

BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING



MARCH 2024



PAGE 2



PAGE 3



PAGE 6



PAGE 7



WE Mural, curated by Ua Si Creative, at the corner of American Boulevard and 30th Avenue South. Detail of artwork by Reggie LeFlore.

BLOOMINGTON RANKS 6 OF 20 MOST ARTS-VIBRANT COMMUNITIES IN THE NATION

Bloomington, along with its neighbors St. Paul and Minneapolis, has consistently appeared on the SMU DataArts, the National Center for Arts Research, Arts Vibrancy Index since rankings began in 2015. This year, the Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington area is ranked sixth on the annual list of the 20 most arts-vibrant large communities in the nation.

“The arts have an important role in Bloomington, and have a positive economic, social and cultural impact on the community,” Creative Placemaking Director Alejandra Pelinka said. “Bloomington has many arts and cultural organizations, and artists and culture bearers who contribute to the vibrancy of Bloomington.”

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CREATIVE PLACEMAKING EXPANDING CITYWIDE

From murals, sculptures and performances to events, temporary art pop-ups and more, the City of Bloomington began its creative placemaking efforts in 2016. Creative placemaking is a process where art plays an intentional, integrated role in place-based community planning and development. It honors the existing assets, history and character of a place, with community engagement as a vital part of the process. Until 2023, Bloomington’s creative placemaking efforts were focused in the South Loop. The efforts are now citywide, as requested by community members in the City’s *Bloomington. Tomorrow. Together.* strategic plan. Learn more at blm.mn/placemaking.



THE LATEST ON BLOOMINGTON. TOMORROW. TOGETHER.

City staff submit updates on progress in the *Bloomington. Tomorrow. Together.* strategic plan to the City Council each quarter. In January, the Council heard about the progress made in the strategic plan in the last quarter of 2023. The second 2024 quarterly report goes to the City Council in April.

You can check out the progress in each priority any time, in detail, on the public Envisio dashboard at blm.mn/btt.

The *Briefing*, published monthly by the City of Bloomington, is mailed to residents and businesses. Direct your comments and requests for Braille, larger print or computer file to Communications Administrator Janine Hill, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3071; PH 952-563-8819; MN Relay 711; FAX 952-563-8715; Email: jhill@BloomingtonMN.gov
Website: BloomingtonMN.gov

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The City of Bloomington does not discriminate against or deny the benefits of its services, programs, or activities to a qualified person because of a disability. The City will provide a reasonable accommodation or modify its policies and programs to allow people with disabilities to participate in all City services, programs, activities, and employment. The law does not require the City to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden on the City. To make a request for a reasonable accommodation, ask for more information, or to file a complaint, contact the Community Outreach and Engagement Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3027; 952-563-8733, MN Relay 711.

MAYOR'S MEMO
MOVING BLOOMINGTON FORWARD

By Mayor Tim Busse

During the 2023 election, Bloomington voters approved a new half-percent sales tax to provide \$155 million for renovations to Bloomington Ice Garden, a new community health and wellness center, and enhancing and protecting the Nine Mile Creek corridor, and Moir and Central parks. We're now looking to the next phases of these projects and moving Bloomington forward.

The half-percent sales tax increase is scheduled to take effect on April 1. Here's an overview of the status of each of the three projects.



BLOOMINGTON ICE GARDEN

The first project slated to break ground is the Bloomington Ice Garden renovation. Work will begin in early 2024 to prepare for new refrigeration equipment. Major construction is tentatively scheduled to begin spring 2025. The facility will close mid-March of that year with the goal of reopening at the end of 2025, in time for the next hockey season.



This image shows a vision of what a new facility could look like.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER

The City will start community engagement on this project during summer 2024 to determine what programming and amenities a new center should include. Engagement activities and the design process will continue into 2025.

The community will have an active voice in this project. The end goal is for the new center to open in 2027.



