

# Inside the Park

City of Spring Lake Park Quarterly Newsletter



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## Election Judges Needed for the 2026 Election Season

Want to get involved in your community and play a key role in the democratic process? Become an Election Judge for the 2026 elections!

Election Judges help ensure fair and efficient elections by assisting voters, setting up and closing polling places, and ensuring all election laws are followed. It's a great way to learn how elections work, meet your neighbors, and serve your city.

### Compensation

- General Election Judges: \$18.50/hour
- Head Judges: \$20.00/hour

### Election Dates

- Primary Election: August 2026
- General Election: November 2026

### Training

All judges will receive online training, with in-person sessions available if needed.

### How to Apply

Visit [www.slpmn.org/elections](http://www.slpmn.org/elections) to complete the Election Judge Application.

Have questions or need more information?

Call Wanda at 763-784-6491 – we'd love to hear from you!



**WE NEED YOU!**

# Spring Lake Park City Hall

1301 81st Avenue NE

Spring Lake Park, MN 55432



Spring Lake Park  
History. Community. Home.

**Office Hours:** 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM (Mon–Fri)

**General Information:** 763-784-6491

**Fax Number:** 763-792-7257

**Email:** [info@slpmn.org](mailto:info@slpmn.org)

**Website:** [www.slpmn.org](http://www.slpmn.org)

## City Council

### Bob Nelson, Mayor

763-783-1889

[rnelson@slpmn.org](mailto:rnelson@slpmn.org)

### April Moran

218-269-6006

[amoran@slpmn.org](mailto:amoran@slpmn.org)

### Lisa Dircks

612-386-2496

[ldircks@slpmn.org](mailto:ldircks@slpmn.org)

### Barbara Goodboe-Bisschoff

763-784-4077

[bbisschoff@slpmn.org](mailto:bbisschoff@slpmn.org)

### Kenneth Wendling

763-784-1936

[kwendling@slpmn.org](mailto:kwendling@slpmn.org)

## City Administrator

### Daniel Buchholtz

763-784-6491

[dbuchholtz@slpmn.org](mailto:dbuchholtz@slpmn.org)

## Important Phone Numbers

Fire & Police Emergency.....	9-1-1
Fire (Non-Emergency).....	763-786-4436
Police (Non-Emergency).....	763-427-1212
City Hall.....	763-784-6491

## Meeting Broadcast Spring Lake Park Channel 16

### City Council Meetings

Live: Every first and third Monday of the month at 7:00 PM  
On-demand video link on city website.

Replays: Mon–Sun (1:00 AM, 12:00 PM & 7:00 PM)  
Channel 16 Live Streaming 24/7

### City Planning Commission Meetings

Live: Every fourth Monday of the month at 7:00 PM  
On-demand video link on city website.  
Replays: Mon–Fri (7:00 AM, 3:00 PM & 10:00 PM)

## Council Round-Up

### October

- Approved 2026-2027 labor agreements with both the Police Sergeants and Patrol Officers bargaining units.
- Authorized purchase and installation of a new camera surveillance system at Terrace Park to improve park safety.
- Appointed Steve Coyle to the Planning Commission.
- Adopted Ordinance 505, updating construction site runoff and stormwater controls to meet MPCA MS4 permit requirements and state standards.

### November

- Ordered preparation of a feasibility report for the 2026 Street Improvement project, focusing on mill and overlay work in the northeast area of the city.
- Approved transition to a .gov web and email domain to comply with state election security mandates.
- Reclassified a Fire Inspector position to a Housing/Code Enforcement Inspector position, achieving ongoing personnel cost savings. Authorized recruitment for the position.
- Approved a contract with DDA Human Resources to update the City's pay plan and maintain compliance with the Minnesota Government Pay Equity Act.
- Certified delinquent administrative citations and unpaid utility accounts for collection with property taxes.
- Adopted updates to the City's Personnel Policy, incorporating recent changes to state law.
- Authorized participation in PFAS water system litigation.

