Fire Department Open House
June 18, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Fire Station 1, 3750 Wooddale Ave. S.

Displays and demonstrations
• Kitchen safety
• Fire extinguisher demonstration
• Burn rooms/fire sprinkler demonstration
• Emergency preparedness
• Older adult safety
• Hennepin County Medical Center ambulance
• Hands-only CPR
• Police squad car
• Public works heavy equipment
• Minnesota Safety Council
• City departments

For kids
• Sparky the fire dog
• Squirt house
• Home Depot kids workshop
• Bouncy house
• Take pictures of your kids in “kid-sized” fire gear

Food
• Hotdogs, cookies, chips, water

How to vote on a ranked-choice ballot.
Your next election is Nov. 5, 2019.

1st choice | 2nd choice | 3rd choice
-----------|------------|------------
|           |            |            |

This is not an actual ballot, but a representation.

Mock election at Parktacular!
City elections staff will have a booth at the Parktacular Expo on June 15 from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. at Wolfe Park.

St. Louis Park
MINNESOTA
Serves YOU in the Park!

We will have a mock election, and volunteers will be available to help with voting questions. This is a great opportunity to learn about ranked-choice voting and show kids how to vote!

Check out our new videos explaining how ranked-choice voting works and what it means to make a ranked choice!

State of the Community is May 30

You’re invited to attend the St. Louis Park State of the Community event Thursday, May 30, 6 – 7:30 p.m. at the Recreation Outdoor Center (ROC), 3700 Monterey Drive.

This will be an outdoor event, so dress accordingly. In case of bad weather, the event will be moved indoors to The Rec Center.
Look for the community engagement vehicle in your neighborhood

Be on the lookout for the city's new community engagement vehicle! Bully equipped with audiovisual equipment, the vehicle will be used for city meetings and events throughout the city. To request the community engagement vehicle at your neighborhood event, contact Darius Gray, community organizer, at dgray@stlouispark.org or 952.924.2184.

What's new at the St. Louis Park Police Department

- In mid-April, police officers began using body-worn cameras to capture evidence from police-citizen contacts, to ensure accurate reports, to allow for transparency and accountability in policing, and to protect the civil rights of the community. Visit www.stlouispark.org/body-worn-cameras to learn more.

- A police substation is now located at Knollwood Mall. Joining locations at the Shoppes at West End and Excelsior & Grand, Substations provide a place for officer to write reports, meet citizens to investigate crime reports, hold community meetings and conduct other business. Substations aren’t staffed according to a schedule; however, officers are encouraged to make frequent use of these facilities to engage with the community and be available to the public.

- The police department is seeing a continued increase in calls involving mental health issues, which can include complex factors that are challenging to police officers. To help bring about the best possible outcomes, the department is leading an effort to engage other community stakeholders and resources in effectively addressing mental health incidents. The department is one of three agencies in Minnesota that have taken the International Association of Chiefs of Police One Mind pledge for addressing mental health concerns, and is making progress on the requirement commitments (theiACP.org/onenmindcampaign). Other measures under consideration are training for all personnel involved in a response and its after effects; development and implementation of a follow-up program for mental health crisis calls; use of dispatch records to provide responders and dispatchers with relevant information; and formation of a workgroup to develop policies and procedures for mental health initiatives.

- The police department will soon adopt a new policy for responding to reports of sexual assault. The goal is to provide maximum protection and support to victims of sexual assault or abuse through a coordinated program of law enforcement and victim services, with an emphasis on a victim-centered approach. St. Louis Park’s policy is based on a model policy developed by the Minnesota Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) earlier this year to help address the problem of under-reporting of sexual assault crimes to law enforcement, and to improve victim experience in reporting so that more people are encouraged to report.

- The police department is one of 14 Minnesota law enforcement agencies featured in an online training course for police officers. True North Constitutional Policing, which provides thought-provoking content using real-world stories from local officers and community members. Topics include the historical and constitutional significance of protecting people’s freedoms and best practices for creating a culture of community respect.

Drop off unwanted medication at the police department

The police department has joined Hennepin County’s coordinated medicine disposal program. A drop box is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week in the police department lobby, 3015 Raleigh Ave. S., to dispose of household medicines, including prescription, over-the-counter and pet medicines. Medicines should be brought in their original containers. No ID is required, and the service is free. Visit www.hennepin.us/medicine for a list of accepted medicines and items that aren't accepted.

