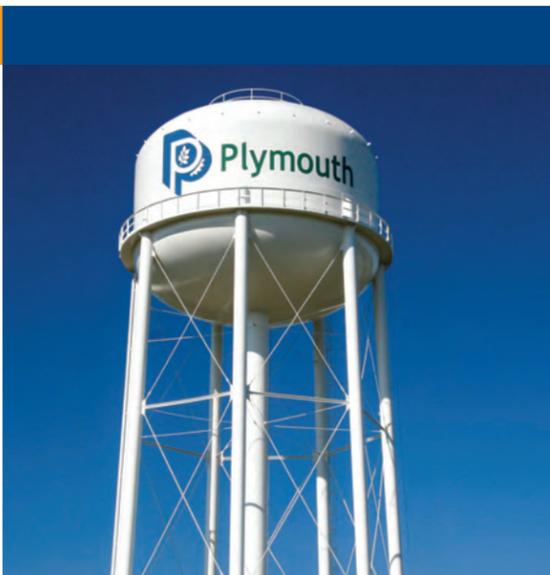


Music in Plymouth canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic

Due to concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the Plymouth Civic League and City of Plymouth have canceled this year's Music in Plymouth. Originally, the event was rescheduled to Thursday, Aug. 6, with limited activities and music.

However, the rescheduled in-person August event has also been canceled due to continuing concerns and current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Minnesota Department of Health regarding large group gatherings and social distancing.

A virtual celebration of Music in Plymouth is expected later this summer – stay tuned to musicinplymouth.org for more details as they become available.



The annual water report is now available for 2019

Providing clean water to residents is one of the city's most important and fundamental services. Each year, the city prepares a water system report that provides information about the city's tap water and how it compares to standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The annual water report for 2019 is now available online at plymouthmn.gov/waterreport. It contains monitoring results from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2019. In the report, the city meets or surpasses all water quality testing, regulations and requirements. City of Plymouth water is tested weekly by an independent, state-certified laboratory and the results are submitted to the Minnesota Department of Health. Public water supplies are regularly tested for more than 100 contaminants that can cause health concerns, such as bacteria, nitrates, pesticides, solvents and metals. Water plant operators also test the water multiple times per day for appropriate chemical levels and water quality.

Visit plymouthmn.gov/coronavirus for city information during the pandemic

In light of the global pandemic, Plymouth has launched plymouthmn.gov/coronavirus, a web portal for all city information related to COVID-19. The webpage is updated regularly, and is the top source of information for City of Plymouth services during the pandemic. The page also features current status information for the city's seasonal annual events, facility availability, public meeting information and more.

Health Information

For the most current information regarding the virus, personal health and safety guidelines, visit the websites of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (cdc.gov) and the Minnesota Department of Health (health.state.mn.us).

Other Ways to Stay Connected

Residents can sign up to receive eNotifications about a range of topics at plymouthmn.gov/enotify.

Emergency notifications are provided to residents through Alert Plymouth – sign up at plymouthmn.gov/alertplymouth.

The City of Plymouth also publishes information through its social media platforms:

- Facebook (facebook.com/plymouthmn)
- Twitter (@[plymouthmn_gov](https://twitter.com/plymouthmn_gov))
- Nextdoor (City of Plymouth, MN)
- Instagram (instagram.com/plymouthmn_gov)

City begins the reopening process, in-person services by appointment

As the world adapts to the COVID-19 pandemic, Plymouth has cautiously and thoughtfully taken steps to reopen city facilities for in-person services – beginning with service by appointment.

At press time, city offices had not fully reopened to the public. However, all departments continue to provide services and the city closely follows recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Minnesota Department of Health regarding reopening procedures and social distancing guidelines.

Services by Appointment

Many in-person services are available by appointment at City Hall, including licensing, special assessment payments and questions, fingerprinting, notary services and more. Service by appointment helps limit exposure, reduces lines or gatherings, and facilitates social distancing at city buildings.

“Adapting our in-person services has allowed us to work with customers who need to physically come into a city



City facilities, including City Hall, have begun the reopening process.

facility,” Administrative Services Director Laurie Hokkanen said. “In addition to increasing safety in the midst of the pandemic, we also feel this streamlines many of the services our customers receive and improves efficiency for staff.”

Appointments ... continued on page 3

Primary election set for Aug. 11, voters encouraged to vote by mail

The 2020 election season begins with the statewide primary election, with in-person polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 11.

In the primary, voters narrow the field of candidates for federal, county and judicial offices. Top vote getters will move on to the Tuesday, Nov. 3 general election. Plymouth City Council seats will be on the November ballot, but are not included in the primary.

For information about how to register and where to vote, visit plymouthmn.gov/election. The site includes a link to the Secretary of State's website (mnvotes.org), which has a poll location finder. Please note that many polling locations will be different this year due to COVID-19. Voters without internet access should call 763-509-5000.

