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# BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING

MARCH 2025



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YOU CAN FIND THE WRIGHTS LAKE PARK MURAL BY GOODSPACE MURALS AT 8496 OLD CEDAR AVENUE. READ PAGE 2 TO SEE LEARN ABOUT A RECENT MILESTONE IN THE CITY'S CREATIVE PLACEMAKING WORK.

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# BRIEFING

Volume 32, Number 03

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](mailto:jhill@BloomingtonMN.gov) Website: [BloomingtonMN.gov](http://BloomingtonMN.gov)

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## MAYOR'S MEMO

### BLOOMINGTON'S QUALITY OF LIFE SCORES HIGH MARKS IN SURVEY

By Mayor Tim Busse

I love living in Bloomington and the 2024 National Community Survey™ results show I am in good company. When asked to rank Bloomington as a place to live, 89% of respondents rated our city as “excellent” or “good.” Overall quality of life here ranked highly too, with 84% of respondents saying it is “excellent” or “good.”

Bloomington residents also provided ratings higher than the national average for their community in both attracting, and valuing and respecting people from diverse backgrounds. This is exciting because it aligns with being a connected, welcoming community—a priority that is identified in our community-based strategic plan, *Bloomington. Tomorrow. Together.*

Being a healthy community is another priority residents identified in the BTT plan. This includes individual health, sustainability and safety initiatives. The survey shows that residents see safety as a key benefit of living in Bloomington. Approximately 9 in 10 respondents said they felt very or somewhat safe in their neighborhoods and in Bloomington's commercial areas during the day. Similarly, 8 in 10 respondents reported feeling safe from violent crime and property crime.

The praise continued to flow for Bloomington's drinking water. This year's approval rating of 90% ranked Bloomington “much higher” than benchmarks comprised of resident feedback from more than 500 other communities nationwide.

#### MORE HIGHLIGHTS

- The number of survey respondents calling the value of services for taxes paid “excellent” or “good” increased by 7% since 2023.
- About 9 in 10 residents positively rated the overall quality of maintenance at their local park.
- A majority of residents consider the Bloomington *Briefing* a top source of information about the city.
- Availability of affordable quality housing, affordable mental health care and preventive health services were cited as areas for improvement.

Last year was the 13th consecutive year that we conducted the National Community Survey™ in Bloomington. The City will work with Polco/National Research Center to administer the survey again in 2025.

For more information and survey results, visit the City's website at [blm.mn/survey](http://blm.mn/survey).

## BLOOMINGTON NAMED A TOP ARTS-VIBRANT COMMUNITY IN THE U.S.

Bloomington, as part of the Minneapolis-St. Paul metro region, was recently ranked the fifth most arts-vibrant large community in the U.S. in the 2024 Arts Vibrancy Index.

Bloomington's consistent presence in the index since its establishment in 2015 highlights the City's dedication to developing a vibrant arts and cultural scene.

“Bloomington's arts community continues to grow and thrive thanks to the dedication of the City and countless individuals and organizations,” said the City's Director of Creative Placemaking Alejandra Pelinka.

Released by SMU DataArts, the National Center for Arts Research, the Arts Vibrancy Index analyzed and evaluated more than 900 communities nationwide based on arts supply, demand and government support and levels of arts activity, participation and support.

For more information, visit [blm.mn/placemaking](http://blm.mn/placemaking) or join the conversation at [letstalk.bloomingtonmn.gov/cp-plan](http://letstalk.bloomingtonmn.gov/cp-plan).



## BLOOMING ARTS PARTNERSHIPS GRANT

The City of Bloomington is now accepting applications for the Blooming Arts Partnerships grant program. This program provides support to nonprofit arts organizations, artists and arts-related educational institutions that make a strong impact in Bloomington. Both new and returning applicants are welcome to apply.

Eligible applicants include organizations or artists whose primary mission is to produce or present performing arts such as dance, theater, opera, spoken word, puppetry and music or visual arts primarily within Bloomington. Awards of up to \$10,000 per applicant may be available.

Applications are due by Tuesday, April 22. For more information, visit [blm.mn/bca](http://blm.mn/bca).





## WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE NINE MILE CREEK PROJECT

The Nine Mile Creek corridor renewal project team is moving into the schematic design phase. This is the first phase of design where details start to come to life. Mark your calendars to review project progress and provide

comments to help fine-tune design on March 26, 4:30-6:30 p.m., in the Rehearsal Hall at Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road. Design will continue through 2025. Learn more at [bloomingtonforward.org/9mile](http://bloomingtonforward.org/9mile).

## BLOOMINGTON ICE GARDEN CLOSING FOR RENOVATIONS THIS MONTH

Bloomington Ice Garden will be closed starting March 9 through fall 2025 for construction as part of the Bloomington Forward BIG modernization project. Improvements include mechanical and roof upgrades, converting Rink 3 to NHL size, an indoor training area, updated ticketing and security, ADA accessible and renovated locker rooms, restrooms and concessions.

During the closure, Skate School programs will continue at Richfield Ice Arena, 636 E. 66th St. For details about Skate School programs visit [blm.mn/big](http://blm.mn/big) and for project updates visit [bloomingtonforward.org](http://bloomingtonforward.org).



## RESIDENTS REVIEW A DRAFT COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER DESIGN

Residents can now view a draft design of the new community health and wellness center online at [blm.mn/lets-talk-chwc](http://blm.mn/lets-talk-chwc). In February, hundreds of residents attended an in-person event held at the Indoor Farmers Market to view the draft design and provide feedback. They were also able to connect with City staff and the architects working on the project.

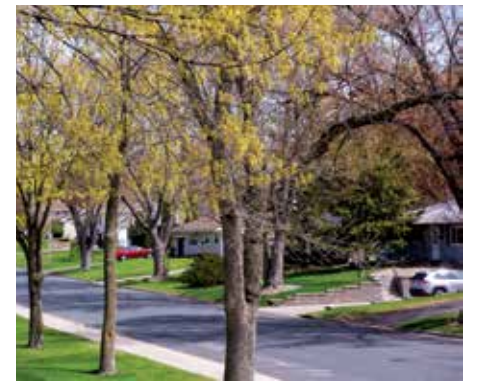
“We shared the schematic design plans for the community health and wellness center in February.

Schematic design means we know the basics of the new building and the site and we’re working out the details,” said Noah Exum, HGA Architect’s equity design lead. “So, I kind of call it about the halfway point in the process.”

Learn more about the project and next steps at [bloomingtonforward.org/chwc](http://bloomingtonforward.org/chwc).

## NICOLLET AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION PLANNING UNDERWAY

Hennepin County, in partnership with the City of Bloomington, plans to reconstruct Nicollet Avenue (County Road 52) between American Boulevard and East Old Shakopee Road in Bloomington starting in 2027. This project will improve safety and mobility for people walking, biking, rolling, driving and taking transit. The project team will be out in the community this year to discuss the project and host opportunities to share your thoughts. Check [blm.mn/nicollet-avenue](http://blm.mn/nicollet-avenue) for updates on future meetings and events to make your voice heard.



## PROPERTY VALUATION NOTICES ARRIVE THIS MONTH

In March, the City begins mailing property owners their 2025 estimated market value notices. Residents are encouraged to carefully review their valuation. Don’t wait. By the time proposed tax notices are sent in November, it is too late to appeal the valuation informally.

### A CLOSER LOOK AT VALUES

Value changes are dependent on size, location, age of the structure and other property attributes. Bloomington residential values remained relatively flat compared to last year. Entry level homes saw modest increases while higher valued homes remained flat or saw slight decreases. These general market trends however may not reflect your specific property.

### FEEL YOUR VALUE IS INCORRECT?

Residents may informally appeal in the weeks after receiving their value notice. Plan on providing evidence, such as a recent appraisal or a few comparable sales. Visit [blm.mn/propertyinfo](http://blm.mn/propertyinfo) or call 952-563-8722 for more information regarding the process and deadlines.

### 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 out if you are eligible for a Minnesota property tax refund, visit [blm.mn/state-tax](http://blm.mn/state-tax).

