to plan for added resilience of infrastructure through a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) grant program. This program focuses on how a project can provide resilience to current and future climate trends and establishes guidance that may be applied to make our community infrastructure more long-lasting.

More specifically, the purpose of the project is to provide a final conceptual design of stormwater resiliency improvements of 73rd

Avenue NE between Highway 47 and Central Avenue in Fridley. It is a 1.25-mile segment.

This planning project will result in selection of alternatives that consider the following with analysis to include future climate impacts to maximize resiliency:

- 1) Mitigation of stormwater flooding in downstream (Oak Glen Creek in Coon Creek Watershed District) areas
- 2) Possible integration and mitigation of stormwater flooding in upstream (Norton Creek in Rice Creek Watershed District) areas
- 3) Maximizing storm water quality and flood control storage along the project corridor
- 4) Pavement reduction along the project corridor through alternatives such as a 4-lane to 3-lane conversion (road diet)
- 5) Incorporation of other best management practices (BMPs) regarding storm water and system operation
- 6) A transportation safety analysis of the corridor.



Pictured L to R: League of Minnesota Cities Executive Director Dave Unmacht, Fridley City Manager Wally Wysopal, League of Minnesota Cities President and Bemidji Council Member Ron Johnson

Fridley City Manager Receives Leadership Award

Congratulations to Fridley City Manager, Wally Wysopal, on receiving the 2022 James F. Miller Leadership Award from League of Minnesota Cities!

The award was announced at the League’s Annual Conference of city officials in Duluth.

Wysopal has worked as the Fridley manager since 2013 after holding a similar position in North St. Paul. Prior to that, he was the assistant city manager for the City of St. Louis Park.

Early in his tenure, Wysopal was instrumental in leading the city through the development and construction of a new Fridley Civic Campus, a single site hosting a city hall, fire/police station and a public works garage in addition to a community gathering space with an amphitheater and outdoor plaza. The project also included the construction of 100 units of housing. Wysopal also led the city through perhaps its largest industrial redevelopment project of a 122-acre brownfield, known as Northern Stacks. Upon its completion, Northern Stacks increased in market value from approximately \$12.5 million to more than \$120 million.

Wysopal has served in various roles for municipal organizations, including membership in multiple subcommittees for the Minnesota City/County Management Association. He has served as a volunteer for numerous civic organizations and as an adjunct instructor for several local colleges and universities.

The Leadership Award is considered the League’s highest honor for appointed city officials and is given annually in recognition for outstanding service. It is named for former League executive director James F. Miller, who retired in 2015 after 22 years of service.

The League of Minnesota Cities is a membership organization dedicated to helping cities throughout Minnesota build quality communities through effective advocacy, expert analysis, trusted guidance, and collective action. The League serves its more than 830 member cities through advocacy, education and training, policy development, risk management, and other services.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds Received by the City

The City of Fridley (City) received a second settlement of \$1,520,444 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds from the Federal Government this year. One of the approved uses of this funding is investments in water, sewer and broadband infrastructure. These necessary investments will improve access to clean drinking water, support wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and expand access to broadband internet.

The City has the following plans for the funds received last year and this year:

Completed or will be completed this summer/fall:

- Sanitary sewer lining for \$550,000
- Sediment Removal project of \$100,000
- Alden Way Storm Sewer repair of \$200,000

To be completed in future years:

- Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Water Quality project for \$180,000 in 2023
- Sanitary sewer lining for \$550,000 in 2023
- Water Distribution System Reconstruction for \$314,500 in 2023
- Water Treatment Plant Security for \$330,000 in 2023
- Recondition of the 63rd Ave. Booster Pumps for \$200,000 in 2024
- Sanitary sewer lining for \$550,000 in 2024

By utilizing ARPA funds for utility infrastructure projects, it helps our community multiple ways. It keeps the City's aging utility infrastructure safe and maintained. Utility rates also remain stable for the community by reducing the need for debt issuances to fund utility infrastructure improvements, thereby saving interest that would otherwise would have been paid if debt was issued.

Adopt-A-Drain

Fall is a great time to adopt a drain through MN.Adopt-A-Drain.org. Drain adopters volunteer to remove leaves, trash and other pollutants from storm drains to keep our water bodies clean. Volunteers in the Twin Cities have adopted over 18,000 drains and kept more than 500,000 pounds of debris from our water bodies. Fridley is currently participating in the Anoka County Adopt-A-Drain Challenge to encourage participation in the program. Sign up at MN.Adopt-A-Drain.org to adopt a drain in your area!



