The Government Data Practices Act (Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13) says that data subjects have certain rights related to a government entity collecting, creating, and keeping government data about them. You are the subject of data when you can be identified from the data. Government data is a term that means all recorded information a government entity has, including paper, email, DVDs, photographs, etc.

Classification of Data about You

The Government Data Practices Act presumes that all government data are public unless a state or federal law says that the data are not public. Data about you are classified by state law as public, private, or confidential. See below for some examples.

1. **Public data**: We must give public data to anyone who asks; it does not matter who is asking for the data or why.

   One example of public data about you:  *Your name on an application for a license from the city.*

2. **Private data**: We cannot give private data to the general public, but you can have access to private data when the data are about you. We can share your private data with you, with someone who has your permission, with our government entity staff who have a work assignment to see the data, and to others as permitted by law or court order.

   One example of private data about you could be:  *Your social security number.*

3. **Confidential data**: Confidential data have the most protection. Neither the public nor you can get access even when the confidential data are about you. We can share confidential data about you with our government entity staff who have a work assignment to see the data, and to others as permitted by law or court order. We cannot give you access to confidential data.

   One example of confidential data about you:  *The identity of the subject of an active criminal investigation.*

Your Rights under the Government Data Practices Act

This government entity must keep all government data in a way that makes it easy for you to access data about you. Also, we can collect and keep only those data about you that we need for administering and managing programs that are permitted by law. As a data subject, you have the following rights.

Access to Your Data

You have the right to look at (inspect), free of charge, public and private data that we keep about you. You also have the right to get copies of public and private data about you. The Government Data Practices Act allows us to charge for copies. You have the right to look at data, free of charge, before deciding to request copies.

Also, if you ask, we will tell you whether we keep data about you and whether the data are public, private, or confidential.
As a parent, you have the right to look at and get copies of public and private data about your minor children (under the age of 18). As a legally appointed guardian, you have the right to look at and get copies of public and private data about an individual for whom you are appointed guardian.

Minors have the right to ask this government entity not to give data about them to their parent or guardian. If you are a minor, we will tell you that you have this right. We may ask you to put your request in writing and to include the reasons that we should deny your parents access to the data. We will make the final decision about your request based on your best interests.

**When We Collect Data from You**

When we ask you to provide data about yourself that are not public, we must give you a notice. The notice is sometimes called a Tennessen warning. The notice controls what we do with the data that we collect from you. Usually, we can use and release the data only in the ways described in the notice.

We will ask for your written permission if we need to use or release private data about you in a different way, or if you ask us to release the data to another person. This permission is called informed consent. If you want us to release data to another person, you must use the consent form we provide.

**Protecting your Data**

The Government Data Practices Act requires us to protect your data. We have established appropriate safeguards to ensure that your data are safe.

In the unfortunate event that we determine a security breach has occurred and an unauthorized person has gained access to your data, we will notify you as required by law.

**When your Data are Inaccurate and/or Incomplete**

You have the right to challenge the accuracy and/or completeness of public and private data about you. You also have the right to appeal our decision. If you are a minor, your parent or guardian has the right to challenge data about you.

**How to Make a Request for Your Data**

This government entity requires proof of your identity before we can respond to your request for data. If you are requesting data about your minor child, you must show proof that you are the minor’s parent. If you are a guardian, you must show legal documentation of your guardianship. Please see the Standards for Verifying Identity.

To look at data, or request copies of data about you, your minor children, or an individual for whom you have been appointed legal guardian, submit a written data subjects request form via mail or email to a data practices contact.

If you choose not to use the data request form, your request should include:

- You are making a request, under the Government Data Practices Act (Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13), as a data subject, for data about you;
- Whether you would like to inspect the data, have copies of the data, or both.
- A clear description of the data you would like to inspect or have copied.
- Identifying information that proves you are the data subject, or data subject’s parent/guardian.
How We Respond to a Data Request

Once you make your request, we will work to process your request.

- If it is not clear what data you are requesting, we will ask you for clarification.
- If we do not have the data, we will notify you in writing within 10 business days.
- If we have the data, but the data are confidential or private data that are not about you, we will notify you within 10 business days and state which specific law says you cannot access the data.
- If we have the data, and the data are public or private data about you, we will respond to your request within 10 business days, by doing one of the following:
  - Arrange a date, time, and place to inspect data, for free, if your request is to look at the data, or
  - Provide you with copies of the data within 10 business days (copy charges apply). You may choose to pick up your copies, or we will mail or fax them to you. We will provide electronic copies (such as email or CD-ROM) upon request if we keep the data in electronic format.

After we have provided you with access to data about you, we do not have to show you the data again for 6 months unless there is a dispute or we collect or create new data about you.

