

# Utilities

## Phone, Cable and Internet Services

Telephone service is provided primarily by CenturyLink, which was formerly Qwest. CenturyLink provides local service in 14 states including Minnesota. It is a leading provider of voice, video and data services across America.

Cable services are provided primarily by Comcast. Comcast was founded in 1963, and provides service in 40 states and in the District of Columbia. Across the nation, they provide cable to more than 24 million customers, high-speed Internet to more than 14 million customers and digital voice service to more than 6 million customers.

Both CenturyLink and Comcast provide traditional cable tv, telephony, and Internet services. Dish and Direct TV are two active satellite TV providers.

In addition to CenturyLink and Comcast, communications services are also available through Time Warner Telecom, US Internet, Arvig, Verizon, AT&T, Sprint and others.

## Small Cell Wireless Ordinance

On May 30, 2017, Governor Mark Dayton signed a bill amending the state's Telecommunications Right-of-Way User Law. This law restricts the city's ability to control installation of small cell wireless technology in public right-of-way. Under the new law, cities may continue to require a permit to install small wireless facilities, however, the law significantly limits the city's ability to deny the proposed installations.

## Electric Service

Xcel Energy provides electrical service in St. Louis Park. Based in Minneapolis, Xcel Energy operates in eight states. The company was formed in 2000 upon the merger of Minneapolis-based Northern States Power (NSP) and Denver-based New Century Energies.

## Natural Gas

Centerpoint Energy (formerly Minnegasco) provides natural gas to St. Louis Park. Centerpoint operates in six states, and is the largest distributor in Minnesota.

## Fiber Optics Service

The city, St. Louis Park School District and LOGIS (Local Government Information Systems) collectively own approximately 50 miles of fiber optics. The fiber is spread throughout the community, but is also concentrated at locations of city and school owned buildings, where demand for service by these two organizations is greatest.

St. Louis Park has adopted the goal of being a technology connected community. To pursue this goal, the city will:

1. Continue to take advantage of public works construction projects to inexpensively install at least conduit to support future fiber connections;
2. Use existing and additional fiber conduit to build redundant fiber connections to major public buildings to support disaster recovery and business continuity; and
3. Consider leasing unused fiber strand capacity to other parties to accelerate deployment of high-speed broadband capacity to homes and business as part of an overall community and economic development strategy.

In 2017, over 8 miles of fiber infrastructure were built; redundant fiber connections added and a disaster recovery site was established to help keep critical services operational. Fiber strand capacity was also leased to Arvig and to US Internet to support fiber-to-the-home and business (also known as "fiber-to-the-premise"). This helps improve choice, competition, and state-of-the-art broadband in the city. Similar efforts are programmed to continue in the future.