NINE MILE CREEK CORRIDOR

Spanning 240 acres, the Nine Mile Creek corridor is a beautiful slice of nature, featuring trails and many outdoor amenities that residents enjoy. Bloomington residents consistently rank Moir Park as one of the city's top parks. They also consider natural resources a priority. The next step for the Nine Mile Creek corridor will be community engagement. Parks and Recreation leadership will begin this process this year.

Once dates for community engagement opportunities are set for these three projects, we'll share that information online at bloomingtonforward.org, City social media channels and cable television, and in the *Briefing*.



WELCOME TO BLOOMINGTON ENCOURAGES NEW RESIDENTS TO ENGAGE

The Welcome to Bloomington program launched in January to greet new Bloomington residents. The program focuses on monthly new resident meetings, neighborhood events, a resource fair and a cultural fair. It also includes a bucket list.

“We want to encourage people to check out their new community, so we developed a bucket list filled with fun things to do and places to visit,” said City’s Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer Faith Jackson.

Bucket list activities include attending a high school play in Bloomington, attending a Winter Fete event, touring Mall of America, visiting a local park or trail, attending the farmers market and more.

Residents who complete the whole bucket list can turn it in for a Bloomington T-shirt.

For more information about the bucket list and other Welcome to Bloomington activities, email equity@BloomingtonMN.gov or visit blm.mn/welcome.

NOTABLE NEIGHBOR: MATT EICHELDINGER

Matt Eicheldinger, a Bloomington resident of 12 years and a former Oak Grove Middle School teacher, was working at Wayzata when his book, 15 years in the making, was picked up by Andrews McMeel Publishing, which has published well-known works like “Calvin and Hobbes,” “Big Nate” and “Peanuts.”

“This felt like a full circle moment,” Eicheldinger said. “I grew up reading only ‘Calvin and Hobbes.’”

In 2009 when he started teaching, Eicheldinger knew he wanted to create a space for his students to share about themselves and know that their story mattered.

As incentive, Eicheldinger began telling unique, silly and funny stories about himself, their teacher. The stories were so successful, Eicheldinger gathered them into a book titled, “Matt Sprouts and the Curse of the Ten Broken Toes.”

After 10 years and more than 200 rejections, Eicheldinger self-published the book in 2021. After selling thousands of copies and winning numerous indie awards, Eicheldinger landed the dream—a multi-book publishing deal to make “Matt Sprouts” into a series.

Eicheldinger’s first book in the series is being released this month. The second book will be released in September. To watch an interview with Eicheldinger, visit blm.mn/eich.

PROPERTY VALUATION NOTICES ON THE WAY

In mid-March, the City will begin mailing property owners their 2024 estimated market value notices. Residents are encouraged to review their 2024 valuation in detail and contact the Assessing Division upon receipt of this notice with questions or concerns. Don’t wait. By the time you receive your proposed tax notice in November, it will be too late to appeal the valuation informally.

A CLOSER LOOK AT VALUES

Residential values in Bloomington remained fairly flat compared to last year. Segments of the single-family market saw modest increases in value, while other segments remained flat or even saw decreases.

These are general market directions and may not reflect your specific property. Value changes are dependent on size, location, age of the structure and other property attributes.

FEEL YOUR VALUE IS INCORRECT?

Residents may appeal informally in the weeks after receiving their value notice. Plan on providing evidence, such as a recent private appraisal or a few comparable sales.

HENNEPIN COUNTY STATEMENT

Along with valuation notices from the City, property owners will also receive their property tax statements from Hennepin County in early March. To find if you are eligible for a Minnesota property tax refund, visit blm.mn/state-tax.

DISCOVER BUSINESS RESOURCES AT WELCOMING WEDNESDAYS

Learn about startup and small business resources available in Bloomington at Welcoming Wednesdays. These events are held on the second Wednesday of the month, 12 - 2 p.m., at Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road. The host for 2024 will be Ahmed Mohidin, *pictured at right*, from Sigma Consulting and Training.