Vote by Mail

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and to minimize direct contact with others, voters are encouraged to vote by mail (absentee) for the 2020 elections.

Vote ... continued on page 5

Filing for City Council opens July 28

Candidates running for City Council this November must file for office from Tuesday, July 28 to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 11. Filing can be completed electronically at plymouthmn.gov.

The following four-year term city seats will be on the Nov. 3 ballot:

- Ward 1 Council Member (northwest Plymouth)
- Ward 3 Council Member (southeast Plymouth)
- At Large Council Member (citywide)

To file for office, candidates must be eligible to vote, at least 21 years old by the time they take office and live in the district for which they are running for at least 30 days before the election. The filing fee is \$5.

Contact City Clerk Sandy Engdahl at 763-509-5080 or sengdahl@plymouthmn.gov with questions.

Construction projects remain on schedule

Road construction season continues in Plymouth with projects that will improve major roadways as well as neighborhood streets. Some projects will affect motorists, and drivers are encouraged to follow construction and detour signage and give crews plenty of room to work safely. Please keep in mind that all timelines shown below are weather dependent. To learn more about all projects, visit plymouthmn.gov/project-spotlight.

Vicksburg Lane

A rehabilitation project on Vicksburg Lane from Highway 55 to County Road 6 is underway and includes removing and replacing the pavement on the roadway. Work is expected to be completed around September. While the roadway has remained open throughout the project, motorists may experience traffic impacts.

Peony Lane & Schmidt Lake Road

The City of Plymouth and Wayzata Public Schools have partnered to improve traffic and pedestrian safety adjacent to Wayzata High School, located at Peony Lane and Schmidt Lake Road. Work includes improved traffic signals, pedestrian safety enhancements, striping changes and additional turning capacity into the main school entrance. Construction is slated to begin early July and be completed before the 2020 school year. Traffic will remain open, though motorists may experience periodic delays.

Schmidt Lake Road & Zachary Lane

Work has begun on a significant project to reclaim and pave a new roadway surface on Schmidt Lake Road from Northwest Boulevard to Nathan Lane, and mill and repave a portion of Zachary Lane from Bass Lake Road to Rockford Road. Also included with the project is Pineview Lane from Schmidt Lake Road to 53rd Avenue, and the Niagara Lane cul-de-sac south of 46th Avenue. The project is expected to last through October. Schmidt Lake Road and Zachary Lane will remain open to traffic throughout most of the project, but lanes will be reduced and motorists may experience delays.

2020 Reconstruction Project

A large street reconstruction project is underway in the Beacon Heights neighborhood and streets east of Medicine Lake, including 32nd, 24th and 17th avenues and Nathan Lane. The project includes installing concrete curb and gutter, storm sewer improvements, and rehabilitation or replacement of the existing water main. The project will run in two phases, with Phase 1 underway and substantially completed in October and Phase 2 beginning May 2021 and running through fall of the same year.

Mill and Overlay Projects

Mill and overlay projects will occur this summer on West Medicine Lake Drive from Highway 55 to Northwest Boulevard, including 12th Avenue, and in the Conor Meadows neighborhood near Peony Lane and Schmidt Lake Road.

Work in these areas include milling the edges of the street and applying a new layer of asphalt over the entire roadway. Preventative maintenance to infrastructure may also be performed, including repairing catch basins, installing concrete pedestrian ramps as needed, and replacing a minimal amount of concrete curb and gutter.

Rockford Road Xcel Energy Closure

Xcel Energy is replacing concrete transmission poles along Rockford Road between Vicksburg Lane and Old Rockford Road. The work requires closure of eastbound Rockford Road between Plymouth Boulevard and Old Rockford Road, including closure of the bike trail on the south side of the roadway. A detour route is posted. Work is expected to be completed by the end of July.

Submit issues or inquiries online and with free myPlymouth app

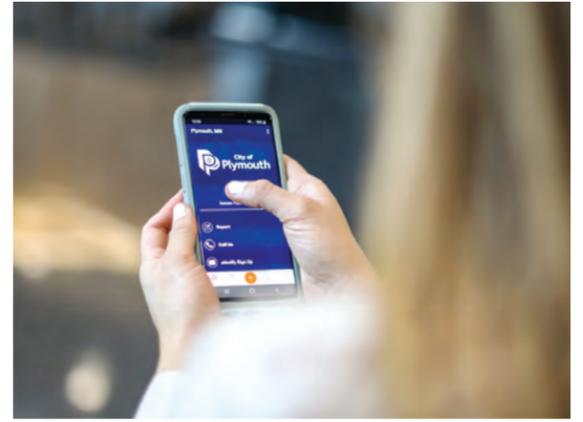
This spring, the city launched myPlymouth, a powerful new tool for residents to more efficiently connect with the city. The new reporting platform is powered by SeeClickFix and can be accessed online or through the free myPlymouth app. Residents can submit inquiries and alert the city to issues such as potholes, code enforcement, snow removal, playground issues and more. The platform can also be used to start or stop utility service. Users of myPlymouth can track requests and follow up with staff, if needed.

