

White Bear Facts

a city of lakes and legends



Spring & Summer 2024

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You're Invited! Public Works Open House



Come join us as we show off our Public Works Facility, which houses equipment and offices for our Parks, Streets, Sewer, Fleet, and Water divisions. We will have equipment displays, demonstrations, kids activities, and facility tours. A family-friendly event for all!

Wednesday, May 22 from 5-7 p.m.

Public Works Facility, 3950 Hoffman Road, White Bear Lake, MN 55110

Public Safety Facility Renovation Project

The renovation and expansion of the Public Safety Facility has been in progress for just over a year, with completion set for mid-summer of 2024. The first phase of interior renovations is now complete, including re-opening the front entrance. In addition, significant progress has been made on the new police squad garage addition, expanded fire apparatus bay, and additional interior renovations.

With the mild winter, progress on the exterior of the facility has been significant. Sitework, including final grading, paving and landscaping, will also begin soon. The project remains on schedule, with Police and Fire staff expected to fully return to the facility by mid-summer.



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Spring Cleanup page 6



Summer Events page 7





WBLPD Launches New Drone Program

The White Bear Lake Police Department was awarded a Drone Program Grant and, in June 2023, received two drones (also known as Unmanned Aerial Vehicles). Naturally, these drones were named “Bear 1” and “Bear 2.” By September four qualified officers and one sergeant were chosen as pilots. After receiving

their Remote Pilot license from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the City’s drone pilots finished their training, and took to the skies by the New Year. It is important to share in what circumstances officers can, and cannot, utilize these drones, so residents have a basic understanding of their purpose. There are several regulations and checks-and-balances. An audit is completed by the State of Minnesota each year to make sure all flights are deemed appropriate and fall within the guidelines, set by Minnesota State Statutes. Authorized uses for drones include the following:

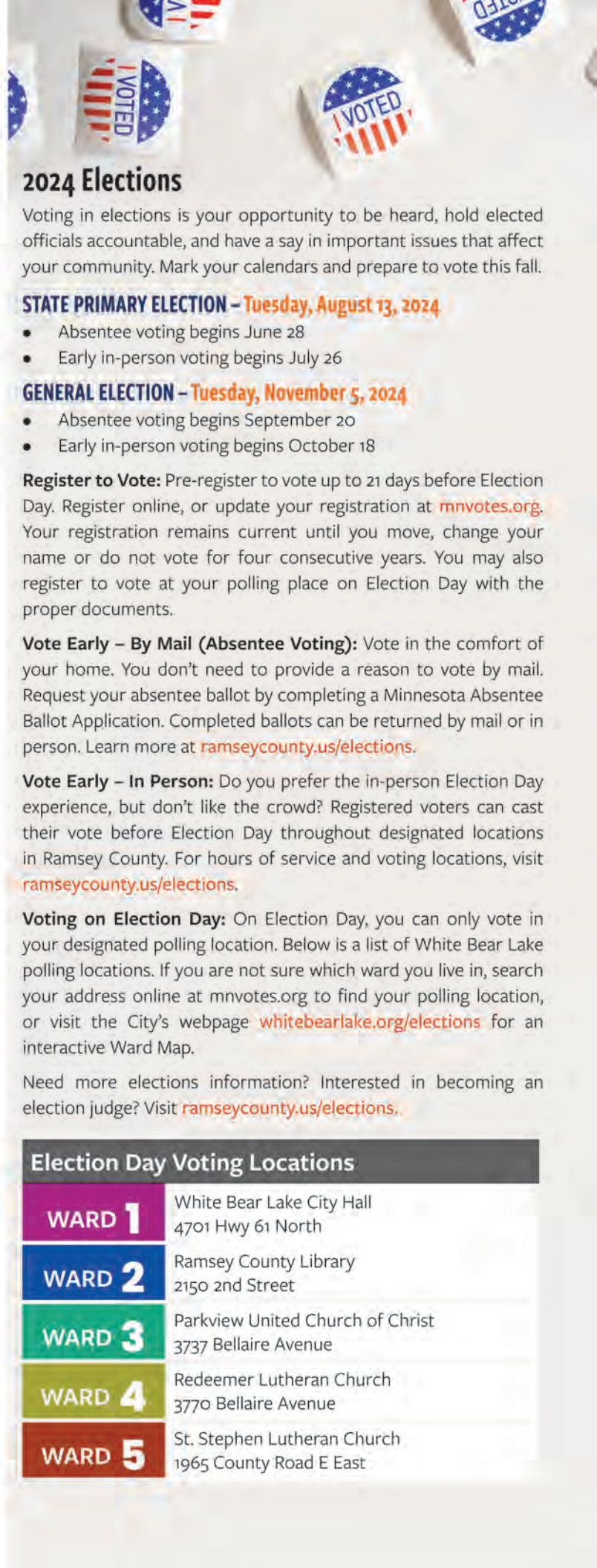
- During or in the aftermath of an emergency situation involving risk of life or bodily harm;
- Over a public event when there is a heightened risk of public safety;
- To prevent loss of life in natural or man-made disasters and to facilitate planning, rescue, and recovery;
- To collect information from a public area if there is suspicion of criminal activity; and
- For crash reconstruction purposes after a serious collision on a public roadway.

To view a full list of all authorized uses, refer to Minnesota State Statute 629.19, Subd. 3.

The Police Department plans to utilize this program to make the community a safer place. The primary use of drones will typically be rescue missions in circumstances when trying to locate someone who might be at risk (cold weather or in crisis). Drones will also be used in dangerous situations to help track someone trying to escape custody. The Police Department cannot, and will not, use a drone to “spy” on someone without probable cause, as required by the 4th Amendment. All flights are documented, using cutting-edge software, because the City understands and recognizes its obligation to be transparent in every aspect of this program.