Human Rights Award recipients recognized

Sagal Abdirahman and Nadia Mohamed received the 2018 Human Rights Award, presented by the City of St. Louis Park Human Rights Commission, at the March 18 city council meeting. The Human Rights Award recognizes individuals, groups, organizations or businesses that have made an outstanding contribution toward increasing understanding and cooperation between people of different backgrounds in St. Louis Park.

Abdirahman and Mohamed have been very active in St. Louis Park and surrounding communities, helping improve understanding of the Muslim culture and connecting people through events, classes, conversations and relationship building. They were nominated for the award due to their continuous dedication, leadership in connecting and communicating across cultures, and ability to find new ways to build relationships in the community.

Both Abdirahman and Mohamed currently serve on the St. Louis Park Police Department’s Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC) and volunteer with St. Louis Park High School’s High Achievement Program. Additionally, Abdirahman is a community service officer with the St. Louis Park Police Department.

Mayor Jake Spano appointed to National League of Cities race equity, transit leadership positions

St. Louis Park Mayor Jake Spano has been appointed to serve as co-chair of the National League of Cities (NLC) 2019 Race, Equity and Leadership (REAL) Council, and will co-chair the Transit Subcommittee as a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Services (TIS) Federal Advocacy Committee.

As a member of the TIS Federal Advocacy Committee, Spano will prepare city leaders to apply a racial equity lens to policies, initiatives, programs and budgets.

As a member of both the REAL Council and the TIS Committee, Spano will play a key role in shaping NLC’s policy positions and advocating on behalf of America’s cities and towns, including St. Louis Park, before Congress, with the administration and at home.

Fishin’ with a Cop

Wolves Park, 3700 Monterey Drive

ALL YOUTH

Join St. Louis Park police officers for a fun day of fishing at Wolves Park. No need to bring a pole or bait! Just show up!

- Wednesday, June 12, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 10, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Wednesday, Aug. 21, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Questions? Call Officer Dennis Maki at 952.928.1438.

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- Wednesday, Aug. 21, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Questions? Call Officer Dennis Maki at 952.928.1438.
Attend a hands-only CPR training session

Learn what to do if someone’s heart stops beating with a hands-only CPR class, hosted by the St. Louis Park Fire Department. Classes take place at Fire Station 1, 3750 Wooddale Ave. S., for those ages 15 and over (an adult or guardian must be present with participants age 15 – 17). There is a maximum of 15 participants per class, and minimum of five per class. The training isn’t a certification course; participants won’t qualify for a CPR certificate.

Sign up online at www.hcscpr.eventbrite.com for one of the upcoming training dates:

- Wednesday, June 5, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 10, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Aug. 7, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

If you have any questions, call Lieutenant Bob Hampton at 952.924.2599.

Fire safety at your home away from home

Peers-to-peer hospitality services, such as Airbnb; vacation rentals by owner (vrbo); and other types of vacation rentals are not regulated in the same way as hotels. Requirements vary widely across jurisdictions. Act as your own safety advocate and know before you go.

Here are a few safety tips:

- Check for working smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home.
- A floor plan should be posted with escape routes and exits and emergency contact information.
- Be sure everyone knows the address of the home where you’re staying.
- Ensure everyone staying in the home has identified two ways out of every room and how to escape in an emergency.

Visit bit.ly/2PiMOWb for a complete list of safety tips.

Planning a recreational fire? Get a permit first.

The term recreational fire means "cooking fires and camp fires using charcoal or firewood for cooking or pleasure." Fires used for debris disposal purposes that are not considered recreational fires. Yard waste, including grass, leaves, branches, twigs; garbage and recycling must be disposed of through your garbage hauler or at the city’s brush drop-off site (see page 8 for updates on the brush drop-off site for this season).

Be a good neighbor

In addition to following the recreational fire permit rules, consider your neighbors as well. Remember that smoke and the smell of smoke often carries into neighboring homes, even on calm days. Not everyone likes the smell of a campfire, especially inside their home, and it can be an irritant. Young children, the elderly and people with asthma, lung or heart disease are especially vulnerable to smoke in the air.

Recreation fire requirements

Recreational fires within the City of St. Louis Park require a recreational fire permit, available at www.stlouispark.org/firepermit or at Fire Station 1, 3750 Wooddale Ave. S.