Using myPlymouth

To access myPlymouth, visit the city website at plymouthmn.gov/myplymouth or download the free myPlymouth app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. Users can create an account or submit issues as a guest. However, creating an account is encouraged as it allows the city to report the status of the issue to the resident. It's important to note that myPlymouth should not be used in emergency instances. As always, report emergencies by calling 911.

Increasing Efficiency

Because myPlymouth is an all-hours, single access point for many issues and inquiries, residents are assured their request is efficiently and quickly directed to the appropriate department and staff person.



The City of Plymouth recently launched myPlymouth for residents to submit inquiries or report issues regarding potholes, snow removal, code enforcement and more.

"This tool streamlines how residents ask questions or report issues to the city and ensures requests get to the right person as quickly as possible," said Project Coordinator Sonya Rippe. "From a staff perspective, myPlymouth helps us improve efficiency when dispatching and tracking the progress of requests, and makes communicating with residents seamless."

For more information, visit plymouthmn.gov/myplymouth.

City Council OKs bid process for Plymouth Creek Center project

The expansion and renovation project at the Plymouth Creek Center took another major step forward recently, as the Plymouth City Council gave the green light to collect bids from construction contractors.

After reviewing final construction documents at a June meeting, the council authorized the bidding process and is expected to consider awarding contracts at a council meeting in August, date to be determined.

Once bids are approved and contracts awarded, construction on the project may begin, and would follow a phased process with completion expected in the fall of 2022. Portions of the facility will remain open during the construction process.

Parks and Recreation Director Diane Evans noted that the project will hit the bidding market at a time that could save the city hundreds of thousands of dollars.

"With the global pandemic, timing for the project may not seem good at first glance," Evans said. "However, interest rates are very low and – as companies are looking for work opportunities – we expect to receive competitive bids. Both factors are expected to result in project savings."

Project Background

In recent years, the Plymouth Creek Center began showing a need for maintenance and updates, and struggled to meet demand for space as Plymouth grew. After an extensive community outreach process, the city outlined a significant expansion and renovation project estimated at \$52 million, which includes about \$9 million for maintenance of the existing building.

The expansion project is set to include new features such as:

- **Gymnasiums** – Two full-size gyms to support community events along with programming for all ages through activities such as pickleball, basketball, badminton and more
- **Walking Track** – Dedicated year-round indoor facility
- **Indoor Playground** – Unique indoor play components similar to an outdoor park
- **Multipurpose Rooms** – Designed for groups, senior clubs, recreation programs, social gatherings and community meeting rooms
- **Fitness/Wellness Studios** – Yoga, aerobics and Zumba classes, with appropriate flooring and amenities
- **Art Rooms** – Designated for creative programs



Top: The proposed project includes a major expansion and renovation of the Plymouth Creek Center. Above: The project features amenities such as two full-size gymnasiums and a dedicated year-round indoor walking track.

- **Art Gallery** – Space for rotating community art displays
- **Common Space** – Gathering and/or lounge area
- **Dance Studio** – Appropriate floor and amenities for dance classes
- **Party Rooms** – Birthday parties, gatherings and more
- **Music Rooms** – Acoustical spaces for music classes and lessons
- **Renovated Ballroom** – Weddings, events, corporate and catering
- **Redesigned Black Box Theater** – Theater, seminars, education and meetings

The above list of amenities was carefully developed with significant input from the community, which included in-depth studies and numerous outreach events.

For more information, visit plymouthmn.gov/pccproject.

Connect to Rec gives residents innovative options to stay active

This spring, the COVID-19 pandemic forced the city to cancel many Parks and Recreation programs and activities in what would have otherwise been a bustling time of year. Instead of closing up shop, the Parks and Recreation Department got creative and stepped up to offer innovative virtual programs for residents to stay active and engaged.

Through the initiative, dubbed Connect to Rec, residents can engage in virtual programs such as art classes, adult fitness, educational opportunities, dance, Zumba classes and more – all of which are available online. There are also virtual event options such as trivia, wine and beer tastings, bingo and more.

Additionally, as many families canceled summer travel plans, Recreation staff is helping them make the most of staycations by offering kits and classes that focus on activities such as fishing, gardening, bird watching and backyard camping.

“It’s been a wonderful opportunity for us to engage with the community, and we’ve heard a lot of positive feedback as residents enjoy programming from home,” Recreation Manager Kari Hemp said. “From special events to fitness programs, educational programming and more, it’s become another avenue for us to reach the community.”