The benefit of this technology allows officers to quickly have an “eye in the sky,” giving them an advantage when dealing with an intense and/or dangerous situation. Officers will locate individuals who are a potential threat and will implement a safety plan to get them into custody. Before drones, officers would have not had this extra time to plan their tactics and would be more susceptible to being injured.

We look forward to demonstrating drone capabilities at a few public events this summer. If you have any questions about the program, please reach out to Sergeant Isaac Tuma at ituma@whitebearlake.org.



2024 Elections

Voting in elections is your opportunity to be heard, hold elected officials accountable, and have a say in important issues that affect your community. Mark your calendars and prepare to vote this fall.

STATE PRIMARY ELECTION – Tuesday, August 13, 2024

- Absentee voting begins June 28
- Early in-person voting begins July 26

GENERAL ELECTION – Tuesday, November 5, 2024

- Absentee voting begins September 20
- Early in-person voting begins October 18

Register to Vote: Pre-register to vote up to 21 days before Election Day. Register online, or update your registration at mnvotes.org. Your registration remains current until you move, change your name or do not vote for four consecutive years. You may also register to vote at your polling place on Election Day with the proper documents.

Vote Early – By Mail (Absentee Voting): Vote in the comfort of your home. You don’t need to provide a reason to vote by mail. Request your absentee ballot by completing a Minnesota Absentee Ballot Application. Completed ballots can be returned by mail or in person. Learn more at ramseycounty.us/elections.

Vote Early – In Person: Do you prefer the in-person Election Day experience, but don’t like the crowd? Registered voters can cast their vote before Election Day throughout designated locations in Ramsey County. For hours of service and voting locations, visit ramseycounty.us/elections.

Voting on Election Day: On Election Day, you can only vote in your designated polling location. Below is a list of White Bear Lake polling locations. If you are not sure which ward you live in, search your address online at mnvotes.org to find your polling location, or visit the City’s webpage whitebearlake.org/elections for an interactive Ward Map.

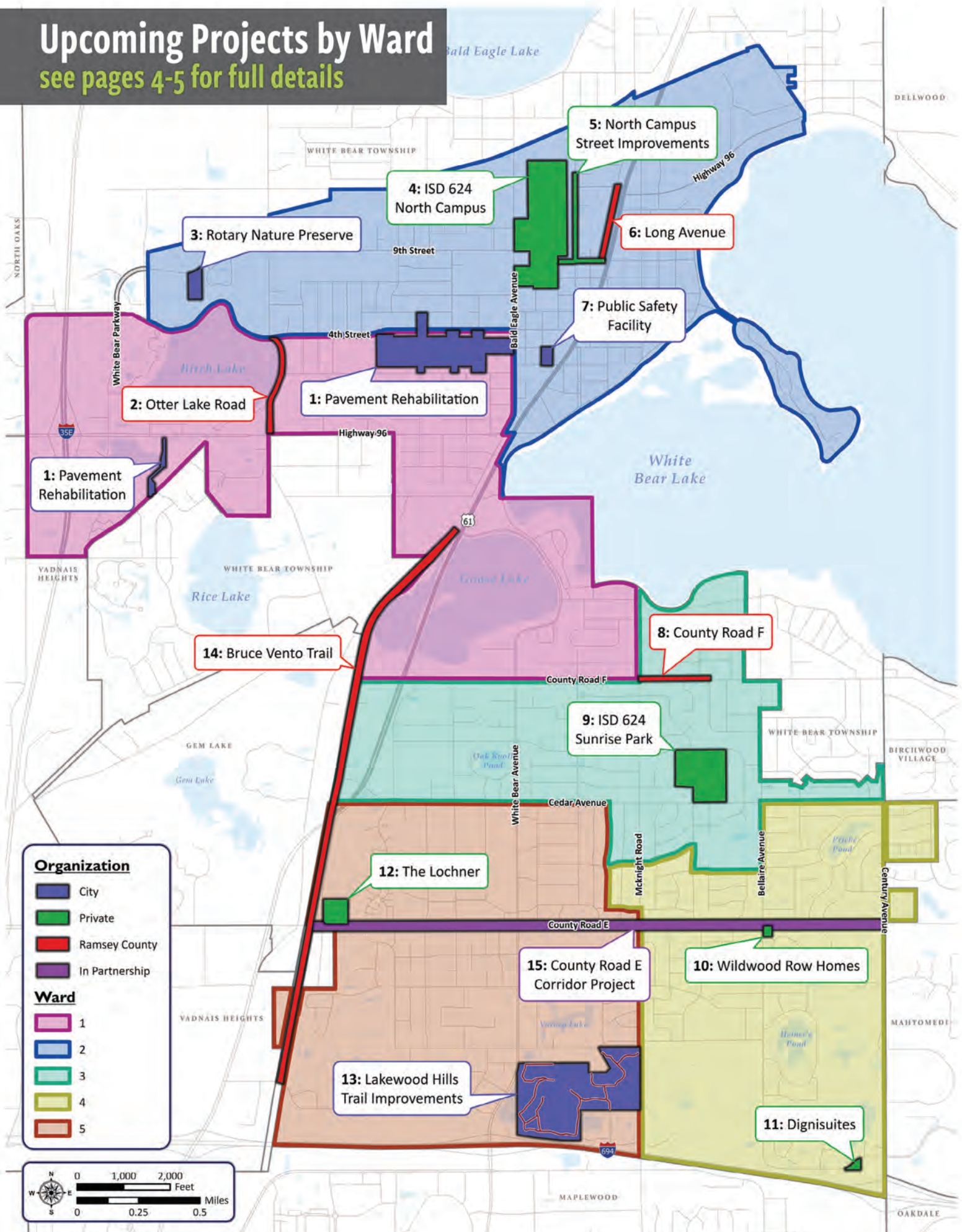
Need more elections information? Interested in becoming an election judge? Visit ramseycounty.us/elections.