If you do not understand some of the data (technical terminology, abbreviations, or acronyms), please let us know. We will give you an explanation if you ask.

The Government Data Practices Act does not require us to create or collect new data in response to a data request if we do not already have the data, or to provide data in a specific form or arrangement if we do not keep the data in that form or arrangement (for example, if the data you request are on paper only, we are not required to create electronic documents to respond to your request). If we agree to create data in response to your request, we will work with you on the details of your request, including cost and response time.

In addition, we are not required under the Government Data Practices Act to respond to questions that are not specific requests for data.

Copy Costs – Data Subjects

This government entity charges data subjects for copies of government data. These charges are authorized under Minnesota Statutes, section 13.04, subdivision 3.

Actual cost of making the copies

In determining the actual cost of making copies, we factor in employee time, the cost of the materials onto which we are copying the data (paper, flash drive, CD, DVD, etc.), and mailing costs (if any). If your request is for copies of data that we cannot reproduce ourselves, such as photographs, we will charge you the actual cost we must pay an outside vendor for the copies.
Data Practices Contacts

Responsible Authority, Data Practices Compliance Official and Designee:

Name: Kara Coutry – City Clerk
Address: 4701 Highway 61, White Bear Lake, MN 55110
Phone number: 651-429-8508
Fax number: 651-429-8500
Email address: kcoutry@whitebearlake.org

If you provided an email address with your request, we will confirm receipt within two business days of receiving it. If after two business days you have not received an email confirmation of receipt, please forward your request to:

Secondary Contact: Ellen Richter – City Manager
Email address: erichter@whitebearlake.org
Data Request Form – Data Subjects

Date of request: ______________________

To request data as a data subject, you must show a valid state ID, such as a driver’s license, military ID, or passport as proof of identity (refer to proof of identification).

I am requesting access to data in the following way:

☐ Inspection (free)
☐ Copies
☐ Both inspection and copies

We will respond to your request within 10 business days.

Contact Information

Data subject name _____________________________________________

Parent/Guardian name (if applicable) ________________________________

Address _________________________________________________________

Phone number ______________________ Email address __________________

Staff Verification

Request date: ___________________________________________________

Identification provided ____________________________________________

These are the data I am requesting:

Describe the data you are requesting as specifically as possible. If you need more space, please use the back of this form.
Standards for Verifying Identity

The following constitute proof of identity.

- **An adult individual** must provide a valid photo ID, such as
  - a state driver’s license
  - a military ID
  - a passport
  - a Minnesota ID
  - a Minnesota tribal ID

- **A minor individual** must provide a valid photo ID, such as
  - a state driver’s license
  - a military ID
  - a passport
  - a Minnesota ID
  - a Minnesota Tribal ID
  - a Minnesota school ID

- **The parent or guardian of a minor** must provide a valid photo ID and either
  - a certified copy of the minor’s birth certificate or
  - a certified copy of documents that establish the parent or guardian’s relationship to the child, such as
    - a court order relating to divorce, separation, custody, foster care
    - a foster care contract
    - an affidavit of parentage

- **The legal guardian for an individual** must provide a valid photo ID and a certified copy of appropriate documentation of formal or informal appointment as guardian, such as
  - court order(s)
  - valid power of attorney

Note: Individuals who do not exercise their data practices rights in person must provide either notarized or certified copies of the documents that are required or an affidavit of ID. Please refer to the following page for the required informed consent form needed to release of your personal information to someone other than you.
Informed Consent for the Release of Information

Before you sign this release, if you have a question or would like more explanation about anything on this form, please talk to the City of White Bear Lake, Responsible Authority by calling 651-429-8508.

I, ___________________________ authorize the City of White Bear Lake to release data about me to
(please print first and last name)
________________________________________________________________________________.
(provide the name of individual and/or entity and address for which to mail specified information)

The specific data I want the City of White Bear Lake to release:
________________________________________________________________________________

I understand that my records are protected under state and/or federal privacy regulations and cannot be disclosed without my written consent unless otherwise provided for by law. I understand that I have asked the City of White Bear Lake to release the data.

I understand that although the data classified as private at the City of White Bear Lake, the classification or treatment of the data when released will depend upon any laws or policies that apply to the person or entity receiving the data.

I also understand that I may cancel this consent at any time prior to the information being released and that, in any event, this consent form expires automatically 90 days after signing.

________________________________________ ___________________
(Signature of data subject)  (Date)

_______________________________________  ___________________
(Parent/Guardian’s Signature, if needed)  (Date)

Notary of the State of Minnesota, County of _________________________

Signed or attested before me on ____ day of _________________________ 20____, that the following person(s) signed in my presence:_________________________________________________________.

________________________________________             My Commission Expires: __________________
(Signature of Notary)

Affix notary stamp here: