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BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING

JANUARY 2025

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BRIEFING

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MAYOR'S MEMO HONORING CORAL HOULE'S LEGACY OF COMMUNITY BUILDING AND SERVICE

By Mayor Tim Busse

Former mayor Coral Houle has a storied legacy of community service in Bloomington and beyond. She passed away at the age of 87 at the end of October. Coral served as Bloomington's mayor from 1995-1999. Building community was a lifelong focus for Coral who joined the Bloomington Human Rights Commission in 1972, followed by terms on the Planning Commission, Housing and Redevelopment Authority, Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and Bloomington Development Council. In 1990, Coral was appointed to fill a vacant City Council seat. She served for five years as a council member, then another five as mayor.

Coral was a trailblazer in being the first woman to serve as mayor of Bloomington and she made a lasting impact on the community that we enjoy today.

During her term as mayor, Mall of America opened, the City achieved the highest possible upgrades to the City's bond ratings, several Ring Route (American Boulevard) segments of road were constructed, the interchange at I-494 and Highway

169 was completed, and the South Loop area (then known as Airport South) saw further growth.

Houle was quoted saying that she believed her greatest contribution to the city was developing a sense of community in Bloomington. She was also an advocate for transparency in government. As a result, communications between City Hall and the public were improved during her tenure. In the 1990s, she suggested publishing the Briefing quarterly, an increase from its previous infrequent publishing schedule. This is a move former City Manager Mark Bernhardson says was indicative of Coral's leadership.

"Mayor Houle provided strong, key leadership in that quiet but very effective manner she exhibited during her decades of service," Bernhardson said. "Desiring to achieve consensus, she made the tough choices when needed for the betterment of the community. Her service as mayor laid the foundations for Bloomington that continue to grow and prosper today."

You can watch a retrospective of Coral's dedication to public service on the City's YouTube channel at blm.mn/coral.

JOIN US FOR THE CITYWIDE CIVICS BEE CHAMPIONSHIP!

Bloomington middle school students will showcase their civic knowledge in a spirited competition moderated by Mayor Tim Busse on Tuesday, February 4, 6:30 p.m. in the Civic Plaza Council Chambers, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road. This event is hosted in partnership with the League of Women Voters Bloomington, Bloomington Public Schools and the City's Community Outreach and Engagement Division.



2024 Civics Bee participants with Mayor Tim Busse.

2024 ELECTION SUMMARY RESIDENTS VOTE TO CONTINUE RANKED-CHOICE VOTING

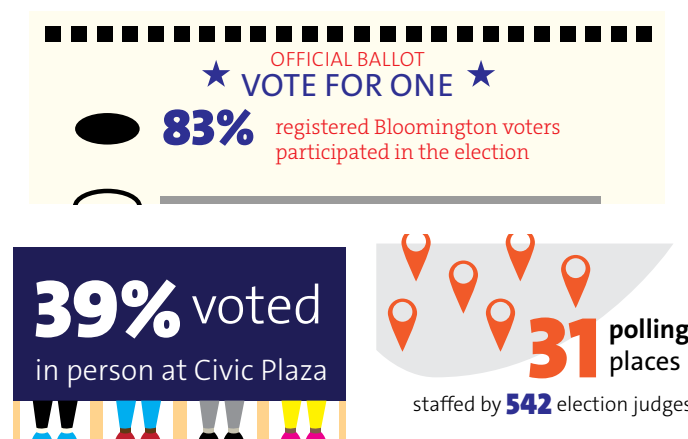
Bloomington voters chose to retain the City's ranked-choice voting system by rejecting a city charter amendment to repeal it by 51.3% to 48.7%. This marks the second time in four years that voters have selected to continue the ranked-choice voting system for municipal elections.

A petition for a charter amendment to repeal ranked-choice voting in Bloomington was accepted by the City Council and approved ballot language for the charter amendment appeared on the 2024 ballot.

Before adopting ranked-choice voting in 2020, Bloomington held a city primary in August whenever there were more than two candidates on the ballot.