- Recreational fires must be 25 feet away from any structure and 10 feet away from the property line.
- Only burn untreated, unpainted, clean, dry, aged firewood that is at least 1 inch in diameter.
- Fires that are unreasonably offensive or injurious to others as determined by the city will be required to be extinguished.
- Recreational fires are not allowed when winds are greater than 10 miles per hour or if the state has issued burning restrictions. Visit dnr.state.mn.us or pca.state.mn.us for details.
- Permit holder is responsible for conducting, controlling and extinguishing the fire. All fires must be extinguished completely to ensure there is no smoldering or potential for reigniting. Never leave a fire unattended and always have a garden hose or fire extinguisher nearby.
- Recreational fires are permitted Sunday – Thursday from 11 a.m. – 10 p.m. and on Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. – midnight.

For more information call 952.924.2595 during normal business hours. There is a one-time fee of $25 for a lifetime permit for the current resident living at the property.

Get inside! Get information!

What to do when the outdoor emergency sirens sound

As severe weather season begins, be aware that when sirens sound, they are for real emergencies and are designed to warn people who are OUTDOORS to seek immediate shelter. They are not designed to warn people who are indoors.

The siren sound is always the same, regardless of the type of emergency. If the sirens sound, DO NOT call 911 to ask what’s going on. Seek shelter and turn on the TV or radio for information.

Sirens sound in St. Louis Park for three reasons:

1. A tornado warning has been issued by the National Weather Service, or a trained spotter saw a developing tornado in or near St. Louis Park.
2. Straight-line winds have been recorded in excess of 70 miles per hour.
3. Testing of emergency sirens takes place on the first Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m. All St. Louis Park sirens are checked by city staff for proper operation.
The City of St. Louis Park has been working with the residents, businesses and property owners in the Historic Walker Lake district for the past few years to find ways to revitalize the area, engage the community and attract visitors. These efforts include a small area plan, new street design, branding and an activation plan.

Public improvements
Over the next five years, there will be a number of projects in the Historic Walker Lake area to improve streets, reconstruct alleys, build sidewalks and install bikeways.

This year’s project is to reconstruct Library Lane and the east portion of Walker Street. This project is anticipated to begin in summer 2019. The design includes road reconstruction, intersection improvements, sidewalks, stormwater improvements, utilities and street lights.

The majority of the street work is proposed to be completed in 2019 and 2020. These projects will be paid for using city funds; there are no proposed special assessments to individual property owners.

The recommended project does not include streetscape enhancements, which would require a special service district. Streetscape enhancements will be discussed as a part of the small area planning effort. Visit www.stlouispark.org/historic-walker-lake for updates.

All businesses will remain open during construction and access to businesses will remain open at all times.

Small area plan
In October 2018, the City selected Asakura Robinson to complete a small area revitalization plan and design guidelines for the district. The process will wrap up towards the end of May 2019. The process included three neighborhood meetings and several business and property owner meetings. Visit www.stlouispark.org/historic-walker-lake for videos of the neighborhood meetings.

The outcomes include:
• Development concepts and project ideas that enhance the area’s identity, activity and appeal
• A parking analysis providing design, location, land use and policy recommendations
• Design standards for future investment and development
• Opportunities for public art and placemaking
• An implementation plan

Historic Walker Lake business district loan program offered
The Historic Walker Lake business district loan program offers low-interest loans to new and existing businesses and property owners located in the Historic Walker Lake business district, with the goal of making it more affordable for small businesses to invest in this area.

How the program works
• The Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers (MCCD) or a private lender provides half the loan amount at market rate
• The St. Louis Park Economic Development Authority matches up to $100,000 of the funds, at 2 percent interest (minimum $10,000)
• Loan term up to 10 years (set by the MCCD or private lender)
• 10 percent owner equity required
• Applicants must meet certain credit requirements
• Loan must be repaid
• Applicants must meet with an Open to Business advisor throughout the term of the loan for continued business counseling

Who can apply?
• All businesses located within the Historic Walker Lake business district
• Applicant may be individual owners, partnerships, corporations, tenant operators, nonprofit organizations (on a case-by-case basis) or contract for deed partners
• Leaseholders must provide written permission of the property owner

How to apply and who to contact
Visit www.stlouispark.org/business-financing to review the loan guidelines. To discuss the loan program and receive an application, call Rob Smolund, MCCD, at 612.843.3260, ext. 260. For more information, contact Julie Grove, economic development specialist, at jgrove@stlouispark.org or 952.924.2523.