### December

- Recognized the Spring Lake Park High School Panthers Football Team as 2025 MSHSL Class 5A State Champions with a formal proclamation.
- Adopted the 2026 Fee Schedule, updating license, development, police and utility related fees to reflect actual service costs.
- Approved 2026 utility rates and the Public Utilities budget.
- Approved the 2026-2030 Capital Improvement Plan, outlining more than \$7.8 million in planned investments in streets, utilities, parks facilities and equipment.
- Adopted the 2026 property tax levy and General Fund budget.
- Expanded the City's SAC/WAC loan policy to support additional high water use businesses by allowing them to finance up to \$50,000 in SAC & WAC fees over a period of 5 years.
- Approved a conditional job offer to Ethan Wirtz for the Housing/Code Enforcement Inspector position.

## Spring Lake Park City Meetings on Podcast

Search "Spring Lake Park City Meetings" on Apple, Spotify, Google Podcasts, Podbean, Amazon Music, iHeartRadio, or Pocketcasts. Meetings are available the day following all City meetings.

## Connect with Spring Lake Park



Like us on Facebook: [@slpmn](https://www.facebook.com/slpmn)



Follow us on X: [@SpringLkPark](https://twitter.com/SpringLkPark)



Follow us on Instagram: [@springlakeparkmn](https://www.instagram.com/springlakeparkmn)

## City of Spring Lake Park Budget Summary

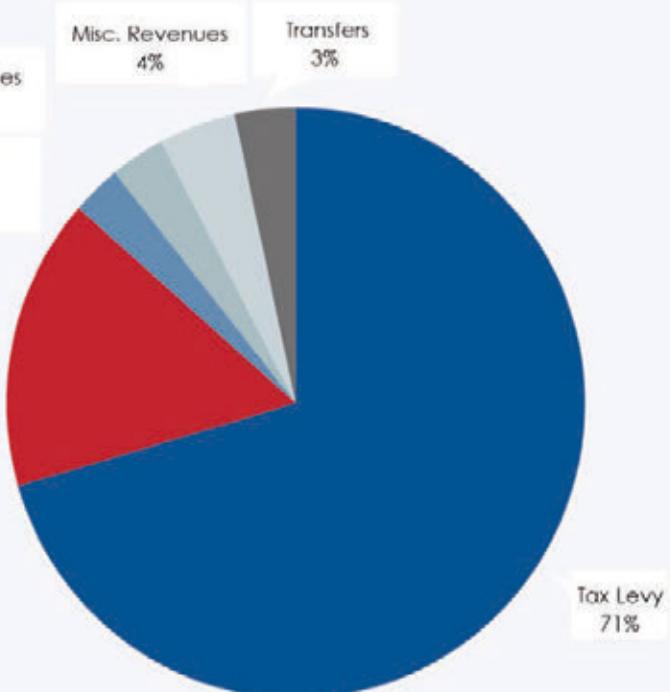
The purpose of this report is to provide summary 2026 budget information concerning the City of Spring Lake Park to interested citizens. The budget is published in accordance with M.S. 471.6965. This is not the complete City budget. The complete City budget may be examined at City Hall, 1301 81<sup>st</sup> Avenue NE, Spring Lake Park. The City Council adopted this budget on December 15, 2025.