Thank you to one of the Anoka County Challenge's recent winners, the Hansen family!



Save the Date! Springbrook Autumn Sampler

Saturday, September 17 • 5:30 - 8 p.m.

Enjoy an evening at Springbrook Nature Center while sampling wine, beer and food. Visit SpringbrookNatureCenter.org to learn more.

Recodification Update

The Fridley City Code is a collection of ordinances, or local laws, adopted by the City Council. The Code can be read online at FridleyMN.gov. The City Code establishes local laws within the City for residents, businesses and visitors to help ensure the health, safety and prosperity of all who live, work and visit Fridley.

A complete review and update of the Fridley City Code is underway through a process known as recodification, which involves the Fridley City Council, the City Attorney and a wide array of staff who work together to suggest updates. The process will include a thorough inventory of the Code and an analysis of every chapter to ensure compliance with the City Charter, as well as state and federal laws.

The City Charter requires the City to recodify its ordinances every ten years. Through this process, the City will work to make the Code more accessible to the public, modernize it to capitalize on best practices and re-write the Code in a way that is easy to understand.

The Code will be reorganized into nine titles. In August of last year staff began working on the first title, Administration. That title includes chapters that establish the legal authority of the Code and who is authorized to enforce the Code. Title 1 was approved by the Council in March of this year.

In April, staff began working on Title 2, which includes chapters that create rules for how the City will conduct some of its business. Title 2 was approved by the Council in July. At this time, staff are busy working on Title 3, Health, Safety and Welfare. Staff from all departments at the City are reviewing chapters that deal with things affecting the well-being of residents, such as controlled substances, firearms and animal control.

For more information on the project, visit FridleyMN.gov/1582/Recodification-Project. This page contains all supporting documents for the project. For questions, please contact the City Clerk by emailing CityClerk@FridleyMN.gov or calling 763-572-3523.



Winter Parking in Effect November 1 – April 1

Friendly reminder: Fridley does not declare snow emergencies. From November 1 through April 1, however, it is a violation to park any vehicle on City streets between 2-6 a.m.

It is a violation to stop, park or leave standing a vehicle in such a manner as to impede the plowing or removal of snow, ice or waste from public streets or highways regardless of date or time.

Violators will be tagged and towed, and subject to storage charges.

Fridley City Code, Chapter 506.05

Plan Now for your 2023 Home Improvement Projects

With hints of approaching autumn in the air, it can be hard to think ahead to summer 2023. But, if there are projects still left on your 2022 home improvement "To-Do" list, planning ahead for the next construction season could save you money and time in the long run.

1. **Prepare a list of possible projects.** If you are considering energy efficiency upgrades, this is a great time to contact the Home Energy Squad to schedule a visit. For general improvements, the Fridley HRA offers a free Remodeling Advisor service. Visit FridleyMN.gov/HomeLoans for more information.

- If you are dreaming big(ger), review the Cape Cods & Ramblers: A Remodeling Planbook for Post-WWII Houses online or at Fridley City Hall for ideas about expanding your home.
- Many Fridley homeowners are now eligible to add an Accessory Dwelling Unit to their property. To learn more, visit FridleyMN.gov/ADUs.

2. **Contact professional contractors** to bid the work or begin preparing materials lists and implementation timeframes for DIY projects. It is always a good idea to consider prices from 2-3 sources, as pricing will vary.

- Some contractors—particularly for landscaping projects—will not be able to give an accurate price estimate when the ground is covered in snow, so do not wait to contact firms.
- Ask friends and neighbors for advice on finding a contractor. The City of Fridley cannot provide referrals.

- For some projects—e.g., driveway and sidewalk replacements or fencing installation—contractors might provide a discount if several others in your neighborhood undertake similar projects.

3. **Develop a financing plan.** Once you have an idea of project costs and when they will be incurred, it's time to plan your financing. Will you put money into savings extra each month until the project begins? Will you set aside your tax refund? Will you apply for a grant or loan?

- Applications for Fridley's Senior Deferred Loan Program and Front Door Grant are expected to be available in January. (Low-interest loans are available year-round.) These programs can help fund most types of permanent property improvements. For more information about available programs, visit FridleyMN.gov/HomeLoans.