To see available Connect to Rec programming, visit



As many Parks and Recreation programs and activities have been canceled due to COVID-19, Connect to Rec offers virtual recreation opportunities for residents.

plymouthmn.gov/ConnectToRec. Some programs require registration or a fee, while other programs are free. Connect to Rec also leverages social media to engage with residents through things like video contests, scavenger hunts, park features and more.

Follow the city on Facebook (facebook.com/plymouthmn) and Twitter (@plymouthmn_gov) to see virtual activities.

As the reopening process continues across Minnesota, check plymouthmn.gov for the most up-to-date information regarding the status of city events and programs.

Connect to Rec activities are sponsored by Kyle Vitense State Farm and TCF Bank.

Plymouth Economic Development assists businesses in pandemic

As many Plymouth businesses grapple with a range of pandemic-related challenges, the Plymouth Economic Development Division remains focused on helping companies large and small navigate the economic impacts of COVID-19.

Connecting to Resources

Clear, accurate and timely information about resources is critical for businesses during this time. The city website features a comprehensive list of resources available to businesses and employees from a variety of agencies.

Economic Development Manager Danette Parr has also worked directly with businesses to identify resources specific to their operations.

“There has been a lot of information coming from many sources about programs or financial assistance – it can be confusing,” Parr said. “We work to cut through the clutter and connect our businesses with the relevant options for them.”

To learn more about coronavirus business and employee resources, visit plymouthmn.gov/businessresources.

Helping to Adapt

To help companies be agile, the City of Plymouth has flexed local requirements so businesses can adapt to changes brought on by the pandemic. Recent COVID-19 city initiatives include allowing temporary outdoor dining at restaurants, permitting drive-thru and drive-up service for retail, and

working with the county to develop a grant program to help local companies offset the costs of COVID-19 reopening guideline compliance.

The Economic Development Division has also collaborated with the Open to Business program to help businesses identify ways to adapt and generate revenue during times of shutdown or limited operation.

Supporting Plymouth Business

Residents are encouraged to support Plymouth businesses when they can and to “shop Plymouth first.” Plymouth businesses rely on the community they serve, and it’s more important than ever to show support.

Leading the Way

While many businesses have faced unprecedented challenges, Parr pointed out that, with more than 130 med-tech and med-tech support companies with locations in Plymouth, some are playing a special role in pandemic response as they have assisted in COVID-19 protection and detection efforts.

“We always say that our med-tech sector does lifesaving work – and that’s never been more true than during the global response to the pandemic,” Parr said. “It’s something that we can all be proud of.”

To learn more about Plymouth economic development efforts and the business community, visit plymouthmn.gov/business.

Appointments ... from page 1

Some services may be available through curbside pickup or drop-off, eliminating the need for customers to enter city facilities. To learn more, visit plymouthmn.gov/coronavirus.

Booking an Appointment

The city uses an application powered by No Wait Inside to offer appointment scheduling. To book an appointment, customers can visit plymouthmn.gov/appointment, select the necessary “location” (department) and service, and enter their first name, last name and cell phone number.

Once an appointment is scheduled, customers will receive text messages or calls with instructions detailing how

they should proceed (i.e., appointment reminders, arrival confirmation, notification to enter the lobby, etc.). This new booking software allows customers to virtually check-in when they arrive, and receive notifications when it is time for them to come inside.

Other City Services Available

For many services, the safest, quickest and most convenient ways to do business with the city remain unchanged – online, over the phone or through email. Even before the pandemic, Plymouth worked to incorporate technology throughout its operations to offer options for people to do business virtually, including services such as homestead applications, building permits, payments and more. Learn more at plymouthmn.gov.

IN BRIEF



2019 Picture Plymouth Photo Contest Winner “In their Own Little World of Happiness” by Pavan Koya

Picture Plymouth Photo Contest – Whether you’ve got the latest camera tech, prefer your trusty smartphone, or even if you still shoot film, the annual Picture Plymouth Photo Contest wants your pictures. Photographers of all levels are asked to submit their best shots beginning Saturday, Aug. 1. Top photos of the year receive prizes and have a chance to be published in Plymouth Magazine, which co-sponsors the contest with the City of Plymouth.

All entries must be submitted digitally via plymouthmag.com from Aug. 1-31. Each entrant must live, work or attend school in Plymouth and photos must be taken in Plymouth from Sept. 1, 2019 to Aug. 31, 2020. Photo categories include people and families, community activities and events, pets, wildlife and nature, and city landmarks. Top picks in each category will receive \$50. A grand-prize winner will also be selected and receive \$100. After the contest closes, visit plymouthmag.com to make a pick for the Readers’ Choice winner. For complete contest rules, visit plymouthmag.com after Aug. 1.