City Clerk Jamy Hanson shared, "A heartfelt thanks to all the election judges and volunteers who worked tirelessly to ensure a smooth and fair election process. Their dedication made it possible for every resident to have their voice heard."

2024 ELECTION STATS ★★★★★★





WHAT'S DEVELOPING

Two major car dealerships are making investments in the community.

Bloomington Walser Toyota celebrated the completion of a new building in fall 2024. For nearly 25 years, Walser Toyota has been in Bloomington on American Boulevard. In June, Walser moved 175 corporate employees from Edina to the expanded Bloomington location, which is a combined dealership and office building. The approximately 122,000-square-foot space is now home to a total of 340 employees and more than 1,000 motor vehicle inventory parking spaces within the four-level parking structure. The project represents the City's efforts

to encourage motor vehicle sales facilities and sites to increase density and vertical form construction.

Luther Kia Bloomington in the Penn-American District at Knox Avenue and American Boulevard West received City approval to replace its existing buildings and construct a new 59,000-square-foot dealership. The new dealership will be one story and include a showroom, offices, service and repair and car wash. The existing dealership building will remain open during construction. As part of the development, Luther Kia plans to update the streetscape with plantings, bench seating and pergolas along Knox Avenue.



REAL ID DEADLINE APPROACHING

The deadline to get a REAL ID-compliant license is May 7. When the deadline hits, Minnesotans and the rest of U.S. travelers will need a REAL ID or a federal passport to fly within the U.S.

The Department of Vehicle Services recommends people get their REAL ID or passport as soon as possible to avoid the potential of long wait times closer to the deadline. To get a REAL ID, you need a few specific documents to prove your identity. For a full list of acceptable identification documents, visit blm.mn/real-id-docs.

Did you know a passport card counts as REAL ID? The City has added additional passport appointments to accommodate residents who prefer a passport card which is valid for 10 years for anyone over the age of 16. To make a passport appointment, visit blm.mn/passports.

CEO START: LAUNCH YOUR BUSINESS

Ready to advance your business idea? The City of Bloomington and Hennepin County are hosting a second CEO Start cohort March 11-May 20 in which entrepreneurs learn business fundamentals.

The first cohort of 12 participants completed the 10-week, 10-session program in April, when they pitched their business venture to an audience and connected directly with those interested in their business.

A second CEO Start cohort begins March 11. If you are ready to gain deeper understanding of your venture and practice articulating your business or business idea, apply online at blm.mn/ceo. Applications will be open January 7-February 4.

SITE AND FACADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM OFFERS FACELIFTS FOR BUSINESSES

Atttractive neighborhood businesses are essential to boosting the local economy and enhancing the vitality of the community. To encourage revitalization, the City offers grants to businesses to improve their building facade, signage, sidewalks, patios, lighting, landscaping, murals and more.

The improvement grants cover 50% of total project costs between \$10,000-\$50,000. Grant funds must be matched one-on-one with private funds. Applications are reviewed and processed on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are exhausted. Preference is given to businesses within targeted commercial areas such as American and Portland, 98th and Nicollet, Old Cedar and Old Shakopee, Countryside Center, 90th and Penn, American and Nicollet, Central Lyndale and Amsden Ridge Center.

For eligibility details or to apply, visit blm.mn/site-facade.

SMALL BUSINESS CODES AND PROCESSES

Do you operate a business in Bloomington? The City invites you to share your experience. Your feedback will help the City better understand business needs related to codes, ordinances and review processes. Survey responses will be used by the City to better understand business owner satisfaction with the permitting, approval and inspection processes in Bloomington. Responses may also help inform City leaders about potential policy or ordinance updates in the future.

To participate, visit blm.mn/business/process.

HATCH WINNER HOPES TO OPEN LOCATION IN MARCH

At the end of August 2024, Scramblin' Egg was named the winner of the first Hatch Bloomington competition, a retail pitch competition that gave ambitious Bloomington entrepreneurs the opportunity to win a \$100,000 financial assistance award, significant exposure and a robust business network.

Since then, Scramblin' Egg has been busy working with the Minneapolis Regional Chamber to develop a plan and lay the groundwork for their transition from a food truck into a brick-and-mortar space in Bloomington.

After finishing their food truck season in November, the Scramblin' Egg team became even busier renovating their new space and developing new additions to their menu, such as hashbrowns and perhaps a biscuit bowl. They hope to open for business in March.

"Everything has taken a little longer than expected," said owner Grant Veitenheimer. "It's all so new to us. We are grateful for all the support and everyone's patience as we make this transition."

For the most up-to-date information on Scramblin' Egg's permanent location and updated menu, visit scramblinegg.com.



Left to right: Scramblin' Egg owners Greg Veitenheimer and Nick Peterson.



LET'S GET SOCIAL

Stay connected with your community through the City's social media! From safety updates to engaging content, our channels keep you informed and involved.

In a recent Instagram post, the City put its own spin on a popular trend with the help of a furry friend to emphasize the importance of pet adoption.

For the latest, be sure to follow us on Instagram (@bloomington_mn). Visit blm.mn/social for a full list of the City's social media accounts.



LEARN TO MANAGE ENERGY COSTS AT ENERGY RESOURCE FAIRS

Join the City for “Power Up Your Savings,” energy resource fairs that offer valuable resources to help you manage energy costs.

Meet representatives from Citizens Utility Board of Minnesota, Community Action Partnership of Hennepin County and the City of Bloomington who are dedicated to helping you save money and reduce energy usage.

Complimentary snacks, including energy bars, will be available to keep you fueled as you learn how to navigate your energy bills, apply for energy assistance and implement smart energy saving tips for your home.

Upcoming energy resource fairs will be held at the Penn Lake Library, 8800 Penn Ave. S., on Wednesdays, January 29 and February 19, 2-4 p.m.

For more information, visit blm.mn/PowerUpSavings.



ARE YOU UP FOR THE PLASTIC-FREE CHALLENGE?

The Plastic-Free Challenge is back this February. Teams are invited to join the City of Bloomington to reduce plastic use in daily life and help spread community awareness about the problems plastic creates.

The Plastic-Free Challenge starts February 1 aims to reduce plastic consumption, especially single-use plastics, in ways that fit best with your lifestyle and have the most impact on reducing your footprint.

Sign up now. Once you have created your profile, you can browse categories and actions, check off actions you already take, and select up to five one-time actions and five daily actions to work on during the four-week challenge.

Throughout the month, you will report the actions you take, see your impact add up, connect with others and support your team members to keep them motivated and accountable. Learn more at tclasticfree.ecochallenge.org.

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The 1.2 miles of skylights in MOA help to maintain its 65-to-70-degree temperature range without a central heating system.

EARTH ACTION HERO: THE GREEN MALL OF AMERICA

Since the 5.6-million-square-foot Mall of America opened in 1992, it has focused on sustainability. One of the most surprising features is that MOA doesn't use central heating. To maintain its 65-to-70-degree temperature range, MOA uses what's available—body heat from the 32 million annual visitors, light fixture heat and eight acres, a total of 1.2 miles of skylights.

Space was planned for heaters when MOA was built before the architects and engineers quickly realized central heating was not necessary. Having no central heating system saves a lot of energy, even with some heaters in some department stores

and near the entrances. The space reserved for central heating infrastructure was used for the Sea Life Aquarium.

“We did not have plans for an aquarium in the beginning,” said Dan Jasper, senior vice president of MOA Press. “The sustainable effort that eliminated central heating also led to this amazing guest experience.”

An added bonus: The more than 30,000 plants and 300 live trees act as natural air purifiers.

“I think people sometimes think that green can't be business friendly,” Jasper added. “But if you save energy, you save money that can go to creating more exciting things for visitors.”

NO CURBSIDE CLEANUP IN 2025

Curbside Cleanup is now held every other year, on even years only. As such, there will be no Curbside Cleanup in 2025. The next Curbside Cleanup will be in 2026.

BETTER FUTURES' MONTHLY BULKY ITEM PICKUP PROGRAM

The City partners with Better Futures to provide monthly collection of reusable and recyclable bulky items. You can schedule a pickup, and items will be collected during the first full week of each month. Learn more about what is accepted and how to schedule a pickup at blm.mn/bulkies.





Left to right: Former City Manager Jamie Verbrugge, Police Chief Booker Hodges, BCBHS Therapists Luke Campbell and Janet Yeats, and Deputy Chief of Patrol and Special Operations Damon Bitney.

NEW BRAIN HEALTH PILOT PROGRAM HAS A SUCCESSFUL FIRST YEAR

BLOOMINGTON POLICE ACCEPT A REGIONAL LEADERS AND INNOVATORS AWARD FROM THE MINNEAPOLIS REGIONAL CHAMBER

Since its launch in 2023 by the Bloomington Police Department in collaboration with Bloomington Public Health, the Bloomington Community Brain Health Services (BCBHS) program has been on a mission to serve Bloomington residents who are in crisis and post-crisis.

During a crisis, BCBHS arranges for immediate care such as appropriate emergency medical care (transport) and referrals to Hennepin County social workers. Then, as an extension of the BPD's crisis response model, BCBHS follows up with post-crisis stabilization through immediate access to mental health treatment services at no cost. BCBHS therapy services are provided by two full-time therapists and interns completing their graduate degrees in mental health. Interns are supervised by the two licensed therapists on staff.

To date, the program has served approximately 20 individuals and families, and more than 40 referrals have continued with mental health treatment. More than 130 therapy sessions have been completed by clients ranging from eight to 90 years of age, with the average age of 30 years old.

"We are very pleased with the success of the program," said Therapist Janet Yeats. "Its success has been measured by the number of individuals and families the program has served and the outpouring of support and interest. Community engagement has far surpassed our expectations and instilled significant hope for the future of this program."

For more information about this groundbreaking program, which was recognized in fall 2024 with a Regional Leaders and Innovators Award from the Minneapolis Regional Chamber, contact BCBHS Therapist Luke Campbell at 952-563-8671 or lcampbell@BloomingtonMN.gov.

BLOOM IN BLOOMINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAM GEARS UP FOR YEAR THREE

The City of Bloomington is preparing to launch its third year of Bloom in Bloomington, the City's youth workforce development program. Bloom in Bloomington matches young people ages 16-24 with paid summer internship experiences at employers across Bloomington. The program aims to provide young people with opportunities to explore career paths from a wide variety of employers, build valuable work experience, and develop leadership skills.

More information and applications for the program can be found at blm.mn/bloom. Young people interested in the program can apply now through March 14.

Employers interested in hosting an intern can contact Port Authority Administrator Holly Masek at hmasek@BloomingtonMN.gov.

MEET THE PUBLIC HEALTH DIETITIAN: MELANIE HALLAL

Lifelong Bloomington resident Melanie Hallal has worked for the City since graduating from college 13 years ago. As a registered dietitian with a bachelor of science degree in dietetics, Hallal is grateful to be able to work and make an impact in the community she grew up in.

"My ultimate goal is for families I meet with to leave feeling proud, inspired and encouraged," Hallal said.

Hallal is married to Dana, and together their family includes four children: Bode, Benjamin, Blake and Ava, and a German Shepherd husky mix named Jasmine. When she is not serving clients, Hallal enjoys adventures with her family, watching her children play hockey and soccer, dancing, cooking and staying active.

Hallal's health advice: Simple changes and healthy habits lead to big health impacts over time!



UNDERSTANDING SPEED LIMIT CHANGES

In summer 2024, the City of Bloomington reduced speed limits on local streets from 30 to 25 miles per hour unless otherwise posted.

Prior to 2019, the Department of Transportation established speed limits on all roadways in Minnesota. Since then, the State Legislature has granted cities the authority to change speed limits on roads under their jurisdiction.