“This is an ongoing series that aims to build connections with the Bloomington business community before the small business development center opens,” Assistant Port Authority Administrator Barb Wolff said.



To discuss appealing your valuation, or how to collect supporting documentation, call the Assessing Division at 952-563-8722. For more information about the process and deadlines, visit blm.mn/propertyinfo.



LEARN ABOUT JUST DEEDS

Join the Human Rights Commission for a special event—Just Deeds & Beyond: The Legacy and Future of Housing Access for All.

The event will feature presentations from a panel of experts and community dialogue on the history of housing in Bloomington, progress in overcoming exclusionary practices and opportunities for the future of housing access for all. This follows the 2021 Just Deeds event in Bloomington that played an important role in educating the community on the history and presence of homes with racial covenants. Visit blm.mn/justdeeds for more information.

The City of Bloomington’s Human Rights Commission and Normandale Community College will host this event on Wednesday, March 13, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., at Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road. Dinner will be served.



THE EVOLUTION OF THE HRA

The Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority provides affordable housing opportunities for those who are not adequately served by the marketplace, coordinates the City’s efforts to preserve existing neighborhoods and promotes development and redevelopment that enhances Bloomington. The HRA performed an assessment of its work in 2022. As a result, it is focusing on policies, programs and services along the entire housing continuum, from emergency shelters on one end all the way to homeownership on the other. Read about some of the services and programs the HRA provides to help renters, homeowners and homebuyers in this two-page spread. For more information about the resources HRA provides visit blm.mn/hraresources. Questions about HRA? Email hra@BloomingtonMN.gov or call 952-563-8937.

HOMELESS	EMERGENCY SHELTER	TRANSITIONAL HOUSING	COMMUNITY HOUSING	AFFORDABLE RENTAL	AFFORDABLE HOMEOWNERSHIP	MARKET VALUE RENTAL	MARKET VALUE HOME

HOUSING INSTABILITY

The Bloomington State of Homelessness Study was completed in 2023 with the primary goal of understanding existing gaps and possible duplications of service in the overall social safety net, as well as the respective goals of local stakeholders. Bloomington is the fourth largest city and the seventh fastest growing city in the state. It requires its own infrastructure of services and programs. The city is part of the Hennepin County Continuum of Care, which supports coordination of the countywide effort to prevent and end homelessness, including overflow family shelter operations. Hennepin County Continuum of Care is a regional planning body that coordinates federal funding for housing and services for people experiencing homelessness. Communities receive CoC funding primarily through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HUD identifies four necessary parts of a continuum: outreach, intake and assessment; emergency shelter; transitional housing; and permanent supportive housing. To learn more visit hennepin.us/headinghomehennepin.

REFRAMING HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHERS

As Bloomington’s population grows, the HRA’s Housing Choice Voucher Homeownership Program is expanding in 2024 to accommodate new housing opportunities. This expansion will provide existing program participants who purchase homes the option to use their current assistance towards mortgage payments, enhance program outcomes, increase property owner participation, provide more participant clarity and streamline requirements. The program embraces population-specific vouchers to address underrepresented groups. The HRA currently administers Foster Youth to Independence vouchers and Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing vouchers. The HRA aims to align future vouchers with Bloomington’s housing needs, as identified in the City’s comprehensive plan. These vouchers will be integrated into many new developments. For example, the future development at 700 American Boulevard involves project-based vouchers, ensuring targeted support for seniors within designated units, reflecting a commitment to inclusive and accessible housing initiatives.

PATHWAYS TO HOMEOWNERSHIP AND HOMESTRETCH COURSES

The goal for homeownership programming is to provide education and services that allow access to homeownership in Bloomington. For example, the Rental Homes for Future Homebuyers program provides a five-year track for qualified households to rent a home, owned by the HRA, and escrow a portion of their rent to be used as a down payment in the future purchase of a home. Visit blm.mn/rentalhomes to learn more and apply. The HRA also partners with Project for Pride in Living to provide homeownership and Homestretch courses. Learn more at blm.mn/journey. “There is a specific focus on closing the racial disparity gap in homeownership in Bloomington, at last reporting the Bloomington gap between households of color and white households is worse than the state and national averages,” Assistant HRA Administrator Anna Salvador said.

HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL LOAN PROGRAM

Housing and Environmental Loan Program (HELP) provides Bloomington owner-occupied households the ability to access forgivable loan funds to be used for emergency repairs without completing a full-scale rehabilitation project and signing a long-term repayment agreement. Visit blm.mn/loans for requirements and more information.

HOME IMPROVEMENT LOANS

The Home Improvement Loan program provides Bloomington owner-occupied households the ability to access funds to maintain, repair and improve their homes. Loans are available in amounts up to \$60,000, including accessibility improvements and eligible home repairs that address health or safety requirements including electrical, heating, plumbing, energy efficiency and exterior improvements completed by licensed contractors. Homeowners do not have to repay the loan until they sell or transfer title, or until the property is no longer their principal place of residence. Learn more at blm.mn/loans.



NEW MULTIFAMILY HOUSING AND THE OPPORTUNITY HOUSING ORDINANCE

In 2019 the City Council approved the Opportunity Housing Ordinance focused on providing new affordable housing and preserving existing affordable housing in Bloomington. There are 516 units currently under construction and 935 units in the development pipeline. Nearly 600 of the units in the development pipeline are expected to start construction in 2024. Out of the 516 units currently under construction, 89 are affordable. Three hundred and forty-seven of the 935 units in the pipeline are affordable. Take a look at some developments now under construction or soon to begin construction.

OXBORO HEIGHTS

Oxboro Heights is a \$38.1 million apartment development at 600 W. 93rd St. It will provide nine units affordable to households earning 30% of the Area Median Income (AMI) or less, 23 units affordable at 50% AMI, and 43 units affordable at 60% AMI. The remaining 50 units of the 125-unit development will be affordable at 70% AMI. Construction is likely to be complete in April.

NOBLE APARTMENTS

Noble Apartments is a \$43.7 million mixed-income development, at 8200 Humboldt Ave. S. Of the 149 units, 14 will be affordable to households earning 50% of the area median income or less and 135 units will have market rate rents. The development has started pre-leasing and the building is expected to open in March.

700 AMERICAN BOULEVARD

700 American Boulevard is a \$40.2 million housing development for residents 55 years of age and older. This development will feature at least 104 units affordable at 50% AMI and 16 units affordable at 60% AMI. The HRA is also looking to support eight units that are affordable at 30% AMI through the assistance of project-based vouchers from the Housing Choice Voucher program. Construction may begin mid-2024.

DID YOU KNOW?

Through the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) programs, services and coordination are offered to meet the needs of residents along the housing continuum. This includes people experiencing homelessness, housing stability, housing creation and housing preservation. The HRA achieves this through federal funding from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, state funding from Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, regional funding, on a per project basis, from the Metropolitan Council and local funding through Hennepin County HRA Tax levy. The Bloomington Affordable Homeownership program is funded through Minnesota Housing Finance Agency.

ATTEND THE BLOOMINGTON HOME FAIR

Check out the Bloomington Home Fair Saturday, April 20, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., at Valley View Middle School, 8900 Portland Ave. The event will connect the community with housing resources, promote homeownership and financial wellness, connect potential homebuyers with industry professionals and create a space for community engagement. The fair is committed to creating an inclusive and welcoming environment for all attendees, whether they are a first-time homebuyer, a renter looking to transition into homeownership or simply interested in resources to promote financial wellness. Visit blm.mn/homefair for more information.