Election Day Voting Locations

WARD 1	White Bear Lake City Hall 4701 Hwy 61 North
WARD 2	Ramsey County Library 2150 2nd Street
WARD 3	Parkview United Church of Christ 3737 Bellaire Avenue
WARD 4	Redeemer Lutheran Church 3770 Bellaire Avenue
WARD 5	St. Stephen Lutheran Church 1965 County Road E East

Upcoming Projects by Ward

see pages 4-5 for full details

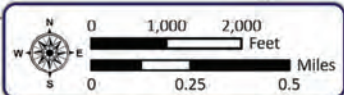


Organization

- City
- Private
- Ramsey County
- In Partnership

Ward

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5



Upcoming Projects by Ward

Ward 1

1. Pavement Rehabilitation Project: This project includes pavement replacement on approximately 1.6 miles of roadway along with minor utility repairs. Also included in the project is Sports Center Drive and the Sports Center parking lots. For more information, visit whitebearlake.org/engineering.

2. Otter Lake Road: The City is working with Ramsey County to complete the segment of a multi-use trail along the east side of Birch Lake on Otter Lake Road from Birch Lake Boulevard South to Birch Lake Boulevard North. This project also includes a full roadway reconstruction from Highway 96 to Birch Lake Boulevard North/Fourth Street. ramseycounty.us/residents/roads-transportation/future-road-projects/future-road-construction-projects/otter-lake-road-reconstruction



Ward 2



3. Rotary Nature Preserve Restoration – Phase 3: The City and The Rotary Club continue to partner on a multi-year restoration project to remove invasive species and restore the park with native plants. Phase 3 of the restoration continues this spring with additional invasive plant removal on both sides of the paved trail from the wetland boardwalk to Birch Lake Blvd N followed by a native plant restoration this summer. The City is removing the invasive Amur maple along the trail, which will make this area look open and bare until the newly planted native grasses, flowers, trees and shrubs have time to grow. Funding partners for Phase 3 include Rotary Club, Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization, and the City of White Bear Lake. For more information, visit whitebearlake.org/rotaryresto. (pictured left) .

4. ISD 624 White Bear Lake Area High School - North Campus: Construction on the White Bear Lake Area High School North Campus addition and renovation is anticipated to be substantially complete by next school year. The 375,000 sq. ft., three-story addition and new fieldhouse at the North Campus were completed last winter and renovation of 216,000 sq. ft. of existing building space is underway. Grades 11 and 12 are scheduled to shift to North Campus beginning in fall 2024. This will mark the first time that grades 9-12 have shared a campus since 1983 when the district had two high schools, Mariner High School and White Bear High School. For more information, visit isd624.org/about/building-our-future.

5. North Campus Street Improvements: The additions and renovations to the White Bear Lake Area High School North Campus required the school district to complete improvements to Division Avenue and 8th Street in order to facilitate the increase in staff and student traffic. Division Avenue improvements include the addition of turn lanes into the school entrances. Improvements on 8th Street include roadway widening, the addition of sidewalk along the south side, and installing a new traffic signal at 8th Street and Highway 61. All roadway improvements include enhanced pedestrian facilities and street crossings.

6. Long Avenue: Ramsey County will be resurfacing Long Avenue from 8th Street to 12th Street this year.

7. Public Safety Facility Renovation: Renovation and expansion of the Public Safety Facility is still in progress and on schedule to be completed this summer. See page 1 for more information.

Ward 3

8. County Road F Sidewalk: Ramsey County is constructing a sidewalk along County Road F between McKnight Road and Jay Lane.

9. ISD 624 Sunrise Park Middle School: In fall 2024, students who currently attend Sunrise Middle School will begin attending Mariner Middle School, which will be at what is currently the White Bear Lake Area High School South Campus. Sunrise will be remodeled and become the new home to the district administrative offices, senior center, and early childhood center.

County Road E Corridor Action Plan Update

In fall 2022, the cities of White Bear Lake, Vadnais Heights, and Gem Lake, with support from Ramsey County, created the County Road E Corridor Action Plan through a community informed process. The action plan contains a series of short, mid, and long-term recommendations for policymakers to consider as they guide development and public realm improvements along the County Road E Corridor.

One of the recommendations in the plan is to create a cohesive theme and overall sense of place for the corridor. To begin carrying out this recommendation, the three communities have secured an additional grant from Ramsey County. The grant will be used to establish a brand identity, marketing, and placemaking strategy for the County Road E Corridor.

It is anticipated that this project will inform the work of future collaborative efforts between the communities both in the near term and future, as well as guide both individual and collection action by the County Road E communities. Not only will this project support the economic vibrancy of the corridor for existing businesses, it will offer guidelines for public realm improvements that will ultimately enhance its desirability for people to live, work, and visit.

Upcoming Projects by Ward



Ward 4

10. Wildwood Row Homes: Nine townhomes have been approved at 2502 County Road E East, the former site of the Petro Wash gas station. It is anticipated this project will break ground in the summer or fall of 2024. (future site pictured above)

11. Dignisuites: The property located at 2687 County Rd D received approvals to be divided in two—with one lot located on the north side of County Rd D and one lot located to the south. Dignisuites Memory Care received City approvals to develop the south lot for a nursing home. The nursing home will consist of 14 private suites and will provide memory care and chronic care services to residents.