You may wonder why the City does not keep speed limits the same on all roads. There are many considerations for speed limits including:

- Hennepin County determines the speed limits for some Bloomington roads.
- The role that a road serves in the transportation system.
- The risks for all users (including pedestrians and bicyclists).
- Maintaining good mobility and efficiency for the community.

Be sure to watch for new speed limit signs.



DID YOU KNOW? THE CITY OFFERS A SAFE SWAP SPOT

A Safe Swap Spot is a designated public location for residents to conduct transactions. Transactions may include online purchases, child custody exchanges or transactions where meeting in a public location will help improve personal safety.

One Safe Swap Spot is in the Civic Plaza parking lot at 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road near the Police Department entrance (parking spots closest to Logan Avenue). This area is always available for exchanges and is identified by a Safe Swap Spot sign. Exchanges can also be made in the Police Department lobby, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

While security camera monitoring is in place, an officer does not monitor exchanges or facilitate transactions.

To see other meet-up locations in the area, visit safetradespots.com. For swap meeting tips, visit blm.mn/safeswap.



GET A JOB WITH BLOOMINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION THIS SUMMER

Parks and Recreation will soon be posting summer job openings. A variety of positions will be available, including facility attendants and leads, lifeguards, youth and inclusion program coordinators, counselors, golf services, Zamboni drivers and more.

Most positions are open to individuals aged 16 and older. Volunteer opportunities will also be available for individuals aged 13 and older or those entering eighth grade or above.

For updates or to apply once the listings are available, please visit blm.mn/prjobs.



CONSTRUCTION MOVING AHEAD AT BRYANT PARK

Construction for the reimagined Bryant Park, 1001 W. 85th St., began with a groundbreaking in August 2024 and is now well underway. Much of the earthwork (broadband lines, etc.) has been completed and construction fencing and materials now line the park.

The former park shelter building and playground have been removed and work continues on sanitary sewer and water lines. Over the winter, crews will be building the new park shelter and dredging the pond to improve water quality.

As guided by Bloomington's Park System Master Plan, future steps include the installation of a fully inclusive playground, the first of its kind in Bloomington.

The new park is expected to be completed by fall 2025. For more details, visit blm.mn/park-improvements.

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CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES IN BLOOMINGTON: CALL FOR PUBLIC ARTISTS

The City's Creative Placemaking team invites experienced public artists to apply for three upcoming projects designed to enhance Bloomington's public spaces. The following opportunities are, or will soon be, open for submissions:

SCULPTURE AT POND DAKOTA MISSION PARK

Artists with knowledge of and connection to Dakota culture and history are encouraged to apply to design and install a sculpture celebrating Dakota heritage. This piece will honor indigenous culture and enrich the landscape at Pond Dakota Mission Park, reflecting the values and traditions of the Dakota people.

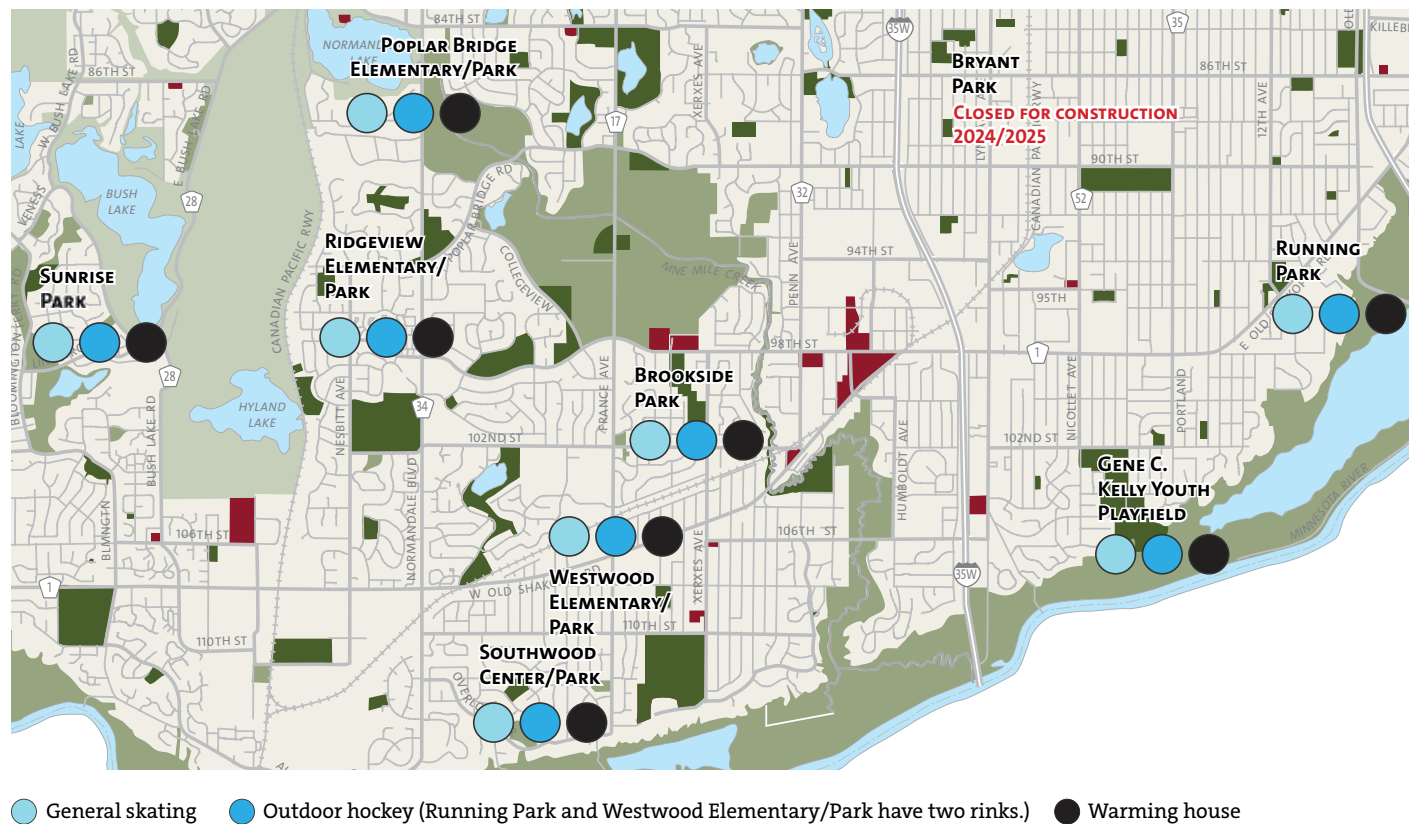
ARTBOX PROJECTS IN THE SOUTH LOOP DISTRICT

Artists are invited to apply for the 2025 ARTBOX Projects, an initiative to transform utility boxes in the South Loop into public art. Selected artists will design and paint two individual boxes, while a cluster of boxes at one location will feature two painted and four vinyl-wrapped boxes. This project aims to celebrate Bloomington's character and enhance the South Loop District, which is identified as south of I-494 and east of TH77.

MURAL FOR BLOOMINGTON ICE GARDEN

Artists are invited to design a mural for the Bloomington Ice Garden's vestibule, as part of its renovation. This mural will reflect the history of BIG and its role in the community. The final design will be printed and installed by an external vendor, made possible in part by an anonymous donation.

For more details and submission deadlines, visit blm.mn/placemaking, email placemaking@BloomingtonMN.gov or call 952-563-8744.



2025 OUTDOOR SKATING RINKS AND WARMING HOUSES

Bundle up and hit the ice this season at one of Bloomington's outdoor rinks, where you can enjoy classic winter skating fun. Rinks are scheduled to remain open until February 21, weather and ice conditions permitting. Rink lighting will operate from 4:30-10 p.m. daily.

Due to ongoing construction, the Bryant Park rink will be closed for the 2024-2025 season.

Warming houses are open during the following hours, pending staff availability:

- Monday – Thursday, 4 p.m.-8 p.m.
- Friday, 4-9 p.m.
- Saturday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
- Sunday, 12-8 p.m.

Warming houses will be closed December 24 and 25. For more information, visit blm.mn/rinks. For updated ice conditions, call 952-563-8878, option 3.



MOVING BLOOMINGTON FORWARD

In November 2023, Bloomington voters approved a new half-percent sales tax to provide \$155 million for the enhancement and protection of the Nine Mile Creek corridor and Moir and Central parks, the construction of a new community health and wellness center and renovations to the Bloomington Ice Garden. Here's the latest.

WORK STARTS ON BLOOMINGTON ICE GARDEN

The Bloomington Ice Garden renovation began in November. Upgrades include reconfiguring Rink 3 to NHL size, improvements to ticketing, security, locker rooms, restrooms, concessions and offices, as well as mechanical, roofing and ADA accessibility upgrades. High school locker rooms, an indoor training area and a mural in the vestibule will also be added.

No interruptions to BIG operations are expected as a result of the renovation until mid-March 2025 when the facility is expected to close for construction through fall 2025. For more information, visit bloomingtonforward.org/big.

NINE MILE CREEK CORRIDOR AND MOIR/CENTRAL PARK RENEWAL

The Nine Mile project team was busy offering public engagement events over the summer and into fall. You can see the concept plans for the project at bloomingtonforward.org/9mile. The City received a Regional Leaders and Innovators Award for this project from the Minneapolis Regional Chamber in October in the sustainability category for the planned restoration of Nine Mile Creek and prairie areas.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER: DRAFT DESIGN AVAILABLE TO REVIEW NEXT MONTH

HGA Architects and City staff are in the process of creating a draft design of the new community health and wellness center. The public is invited to review and comment on the draft design on Saturday, February 8, at the Indoor Market at Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road. Learn more at bloomingtonforward.org/chwc.

CONTINUING TO MEET THE CITY'S WATER NEEDS

Bloomington is known for its great-tasting tap water—even being named Best in Glass by the Minnesota chapter of the American Water Works Association in 2024. Providing delicious and safe tap water takes work and up-to-date infrastructure.

The City's Well 7 is a future water supply well that is being designed and constructed to replace the existing Well 3, which is at the end of its useful life. In 2023, design consultants evaluated seven potential sites and determined that Tarnhill Park, 9650 Little Road, was the best site to meet all requirements.

Phase 1 of the project involves drilling the well and pumping tests. Construction on this phase will begin in summer 2025. Phase 2 includes site construction and installation of a water main to convey water to the treatment plant. Construction for phase 2 is expected to begin in 2026. When completed, Well 7 will help serve present and future water needs of the community.

DRILLING INTO WELL 7 FACTS

- Bloomington was awarded \$1 million of federal funds from an Environmental Protection Agency community grant that will help finance the project.
- To reduce site footprint and operating noise, a pitless adaptor-style well is being used.
- To minimize impacts to the adjacent neighborhood, the raw water main will include directional drilling alongside the opening made during installation.

For more information about Well 7, visit letstalk.bloomingtonmn.gov/well7.



SPRING BREAK CAMP NOW OPEN FOR REGISTRATION

Bloomington's new Spring Break Camp is now open to third through seventh graders for an exciting spring adventure at Moir Park, 10320 Morgan Ave. S. Campers will participate in a range of indoor and outdoor activities including disc golfing, crafts and nature walks. The nearby Nine Mile Creek offers a chance to explore the local ecosystem as it changes from winter to spring. The camp will run in any weather with activities adjusted as needed. For more information and to register, visit blm.mn/youth-programs.



ENROLL IN PARKS AND RECREATION'S SUMMER PROGRAMS

The City will offer priority registration for residents to enroll in summer programs through a lottery system. The lottery opens January 2 at 9 a.m. and closes February 6 at 11:59 p.m.