BLOOMINGTON
• HOME •
FAIR



NEW HRA PROGRAM TO REDUCE BARRIERS TO HOMEOWNERSHIP

Last December, the Minnesota Housing Board of Directors granted the Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority \$3,199,500 to build 27 new single-family homes. This effort is part of the HRA's new Bloomington Affordable Homeownership program.

The program will serve households at or below 80% of the area median income by providing a \$118,500 gap subsidy to lower the cost of each of the 27 homes. It will also preserve long-term affordability with deed restrictions for owner occupancy and resale restriction for a minimum of 15 years.

"This is the first program of its kind for the HRA. Housing is a primary wealth-building tool. Through this program, the HRA hopes to lower the cost barrier for homebuyers and create and preserve affordable housing," HRA Administrator Aarica Coleman said.

All 27 homes built through the Bloomington Affordable Homeownership program will also provide opportunities to small and emerging developers that have been historically underused and/or underrepresented for the development and construction of the homes. Learn more at blm.mn/bah.

A BRUSH WITH KINDNESS

Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity's A Brush with Kindness program offers weatherization assistance, energy-efficiency upgrades, resources for aging homeowners and more in the seven-county metro area. The program is also accepting applications to help homeowners address critical tree care needs, including trees affected by Emerald Ash Borer, for a limited time. Learn more at home.tchabitat.org/home-repair.

HOME ENERGY SQUAD

The City partners with the Center for Energy and Environment to help residents save energy and money on utility bills through Home Energy Squad Enhanced visits. The City buys down the cost of the visit to \$50 for residents. Visit blm.mn/hes for more information.



INTERESTED IN CARDS? CREEKSIDE'S GOT GAME!

Do you enjoy playing cards but need a partner or want to play with a group? Creekside Community Center offers multiple card groups throughout the week. Adults age 50+ are invited to:

- Duplicate Bridge, Mondays, 12:15 p.m.
- Club 500, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 12:30 p.m.
- Cribbage, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 12:30 p.m.
- Euchre, Wednesdays, 9 a.m.
- Hand and Foot Canasta, Mondays, 12:15 p.m.
- Hearts, Fridays, 9 a.m.
- Pinochle, Mondays, 12:30 p.m.

If you need a refresher on how to play cribbage, euchre, hearts or pinochle, lessons are held Tuesdays, 12:30 p.m.

Lessons and games take place at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Ave. S. If you have questions, call 952-563-4944 or visit Creekside@BloomingtonMN.gov.

NEED FEE ASSISTANCE TO JOIN PARKS AND REC OPPORTUNITIES?

Bloomington Parks and Recreation provides high-quality, low-cost recreation programs and services in Bloomington that benefit physical, mental, social and emotional health.

Fee assistance is available to people who live in Bloomington and can show a financial need to receive fee assistance for eligible programs and services.

"The goal of fee assistance is to provide opportunities for all families to participate in our programs and services regardless of income status," said Recreation Supervisor Jenna Smith.

For more information or to apply, visit blm.mn/fee-assist. You must be approved prior to registering to be eligible for fee assistance and reapply each year.

Once approved, each person in the account receives credit. Children under 18 years of age receive a \$200 credit. Adults 18 years of age and older receive a \$35 credit. The credits are valid for the calendar year.



LOTTERY ENROLLMENT OPENING FOR POPULAR PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

To increase equity of access and improve ease of registration for Summer Adventure Playgrounds and Camp Kota programs, Parks and Recreation offers a lottery enrollment system.

The lottery operates online via the WebTrac system and selects participants for enrollment through a random assignment process called the lottery spin. The lottery system has a new feature this year called "Linked Lottery Enrollment" which enables families to choose to enroll kids in the same household together rather than as separate enrollments.

"Using the lottery enrollment system increases access and fairness, so everyone has an equal chance of getting a spot in a program," said Recreation Supervisor Jenna Smith.