Election Judges Needed – Residents interested in playing a vital role in the election process are encouraged to apply to be election judges. Residents are needed to serve as judges at Plymouth polling locations for the general election on Tuesday, Nov. 3.

Election judges must be eligible voters. Paid training is provided. Under state law, people who would like to be election judges may take time off from work without loss of pay. Prospective judges must give employers at least 20 days written notice. For more information, call 763-509-5066.

Night to Unite – Typically held in August, this year’s Night to Unite event has been rescheduled to Tuesday, Oct. 6 due to COVID-19. Block parties registered with the city may receive a “drive-by and wave” visit from a fire truck, police squad or Plymouth City Council members. To register a block party, visit plymouthmn.gov/ntu.

Residents who attend neighborhood block parties are encouraged to follow all applicable social distancing recommendations and other guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Minnesota Department of Health at the time of the event.

The City of Plymouth will conduct a test of its emergency notification system, Alert Plymouth, at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6. To sign up, visit plymouthmn.gov/alertplymouth.

Public Safety Citizens Academy – Applications are being accepted for this fall’s Public Safety Citizens Academy.

Due to COVID-19, the format of the academy will be altered based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Minnesota Department of Health.

When available, information about the start date, meeting schedule and program can be found at plymouthmn.gov/citizensacademy.

The course is open to adults 18 and older who live, work or worship in Plymouth. All applicants are subject to a criminal background check.

To apply or for more information, contact 763-509-5135 or jljong@plymouthmn.gov.

City encourages safety as park and trail usage is up in Plymouth

The Plymouth Public Safety and Parks and Recreation departments encourage residents to make safety a priority when walking, biking, driving and recreating in Plymouth this summer.

This season has brought an increased number of people to Plymouth parks, trails and roadways for fresh air and exercise. All residents should be mindful and take measures to protect themselves and others while using these public spaces. As residents practice social distancing, it's important to pay attention as people take wider paths around others on trails, cross roadways to maintain distance, or walk, bike and jog in areas they normally would not.

Residents should be aware of what is happening around them, and keep the guidelines below in mind – whether they are a pedestrian, bicyclist or motorist.



Residents enjoying Plymouth's parks and trails this summer are encouraged to keep safety a priority as usage is up and people practice social distancing guidelines.

Trails

Bicyclists, walkers, rollerbladers, runners and more must work together to share the trails and prevent accidents during periods of high traffic.

It's also important that trail users practice the most recent social distancing guidelines put forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Minnesota Department of Health.

Trail safety guidelines include:

- All trail traffic should travel on the right side and provide an audible warning to pass on the left
- Stay alert and be aware of surroundings
- Wear reflective or brightly colored clothing
- Do not enter a crosswalk if a vehicle is approaching

Roadways

Warm weather also means more people walking, biking and jogging on Plymouth roadways. Motorists should keep the following in mind at all times:

- Adhere to the posted speed limit

- Stop for pedestrians at crosswalks – it's the law
- Exercise extra caution and reduce speed when driving in neighborhoods, near parks and at trail crossings
- Obey traffic signs and use turn signals

Parks

Plymouth parks have remained open for walking, running, enjoying nature and more throughout the pandemic. It's incumbent on all park users to keep themselves and others safe while sharing public spaces. Maintaining appropriate distance and practicing good hygiene should be forefront when enjoying parks.

Residents should follow the most recent recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Minnesota Department of Health regarding social distancing and congregating in groups. Residents should also note that playground equipment, benches and picnic tables are not sanitized.

Learn more about Plymouth's parks and trails at plymouthmn.gov/parks-trails.

SEASONAL SPOTLIGHT

Outdoor Water Restrictions – Outdoor water use restrictions are in effect through September in Plymouth. The city prohibits outdoor lawn watering from noon to 5 p.m. on all days. Water customers must also follow an odd-even schedule when sprinkling lawns. Homeowners and businesses with addresses ending in an odd number may water on odd-numbered calendar days. Those with addresses ending in an even number may water on even-numbered days.

For exceptions to the restrictions and more information, call the hotline at 763-509-5512 or visit plymouthmn.gov/watering.

Yard Waste Site Hours – The city-operated Yard Waste Site, 14900 23rd Ave. N., is closed Mondays and Tuesdays throughout the season. Through August, the site is open 3-8 p.m. Wednesday-Friday and 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The site will be closed all day Saturday, July 4. Only Plymouth, Wayzata, Long Lake and Medicine Lake residents may use the site and identification is required. For acceptable materials or details, call 763-509-5930 or visit plymouthmn.gov/yardwaste.

This year, visitors to the Plymouth Yard Waste Site may experience delays or higher wait times as vehicles will be allowed into the site at a level that accommodates guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Minnesota Department of Health regarding social distancing and size of gatherings.