## CHANGES COMING TO SIDEWALK SNOW REMOVAL

The City is looking to adjust the current sidewalk snow removal process to better align with other City snow removal operations and improve winter conditions for pedestrians.

The current City operation clears snow from all public sidewalks and trails in Bloomington. This can take anywhere from one to three days, depending on the amount of accumulation, while street and cul-de-sac plowing is completed the same day.

To arrive at well-planned adjustments to clearing sidewalk snow, the City is seeking public input. To learn more about this project and provide feedback visit [blm.mn/letstalk](http://blm.mn/letstalk).





## BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY THROUGH HOUSING

The Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority works to create a stable and inclusive community through safe and dignified housing choices. By filling housing gaps, supporting new development and keeping neighborhoods strong, the HRA ensures everyone in Bloomington has access to safe and affordable housing.

Its programs and services are designed to assist renters, homeowners and those seeking to buy a home.

Learn more about the HRA's resources and how they help the community by visiting [blm.mn/hraresources](http://blm.mn/hraresources). For questions, email [hra@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:hra@BloomingtonMN.gov) or call 952-563-8937.



### CREATING PATHWAYS TO HOMEOWNERSHIP

Owning a home is a dream for many, and the HRA is committed to making this easier to achieve. Several initiatives focus on helping residents overcome barriers to homeownership:

#### Rental Homes for Future Homebuyers:

This program allows eligible households to rent an HRA-owned home for up to five years. During this time, part of the rent is saved in an escrow account that can later be used as a down payment. This helps participants access housing and build financial stability. To learn more or apply, visit [blm.mn/rentalhomes](http://blm.mn/rentalhomes).

#### Homebuyer Mortgage Assistance:

This pilot program offers down payment assistance to income-eligible households with a focus on those from historically disadvantaged communities. Participants must complete financial and homebuyer counseling to prepare for the responsibilities of owning a home.

#### Educational opportunities:

The HRA hosts monthly workshops that teach renters how to become homeowners. These workshops are offered in English, Somali and Spanish to improve accessibility.

Since 2016, partnerships with organizations like Habitat for Humanity and Homes Within Reach have enabled more than 30 families in Bloomington to achieve homeownership. These partnerships have helped to both create and preserve affordable housing in our city.

[BLOOMINGTONMN.GOV](http://BLOOMINGTONMN.GOV)



### PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR HOMEOWNERS

The HRA understands that owning a home can be difficult, especially during financial hardships or when repairs are needed. To help homeowners keep their homes, the HRA offers several programs:

- **Energy assistance:** Rising utility costs can be a burden for many families. The federally funded Energy Assistance Program offers grants to help income-eligible households pay for heating, water and furnace repairs. These grants are paid directly to utility providers, ensuring immediate relief for families. Visit [blm.mn/energyassistance](http://blm.mn/energyassistance) for more details.
- **Home improvement loans:** For Bloomington homeowners looking to make critical repairs or upgrades, the HRA provides loans of up to \$50,000. These funds can be used

for projects like replacing outdated heating systems, improving energy efficiency or addressing safety concerns. While not currently accepting applications, the HELP and Home Rehab Loans are expected to reopen later in 2025. These loans don't need to be repaid until the home is sold or transferred, making them accessible to those with limited incomes. Learn more at [blm.mn/loans](http://blm.mn/loans).

- **Seniors aged 60 and older** can benefit from the H.O.M.E. Program, which offers affordable help with lawn care, snow removal and small household repairs. These services allow older adults to stay independent and live in their homes longer. For information and to apply, call 952-746-4046 or visit [seniorcommunity.org](http://seniorcommunity.org).





## PRESERVING AND IMPROVING BLOOMINGTON'S HOUSING

The HRA also prioritizes preserving Bloomington's existing housing stock, ensuring that homes remain safe, efficient and sustainable for years to come through programs such as:

- **Housing and Environmental Loan Program:** Provides forgivable loans to homeowners needing emergency repairs, such as fixing a leaking roof or addressing a city safety violation. Applications for this program are anticipated to reopen later in 2025. Check for updates at [blm.mn/loans](http://blm.mn/loans).
- **Home Energy Squad:** Helps residents lower utility bills and reduce energy use. For just \$50, energy consultants will visit your home, evaluate energy-saving opportunities and install materials like LED bulbs, weatherstripping and programmable thermostats. Learn more at [mncee.org/home-energy-squad](http://mncee.org/home-energy-squad).
- **A Brush with Kindness:** Habitat for Humanity's program supports homeowners by offering repairs and

weatherization assistance. Priority is given to residents dealing with urgent needs, like tree removal caused by Emerald Ash Borer.

The City of Bloomington's Opportunity Housing Ordinance encourages the development of new affordable housing and preservation of existing affordable housing in Bloomington. Since 2021 a total of 1,745 units of new housing have been developed. Of those, 549 have affordability requirements. There are 435 units currently under construction and 164 units in the development pipeline, with additional projects currently in negotiations.

Out of the 435 units currently under construction, 156 are affordable. Recent projects include The Knox Apartments and Ever Apartments which offer affordable and market-rate options, and Ardor on the Bluffs which held a recent ribbon-cutting for its first phase of a larger project with a future phase anticipated.

## HELPING RENTERS STAY HOUSED

The HRA provides programs to make housing more stable and affordable for renters in Bloomington. One of the largest initiatives is the Housing Choice Voucher program, also known as Section 8. This program helps more than 650 households each year pay for safe, affordable housing by covering part of their rent. Renters can choose their own homes as long as they follow program rules. The waiting list for the Housing Choice Voucher program reopened in July 2024. Learn more and apply at [blm.mn/hcv](http://blm.mn/hcv).

The HRA also works with local groups to help renters facing housing insecurity. These nonprofits play an important role in providing the support renters need to regain stability. Some of the key partners include:

**Bridging:** Helps families move into stable housing with essential household goods and furniture.

**VEAP (Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People):** Provides food, transportation and housing help.

**HousingLink:** Connects renters to affordable housing and resources.

Recently, three new partnerships funded by the federal American Rescue Plan Act were launched:

**HOMELine:** Eviction prevention services.

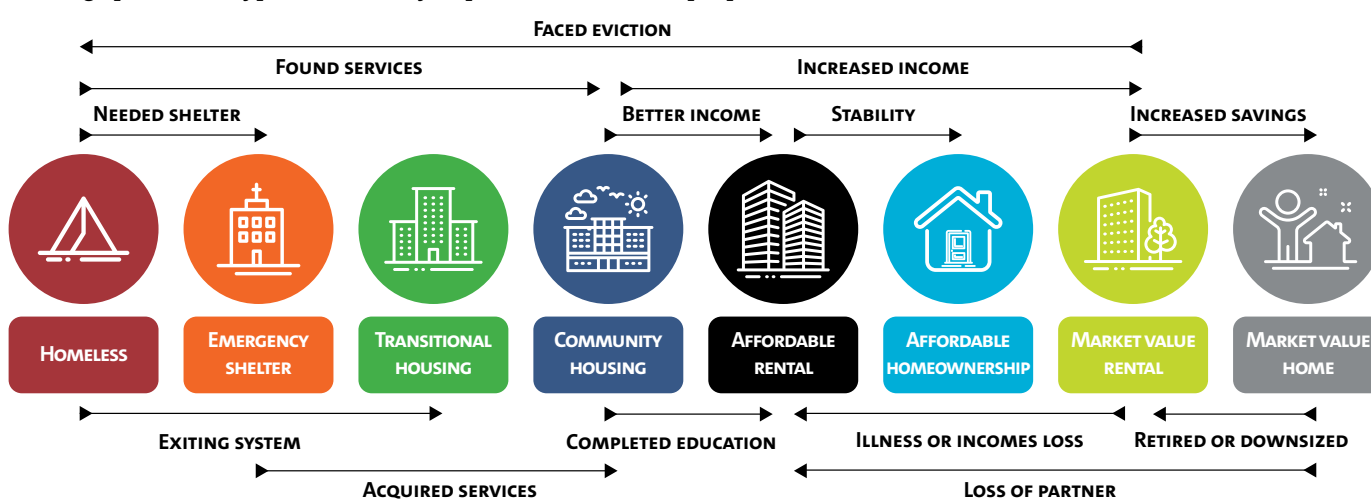
**Touchstone Mental Health:** Emergency rental and utility assistance.