Lottery registration opens March 27, 9 a.m., and closes April 3, 4 p.m. The lottery drawing will be announced April 4 by 12 p.m. All lottery enrollments will be notified via email on the day of the drawing. Those selected in the lottery will have one week to complete payment to finalize program registration.

CALLING THEATER ENTHUSIASTS: USHERS NEEDED

The Bloomington Center for the Arts is seeking volunteers to support arts in our community. Volunteer ushers are needed to welcome and assist audience members attending performances.

Not only do ushers play a vital role ensuring guests have a safe and enjoyable experience, they also have the opportunity to build their volunteer resumé and enjoy free admission to events. Is it your time to enter the theater? For more information and to complete the volunteer application, visit blm.mn/ushers.



HELP BUILD BLOOMINGTON'S URBAN FOREST, PLANT A TREE

With all the stresses on our urban trees, it takes a village to maintain a healthy forest.

You can help by ordering a tree for your yard through the City's annual Arbor Day tree sale. Bloomington residents can pre-purchase affordable bare-root trees to be delivered during the first week of May.

Now in its 17th year, this effort has added more than 3,000 trees to Bloomington's urban forest and helps Bloomington maintain its Tree City USA designation.

To place a tree order, visit blm.mn/treesale, mail in the order form below or call 952-563-8760. There is a limit of five trees per household.

Find more information on the trees and how to plant them at blm.mn/forestry.

ARBOR DAY TREE SALE ORDER FORM

Bloomington residents only. Trees are bare-root and approximately one inch in diameter. Spruces are in five-gallon pots. They cost \$50 each. Trees are viable at the time of sale. No refunds will be issued. *All trees on this form are native to Minnesota.*

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Email (needed to arrange deliveries) _____

Fill in number of each tree type desired. First come, first served. Maximum five trees total per household, \$50 each. Check must accompany order.

____ Northwood Red maple ____ Black Hills spruce ____ American Linden ____ Honeylocust
 ____ River birch ____ Serviceberry ____ Snowdrift crab apple ____ Prairie Fire crab apple

Total trees _____ **X \$50 ea. =** _____ **Total cost** _____

Trees will be delivered to the address listed on the order form in the first week of May. Send a check and this form to Bloomington Park Maintenance, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3027.





MEET A BLOOMINGTON FIREFIGHTER

NAME:
MATT NOLL
STATION:
FIRE STATION 1

Matt Noll has been a full-time firefighter paramedic with the City of Bloomington since July 2023. He came to the position with fire science and paramedic associate degrees as well as certifications as an emergency medical technician, paramedic, firefighter II, fire apparatus operator and instructor II. He has completed officer II certification since arriving.

“I was a fire explorer in high school,” Noll said. “I have always wanted to be a firefighter. No day is the same and every day brings a new challenge.”

How much Noll cares shines through as he strives to understand people and be better at his work. And he knows he could not do it alone.

“My family is very supportive, especially my wife, Hannah, and my sons, Connor and Brayden,” Noll said. “They are extremely understanding and adaptive to my schedule and the needs of the job.”

Off-duty, Noll loves being a dad and being active with his family. He also enjoys golf and hockey.

NOLL'S SAFETY ADVICE

It only takes a little effort to be fire safe, but it takes a lot of effort to recover from a fire. So, I encourage people to use the abundant resources to help them become fire safe. A great place to start is blm.mn/prevention.



Bloomington Police Chief Booker Hodges, left, and Bloomington Fire Chief Ulie Seal, right, at last year's game.

YOU'RE INVITED! POLICE VS. FIRE IN HOCKEY MATCH

Bloomington Police are taking on Bloomington Fire in a friendly hockey match at the Bloomington Ice Garden. Bloomington Fire took home the victory in 2023, but can they stand the heat and defend their title? This is a free event and families and kids are welcome.

The public safety departments are working with Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People (VEAP) to collect essential items for their food pantry from the people attending the game. Reserve Officers and staff will be ready to accept your kind donations and deliver them to VEAP.