2040 Comprehensive Plan finalized this spring
The city has updated its comprehensive plan, an official document that guides the future of the City of St. Louis Park. It sets forth policies and programs that govern land use, transportation, public facilities, economic development, housing and other areas of city government.

The 2040 plan builds on the Vision 3.0 foundation and integrates it into plan elements which shape the practical goals and strategies for the future of St. Louis Park. Visit www.stlouispark.org/slp2040 to view the draft plan, which will be finalized this spring.

Get ready for the 2020 Census
Every 10 years, the U.S. Census Bureau conducts a census to count or survey those living in the United States and the five U.S. territories. The results of the census help determine congressional representation and federal funding. The next census will be April 1, 2020.

How to get involved
There are several opportunities for you to get involved with the 2020 Census.

St. Louis Park Complete Count Committee
The City of St. Louis Park is forming a committee of trusted local leaders that want to help inform our residents about the 2020 Census and promote participation. The committee will meet regularly to coordinate their efforts.

If you are interested in joining the committee, contact Sean Walther at slether@stlouispark.org or 952.924.2574.

Volunteer
There are many ways you can help inform people about the census and promote participation. You could consider hosting an event, talking to your friends and neighbors, or attending a local event to help answer questions about the census.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, contact Sean Walther at slether@stlouispark.org or 952.924.2574.

Work for the U.S. Census Bureau
The U.S. Census Bureau is hiring for a variety of positions to help with the 2020 Census. To be eligible, you must be 18 years old, have a valid Social Security number and be a U.S. citizen. The pay rate for a census taker position in Hennepin County is $20 per hour.

Visit www.census.gov to learn more or apply online.

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Crosswalk safety for drivers and pedestrians

Minnesota State law clearly states that pedestrians have the right of way at any marked crosswalk and at all intersections without marked crosswalks or stop signs. It is common for drivers to think they don’t need to yield to pedestrians unless they are at a signed and striped crosswalk; however, if someone is walking to cross at any intersection drivers will need to yield to them.

Pedestrians:
• Be aware that just because a driver sees you, it doesn’t mean they are going to stop. Pedestrians must remember to take charge of their own safety.
• As you are getting ready to cross a road, do not step off the curb unless the vehicle approaching you has enough space to come to a complete stop.
• If you are crossing a multi-lane road and a vehicle stops in the closest lane for you, stop at the end of that vehicle and be sure that any approaching vehicles in the other lanes stop for you as well.

Drivers:
• Stay alert and look for potential pedestrians that may want to cross the road.
• Keep in mind that in low-light conditions, pedestrians can be difficult to see.
• Anticipate pedestrians around schools and parks.
• When turning, look in all directions for pedestrians or bicyclists.
• When yielding to a pedestrian, stop far enough back so the pedestrian has good sight distance past you and drivers in other lanes can also see the pedestrian in time to stop.
• Do not block crosswalks while stopped or parked.
• Be aware that a stopped vehicle in front of you may be stopped for a pedestrian, so use caution when passing that vehicle.

How to use bikeways

With winter over and the snow melted away, you may have noticed some newer bike striping on the street.

Buffered bike lanes
A buffered bike lane is like a regular bike lane but with a buffer space between the vehicle lane and the bike lane. The purpose of the buffer is to provide extra space for bicyclists and to increase safety for all users of the road. A buffered bike lane is restricted to bike traffic except when drivers need to turn or enter or leave the roadway. Drivers are not allowed to drive in the bike lane or buffered area, even to pass other vehicles. Whenever you cross a bike lane, check for bicyclists—you must yield and let them pass before turning. You’ll find buffered bike lanes on 28th Street east of Louisiana Avenue, Sheridan Parkway west of Ford Road and Texas Avenue south of 28th Street.

Crossbikes
You can think of a crossbike as a crosswalk, but for people biking across an intersection. They are used to highlight locations where vehicles turn or merge across a bike lane. The crossbikes are colored green to draw further attention to them. When you are driving, check your blind spot for bicyclists when approaching an intersection with these markings. Regardless if a bike lane is green or not, drivers must stop and let a bicyclist pass before turning. When you bike across any intersection, use caution and assume motorists cannot see you. You’ll find crossbikes at the intersections of Texas Avenue and Highway 7, Texas Avenue and Minnetonka Boulevard and 28th Street and Louisiana Avenue.

For more information about bikeways, call the engineering department at 952.924.2656.

Mobility sharing coming soon

Mobility sharing – a transportation solution ideal for short-distance, point-to-point trips – often uses bikes or scooters that can be used within a specific service area. St. Louis Park recently passed an ordinance requiring mobility sharing services to be licensed before operating in the city, and limiting the number of licenses available. While the city is looking forward to working with a vendor to bring mobility sharing to St. Louis Park, it also hopes to avoid some of the issues seen in other cities such as abandoned devices and safety concerns. Visit www.stlouispark.org/mobility-sharing for more information, including how to report abandoned scooters or bikes.

2019 pavement management program underway

This year’s pavement management program is underway in the Pennsylvania Park, Willow Park and the Eliot View neighborhoods. This project is included in the Capital Improvement Program, with improvements paid for using city funds rather than assessments to property owners. Visit www.stlouispark.org/pavementmanagement to learn more about the project and sign up to receive project updates.

Work starts on the Southwest LRT; Cedar Lake Trail to close

Construction of the Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) starts this month, with passenger service expected to start in 2023. The Cedar Lake Regional Trail will be closed in mid-May for 2-3 years. Visit www.swlrt.org to sign up for updates and to learn more about SWLRT. Keep an eye out for information on the construction schedule, proposed road closures and posted detours as construction begins.

May is Building Safety Month

Building safety affects everyone, and modern, updated building codes minimize the risks of death, injury and property damage. The City of St. Louis Park is participating in the 39th annual Building Safety Month, a worldwide campaign presented by the International Code Council, its members and partners to promote building safety. Building Safety Month raises awareness about critical safety issues from structural to fire prevention, plumbing and mechanical systems and energy efficiency.

St. Louis Park building inspectors will be at the St. Louis Park Home Depot, 5800 Cedar Lake Rd., on Thursdays from 3 – 6 p.m. during the month of May to answer questions about home improvement projects and building codes. Or, stop by city hall council chambers on May 21 from 5 – 7:30 p.m. with your building project plans to expedite the review process for approvals before the busy Memorial Day weekend.

Learn more about Building Safety Month at www.buildingsafetymonth.org or join the conversation on social media by using the hashtag #BuildingSafety365.

Keep drinking water safe with an approved backflow preventer

If you have a plumbing fixture connected to the drinking water supply, you might have a cross-connection between the two. If so, you should have a backflow preventer installed to ensure safe drinking water in your home and in the city water supply. Typical residential cross-connections include irrigation or lawn sprinkler systems, swimming pools or spas, laundry tubs, taps outside where garden hoses are attached (hose bibs) or attachments to garden hoses to apply weed killer or other chemicals.

Required by Minnesota State Plumbing Code, backflow preventers prevent contaminated water or chemicals from reaching your home drinking water supply in case of pressure loss in the water system. Pressure loss can occur during a watermain break, when firefighters connect hoses to the hydrant or during routine flushing of hydrants.

The city plans to implement a program to ensure that backflow preventers are tested after installation, then annually after that. To learn more about backflow preventers and how this new program may affect you, attend a meeting on June 3 from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. in St. Louis Park City Hall Council Chambers. For more information contact Dave Skallet, chief building official at dskallet@stlouispark.org or 952.924.2586.

www.stlouispark.org
Climate Action Plan progress continues

Work continues on the Climate Action Plan, adopted a year ago by the St. Louis Park City Council. The plan's goal is to achieve carbon neutrality — a net zero carbon footprint — in St. Louis Park by 2040. Below are some of the events and initiatives planned to help advance the goals of the Climate Action Plan.

IPS Solar and Extra Space Storage solar ribbon-cutting
Thursday, June 6, 10:30 a.m. – noon
Extra Space Storage, 5051 Hwy. 7

Join us as we celebrate the completion of St. Louis Park's largest rooftop solar array! Extra Space Storage has been adding solar to their facilities since 2010, and this array will be the largest rooftop solar installation in St. Louis Park. Mayor Jake Spano, representatives from Extra Space Storage and project developer IPS Solar will be at the event. After the unveiling and roof tours, participants can gather at nearby Lilac Park for refreshments.