4. **Research permit requirements at FridleyMN.gov/1604/Permits.**

- Many types of property improvements require a permit and City inspection, in order to ensure that work is completed safely. If a contractor is performing the work, they will typically be the one to apply for required permits. However, the property owner is ultimately responsible.
- Building permits are valid for 180 days (6 months) after approval, so wait until you are ready to begin work to submit an application.

With a little bit of advanced planning, you will be ready to hit the ground running in spring!

Fall Clean-up: Street Sweeping and Hydrant Flushing

STREET SWEEPING

Our street sweepers will be heading out this fall to clear all the debris from the roads. Due to the unpredictable tendencies of Midwest weather, we are not able to provide an exact date for street sweeping. Typically, our Public Works team clears the streets in October, before the first snowfall.

Street sweeping is essential to remove fall debris buildup before the winter season arrives to avoid washing leaves and other debris into the City's stormwater system. We do this to reduce stormwater pollution and maintain the water quality. Ways you can help include: pick up pet waste, sweep near your storm drains and/or install a rain garden on your property.



HYDRANT FLUSHING

After we finish street sweeping, we move onto hydrant flushing in late October. Hydrant flushing occurs twice a year, in the spring and fall, when the City flushes its water mains through the fire hydrants. This helps clear the water of small amounts of sediment like iron or manganese that settle over time, and it verifies that the hydrants are in good working order.

During the hydrant flushing, deposits from the water lines may create yellowish-brownish discoloration of water in homes near the flushing area. While this water is safe for drinking, it may discolor laundry. If discoloration lasts longer than two days, call our Public Works mainline at 763-572-3566. You can also call the same number for current flushing locations and updated information.



ADUs and You

Fridley homeowners have a new option when it comes to making improvements to their properties—and welcoming new neighbors to the community. Following two public hearings in March, the Fridley City Council approved an ordinance allowing Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). These are also known as “in-law suites”, “carriage houses”, “guest cottages” or “granny flats”. ADUs are permanent dwelling units located on the same lot as a principal single-family dwelling. An ADU has its own kitchen, bathroom and sleeping area separate from the main home. You can learn more at FridleyMN.gov/ADUs.

An ADU can be created by converting part of an existing home—e.g., a basement or attic apartment—adding on to a home, or by building a new freestanding structure. In Fridley, freestanding ADUs must go through a public hearing process to receive a Special Use Permit, while ADUs that are attached to the principal home are approved by staff as part of a building permit application.

Accessory Dwelling Units are required to have adequate off-street parking for their residents, as well as the residents of the principal home. When an ADU is created, the homeowner must continue to live on site, either in the main home or in the ADU. Like any other non-owner-occupied home in the city, the other unit will be inspected and licensed through Fridley’s rental licensing process.

In Fridley, ADUs may provide living quarters for aging family members, provide an opportunity for homeowners to downsize into a new apartment while earning rental income, or provide workforce

housing for first responders, teachers and other professionals.

As more cities in the metro adopt ordinances allowing ADUs, local organizations are working to promote the housing type. The Minneapolis-based Family Housing Fund offers a design guidebook with a planning worksheet, a list of ADU designers and contractors, and an idea book for mid-century homes on their website, fhfund.org. Homeowners interested in adding an ADU to their property are also encouraged to visit FridleyMN.gov/ADUs or contact Fridley’s Community Development Department at 763-572-3593.

Existing ADUs Can Be Recognized as Legal Uses

Sometimes, ADUs may have been constructed before the City’s land use regulations were adopted, or they may have been built without official approval. Regardless of the property’s history, homeowners with an existing ADU can apply for a permit to acknowledge the unit as a legal component of the property.

Housing Loans Available

ADUs can be expensive to construct due to the requirement for separate kitchen and bathing facilities. Low-interest loans are available for homeowners making permanent improvements to their property, including constructing an ADU. Loans of up to \$50,000 are offered at 2% interest. Visit FridleyMN.gov/HomeLoans for more information.