Ward 5

12. The Lochner: The multi-family development at County Road E is nearing completion. The first of two buildings received its certificate of occupancy and the second building is anticipated to be complete by late spring or early summer. (rendition above)

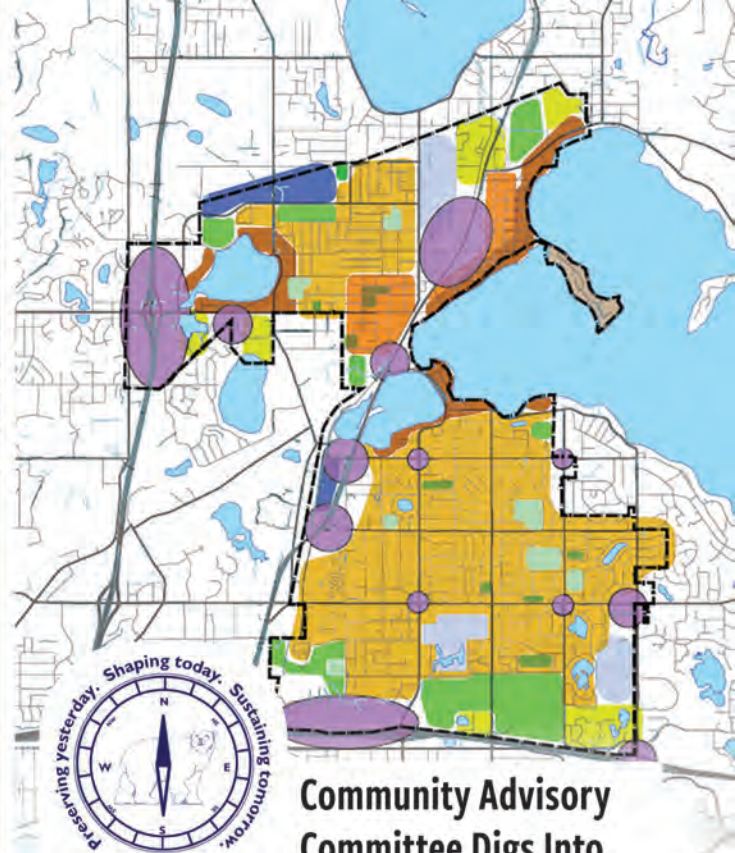
13. Lakewood Hills Trail Improvements: Paving of some of the trail segments within the park are expected this summer.

Multi-Ward Projects



14. Bruce Vento Trail: The Bruce Vento Trail is a proposed 13.3 mile regional trail that will ultimately extend from downtown St. Paul, north to County Road J, of which the southern 7 miles are complete and currently terminate near Buerkle Road. The next phase, Phase 1, will extend 2.7 miles from Buerkle Road, north to the intersection of Hoffman Road and Highway 61. Ramsey County is working to begin construction later in 2024, with completion expected in late 2025. For more information, visit: ramseycounty.us/residents/parks-recreation/planning-construction-restoration/bruce-vento-regional-trail-improvement-overview

15. County Road E Corridor Project: See the County Road E Corridor update article on page 4 for more information.



City of White Bear Lake
Zoning Code Update

Community Advisory Committee Digs Into Zoning Code Update

Last fall, the City kicked off a process to review and update its Zoning Code. This project was necessary, because state law requires all metropolitan area cities to update their Zoning Code to be consistent with the community's long-range planning document, the Comprehensive Plan.

Mayor Dan Louismet established a 10-member Community Advisory Committee made up of various residents and community interest groups to help inform and guide this process. This group has been working with a team of City staff and consultants to review the 2040 Comprehensive Plan and existing Zoning Code to establish a project framework to inform preparation of the new Zoning Code. In early April, the City held open houses to present this framework to the community and gather feedback. You can learn more about the project and provide feedback at whitebearlake.org/zoningupdate.

Downtown Mobility and Parking Study

The public engagement portion of the Downtown Mobility and Parking Study wrapped up with a public open house on March 7 and corresponding online survey. The next step is for the Steering Committee to submit a final report to the City Council, which will have recommendations that will guide the City's future projects in the downtown area. The recommendations will be based on data collected and public input gathered throughout the study. The final report is expected to be complete and presented to the City Council in early summer 2024.

For an updated schedule and more project information, please visit whitebearlake.org/mobility.



Pictured: (left to right) Community Development Director Jason Lindahl, City Manager Lindy Crawford, Bill Foussard, Main Street President and businessowner Lisa Beecroft, Housing and Economic Development Coordinator Tracy Shimek

Local Business Owner honored at Explore Minnesota Tourism Conference

In February, Explore Minnesota, the state’s tourism agency, awarded the Tourism Industry Leader of the Year award to local business owner Bill Foussard, celebrating his outstanding personal achievements. Foussard, owner of Best Western Plus White Bear Country Inn and Rudy’s Redeye Grill, has had an immense impact on tourism in the area, including founding Explore White Bear and partnering with other community leaders to attract the 2009 Governor’s Fishing Opener to White Bear Lake. In addition to his work in tourism, Bill is well known for his involvement in many civic organizations and his charitable work in the community, including Thanksgiving Meals on Wheels and Dinner with Santa for area seniors.

“We cannot think of a more deserving individual for the Explore Minnesota Tourism Industry Leader Award,” says Mayor Dan Louismet. “Bill’s leadership in tourism at a local and state level has been an enormous benefit to White Bear Lake and the industry as a whole. He is a tireless booster of the White Bear Lake community and beloved for the spirit and energy he puts into all of his endeavors.”