Leash and Clean Up After Pets – In Plymouth, dog owners are required by law to leash and clean up after their pets in public spaces. Before leaving the house to take an animal for a walk, pet owners should be sure to bring a bag along for proper disposal of pet waste.

No matter how well-trained they are, unrestrained animals are at increased risk of being injured by vehicles or other animals in the area.

If a dog is observed without a leash where not allowed, the animal's owner can be cited with a misdemeanor and fined. Those responsible for unrestrained animals are also liable for their animal's actions.

For the safety of the community, residents who see violations of the above animal ordinances or any other public safety concerns are encouraged to call 911 immediately so that a community service officer or police officer can respond.

Dog owners have the opportunity to let dogs play unleashed at the city's designated dog parks, which feature a number of canine-friendly amenities. Plymouth has three dog parks:

- Plymouth Dog Park, 17005 County Road 47
- 4 Paws Dog Park, 9755 36th Ave. N.
- Happy Tails Dog Park (seasonal), 1700 County Road 101

For more information, visit plymouthmn.gov/dogpark.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Volunteer!

The city is seeking volunteers who are:

Passionate about local history to record virtual interviews on recent immigration to the city (1970s to today) and Plymouth's places of worship. Residents willing to be interviewed are also needed.

To find out more about these and other opportunities, visit plymouthmn.gov/volunteer or call 763-509-5230.



Visit plymouthmn.gov/AdoptASpot to volunteer to maintain storm drains, parks, streets and more.

Adopt A Spot launched

Please note that due to COVID-19, many seasonal volunteer opportunities, such as annual events, have been disrupted.

However, residents have a new option to find ways to contribute to the community with the launch of Adopt A Spot.

Adopt A Spot is a web portal for residents to volunteer to adopt a park, dog waste station, fire hydrant, storm drain or street to benefit their neighborhoods and the community as a whole.

Those interested in these opportunities can visit plymouthmn.gov/AdoptASpot to view an interactive city map with locations available for adoption that need regular care. Residents can then sign up to maintain items or locations and help ensure that Plymouth stays clean and safe.

"Adopt A Spot is a great tool for those who would like to contribute," Volunteer Coordinator Jackie Maas said. "Although some of our regular opportunities have been postponed due to the coronavirus, residents can still make a big impact and share their time to benefit the Plymouth community."

Take a Closer Look

Mandy Rhead

Garlic mustard removal volunteer

As a volunteer, my job is to beautify the city and help the environment by ridding the city's green spaces of exotic invasive plants, garlic mustard and buckthorn, and picking up trash.



Mandy Rhead

My favorite thing about being a city volunteer is knowing that I am doing something good for the environment that helps both our wildlife and native plant communities thrive today – and for future generations to enjoy.

Because Mandy volunteers, the spread of unwanted invasive species is halted in woodland areas and native plants have more opportunity to grow and thrive.

Projects continue to strengthen Plymouth's park and trail system

Plymouth's park and trail system has been nationally recognized for its unique recreation opportunities, and the city continues to invest in improvements and maintenance to provide high-quality amenities for residents to stay active and engaged.

This year, the Parks and Recreation Department has been working on an array of projects – from creating all-new park spaces to revamping outdated areas.

Please note that, for all projects below, dates are weather dependent and timelines may be subject to change.

Northwest Greenway Trailhead

The trailhead project on the Northwest Greenway on the east side of Peony Lane south of 54th Avenue North is well underway, and construction is expected to be completed this fall.

Once completed, the trailhead will provide greater community-wide access to the Greenway and will feature a large open-air shelter, a multi-use plaza, parking, restrooms, water fountains and more.

When the trailhead opens, it will provide an access point to the 350-acre reserve of land and looping paved trails available for walkers, runners, bicyclists and more.

Also under construction near the trailhead is the Northwest Greenway Challenge Course. It features a large open play area filled with unique activity challenges involving netting, balancing, boulder structures, agility and more for ages 13 and older. The Challenge Course is also expected to be completed this fall.

Future plans call for a second Northwest Greenway trailhead near County Road 47. For more information about the Greenway, visit plymouthmn.gov/nwgreenway.

Park Improvements

West Medicine Lake and Swan Lake parks will receive significant upgrades this year, with new playgrounds, benches, concrete and asphalt. Swan Lake Park will also get a new shelter.

City bocce ball courts will be removed from the Plymouth Creek Center and new courts will be constructed at the Elm Creek Playfield, 4905 Peony Lane N.

The new and improved courts will include six lanes, benches, artificial turf and a shelter.

After 20 years of use, the tennis courts at Plymouth Playfield will be replaced with new asphalt, fencing, net standards, court resurfacing and windscreens.