Buying with Recycled Materials

When you walk across the new bridge at Craig Park, it might feel like you are on wood planks, but you are actually stepping on more than 135,000 plastic bags! These bags were recycled into the 95 percent recycled content composite decking used to construct the bridge. Purchasing items made from recycled content can be a good way to use your money to support recycling, reduction, and reuse. Examples of items that you can buy made with recycled content include:

- Decking and plastic lumber made from recycled milk jugs or plastic bags
- Paper made from recycled paper
- Clothing and shoes made from recycled plastic bottles
- Cat litter made from recycled paper

Some things to keep in mind:

- Check the label for the percentage of recycled content and look for supporting information. Some products say they are made from recycled material, but the actual amount of recycled content is low.
- Post-consumer materials are those that have been used by a consumer and then recycled, such as the plastic bottles you recycle at home
- Pre-consumer materials are scraps created during the manufacturing process that are repurposed rather than thrown away
- You can find a list of different products made in Minnesota from recycled content at webapp.pca.state.mn.us/recycled-products.

When Do I Need a Permit From the City?

On February 1, 2022, we launched a new online e-permit portal called CitizenServe. All the building, electrical, plumbing, mechanical, engineering and fire permits may be applied for online by using our E-Permits portal at CitizenServe.com/Fridley.

Permits are required for the following, but are not limited to:

- Additions
- Alterations
- Basement Finish
- Deck
- Driveway
- Windows
- Egress Windows
- Roofing
- Siding
- Remodel
- New Construction
- Demolition
- Shed (over 200 sq ft)
- Garage (attached or detached)
- Mechanical (Air Conditioner, Furnace, Boiler, Fireplace, Bath Fan, etc.)
- Plumbing (New or replacement of any plumbing fixtures)
- Grading
- Water and Sewer

Permits are not required for fences or any finish work such as cabinetry, carpet, trim, or painting.

For more information, please visit our website at FridleyMN.gov/1604/Permit.

CORRECTION: Reuse in the Community – Little Free Libraries

The following is a correction to the July/August Newsletter article: Little Free Libraries were installed at Edgewater Gardens, Sylvan Hills Park and Logan Park. Thank you to the Adopt-A-Park captains who constructed libraries this year.

2022 Fridley Insulation Rebates

Time is running out for 2022 Fridley Insulation Rebates! This year, you can double your savings by getting matching rebates from your utility provider and the Fridley Housing and Redevelopment Authority, but only if you act soon. To be eligible for a rebate of up to \$500, you must have had a Home Energy Squad Visit after 2019, completed an eligible insulation project, and received a utility rebate check before the end of the year. Visit FridleyMN.gov/HomeLoans for more information on the program and how to apply.



Recycling Facility Tour

This summer, members of the Fridley City Council and Environmental Quality and Energy Commission (EQEC) had the opportunity to tour Republic Services' newly renovated recycling facility. This facility sorts over 600,000 pounds of recyclables a day, including all the recycling collected from homes in Fridley. Here in Fridley, we do a great job in recycling - over 90 percent of the material brought in to be processed at the facility is recycled! EQEC commissioner Heidi Ferris put together these tips from the tour on how to be a great recycler:

1. Cardboard is over 50 percent of the recycling stream. Flatten cardboard and recycle it with your curbside recycling bin. Extra cardboard can be placed next to your recycling cart on your recycling day if it is flattened and taped together in bundles small enough to fit in your cart with the lid closed. Do not put extra cardboard next to your cart on rainy or windy days.
2. Shredded paper contaminates the glass recycling at the recycling plant. Instead, keep papers in their original format or take your shredded documents to a Fridley Recycling Drop-Off event. Learn more at FridleyMN.gov/DropOff.

3. Aluminum and glass can keep being recycled infinitely - so keep on recycling those items! Remove metal lids from glass jars.
4. Food waste belongs in the compost or organics recycling, NOT your curbside recycling bin. Food waste contaminates the recyclable paper, plastic, metals and glass, making it unmarketable (and smelly). Sign up for Fridley organics recycling at FridleyMN.gov/Organics.
5. Yes to caps on the plastics! Plastic caps are small and can get lost along the way. Put plastic caps back on plastic bottles and jugs so they make it through the recycling center flow stream all the way to the end with the other plastic materials.
6. Just say "no way" to plastic bags in the recycling bin. Put your recycling loose into the cart or in an untied paper bag.
7. Mechanized recycling and new technologies help remove contamination, and it is people like you who begin the waste reduction and recycling process! We can all help by being mindful of choices on materials and products we purchase, learning how, when, where and what to recycle, and then consistently recycling cardboard, glass, metals and plastics.

Learn more about what can be recycled at FridleyMN.gov/Recycling.