Selected residents will be notified by email on February 7 at 9 a.m. and will have until February 17 to complete registration. Registration will occur week by week.

Programs include Playground Programs, Camp Kota and five new weeklong camps running June 9-13, June 29-July 5, August 11-15, August 18-22 and August 25-29. General registration opens February 18 at 9 a.m. Financial assistance applications must be processed before registering.

For more information and registration details, visit blm.mn/youth-programs.



CALLING ALL TREASURE HUNTERS! PARTICIPATE IN THE BLOOMINGTON MEDALLION HUNT

Bloomington Parks and Recreation invites residents to the Fifth Annual Medallion Hunt, part of Winter Fete 2025. A hockey puck-sized medallion will be hidden in one of Bloomington’s 97 parks.

Starting January 14, two new clues will be released each week on Tuesdays and Fridays, with the hunt continuing until February 14 or until the medallion is found. Follow the clues at blm.mn/winterfete or on the Bloomington Parks and Recreation Facebook page for a chance to win a prize package!



CELEBRATE VALENTINE’S DAY WITH A DATE SKATE AT BIG

Looking for a unique way to celebrate Valentine’s Day? Head to Bloomington Ice Garden, 3600 W. 98th St., for a Date Skate on February 14. Bring your special someone to glide across the ice from 6:45-8:15 p.m. on Rink 1. Couples age 16 and older are welcome to attend.

Admission is \$15 per couple, which includes skate rentals. Concessions will be available for purchase and tickets can be bought at the door.

This Date Skate is part of Bloomington’s Winter Fete 2025, a celebration of winter fun in our community. So lace up and make Valentine’s Day memories on the ice at Bloomington Ice Garden.

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2025 WINTER FETE

Winter Fete offers an array of ways to enjoy what Minnesota’s cold season has to offer. Each winter, Parks and Recreation embraces the chilly temperatures with activities that bring people outside to have

fun with opportunities such as introduction to ice fishing, fat tire bike riding and more. Read on to learn about some of the 2025 Winter Fete activities. Or, to see a full schedule of 2025 Winter Fete activities, visit blm.mn/winterfete.

GET READY FOR A SLEDSTRAVAGANZA AT BROOKSIDE PARK

Join Bloomington Parks and Recreation Youth and Family programs for an afternoon of sledding, campfires and s’mores. Brookside Park’s sledding hill is suitable for all ages and is ideal for sledding, tubing and tobogganing. Please note that bobsleds are not permitted.

Two sledding events are scheduled on Thursdays, January 18 and February 22, 1-3 p.m., at Brookside Park, 10000 Xerxes Ave. S. Both events are snow dependent, so check blm.mn/winterfete for updates or cancellations as the dates approach.

YOUTH AND FAMILY ICE FISHING AT BUSH LAKE

This winter, join Bloomington Parks and Recreation in partnership with Fishing for All for an exciting ice fishing experience at Bush Lake. These fun family-friendly sessions offer a great way to explore the beauty of Bush Lake during the colder months.

Experienced guides will provide all necessary equipment and demonstrate basic ice fishing techniques. No fishing license is needed and all fish caught will be released back into the lake.

Dates for the program are as follows:

- January 19 and 20: 9-11 a.m. and 12-2 p.m.
- February 2, 9, 16, and 23: 9-11 a.m. and 12-2 p.m.
- March 2: 9-11 a.m.

For more information and to register, visit blm.mn/youth-programs.



THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE WINTER LIGHTS TOUR!

Thank you to all the residents who participated in this year’s Winter Lights Tour in December, one of the season’s earliest Winter Fete offerings. Now in its third year, the lights tour once again showcased the creativity and holiday spirit of Bloomington residents.

This year, the “Grand Tour” map was introduced, showcasing all registered homes and offering an enhanced way to experience the holiday lights. We appreciate the community’s ongoing support and look forward to seeing even more homes decorated next year.

For more information about the Winter Lights Tour, visit blm.mn/winter-lights.