Top: The Northwest Greenway trailhead will feature a large open-air shelter and multi-use plaza. Above: The Northwest Greenway Challenge Course will feature a large play area with unique activity challenges and equipment for ages 13 and older.

Park Rules

Park users are asked to remember a few rules and guidelines this summer when using Plymouth's parks.

- Pets are allowed if leashed/under restraint by owner – owners must pick up waste. Dogs are allowed unleashed at Plymouth's designated dog parks.
- Trails are shared by walkers, runners, skaters and bicyclists – please be courteous when using trails and keep speed reasonable, travel on the right side of the trail and allow space for other trail users to pass safely. Pass on the left and loudly announce intentions.
- Alcohol and/or tobacco use is not allowed in any Plymouth park or facility.
- Keep parks clean and dispose of litter and waste.
- Follow the most current guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Minnesota Department of Health regarding social distancing and group gatherings.

Visit plymouthmn.gov for more information.

Applications now being accepted for the 2020-2022 Water Efficiency Rebate Program

The City of Plymouth Water Efficiency Rebate Program is now accepting applications for 2020-2022. To encourage water conservation, the program is funded, in part, by a grant from the Metropolitan Council to establish a program to reduce municipal water use in residential and commercial properties within the city.

The program offers rebates to property owners who replace inefficient toilets, irrigation systems and washing machines with WaterSense® or Energy Star® certified versions. Rebate items must be installed within the City of Plymouth. All property owners who are customers of the municipal water supply could be eligible.

Rebates are available for 75% of the cost of the item, up to a maximum of:

- \$50 for WaterSense® toilets
- \$100 for Energy Star® washing machines
- \$200 for residential WaterSense® irrigation controllers, or \$500 for commercial or multi-family controllers
- \$15 per WaterSense® sprinkler head replacement up to \$500 (minimum 10 sprinkler heads)
- \$125 for soil moisture sensors
- \$200 per irrigation system audit conducted by a WaterSense® Certified Irrigation Professional

Property owners should look for the WaterSense® or Energy Star® certification from the Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Energy.

Apply For a Rebate

Rebate funds are limited and will be issued to qualified applicants on a first-come, first-served basis until June 30, 2022 or until funds are exhausted, whichever comes first. Devices must have been purchased after March 1, 2020 to qualify for a rebate. Payment will be issued upon successful completion of work and submission of a payment request form, accompanied by original receipts for expenses. Rebate payments are only for equipment costs – labor charges do not qualify.

Rebates Help Save Water

The City of Plymouth offers rebates to residents and commercial property owners to promote water conservation and more efficient use of drinking water. Plymouth's water supply is abundant, but not limitless. Water usage can increase from about 150 million gallons per month in February to more than 400 million gallons per month in August (largely due to lawn watering). Replacing inefficient devices with certified appliances and equipment can help improve water efficiency, conserve water and reduce utility bills. Visit plymouthmn.gov/waterefficiencyrebate for more information or an application.

Vote ... from page 1

Voting by mail is simple, secure and available to everyone, and takes just a bit of planning ahead to complete.

To apply to receive a ballot in the mail, complete the online absentee ballot application under "Other Ways to Vote" at mnvotes.org. Voters can apply to vote by mail for one or both of the 2020 elections – the Aug. 11 primary and the Nov. 3 general. Ballots are available 46 days prior to each election, and will be mailed with a postage-paid envelope for return.

Those who wish to vote by mail are encouraged to apply for a ballot no later than 10 days before the day of the election. This gives voters the best chance to receive ballots in the mail and still have time to mail it back or drop it off. Voters can apply after this date, but each day increases the chances they will not be able to receive and return ballots by the day of the election.

Voters can also fill out an application from mnvotes.org for an absentee ballot and return it by email, mail, or in-person to:

Hennepin County Elections
Government Center
300 S. 6th Street, MC 012
Minneapolis, MN 55487-0012
hc.vote@hennepin.us

For mailed ballots to count for the primary election, they must be postmarked by primary day and arrive at Hennepin County Elections within two days of primary day.

Voters concerned that their ballot will not be received in time may participate in ballot "drop and go." Ballots may be dropped off by voters or on behalf of voters at Plymouth City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Boulevard, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday – and until 3 p.m. the day of the election.

Voters can track the status of their ballots at mnvotes.org and confirm that they were correctly received and counted.

Early Voting In-Person

Another option is to vote in-person by direct ballot beginning Tuesday, Aug. 4 through Monday, Aug. 10. A direct ballot is when the voter feeds their ballot through the tabulator just like on Election Day. Direct balloting can be done in-person at Plymouth City Hall, 3400 Plymouth Blvd., 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. In addition, direct balloting can be completed during extended City Hall hours, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 8 and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Aug. 10.