Reminders for Your Fall Yard Clean-up

Fall is in the air, the leaves are changing colors and soon, they will be dropping from the trees. Leaves that decompose in compost bins can turn into useful fertilizer, but leaves that enter our storm drains can cause flooding and pollution.

Please keep these tips in mind as you start your fall clean-up:

- 🍂 Fridley residents can coordinate yard waste collection with their garbage hauler, drop off yard waste at Bunker Hills Compost Site or practice backyard composting.
- 🍂 Yard waste can only be stored in bags or bundles outside through your next pick-up day.
- 🍂 Bagged yard waste must be placed in compostable bags.

- 🍂 Leaves and other yard waste are not allowed to be blown into the street or deposited within 25 feet of a waterbody. Yard waste blown into the street can enter the storm sewer system and pollute downstream waterbodies such as Rice Creek, Moore Lake or the Mississippi River. If you notice a property dumping yard waste or other unauthorized materials in the street or storm drains, please call 763-572-3566 to report it as an illicit discharge.
- 🍂 Plan ahead for tree care – late winter (just before spring arrives) is the best time to prune trees for quick healing and to reduce disease.



Recycling Dropoff and Paper Shredding—Bonus Discounts in September and November!

Drop-off even more for free with bonus rebates in September and November. New: Free recycling of all small electronics (DVD players, blenders, computer towers, landline phones, etc.) + **\$50 in discounts** to get rid of mattresses, TVs, large electronics, appliances, tires and more. What can you recycle for free with \$40 in discounts?

- A queen mattress + box spring
- Three large appliances
- A treadmill
- A 31" inch TV
- 4 SUV tires

Plus, you can always recycle of light bulbs, batteries, paper shredding, scrap metal and small engine, bicycles, electronic media, and handheld electronics for no cost. View a full price list at FridleyMN.gov/Dropoff.

2022 Remaining Events September 10 & November 12

- All events 8 a.m. - noon. Cash and Check Only. Drop-off entrance located at 1525 99th Ln NE.
- **All Fridley residents receive \$50 off their total** plus free recycling of many items including light bulbs, batteries, paper shredding and more.
- Visit FridleyMN.gov/Dropoff for a full list of items in pricing
- Looking to get rid of a working refrigerator or freezer that you no longer need? Xcel Energy will pick up it up from your home and pay YOU \$50. Learn more and schedule an in-home or contactless pick up at XcelEnergy.com/Fridge or call 1-800-599-5795.

Bunker Hills Compost and Yard Waste Drop-off Site

13285 Hanson Blvd NW, Coon Rapids
(763) 767-7964

April - November, weather permitting
Monday - Friday: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday: Noon - 5 p.m.

December - March, weather permitting
Saturday: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. only

Fridley Public Safety Implements ALPRs through State Grant

Through a grant from the Minnesota Department of Commerce given to the Anoka County Auto Theft Task Force, Fridley Public Safety purchased four in-car automated license plate readers (ALPRs).

The City of Fridley is part of the county-wide grant to combat auto theft. The mission of the grant is, "To network and share information to further the common goal of auto crime prevention in Anoka County and worldwide."

The goals for the grant are as follows:

- To facilitate and promote a partnership with auto crime prevention organizations and agencies.
- To provide easy access to network information to enhance the success of auto crime prevention programs.
- To collaborate and coordinate to present a unified front in auto crime prevention.
- To share experiences and information to better meet fiscal challenges.
- To promote and enhance the prevention of auto crimes.
- To identify local, state and national trends regarding auto crimes.



These readers are cameras made by REKOR and fixed to the windshields of squad cars. REKOR Finder is a portable, in-vehicle license plate capturing and processing system. The system accurately identifies license plates and vehicles in real-time, at high rates of speed, and at extreme viewing angles. The unique interior mount design is portable to any vehicle. Additionally, you receive both visual and audio alerts the moment a vehicle of interest is detected

on one of your hotlists.

Fridley's LPRs are deployed on shifts and overtime shifts (funded by the grant) specifically looking for stolen vehicles. It offers real-time information by automatically scanning the license plates through hot lists that update twice a day.

Audited plate information is not saved for more than 60 days, unless used in an investigation, and meets all data practice laws.

Any city with an ACLR policy can utilize these resources, as they can be transferred between vehicles very quickly.

Questions? Email CrimePrevention@FridleyMN.gov.