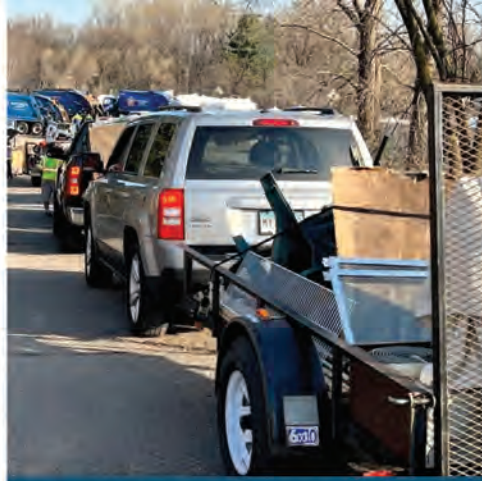


Recycle Your Unwanted Clothing and Other Textiles at the Spring Cleanup Day Event

The City is excited to partner with Retold Recycling to host a textile recycling event for residents. Collection will be held in conjunction with the City’s spring cleanup day May 4 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Items accepted include clothing, blankets, towels, dishcloths, bed linens, cotton face mask, single socks, shoes, and undergarments. All items must be clean and dry, and brought to the collection in a tied plastic bag.

Retold Recycling meticulously sorts and recycles all donated textiles, ensuring each item enjoys a second life. They may be repurposed by thrift stores, upcyclers, rag companies, and others. Learn more at RetoldRecycling.com.

This is a free collection. Vehicles bringing in only textiles will not be charged a disposal fee.



WHITE BEAR LAKE SPRING CLEANUP DAY

SATURDAY, MAY 4

7 a.m.-1 p.m.

4200 Hoffman Road (former Public Works site)

Gather unwanted items in your house and load up your car. It’s our annual spring cleanup day! This event is for White Bear Lake residents only. You will be asked to provide proof of residency (i.e. utility bill or driver’s license) and payment. Yard waste and household hazardous waste (except car batteries and florescent lights) will not be accepted at this event. Go to pages 8 and 9, respectively, for these items.

Acceptable Items

Air conditioners	Furniture
Appliances (toilets, clothes washers, etc.)	Humidifiers
Bicycles	Lawn mowers & snow blowers (all fluids drained)
Car batteries	Mattresses
Carpeting	Televisions
Computers (PCs, monitors, laptops)	Textiles (NEW textile recycling – see article left)
Construction materials	Tires
Electronics	
Fluorescent bulbs and ballasts (up to 10 fluorescent bulbs will be accepted)	

Unacceptable Items

Leaves, branches, tree stumps and other yard waste	Motor oil, propane tanks, paint, and other household hazardous waste
Firewood	Items larger than appliances (fish houses, boats, sheds)

Fees

A disposal fee will be charged based on the size and type of load. Pay at the gate with cash or check payable to “City of White Bear Lake”. You can bring a load of general trash and be charged by the size of your vehicle. If you have bulky items that require special handling you will only be charged for those items. If you have a mixed load, you will be charged for both. For more information on fees, visit whitebearlake.org/cleanup.

**Save the date for the Fall Cleanup Day on
October 5, 2024.**

Upcoming Community Events

Trash to Treasure Day

Saturday, April 27 · 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

Place unwanted items at your curb with a "Free" sign on them and wait for new owners to pick them up. Consider donating unwanted items to a local thrift store, or bring them to the City's Spring Cleanup Day on May 4, 2024.

Spring Cleanup Day

Saturday, May 4 · 7 a.m.-1 p.m.

4200 Hoffman Road. See page 6 for more details, or visit whitebearlake.org/cleanup.



Touch-a-Truck - FREE

Thursday, May 9 · 5-7 p.m.
Podvin Park - 1700 9th Street

Hey kids – this event is a great opportunity to see and tour cool vehicles. Police squads, fire trucks, big trucks, city street equipment and much more!

Public Works Open House

Wednesday, May 22 · 5-7 p.m.
Public Works Facility -
3950 Hoffman Road

See page 1 for details.

WaterFest 2024 - FREE

Saturday, June 1 · 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Lake Phalen Park (1600 Phalen Dr.)

This free, family festival celebrating our clean lakes provides an opportunity for outdoor hands-on learning about clean water, wildlife, and land and water conservation. Visit rwmwd.org/waterfest for more information.

Kids Bike Rodeo – FREE

Saturday, June 8 · 9-11 a.m.

White Bear Lake Public Works Facility
3950 Hoffman Road

Kids and their parents are invited to get bikes tuned up, helmets fitted, rider safety information, demonstrations, prizes, and ride through fun courses for kids. Register at whitebearlake.org/publicsafety/webform/kids-bike-rodeo.



Marketfest

Thursdays, June 13 – July 25 · 6-9 p.m.

Shop 130+ merchandise and food vendors in downtown White Bear Lake. Visit marketfestwbl.com for more information. Meet Police, Fire and EMS on July 11 and attend the Environmental Resources Expo on July 25. There is no cost to attend.

Fridays with Firefighters

Fridays, June 21, July 19, August 16
10 a.m.-12 p.m.

FREE Want to get outside and have some fun with your Fire Department? There will be 3 opportunities this summer to join us at the south Fire Station, located at 2240 County Road E for fun and safety education! This is a great event for parents and their young children.



Manitou Days

June 13 – July 4

This year's theme is "Bears United!". Find a list of events at manitoudays.com, including the Grande Parade, Beach Dance, and Medallion Hunt, among 50+ events! Manitou Days ends with a bang on July 4 with live music and fireworks at Memorial Beach. Lots of events are free.