Come and support your community and have some fun on Sunday, March 10, 5-7 p.m., Bloomington Ice Garden, 3600 W. 98th St.



BLOOMINGTON WIC PROVIDES ACCESS TO GOOD NUTRITION

March is National Nutrition Month, but Bloomington Public Health (BPH) supports the goals of Nutrition Month year-round by helping low-income pregnant people and new parents access nutritious food through the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Supplemental Nutrition program. BPH provided services to 3,155 WIC participants in 2023.

“We love WIC,” said one client. “We get \$50 for fruits and vegetables and other healthy stuff! People at the store tell me that my WIC grocery cart is the healthiest they’ve ever seen. You are doing good work.”

WIC staff provides more than food benefits. They go beyond the table to help families with nutrition education, tools to make healthy food choices and breast/chestfeeding information and counseling.

Residents can call the Public Health WIC program at 952-563-8993 to learn more or to apply. You do not need to be a U.S. citizen.



AT YOUR SERVICE: MIKE KALIS, ASSISTANT MAINTENANCE SUPERINTENDENT

Longtime Bloomington Public Works employee Mike Kalis was promoted to assistant maintenance superintendent last year and is part of the team that keeps the city's storm sewers, streets, sidewalk trails, and traffic maintenance in good shape. He also communicates what is happening with staff, stakeholders and the community.

Having been with the City for 21 years, Kalis has done all of the work that he now helps plan and oversee. He also understands the work's seasonal nature.

“In winter there's a lot of snow plowing and some tree trimming,” Kalis shared. “Spring and autumn are street sweeping and street patching—a never-ending task in Minnesota's freeze-and-thaw weather. Summer is construction projects identified in the Pavement Management Program, seal coating and storm sewer projects.

“I enjoy the people and all the new technology that allows us to keep the city's infrastructure in great shape for our residents.” Kalis concluded.



GET TO KNOW YOUR OPTIONS FOR DISPOSING OF LARGE ITEMS

Last year, the City debuted a new program for monthly reusable and recyclable bulky item pickup. The goal of the new program is to reuse and recycle more, and put less in the landfill. This monthly service is a great way to dispose of bulky items that can be recycled or are in good enough condition to be reused. To learn more about this service, see the column on the left. Another option for disposing of bulky items is Curbside Cleanup, which now takes place every other year on even years. Curbside Cleanup will be held this spring. Items picked up during Curbside Cleanup go to the landfill. Read this page to learn more about two of your options for disposing of bulky items.

CURBSIDE CLEANUP STARTS IN APRIL

This year, Curbside Cleanup will take place between April and May. After that, the next Curbside Cleanup will take place in 2026. To prepare for your Curbside Cleanup day, set your materials at the curb before 7 a.m. Be ready—collection trucks pass by one time only.

Large appliances and brush are collected for recycling in separate trucks and any remaining items are collected and disposed of in a landfill. Please consider only setting out items that can't be reused or recycled elsewhere. The Curbside Cleanup program is available to residents in the City's garbage and recycling program and certain townhomes and apartments that have opted into, and pay for, Curbside Cleanup services.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For questions about Curbside Cleanup, visit blm.mn/curbside or call 952-563-8760. To find tips about how to dispose of items not accepted at the curb, check out the Hennepin County Green Disposal Guide at blm.mn/green-dispose or call 612-348-3777.

2024 CURBSIDE CLEANUP SCHEDULE

- West of Normandale (Friday hauling district) April 6
- Normandale to France (Thursday hauling district) April 13
- France to Penn (Wednesday hauling district) April 20
- Penn to Portland (Tuesday hauling district) April 27
- East of Portland (Monday hauling district) May 4

MONTHLY BULKY ITEM PICKUP FOR REUSE AND RECYCLING

The City is partnering with Better Futures Minnesota to collect certain bulky reusable and recyclable items at the curb to reduce the number of these items that end up going to a landfill. Households with City garbage and recycling service can schedule a monthly pick up of reusable and recyclable items. The pickup weeks are identified with a blue outline on the 2024 garbage and recycling calendar at blm.mn/2024garbage.