The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.

City of Fridley Blood Drive

Wednesday, November 9
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Springbrook Nature Center

Contact information:

Fridley Recreation Department
763-572-3570 • Recreation@FridleyMN.gov
The event is open to the public.

To Schedule an Appointment:

redcrossblood.org (search for CityofFridley)
or call 1 (800) RED-CROSS



Giving blood is a simple way to make a difference in someone's life.

Awarded Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting

The City of Fridley was once again awarded the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting. Fridley has received this award every year since 2011. The program was established in 1945 to encourage and assist governments to go beyond what is minimally required with generally accepted accounting principles to prepare reports that show transparency and full disclosure and to recognize governments that succeed in doing so. The award is given by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) and has three key objectives: 1) Recognize governments that issue a high-quality Annual Financial Report, 2) Produce a financial report that is easily readable and understandable and 3) Provide educational materials, comments and suggestions for improvements to program participants.

Congratulations to the entire Finance Department for their hard work!

2022 Night to Unite

More than 80 neighborhood block parties were hosted throughout Fridley during this year's Night to Unite celebration on August 2!

Police officers, firefighters and City staff stopped by each of these parties and shared information on a variety of topics. Parties learned about district officers, the new SafeCam program, various volunteer opportunities and other ways the Public Safety Department is working with the community to keep Fridley's neighborhoods safe! Neighborhoods near the first parks with planned improvements also had the chance to hear about next steps for the Park System Improvement Plan.

Thank you to AAA and the Minnesota Crime Prevention Association for sponsoring this event, as well as Sam's Club, Target and Cub Food for their generous donations to this year's event.



Receive Three Free Months of Organics Recycling!

Learn more and sign up for organics recycling at FridleyMN.gov/Organics. This program is \$10.98 per month through Republic Services.

Three free months when you sign up in October, applied to second billing cycle.

*Compostable bags are available for free to program participants at City Hall and Springbrook Nature Center and can be purchased from local retailers.



Fridley Historical Society 30th Annual Lasagna Dinner + Hall of Fame Induction

The 30th Annual Lasagna Dinner and 15th Annual Fridley Hall of Fame Induction on Saturday, October 8. The doors will open at 11:30 a.m. at the Fridley Community Center in the Fireside Room. Lasagna will be served (buffet style) at noon.

Those inducted in the Fridley Hall of Fame this year are Mark Bonesteel, Bill Burns, Joe Rickenbach Sr. and Joe Rickenbach Jr.



Minnesota State Parks Passes Available at Fridley and Columbia Heights Libraries

- Passes are good for seven days and must be displayed on the vehicle's dashboard on entering a park or recreation area.
- Passes can be recycled after seven days, no return necessary.
- Between one and four passes are available for check-out at each library.
- For details and a complete list of participating libraries, visit dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/minnesota-state-parks-library-program.html
- Columbia Heights Public Library and the Fridley branch (Mississippi) of the Anoka County Library will each have three passes available to borrow with a library card.

The DNR will continue and expand its state park library program for another three years, through June 2025. The program will grow from 71 to 117 participating libraries, offering 175 passes statewide for check-out.

Library programs like this have become popular across the country, with California launching a new program in 2022. These programs provide opportunities for individuals or families with limited income to access their state parks free of charge.

The 2021 pilot program saw more than 1,500 park pass check-outs in the first six months. In a survey of pass users, only 36 percent said they would have purchased an annual state park vehicle permit. This would fill a gap of about 900 visits to state parks that would not have otherwise happened during that time.

"It has been wonderful to see the impact this program has had on Minnesotans," said Arielle Courtney, DNR Parks and Trails partnership consultant. "We are working hard to address the many barriers that prevent people from getting to state parks, and this program is a step toward making it easier for everyone to enjoy our public lands."

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS RETURN

See the Parks and Recreation brochure for upcoming after school programs.



Fridley Funds Park System Improvement Plan

The City of Fridley operates nearly 40 parks that offer access to nature, athletic fields, play spaces and community gathering places. For several years, City staff have been working with residents and consultants to reimagine our park system. A robust community engagement effort has helped to identify priorities that residents would like to see, including a splash pad, improved park buildings, increased trail connectivity and access to water for recreational activities such as fishing, canoeing and kayaking.