Breathe Clean, Electric SLP!
Saturday, June 8, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Recreation Outdoor Center (ROC), 3700 Monterey Drive

The St. Louis Park Environment and Sustainability Commission and Midwest EVOLVE, supported by the American Lung Association, present the opportunity to test-drive an electric vehicle, try out electric lawn equipment and learn about the many benefits of using electricity over gasoline.

Electric vehicle charging ordinance passed
As part of the Climate Action Plan's goal to reduce vehicle emissions by 25 percent by 2030, the St. Louis Park City Council has passed an ordinance that will help expand private electric vehicle charging infrastructure in addition to the public infrastructure the city is already adding. The ordinance sets the minimum number of parking spaces to be served with electric vehicle supply equipment, based on land use and number of parking spaces. The ordinance also includes design standards to ensure the safety and accessibility of electric vehicle charging facilities.

Solar panels added at Municipal Service Center

The city will expand its existing 78-kilowatt solar panel array on the Municipal Service Center (MSC) this summer. This expansion will be done by St. Louis Park business Sundial Solar, and will add about 50 kilowatts of solar energy to the existing array. The expansion supports the city's Climate Action Plan goal to achieve 100 percent renewable electricity by 2030.

Energy assistance available to low-income Minnesotans

Do you need help with your energy bill? You may be eligible for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Households seeking LIHEAP assistance should contact their local LIHEAP service provider, which can be found by calling 1.800.657.3710 or visiting bit.ly/2Gbfj7y. The deadline to apply for funds is May 31, 2019.

· Providing grants to pay energy bills
· Addressing no-heat crisis situations through payments and furnace repair or replacement
· Providing referrals and advocacy

Parkway 25 receives LEED silver certification

Parkway 25, the newly constructed mixed-use building at 4015 County Rd. 25, recently received Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. LEED certification is a globally recognized symbol of sustainability achievement and is the most widely used green building rating system in the world. It provides a framework to create healthy, highly efficient and cost-saving green buildings.

· LEED certification identifies Parkway 25 as a showcase example of sustainability and demonstrates the development's leadership in transforming the building industry. Parkway 25 is one of five LEED certified developments in St. Louis Park, and the first LEED certified residential building in the city. St. Louis Park's other LEED certified developments are MetroPoint 600 Building, Kohl's Knollwood, Excelsior & Grand and the Park Nicollet Cancer Center.

Internet options available for residents

The St. Louis Park City Council has for many years encouraged choice and competition for high-speed broadband service. As a result, many residents, depending on their location, have choices when it comes to internet service providers. Both US Internet and CenturyLink have offered internet services in recent years, in addition to Comcast. This year, US Internet plans to extend service to the southern area of the Sorensen Neighborhood. All of these providers are private companies and make their own decisions as to where and how they provide service.


Standard & Poor's re-affirms "AAA" bond rating for City of St. Louis Park

In March 2019, independent bond rating agency Standard & Poor's (S&P) re-affirmed its highest rating of "AAA" for the City of St. Louis Park. St. Louis Park is one of 26 cities in the state with this rating. Bond ratings are a reflection of the city's financial strength and stability.

The report highlighted the city's very strong economy, management, budgetary flexibility and liquidity, in addition to its strong budgetary performance, debt and contingent liability position. With the top credit rating, the City of St. Louis Park receives the lowest possible borrowing costs on current and future debt issuances, and can refinance outstanding debt at lower interest rates.
New Aquatic Park season pass!

New this year, a rec card will be issued for Aquatic Park season passes purchased, along with multiple sessions for Little Tot Drop-in and public ice skating purchased. This card replaces the individual punch cards previously used and can be renewed annually for Aquatic Park season passes. Visit stlouispark.maxgalaxy.net to purchase your Aquatic Park season pass!

Financial assistance available to help manage stormwater runoff

Stormwater runoff is created when melting snow or rain flows over roads, driveways, roofs and other paved surfaces that do not allow the water to soak into the ground. As the water drains into storm sewers, it can pick up many different pollutants including sediment, pesticides, phosphorus and trash, all of which can eventually make it into lakes and rivers if untreated.

The Rainwater Rewards program was created to help homeowners control and manage the city’s stormwater runoff by providing financial and technical assistance to residents who implement stormwater management projects on their property. Eligible projects can include rain gardens, permeable pavement, tree plantings, rain barrels and other innovative stormwater management practices.

Residents interested in participating in the program must complete the Rainwater Rewards program application before beginning any work on their property. To learn more about the program or submit an application, visit www.stlouispark.org/rainwater-rewards.