HOW TO SCHEDULE A PICKUP

Pickup must be scheduled by 4 p.m., at least two business days ahead of your regular monthly pickup day. You can schedule by phone at 612-353-5400, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., or online at betterfuturesminnesota.com/curbside-collections. There is no extra cost for these items to be picked up. Service is included in the monthly Bulky Item Management fee on your utility bill.



WHAT'S ACCEPTED?

Reusable or recyclable large- and medium-sized items like mattresses, box springs, large appliances, furniture, bicycles and more are accepted. Items that do not follow acceptability guidelines will not be picked up and it will be the resident's responsibility to dispose of those items. To learn more and see the full list of accepted items with quantity limits, visit blm.mn/bulkies.

WHAT IS ACCEPTED AT THE CURB



Appliances: Limit of two. Water heaters and softeners, microwaves, washers, dryers, stoves, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, freezers, dishwashers, trash compactors, garbage disposals, water coolers, refrigerators (remove door or tie securely shut). Do not set out until the morning of your pickup date.

Unusable furniture: Limit of two items. Tie down or disassemble hide-a-way sofa beds so they cannot open when handled.

Mattresses or box springs: Limit of two items.

Other bulky items: Limit of four "other" items. This includes any other bulky item not listed in categories above that cannot fit in a small garbage cart, including:

- Doors, windows, screens, cabinets.
- Large metal items like bikes, grills, lawn mowers, snow blowers, swing sets, treadmills; drain all fluids and remove tires.
- Carpet and pads: Roll and securely tie with twine. Keep under five feet in length and one foot in diameter.
- Garden furniture and décor that cannot fit in a small garbage cart.
- Home décor items like mirrors, lamps.
- Children's items like toys, sporting goods, car seats, strollers and furniture that **cannot fit in a small garbage cart.**

Household building materials: Pile size is limited to what fits in one level, standard-size pickup truck bed. Includes building materials such as flooring, drywall, sheetrock, siding and untreated lumber. Lumber must be stacked and no longer than five feet.

Bundled brush: Branches must be smaller than three inches in diameter and three feet in length, tied with twine and put in bundles that should be light enough for one person to carry. Bundled brush piles must be no more than what can fit in a standard pickup truck bed.

WHAT IS NOT ACCEPTED AT THE CURB



No tires or batteries.

No tubs, sinks or toilets.

No extra heavy or bulky items: Pianos or organs, etc.

No electronic items: Cell phones, computers, stereos, printers and TVs.

No hazardous waste: Fluorescent tubes, motor oil, paint, propane, solvents and other household chemicals. Take these items to the South Hennepin Recycling and Problem Waste Drop-Off Center, 1400 W. 96th St.

None of the following building items: Contractor materials, bricks, concrete, railroad ties, shingles (asbestos) or treated wood.

No organic materials: Food waste, grass clippings, leaves, logs, sod and stumps.

No loose cardboard: Extra cardboard that can't fit in your recycling cart can be bundled and placed next to your recycling cart for pick-up.

No recyclable materials: Boxboard, cans, newspapers and plastic bottles.

NEW! No small items that can fit in a small garbage cart: These items should be disposed of throughout the year in the regular garbage that is processed at a waste-to-energy facility instead of landfilled during curbside cleanup.

This includes:

- Clothing, textiles, linens, bedding and pillows.
- Broken toys.
- Books and other entertainment.
- Other home and garden décor that can fit in a large garbage cart.

No small appliances like radios, clocks, coffee makers, and hair dryers.

No small metal items. Take smaller items to the South Hennepin Recycling and Problem Waste Drop-Off Center, 1400 W. 96th St.