Three years of community engagement led to the creation of a systematic Park System Improvement Plan (Park Plan) for Fridley's parks. This Park Plan provides recommendations to improve every park in Fridley with a prioritized list of improvements that will provide balanced and equitable access to parks and recreation opportunities for all in Fridley.

A total of \$50 million in possible park system improvements were identified in the Park Plan. Based on resident input, Fridley City Council directed staff to work with a Park Plan Refinement Task Force advisory group to recommend \$30 million in park projects that would be most impactful to the community.

Further, a resident Finance Task Force recommended funding the park system improvement plan by issuing General Obligation (GO) Tax Abatement Bonds for \$20 million in bond proceeds, being repaid over no more than 15 years, with an additional \$10 million to come from other City of Fridley funds.

Tax abatement is a tool that can be used by cities to abate all or a portion of property taxes levied by the City for a given purpose, such as public infrastructure improvements. All taxpayers, whether identified as an abated parcel or not, will continue to pay property taxes as they normally would. Minnesota Statute 469.1813 gives cities authority for tax abatement, and this has become an increasingly common means of funding park improvements, as they provide benefit to all residents. A requirement was holding a public hearing for the consideration of tax abatement, and that was held on May 23, 2022. The bonds will be repaid over 15 years with annual debt service payments being levied for and it is likely there will be an increase in property taxes beginning in 2023.

This plan will provide many opportunities for expanded recreation programming, enjoyment of nature and social gatherings. Enhancing and modernizing the city park system will position Fridley as a great place to live, work and play now and for many years to come.

The first four parks to be improved will be Moore Lake Park, Skyline Park, Ed Wilmes Park and Creekview Park. For details on the entire park system improvement plan, as well as your neighborhood park including project plans, upcoming events, and plan highlights, visit FridleyMN.gov/ParkPlan.



RAINBOW FAMILY YOGA

Rainbow Yoga is done in a circle and uses more than just yoga postures to build strength, creativity, destress and have fun. Each Rainbow Yoga gathering incorporates play into time spent together. Sharing laughter and having fun fosters empathy, compassion, trust and deeper intimacy with others. Rainbow Yoga offers the opportunity to unite through yogic games and movement with music in a fun-filled space. All children must be accompanied by a caregiver (16+).

5385	All ages	Tu	Sep 20	5:30 - 6:15 p.m.	\$15/person	Flanery Park
5386	All ages	Tu	Oct 11	5:30 - 6:15 p.m.	\$15/person	Flanery Park



GUIDED MEDITATION CLASS

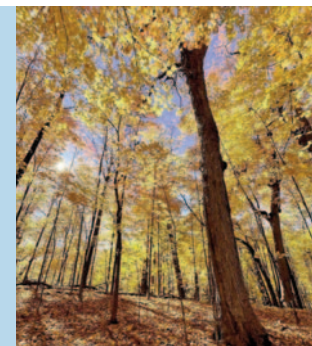
Would you like to manage your stress in a healthy, productive way and increase your resilience? The practice of meditation can lead to better decision-making to help you to be less distracted, more focused and less consumed by the mental chatter that consumes much of our energy. Explore a variety of beneficial meditations with a focus on a healing awareness practice that you can take home with you.

5396	16+	Tu	Sep 27	5:30 - 6:30 p.m.	\$25/person	Springbrook Nature Center Meditation Garden
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SHINRIN YOKU/GUIDED FOREST BATHING EXPERIENCE

Join us on an immersive, meditative and awe-inspiring Japanese forest bathing experience (Shinrin Yoku). Feel nature's fractals, sounds and sensations as you reduce your stress and anxiety, and enhance your focus. Give yourself permission to slow down and intentionally connect your senses to the healing, stress-reducing beauty of Fridley's green forested spaces.

5390	Ages 16+	Sa	Oct 1	2 - 4 p.m.	\$45	Innsbruck Nature Center
5391	Ages 16+	Sa	Oct 29	10 a.m. - 12 p.m.	\$45	Locke County Park



TEEN INTRO TO PICKLEBALL

Do you have a teen interested in trying a new sport? We invite teens to join one of the fastest growing sports in the country. Our instructor will meet participants at the Commons Park Tennis Courts where teens will learn the fundamentals of the game and join this great community. Equipment is provided!

5527	Ages 12-15	Tu	Sep 20 - Oct 11	3:30 - 5 p.m.	\$45	
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Check out the Parks and Recreation brochure for a full list of upcoming events and programs.