Know your flood risk

If your property is near Minnehaha Creek, it may be subject to flooding. Call city staff at 952.924.2690 to find out the potential flood hazard for your property.

Various methods may be used to minimize flooding. If the floor level of your property is lower than the 'base flood elevation' (elevation of the 100-year flood, based on the FEMA maps), consider elevating your structure, if possible. If a flood is imminent, property can be protected by sandbagging areas where water could enter living spaces. Also, move valuables and furniture to higher areas of the home to minimize damages.

Brochures about flood proofing and other mitigation measures are available at Hennepin County Public Libraries, including the St. Louis Park Library, 3340 Library Lane. Visit www.stlouispark.org/floodplain for more information on flood hazards, risks and building responsibly.

Visit www.stlouispark.org/rainwater-rewards to learn more about the Rainwater Rewards program.

Construction starts at Westwood Hills

A groundbreaking event took place Monday, April 22, to mark the start of construction of the new interpretive center at Westwood Hills Nature Center. Construction started in early May, with completion scheduled for 2020.

While the playground near the lower parking lot is unavailable during construction, many other activities will remain available. Explore the 3.5 miles of trails, host a birthday party, participate in a variety of nature programming or visit the current interpretive center. During construction, parking will be on West Franklin Avenue, with a trail at that main entrance leading to the current interpretive center.

Visit www.stlouispark.org/whnc/new-interpretive-center or text SLPMN WHNC to 468311 for project updates.

Visit city website for habitat restoration, invasive species management info

The city recognizes the importance of maintaining and restoring the natural resources that exist within the city and has created and supports a number of programs and practices to help promote habitat restoration, including the buckthorn management program, pollinator and bee-friendly initiatives and addressing the invasive Emerald Ash Borer. Through these efforts and others, habitats that have been identified as disturbed can be restored to ensure a functioning, natural ecosystem is in place.

You can also help! The city recently added information to its website to provide residents with resources on how they can support habitat restoration and invasive species management. Visit www.stlouispark.org/habitat-restoration to learn more and see how you can help!
Spring cleanup day – Saturday, June 8, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Municipal Service Center, 7305 Oxford St.
Contact Waste Management with fee questions at 763.783.5423.
Contact public works with general event questions at 952.924.2562 or visit www.stlouispark.org/cleanup.

Items collected for a charge
Charged by item
• Tires* – $2 (on rim $3)
• Mattresses and box springs – $20
• Appliances* and microwaves – $15
• Stuffed chairs, sofas, sectionals – $15 – $40
• Printers, scanners, fax machines – $10
• VCR/DVD players, stereo, speakers, blenders and miscellaneous household electronics – $5
• TVs and monitors*
  • Flat panel – $5
  • Box/Tube/CRT 27 inches or less – $25
  • Box/Tube/CRT over 27 inches – $45

Items without individual fees are charged by volume per vehicle ($12 - $34)
• Large trash items: Broken/unusable items, including chairs, tables, lawn/patio furniture, toys, storage containers.
• Smaller trash items should be placed in your curbside cart.
• Remodeling debris, scrap wood

Items collected for free
• Bicycles in any condition
• Holiday light strings and extension cords
• Desktop computer towers*, laptops*, notebooks*, keyboards and mice
• Mobile devices: Cell phones*, tablets*, MP3 players*, cords, chargers
• Scrap metal: Grills, steel shelving, bed frames, file cabinets, gutters, etc. (Lawn mowers and snow blowers must be drained of all fluids.)
• Paper for shredding: Limit five grocery-sized bags per vehicle. Paper is shredded onsite and recycled. Remove large binder clips. Staples/paper clips are OK.
• Fluorescent bulbs* and LEDs: Limit 10 bulbs per vehicle. Must be intact/unbroken.
• Batteries: Household only, NO vehicle or lead acid batteries. Please place clear tape on both (+) and (-) terminals of batteries or individually seal in a clear plastic bag.
• Textiles: Clean and dry items only. All clothing (usable, torn, stained)
• Appliances* and microwaves
  • Charged by volume per vehicle ($12)
  • Refrigerators, freezers, stoves
  • Washers, dryers, dishwashers
  • Gas and electric ranges
• Households for reuse: Dishes, cookware, collectibles, toys and small furniture (end tables, coffee tables, shelves, pictures, lamps). Only items in good condition.
• Yard waste, tree debris, grass
• Household hazardous waste (paint, chemicals, automotive fluids, etc.)