<b><u>Revenues</u></b>	<b><u>2025 Budget</u></b>	<b><u>2026 Budget</u></b>
Property Taxes	\$ 4,721,272	\$ 4,928,100
Licenses and Permits	166,009	193,950
Intergovernmental Revenues		
State	884,679	934,077
Federal	0	0
Charge for Services	290,618	269,765
Fines and Forfeits	85,000	83,000
Interest on Investments	30,000	90,000
Miscellaneous Revenue	10,000	30,000
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 6,187,578</b>	<b>\$ 6,582,892</b>
 <b><u>Expenditures</u></b>		
General Government	\$ 1,387,025	\$ 1,491,328
Public Safety	2,648,236	2,905,696
Streets and Highways	391,136	411,377
Parks and Recreation	923,619	958,750
G.O. Debt Service	609,525	569,950
Misc. Expenditures	142,700	137,179
Capital Outlay	126,042	174,442
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 6,228,283</b>	<b>\$ 6,648,722</b>
 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenditures	(40,705)	(65,830)
 Other Financing Sources & Uses	148,497	65,830
 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue and Other Financing Sources over Expenditures and Other Uses	107,792	0
 Property Tax Levy Requirement to Fund Budget	\$ 4,721,272	\$ 4,982,100

Budget information continued on Page 4

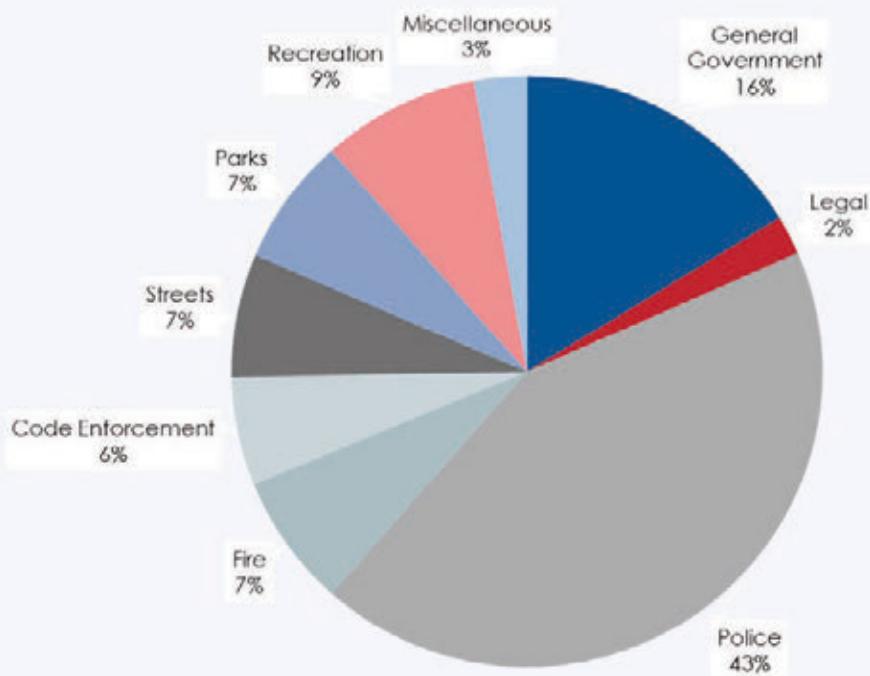
# City of Spring Lake Park 2026 General Fund Budget

## 2026 Revenues



Property Taxes.....	\$ 4,310,534
State Aids.....	982,077
Permits, Licenses & Fees.....	168,950
Charges for Services.....	186,275
Miscellaneous Revenues.....	263,490
Interfund Transfers.....	207,446
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$ 6,118,772</b>

## 2026 Expenditures



Police.....	\$ 2,634,126
Fire.....	446,012
Code Enforcement.....	363,085
Streets.....	411,377
Parks.....	430,589
Recreation.....	528,161
General Government.....	998,243
Legal.....	130,000
Miscellaneous.....	177,179
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$ 6,118,772</b>

The City will begin preparing the 2027 budget in mid-June. If you have comments or suggestions for next year's budget, please contact City Hall at 763-784-6491. All budget meetings are open to the public, and meeting dates and times are posted at City Hall in advance. Your input in this process is both encouraged and appreciated.

If you have questions about the 2026 budget, please contact Administrator Daniel Buchholtz at [dbuchholtz@slpmn.org](mailto:dbuchholtz@slpmn.org).