Farmers' Market

Every Friday between June 28-Oct 25
· 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

Located downtown at Clark Street between 2nd and 3rd Streets. There are new items this season! Come check out the relish, GF Bakery, and infused salts/spices. There is no cost to attend. Vendors will provide goods and services for purchase.

Donuts & Coffee with Cops

Friday, June 28 · 8:30-10 a.m.

Kickoff the first Friday of the Farmers' Market with free donuts and coffee with the Police Department. Stop by and say hello!



Safety Camp

Tuesday, July 9 · 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Safety Camp will be held for kids entering 3rd, 4th & 5th Grade. Topics may include bicycle safety, fire safety, CPR/First Aid, boating safety, internet safety, bullying awareness, and more! \$25 fee includes a day of fun, lunch, and a t-shirt. Visit whitebearlake.org for registration information this summer.

Night to Unite (National Night Out)

Tuesday, August 6 · Evening

Get to know your neighbors and City Public Safety officials. Register via the City's website beginning July 1st at whitebearlake.org/publicsafety/page/night-unite.



Water Treatment Plant Maintenance/Hydrant Flushing

Public Works will be completing annual spring cleaning and routine maintenance inspection of the Water Treatment Plant the week of April 22. During this time, the plant will not be softening the water. The water is safe to drink but will just not be as soft as residents are accustomed. After the maintenance work is completed (usually in 1-2 weeks), the Water Plant will be put back into service, and all fire hydrants are flushed to remove remaining hard water and sediment accumulated in the system. It also allows staff to verify operation of all fire hydrants.

If you experience any discoloration of water during the flushing operation (which usually takes 2-4 days to complete), run cold water until the discoloration disappears. While this discolored water is safe to consume, you should avoid washing light-colored clothes until the water runs clear.

Street Sweeping

As soon as weather permits, Public Works crews will be sweeping city streets for general cleaning, to keep our storm sewer systems clear of sediment, leaves, and other debris, and protecting our lakes and wetlands. City ordinance prohibits the disposal of leaves, lawn clippings, and other debris into streets.



Report an Illicit Discharge

Any discharge into a storm sewer system, ditch, river, stream or waterbody that is not composed entirely of stormwater (rain or melting snow) is called an illicit discharge. Illicit discharges may be the result of dumping gas, oil, paints, cleaners, concrete wastewater and sediment from construction sites into the storm sewer system or allowing fertilizer, grass, leaves, pesticides or pet waste to wash into storm drains. Report any suspicious discharges by calling the Engineering Department at 651-429-8531 or going online to whitebearlake.org/reportaproblem. In case of an emergency, call 911.



Watering Restrictions Begin May 1

Water your lawn early in the morning or late at night. In an effort to conserve groundwater resources, the City prohibits irrigation between the hours of 10 a.m.-5 p.m. every day from May 1 to September 30. This applies to all properties in the city.



Dog Waste Dirties the Water

It might not seem like a stormwater problem, but pet waste is one of the many seemingly small sources of pollution that can add up to big problems for water quality, and even human health.

Pet waste contains two main types of pollutants that harm local waters: nutrients and pathogens. Messes left on lawns, curbs, sidewalks, and streets wash into local waterbodies untreated, either directly or through the storm sewer during a rainstorm. When this waste ends up in lakes and wetlands, it decomposes, releasing nutrients that cause excessive growth of algae. This makes the water murky, green, smelly, and even unusable for swimming or fishing.

The easiest way to avoid these problems is to clean up after your pet each and every time, and dispose of the waste properly, into the trash.



Yard Waste Disposal Options

Did you know state law prohibits mixing leaves, grass, and other brush material with your trash? Dispose of yard waste by subscribing to curbside yard waste pickup or visiting a free yard waste disposal site.

- 1. Subscription curbside yard waste pick-up service runs April 15 – November 30 (weather permitting). To subscribe to this paid service, call Republic Services at 952-941-5174 anytime between 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday. This service is not part of weekly trash and recycling collection, and is billed separately by Republic Services.

Republic Services Collection Rates for 2024 Curbside Yard Waste Pickup

- **Annual Service:** Unlimited service at an annual rate of \$80/year, April 15 through November 30 (weather permitting). The yard waste container is provided at no additional cost.
- **Seasonal Service:** Seasonal service for \$50/year, for the months of August, September, October, and November (weather permitting). Residents must provide their own compostable bags.
- **On-Call Service:** On-call service at a rate of \$2.50 per bag of yard waste. There is a minimum charge of \$20 (eight bags). Residents must provide their own compostable bags.

- 2. Free yard waste disposal is available for White Bear Lake residents at county yard waste sites. Keep trees and shrubs separate from leaves and grass clippings and place them in the appropriate pile.

Ramsey County Yard Waste Site:

5900 Sherwood Road, White Bear Township

For more information and site hours, visit ramseyrecycles.com/yardwaste or call 651-633-EASY (3279), answered 24/7.

Washington County Northern Yard Waste Site:

5527 170th Street North, Hugo

For more information and site hours, visit co.washington.mn.us/yardwaste or call 651-275-7475.



Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Many household products you use to clean your kitchen and bathroom, maintain your car and home, and control animal and insect pests contain hazardous materials. When these products are no longer needed or useful, they are considered household hazardous waste (HHW). To properly dispose of these items, bring them to a Ramsey County or Washington County HHW collection site.

Ramsey County has a year-round HHW collection site in Saint Paul and a mobile collection that moves to a different community each month from April through October. Find hours, directions and the full list of items accepted at ramseyrecycles.com/hhw or call the Ramsey County Recycling & Disposal hotline at 651-633-EASY (3279), answered 24/7. Ramsey County HHW sites are open to all White Bear Lake residents.