Other recycling options for TVs/monitors:
– Hennepin County drop-off facility: $10 each, limit five per year
– Waste Management curbside pickup:
  • No lead acid
  • Flat screen – $10 each, limit five per year
  • Cathode ray tube (CRT) – $3 per unit
  • LCD – $5 per unit
• Household hazardous waste: Bring to the event.
• Households for reuse: Dishes, cookware, collectibles, toys and small furniture (end tables, coffee tables, shelves, pictures, lamps). Only items in good condition.

Note: Some disposal options may have a fee.

Light bulbs
• Batteries Plus Bulbs, 5717 Beecroft Blvd., St. Louis Park (CFRs, fluorescent tubes, incandescent, halogen)
• Home Depot, 5800 Cedar Lake Rd., St. Louis Park (CFR only)

Electrical cords and holiday lights
• Bex Express, 8094 Beecroft Blvd., Hopkins
• Tech Dump, 825 Boone Ave., N., Golden Valley

Batteries
• Hennepin County Library, 3240 Library Ln., St. Louis Park (no lead acid)
• St. Louis Park Municipal Service Center, 7305 Oxford St. (no lead acid)
• Batteries Plus Bulbs, 5717 Beecroft Blvd., St. Louis Park (most types including lead acid)
• Bex Express, 8094 Beecroft Blvd., Hopkins (lead acid ONLY)

Paper for shredding
• Watch the city’s social media, @stlouispark, and website, www.stlouispark.org, for free events sponsored by area businesses.
• Many office supply stores and shipping companies also offer shredding service.

Medications
• St. Louis Park Police Department, 3015 Raleigh Ave. S.
• Walgreens, 540 Blake Rd. N., Hopkins

Paint (Limit 5 gallons per visit; no aerosols)
• Hance Hardware, 909 Hopkins Center, Hopkins
• Harshfield’s, 452 11th Ave. S., Hopkins
• Sherwin Williams, 5425 Opportunity Center, Minnetonka

Scrap metal
• Residents with city service may put small items out at the curb in a box or container labeled ‘’Recycling’’. Do NOT put scrap metal in your cart. See the city website for size limits.
• Bex Express, 8094 Beecroft Blvd., Hopkins

Household hazardous waste collection event
June 14 and 15, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
St. Louis Park Middle School
2025 Texas Ave. S. (enter off West 22nd Street)
Hennepin County organizes free collection events throughout the year to give residents more convenient local disposal options for their household hazardous wastes.

Items the county will not accept:
• Batteries (no lead acid)
• PFAS
• Appliances (no lead acid)
•，“es, microwaves, ranges
• Scrap metal (no lead acid)
• Business waste
• Concrete
• Garbage

Other accepted items:
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Year-round disposal options for common items

The city's brush drop-off site is closed for the 2019 season due to the Cedar Lake Road construction project. A temporary drop-off option is being offered to residents through a partnership with the City of Minnetonka.

There is no charge for St. Louis Park residents. A Minnesota Driver’s license or utility bill is required.

Materiale accepted: Branches/tree limbs up to 8 feet in length (no diameter restrictions), brush, grass

Unacceptable materials: Rocks, root balls or stumps, dirt/soil, trash, metal, concrete, fences, lumber or wood scraps, yard waste.

Note: Leaves and grass are not accepted from St. Louis Park residents at the temporary drop-off location. Set these items out for curbside collection, along with sticks and small branches (less than 4 feet in length or 4 inches in diameter).

The free shredded mulch, screened black dirt and compost that is typically stored at the site will not be available this year due to the construction.

Questions? Visit www.stlouispark.org/brush-drop-off or call public works at 952.924.2562.

Free clothing swap
Monday, July 29, 6 – 8 p.m.
Central Community Center gym, 6300 Waker St.
Bring your clean and washed unwanted items and swap them for new-to-you treasures. Participants can bring and take as many items as they would like. Clothing, shoes and accessories of all styles and sizes are welcome. No blankets, items or pillows. This is a free event open to all ages and genders.

Ecotacular
Saturday, June 15 | 1 – 6 p.m. | Wolfe Park, 3700 Monterey Drive
Fun for everyone!
Enjoy environmentally friendly activities and demonstrations.
www.stlouispark.org/events