# Minnesota Homeowners and Renters May be Eligible for Property Tax Refunds

## Homeowners:

Homeowners may qualify for the Regular Property Tax Refund and/or the Special Property Tax Refund.

### **Homeowners Regular Property Tax Refund is based on income and property taxes.**

The basic qualifications for the Regular Property Tax Refund are as follow:

- 2025 total household income limit will be determined in early January 2026 (the previous year it was \$139,320)
- Must be a Minnesota resident or part-year resident
- Must have owned and occupied your home on January 2, 2026
- Your property must be classified as your homestead
- Have no delinquent property taxes on your homestead

### **Homeowners Special Property Tax Refund may be available if the net property taxes of your homestead property increased by more than 12% from 2025 to 2026.**

Basic qualifications for the Special Property Tax Refund are as follows:

- No income limit
- Must have owned and occupied your home on January 2, 2025 and January 2, 2026
- The increase was at least \$100
- The increase was not because of improvements you made to the property

Use the 2026 Property Tax Statement you receive from your county in March or April (mid-July for mobile homeowners). Do not use the Notice of Proposed Taxes received in late 2025.

The 2025 Homeowner Property Tax Refund return should be electronically filed, postmarked, or dropped off by August 15, 2026. Ask your tax professional for more information or go online to the Dept of Revenue website: <https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/property-tax-refund>.

## Renters:

Basic qualifications for the Renters Refund are as follows:

- 2025 total household income limit will be determined in early January 2026 (the previous year it was \$75,390)
- Must have a valid Social Security Number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number
- Cannot be claimed as a dependent on someone else's tax return
- Must have lived in a building where either:
  - Property taxes were payable in 2025, or
  - Payments in lieu of property taxes (such as special assessments) were payable in 2025

You will need the Certificate of Rent Paid (CRP) provided by the property owner or managing agent.

**Important Note:** Starting with 2024 taxes, renters claim the Renter's Credit as part of the Minnesota Individual Income Tax return (Form M1). You will no longer file a Renter's Property Tax Refund return (Form M1PR). The Renter's Credit is a refundable credit on an income tax return. It will be part of the amount owed or refunded.

Information source for this article:

<https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/property-tax-refund>

You will find additional information and forms on this site or check with your tax professional.



## 2026 Property Taxes Payable and Valuation Notices

In mid-March, Anoka County will be mailing statements for 2026 Property Taxes Payable and Valuation Notices (2026 Valuation that taxes will be based on in 2027). For general questions regarding these statements, Anoka County has an online resource at [www.anokacountymn.gov/4315/Sample-Notices-Statements](http://www.anokacountymn.gov/4315/Sample-Notices-Statements).

If you have specific questions about the valuation or the classification of your residential property in Spring Lake Park, call Mary Wells at 763-412-1966 ext. 1 or email her at [mnassessormary@gmail.com](mailto:mnassessormary@gmail.com). For commercial, industrial or apartment property, call Erik Skogquist at 763-412-1966 ext. 0 or email him at [mnassessorerik@gmail.com](mailto:mnassessorerik@gmail.com).

Most questions and concerns can be addressed with a phone call to Mary or Erik. If you prefer an in-person meeting with them, you may go to the appeal meetings that will be held in early May at the Anoka County Assessor's office (2100 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave Room 160 Government Center, Anoka). Exact dates and times for the meetings will be listed on the Valuation Notice. If you plan to come to the in-person meetings, you are encouraged to call 763-324-1175 to make an appointment so that your wait time is minimal when you arrive and the assessor can be prepared with the information about your property.

## Join the Spring Lake Park Planning Commission

Are you passionate about shaping the future of your community? The Spring Lake Park Planning Commission is seeking a new member to help guide the city's growth and development.

The Planning Commission plays a vital advisory role in reviewing development and zoning applications, and in recommending how the City's Comprehensive Plan is implemented. This is your opportunity to make a meaningful impact on the future of Spring Lake Park!