**Oasis for Youth:** Supports young people facing homelessness and housing challenges.

If you're a renter in need of assistance, these organizations can provide support and guidance. Find additional resources at [blm.mn/hraresources](http://blm.mn/hraresources).

## SUPPORTING THE FULL HOUSING CONTINUUM

The housing continuum is, at its simplest, the range of housing types available in a community—from emergency shelters on one end, all the way to homeownership on the other. Follow the arrows in the graphic below to see how an assortment of housing options and types are critically important for different people at different times.



From emergency shelters to permanent homeownership, the HRA provides resources for residents at every stage of housing. This approach ensures that people have resources to meet their needs no matter where they are in their housing journey.

Programs like Bridge to Benefits help families determine if they qualify for public assistance or tax credits. This free and confidential tool connects families to resources that can reduce financial stress and improve stability. Learn more at [bridgetobenefits.org](http://bridgetobenefits.org).

By addressing the full range of housing needs, the HRA not only addresses current challenges but also works to build a stronger, more resilient Bloomington for the future.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Through its programs and community partnerships, the HRA continues to shape Bloomington's housing landscape. From creating new paths to homeownership to preserving the homes and neighborhoods that define the city, the HRA is committed to making Bloomington a place where everyone can find a home.

To learn more about available programs or the HRA's work, visit [blm.mn/hra](http://blm.mn/hra).





### POWER YOUR HOME WITH RENEWABLE ENERGY

**B**loomington and Xcel Energy are working together to achieve community energy goals. Now Bloomington homeowners, renters and businesses with an Xcel Energy electric account can harness the power of local renewable energy without purchasing, installing or maintaining onsite equipment with Renewable\*Connect Flex®.

Choose how much renewable energy you use while supporting your community wind and solar farms. For an additional \$1-\$10 a month, the average Bloomington household can source up to 100% of its electricity from renewable energy.

Learn more and sign up Renewable\*Connect Flex® at [blm.mn/renewable-connect](http://blm.mn/renewable-connect).

### KEEP WATER AT BAY FOR A HAPPY FOUNDATION

**M**innesota, the land of 10,000-plus lakes, gets a one-two punch in the spring when rain and snowmelt add to our watery wonderland. To prevent flooding and keep homes dry, Public Works recommends:

- Ensuring meltwater and rain runoff has a clear path to flow away from your home.
- Using downspout extensions to direct water at least six feet from your foundation.
- Clearing gutter downspouts of ice and organic debris to prevent blockages.
- Removing snow piles near your home's foundation to reduce water seepage.
- Checking basement drains and sump pumps for proper function.
- Keeping storm drains near your home clear of ice and debris to prevent backups.

Planning for next year is also recommended. This summer, seal foundation cracks, adjust grades to slopes away from your house and create a rain garden or swale (shallow channel) to encourage water to pool where you want it.



## A 266-YEAR-OLD BUR OAK FOUND NEAR NINE MILE CREEK

**I**n 2024, University of Minnesota Professor Daniel Griffin, PhD issued findings from a study that he and his students conducted on bur oak trees near Nine Mile Creek.

According to their research, the oldest trees were around 15-20 inches diameter with stunted growth, due to partial shading by younger and faster growing trees. Of the 34 bur oak trees sampled along the bluffs above Nine Mile Creek, the team found 22 (65%) were more than 150 years old, seven (20%) were more than 200 years old and at least one tree was more than 266 years old.

“This old growth woodland is an important legacy of Minnesota’s natural heritage and is a critical remnant of long-

term biodiversity in the state,” said Griffin. “This and future research could be useful for informing sustainability.”

So far, the oaks in the area have been resilient to changes in natural fire occurrences and urban encroachment but face new challenges, including climate extremes, diseases and blight and invasive nonnative insects.