Washington County offers a year-round HHW collection site at the Environmental Center (4039 Cottage Grove Drive, Woodbury). For more information, visit co.washington.mn.us/envirocenter or call 651-275-7475. The Washington County Environmental Center is open to all White Bear Lake residents.

Recreational Fires and Grilling

With summertime comes bonfires and grilling—a great way to enjoy the outdoors just right out your door! Follow these safety tips to keep you, friends, family, and neighbors safe.

- **Maximum size:** A recreational fire has a maximum diameter of three feet and a height of two feet.
- **Distance:** Recreational fires must be at least 25 feet away from any structure and anything that can burn.
- **Burning materials:** Only clean, natural wood can be burned. The use of flammable or combustible liquid accelerants is not permitted, and can be extremely dangerous.
- **Safety around the fire:** The fire should be constantly attended and supervised by an adult. Never let children or pets play or stand too close to the fire. A connected garden hose or other means to extinguish the fire must be readily available. If your clothes catch fire, stop, drop, and roll. Stop, drop to the ground and cover your face with your hands. Roll over and over, or back and forth, until the fire is out. Treat a burn right away. Cool the burn with cool water for 3 to 5 minutes. Cover with a clean, dry cloth. Seek medical help if needed.
- **Weather:** Avoid burning on windy, dry days. Wind speeds over 10 miles per hour can be hazardous. Any person planning to have a recreational fire must be aware of any local burning bans. To check burning conditions within Minnesota, explore the DNR's website at dnr.state.mn.us and search for 'fire danger & burning restrictions'.
- **After the bonfire:** Wait to dispose of any fire debris until it is fully cooled.

Find a full list of recreational fire rules at whitebearlake.org, search "recreational fires". Any fire that doesn't fit the description of a recreational fire is required to have a burning permit. Apply for a burn permit on the City's website by searching 'burning permits'.

Burgers for dinner? Follow these grilling safety tips to avoid fires and burns:

- **Prep the grill:** Place the grill away from the home, deck railings, and out from under eaves and hanging branches. Always make sure your gas grill lid is open when lighting it.
- **Charcoal grills:** When using a starter fluid, only use charcoal starter fluid and never add starter fluid or other flammable liquids to open flames.
- **Safety around the grill:** Never leave the grill or charcoal chimneys unattended. Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grilling area.
- **Clean up:** Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup, including in catch trays. For charcoal grills, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.

Article references: Department of Public Safety, National Fire Protection Association



Volunteers Needed for Buckthorn Removal Event This Fall

The City's Environmental Advisory Commission is planning a buckthorn removal event at Lakewood Hills Park this fall. If you are interested in volunteering to help remove buckthorn, a non-native invasive species in our urban forests, visit whitebearlake.org/volunteer to be included on the volunteer interest list. The date for the fall buckthorn removal event is to be determined and will be communicated through the mailing list.

Free Curbside Mattress Collection in June

The City is partnering with Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy and Second Chance Recycling to offer curbside mattress and box spring recycling collection during the month of June. In an effort to recycle mattresses and box springs and keep them out of the trash, mattress pick-up comes at no additional cost to City residents. Beginning the last week of May, residents can schedule a June pickup. Check back to our website at whitebearlake.org/recycle.



Spotlight on Sustainability

Residents traveling along Highway 61 may have noticed significant changes to the Goose Lake shoreline abutting Walser Polar Chevrolet in recent years. As part of the auto dealership reconstruction project that began in 2019, the company focused particularly on improvements to stormwater management and shoreline restoration. Stormwater management is an important aspect of any project because it treats water runoff for chemicals and prevents erosion—key factors in improving and maintaining the water quality of area lakes and wetlands. Conditions on this particular site, including clay soils and a high-water table, provided some challenges and meant the organization needed to design a unique system to manage the runoff.

The solution was an iron-enhanced sand filtration system, where iron is mixed with sand and laid within a large basin encompassing the length of the shoreline (see photo). As rainwater runs off the surrounding hard surfaces, it is directed to one of several inlets that filter out debris and sediment, before draining into the basin where the iron removes pollutants. The treated water then eventually seeps into Goose Lake. According to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, iron-enhanced sand is a good management tool for nutrient-impaired waters, a designation currently ascribed to Goose Lake. Iron-enhanced sand has high pollutant removal rates and is particularly successful at removing phosphorous, which contributes to high levels of algae growth. The project also included the dredging of debris out of Goose Lake, regrading the shoreline to a natural slope, and planting native vegetation around the stormwater basin.

From mitigating water pollution, stabilizing the shore, and providing wildlife habitat, the improvements Walser Polar Chevrolet made to their site offer many benefits to the environment and the community.



Submit your Sustainable Project

With each newsletter, the City spotlights a different business or residential sustainability project, which could include projects that conserve energy, use renewable energy, provide alternative transportation, treat stormwater, conserve drinking water, increase pollinator and wildlife habitat, or reduce waste. If you would like to see your project featured in an upcoming newsletter, please email communitydevelopment@whitebearlake.org or call 651-429-8534.



Donations Support Downtown Flower Program

City staff want to share a special thank you to those who have donated to support the Downtown Flower Program. This program supports the supply and care of flowers, whether through flower beds, hanging baskets or sidewalk pots, scattered throughout the downtown area. Check out a list of donors and donation tributes on at whitebearlake.org/flowers, or scan the QR code with your mobile device camera.

If you are interested in donating to the Downtown Flower Program, or donating “in memory” or “in honor” of someone special, visit our website listed above to learn more.