Other Absentee Ballot Services

Military and/or Overseas Voters – Absentee voting procedures are available for members of military service (including spouses and dependents) and voters residing outside the United States. Voters are advised to allow plenty of time for this process.

Contact the Hennepin County Elections Office at 612-348-5151 for more information.

Also see the Minnesota Secretary of State's Military and Overseas Absentee Voting information at mnvotes.org.

Delivery of Absentee Ballots by Others

Some voters may authorize an agent to pick up and return their absentee ballots for them (only during the seven days prior to an election), including voters in hospitals, group homes, domestic violence shelters, assisted living facilities and more. This also includes voters with disabilities or incapacitating health issues.

If you are currently living in a residential facility but not sure if it meets the qualifications listed above, please ask the administrator of your facility.

For more guidelines, visit mnvotes.org.

Farmers Market is open for the season with COVID-19 safety measures in place

The City of Plymouth kicked off its annual outdoor Farmers Market in mid-June. The market is open 2:30-6:30 p.m. each Wednesday through Sept. 30 at Parkers Lake Playfield, 15500 County Road 6.

Vendors sell fresh, locally grown produce and prepared food, including fruits, vegetables, fresh bread, oils and vinegars, honey, maple syrup, ice cream, meats, sauces, flowers and more.

COVID-19 Guidelines

This year's market has been modified due to COVID-19. There is a designated entrance and exit, and customers should follow all directional signage.

Other guidelines for market goers include:

- Stay home when sick
- Attendees must wash hands before entering the market (wash stations are available)
- Practice social distancing (stay at least 6 feet from others)
- Masks are recommended
- Only vendors should handle market products and customers should not touch items as they shop
- Prepared food must be taken to go and cannot be eaten on site
- It is recommended that only one person per household visit the market
- Dogs are not allowed, with the exception of service dogs
- The Farmers Market begins promptly at 2:30 p.m. and no early purchases are allowed
- Follow directional arrows



The Plymouth Farmers Market continues this year with added COVID-19 safety measures and guidelines in place.

- Some vendors offer credit card payments, but please bring cash for those who do not
- Practice patience while waiting to purchase items

Pre-Sale and Personal Shopper Options

New this year, some Plymouth Farmers Market vendors will offer pre-sale options for customers to minimize contact at the market.

In addition to the pre-sale option, the new personal shopper program will provide those at a higher risk with access to the market from the safety of their vehicle. Market staff are available to complete shopping lists and deliver items back

to customers' vehicles. Information about these options is posted at plymouthmn.gov/farmersmarket.

The 2020 market will not include food donations, prize drawings, musicians, children's activities or a community table.

A weekly newsletter is emailed to subscribers to provide information and offer recipes or health benefits for ingredients available at the market. To receive or view weekly newsletters, visit plymouthmn.gov/farmersmarket.

The 2020 Plymouth Farmers Market is sponsored by Kyle Vitense State Farm and TCF Bank.

Trying times forge community bonds

By Mayor Jeff Wosje

The first part of 2020 has been turbulent, to say the least. We have experienced significant challenges and change. And through it all, I have seen the Plymouth community respond with compassion, selflessness and grace.

As the pandemic has forced us to change much of our daily lives, our community has demonstrated its willingness to support one another and lend a helping hand. Though stay home orders were difficult, and social distancing can feel like a wedge between us, Plymouth residents show their resolve and do what is needed to keep themselves, friends, family and neighbors safe.

As it began to feel like we were adjusting to our new normal in the face of COVID-19, the world was rocked by the actions of four Minneapolis police officers who are now charged with murder in the death of George Floyd. That horrifying and tragic event in Minneapolis shed new light on deep-rooted issues and spurred unrest, unease and questions across the country and around the globe.

As changes to law enforcement are broadly considered, know that the Plymouth Police Department is committed to upholding the trust of all in the community it serves. I'm proud of the progressive work and policies our department has incorporated throughout the years, including its embrace of the 21st Century Policing model (plymouthmn.gov/21stcenturypolicing).

I am confident that our public safety leadership will continue to focus on constant improvement and creating additional community dialogues as part of its efforts to ensure everyone in Plymouth can feel safe. Plymouth police officers participated in more than 500 community engagement events in 2019 and will continue these efforts.

The challenges this year are not over. However, I am grateful to live and serve in a city that faces these challenges head on as a community. Throughout all of this, Plymouth has shown that it can work together to keep moving in the right direction.

Plymouth News is published bimonthly by the City of Plymouth to update residents and businesses on city government news.

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Contact the City

Phone 763-509-5000

MN Relay (Hearing/Speech Impaired) 7-1-1

Hours:

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday (Community Development only)

View Meetings

Live on Channel 16, 7 p.m.

On-demand video link at city website

City Council: July 28 and Aug. 25

Planning Commission: Aug. 5, 19

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