#### WHAT IS A BUR OAK?

Bur oaks are massive oak trees native to central and eastern sections of the U.S. with a life span of up to 300 years. They have stout trunks and broad, rounded open crowns with stout and crooked branches. Their common name, mossycup oak, comes from the mossy scale or bur around its acorns.

### BUILD THE URBAN CANOPY BUY AND PLANT A TREE THIS ARBOR DAY

**Y**ou can help build Bloomington’s urban canopy 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 that will be delivered during the first week of May.

Now in its 18th year, this program helps the City maintain its Tree City USA designation and has added more than 3,000 trees to Bloomington’s urban forest. Residents may purchase a maximum of five trees per household. To place a tree order, visit [blm.mn/treesale](http://blm.mn/treesale), mail in the order form below or call 952-563-8760. Find more information on the trees and how to plant them at [blm.mn/forestry](http://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. Trees cost \$50 each. They 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 W. Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3027.







## MEET FIREFIGHTER BRAD BEUSCHER

**B**rad Beuscher joined the Bloomington Fire Department in April 2024 ready for action. He completed Fire 1, Fire 2 and EMT certifications in Wisconsin. Then, in 2006, began working for the city of Maple Grove. In 2009, he moved to Chippewa Fire District to complete paramedic certification. Afterward he worked a year as a full-time paramedic firefighter in Red Wing, six years at Eau Claire Fire and another six years at White Bear Lake Fire.

Beuscher was introduced to fire service as a child when a fort he built with a blanket and a lamp caused a fire. The fire left his family without a home for six months.

“Having experienced this set the stage for my career,” Beuscher said. “And this is the best job in the world!”

Beuscher’s work can take him away from home for long stretches. He is grateful to his wife, Kristin Beuscher, their two children, Jacob and Grace, and their dogs, Libby Lou and Bentley, for being so understanding.

Away from work, Beuscher enjoys time with his family and fishing, especially ice and musky fishing. They also like to travel. Some of their favorite destinations include Cape Cod, Maui and Florida.

### BEUSCHER’S FIRE SAFETY ADVICE

Have fire extinguishers near exits of your home and a meeting spot for your family if your house starts on fire. One of the first questions we ask when responding to a fire is “Is everyone out?”



## NEW FIREFIGHTERS BEGIN TRAINING IN MARCH

**T**he Bloomington Fire Department has selected a new cohort of full-time firefighters from a pool of 209 applicants. After two rounds of interviews, 20 people were hired.

The new hires include 11 emergency medical technicians/firefighters and nine paramedic/firefighters, all with prior experience in their roles. These new recruits will begin an eight-week training academy on March 31 before starting their work at the stations.

For more information, visit [blm.mn/bfd](http://blm.mn/bfd).

## CELEBRATING NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH: WIC SERVICES

**M**arch is National Nutrition Month® and the theme for 2025 is “Food Connects Us.” Bloomington Public Health supports the goals of Nutrition Month year around by helping eligible people who are pregnant, have recently been pregnant, or have children up to five years of age access nutritious food through the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Supplemental Nutrition program.

BPH served 3,155 WIC participants in 2023. WIC dietitians play a critical role in educating individuals on how food impacts health throughout their lifespan. WIC staff recognize that food connects people to their cultures, families and friends.

“A person’s health, preferences, traditions and access can all impact their relationship with food,” said WIC Dietitian Katie Meaux. “We keep all of this in mind when working with clients.”

Call the Public Health WIC program at 952-563-8993 to learn more or to apply.

## ANNUAL POLICE VS. FIRE HOCKEY GAME RETURNS

**T**he Bloomington Police and Fire Department will face off in the third annual hockey game on March 9 at the Bloomington Ice Garden, 3600 W. 98th St. The game will start at 5 p.m. with the puck drop.

In 2023, Bloomington Fire won the game but in 2024, the Police Department took home the victory. Don’t miss the action this year to see which team will come out on top.

This free event is open to the public. Families are encouraged to attend and bring a nonperishable food item or donate at the door to support VEAP, a local nonprofit.

Donations will also be collected to support Burnsville Police and Fire family members and fellow officers traveling to the National Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington, D.C.