The City reports annually on the quality of our drinking water provided by our water distribution system. The report, known as the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), describes the source of City water (deep wells) and includes information on any contaminants detected through a regular testing program, which is monitored by the Minnesota Department of Health. Customers may find the current CCR online at whitebearlake.org/ccr. To speak with someone about the report, please contact the Public Works Water Division at 651-779-5106. A paper copy of the most recent report can also be obtained at City Hall at no cost.



Watershed Management Organization Grant Opportunities

Watershed Management Organizations (WMOs) are special-purpose units of government that manage, protect, and improve surface water and groundwater quality and habitat. The City is within the jurisdiction of four WMOs. Each WMO offers a grant program to allow individuals and organizations to actively participate in improving water quality. Common projects that may be funded include raingardens, permeable pavement, shoreline restorations, native landscaping, turf alternatives, rain barrels, and targeted water education. Visit whitebearlake.org/watersheds to locate your WMO and explore grant opportunities, or directly contact your respective WMO for more information:

Contacts:

- Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District (RWMWD)
Contact: Paige Ahlborg at 651-792-7964 or paige.ahlborg@rwmwd.org
- Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD)
Contact: Molly Nelson at 763-398-3083 Ext 183 or mnelson@ricecreek.org
- Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization (VLAWMO)
Contact: Lauren Sampedro at 651-204-6071 or lauren.sampedro@vlawmo.org
- Valley Branch Watershed District (VBWD)
Contact: Tara Kelly at 651-330-8220 x43 or tkelly@mnwcd.org



Recycling and Food Scraps Containers Available for Your Next Event

Whether you're hosting a block party, graduation, family reunion, or other gathering, consider using recycling and food scraps containers to reduce waste. Place a recycling and food scraps container next to each trash container to make recycling and trash disposal easier for your guests.

The City provides portable recycling and food scraps containers that collapse for easy transport and come with signage and bags that attach to the assembled frame. Containers are loaned at no cost to White Bear Lake residents and organizations for any temporary gathering. Reserve one for your next event! Contact City Hall to reserve a container by calling Connie Taillon, Environmental Specialist, at 651-429-8587 or fill out the online order form at whitebearlake.org, search 'event recycling'.

The food scrap material collected can be brought to any one of the 17 free collection sites located throughout Ramsey County. The closest collection site is located at the White Bear Lake Public Works facility (3950 Hoffman Road). For other locations, visit ramseyrecycles.com/foodscraps or call the Ramsey County Recycling & Disposal hotline at 651-633-EASY (3279), answered 24/7.

RECYCLING AT HOME - Put all of these items together in your curbside recycling cart

 <p>Cardboard & Pizza Delivery Boxes – flattened, must fit in cart</p>	 <p>Milk Cartons & Juice Boxes – rinse, replace caps</p>	 <p>Most plastic food and beverage containers – empty, rinse, and include caps #1, #2 & #5 accepted</p>
 <p>Newspapers – with inserts</p>	 <p>Aluminum & Steel Cans, Empty Aerosol Cans, Foil & Trays, Cardboard Food Tubes With Metal Ends – rinse clean, labels are OK. No cans that contained hazardous or flammable materials.</p>	 <p>Glass Bottles & Jars – rinse, remove caps & lids</p>  <p>Boxboard – remove plastic liners or bags and flatten</p>  <p>Magazines, Mail, Phonebooks, Office Paper</p>

These items DO NOT belong in your recycling cart!

 <p>NO plastic bags</p>	 <p>NO random metal items</p>	 <p>NO tangles (hoses, string lights, wires)</p>	 <p>NO batteries or cell phones</p>	 <p>NO shredded paper</p>	 <p>NO clothing or diapers</p>
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City of White Bear Lake
4701 Highway 61
White Bear Lake, Minnesota
55110

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Administrative Offices

City Hall	651-429-8526
Administration	651-429-8508
Building	651-429-8518
Planning	651-429-8561
Engineering	651-429-8531
Police	651-429-8539
Fire	651-429-8568
Public Works	651-747-3650
Sports Center	651-429-8571
Utility Billing	651-429-8565
City Website	www.whitebearlake.org

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram & X

Want to pay your utility bill over the phone?
Call 855-798-1527 for our easy, automated service. Processing fees apply.



Trash and Recycling Holiday Schedule

Trash and recycling are not picked up on the following holidays:

New Year's Day · Memorial Day · Independence Day · Labor Day · Thanksgiving · Christmas Day

When a holiday falls on a weekday, trash and recycling for that day and remaining days of the week will be delayed one day. Holidays that fall on weekends do not affect Republic Service's pickup schedule.

Report Sewer Backups

Call the Public Works Department to report a sewer backup at 651-747-3650. Business hours are from 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. For after-hours emergencies, the voicemail recording will provide additional instructions to redirect your call.



Adopt a Storm Drain to Help Protect Lakes, Streams, and Wetlands

Improve water quality by adopting a storm drain in your neighborhood. Keep it clear of leaves, trash, and other debris to prevent it from washing down storm drains and into nearby waterbodies. Sign up to adopt a storm drain at adopt-a-drain.org. A map will show which drains have been adopted, and those that need to be. Drains not reflected on the map can be added. A family-friendly project!



Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program Public Hearing · May 14

A public hearing will be held to discuss the City's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP) at the May 14 City Council meeting. The SWPPP guides the City's water quality efforts and is updated yearly. Interested residents are encouraged to attend and comment on the SWPPP. To review the City's SWPPP and provide comments online, visit whitebearlake.org/stormwater. For questions or to request a paper copy of the SWPPP, contact Connie Taillon, Environmental Specialist, at ctaillon@whitebearlake.org or 651-429-8587.