For more information, please visit [blm.mn/2025hockey](http://blm.mn/2025hockey).



## MEET POLICE OFFICER RYAN BROWN

**O**fficer Ryan Brown joined the Bloomington Police Department in January 2023, initially working patrol and currently assigned to the street crimes unit that proactively focuses on crime reduction in targeted hotspots.

Brown earned an associate’s degree in law enforcement and started his career in 2011. He has prior law enforcement experience in Dakota County and for the Woodbury Police Department. He considers himself a night owl since he has spent most of his career working nights.

“Where I grew up, the police protected the community, helped others and made a positive impact so I knew from five years old that’s what I wanted to do.”

While all his family supports his career choice, Brown says his wife is his biggest supporter. Off duty, they enjoy hiking and camping and Mexican/Latin American cuisine. Brown also enjoys hockey. Fiji would be his dream vacation.

### BROWN’S SAFETY ADVICE

You know what’s normal in your neighborhoods so, if you see something that isn’t right, call us right away. Minutes can mean the difference between stopping a crime or the criminal getting away.







## MAKE A SPLASH THIS SUMMER AT BFAC

Dive into summer fun at the Bloomington Family Aquatic Center, 201 E. 90th St. Enjoy features like water slides, a zero-depth entry pool and an aqua climbing wall.

Season passes are now available. Residents receive a \$6 discount if purchased by May 1. Pass options range from \$46 to \$106 based on age and residency. Daily admission is \$10 or \$5 after 4 p.m. For more information, visit [blm.mn/bfac](http://blm.mn/bfac).



## THREE RIVERS PARK NOW MANAGING REGIONAL PARK FACILITIES IN BLOOMINGTON

To increase efficiency and reduce costs to the public, the Bloomington City Council and Three Rivers Park District Board have entered into an agreement allowing Three Rivers to operate the regional parks and trails owned by the City. No interruptions to amenities or services are expected.

As of January 1, Three Rivers began operating:

- Bush Lake Park, including all park shelters, watercraft racks and the beach.
- Normandale Lake Park, including the bandshell and trails.
- Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail in Bloomington.
- Nokomis-Minnesota River Regional Trail in Bloomington.

All 2025 facility and shelter reservations made through the City at Bush Lake and Normandale Lake parks are confirmed and will be honored. The City will continue to offer youth programs including Camp Kota at Bush Lake and host events at the Normandale Bandshell.

For more information about this agreement, contact Deputy Parks and Recreation Director Renae Clark at [rclark@BloomingtonMN.gov](mailto:rclark@BloomingtonMN.gov).

For more information about amenities, facilities, fees and availability at Bush Lake and Normandale Lake visit [ThreeRiversParks.org](http://ThreeRiversParks.org), call Three Rivers guest services at 763-559-6700 or email [ReservationHelp@ThreeRiversParks.org](mailto:ReservationHelp@ThreeRiversParks.org).



## ENJOY THE ANNUAL SPRING ICE SHOW

Bloomington Ice Garden will host its annual spring ice show, The Great Skate Together – Ice Show on a Stick, on March 14, 7 p.m. and March 15, 1 p.m.

This professional-style event will showcase the talents of registered Bloomington Ice Garden Skate School participants and Figure Skating Club of Bloomington members who signed up in December. The show features costumes, choreography and music, making it a great event for friends, family and the community to enjoy.

For more information visit [blm.mn/big](http://blm.mn/big).

[BLOOMINGTONMN.GOV](http://BLOOMINGTONMN.GOV)



## SUMMER PROGRAM REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Make this summer unforgettable with Bloomington Parks and Recreation's exciting new programs. Youth camps are now open to the public and additional activities such as Monday night paddleboarding and Tuesday archery sessions are also available.

For younger children, check out the new Balance Bike Races for kids under 6. These no-pedal bike events are a great way to introduce toddlers to biking while having fun with friends. Races run from 9-11 a.m. at various parks throughout the summer leading up to the grand opening of the Tretbaugh Park bike skills course.

Learn more and register now at [blm.mn/youth-programs](http://blm.mn/youth-programs).