### ⌚ Time Commitment

Commissioners serve staggered terms and meet January through November, only when there are items to review such as:

- Variances
- Conditional Use Permits
- Rezoning requests

### Meetings are held:

Time: 7:00 PM

When: 4th Monday of the month

Where: Spring Lake Park City Hall  
Commissioners receive a \$35 stipend per meeting.

## Winter Fire Safety Tip from Your Local Fire Department: Give Your Space Heater Some Space

During Minnesota's long winter stretch, space heaters are a common way to warm up chilly rooms – but they're also one of the leading causes of home heating fires. A simple habit can make a big difference: keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from your space heater. That includes blankets, furniture, clothing, and décor. Always turn the heater off when you leave the room or head to bed and plug it directly into a wall outlet (never a power strip).

This small precaution is one of the most effective ways to prevent winter heating fires and keep your home safe all season long. If you have questions about home fire safety, the Spring Lake Park-Blaine-Mounds View (SBM) Fire Department is here to help! Give us a call today at 763-767-4003.



### Follow SBM on Social Media



Like us on Facebook @SBMFireDept



Follow us on Instagram @SBMFireDept



Follow us on TikTok @SBMFireDept



## Understanding Minnesota's Right-of-Way Rules

As we move into the new year, it's important for residents and property owners to understand how Minnesota law governs the use of public roads and rights-of-way. Minnesota State Statute 160.2715 outlines what activities are prohibited within these areas to ensure safety, accessibility, and the proper functioning of public infrastructure.

### Understanding Minnesota State Statute 160.2715 – Protecting the Public Right-of-Way

#### What Is the Public Right-of-Way?

The right-of-way is the publicly owned area that includes streets, sidewalks, boulevards, and the space surrounding them. Although these areas often border private property, they are not an extension of a homeowner's yard. The City and utility providers rely on these spaces for snow storage, utilities, maintenance, and safe travel.

#### Key Prohibited Activities Under State Statute 160.2715

The statute clearly lists actions that are **not allowed** within the public right-of-way, including but not limited to:

- **Placing or dumping materials** such as snow, leaves, grass clippings, landscaping debris, construction materials, or garbage on any road, right-of-way or neighboring property.
- **Obstructing or interfering** with the safe passage of vehicles or pedestrians.
- **Damaging or altering** roadways, sidewalks, signs, culverts, or drainage systems.

These rules protect residents, city workers, and emergency responders by keeping roads and sidewalks clear and safe.

#### Why This Matters

Improper use of the right-of-way can cause several issues:

- **Snow removal problems**, including snow being pushed back onto the street or neighboring property.
- **Blocked visibility**, creating dangerous conditions for drivers and pedestrians.
- **Damage to public infrastructure**, resulting in costly repairs.
- **Delayed utility or street maintenance** when items are placed in the way.

City staff regularly receive complaints in these areas, and enforcement is guided not only by local ordinance but also by state law.

#### How Residents Can Help

- Keep landscaping, decorative items, and waste containers out of the boulevard.
- Do not blow or shovel snow into the street or neighboring properties.
- Report any right-of-way concerns through the City's Code Enforcement line or email.
- Reach out before starting projects near the street—staff can help determine what is permitted.

Minnesota Statute 160.2715 is designed to keep our roadways safe and functional. Your cooperation helps maintain the quality of life and safety standards that residents expect in Spring Lake Park.

If you have questions about what is allowed in the right-of-way, feel free to contact Code Enforcement at [info@slpmn.org](mailto:info@slpmn.org).



# Understanding Our Reactive Code Enforcement System

## What Does “Reactive” Code Enforcement Mean?

A reactive system means that Code Enforcement **does not patrol neighborhoods looking for violations**. Instead, we respond to concerns that are formally reported by residents, businesses, or other city departments.

This approach ensures:

- **Fairness** – properties are not singled out.
- **Efficiency** – staff time focuses on documented concerns.
- **Community involvement** – residents help identify issues that impact them.

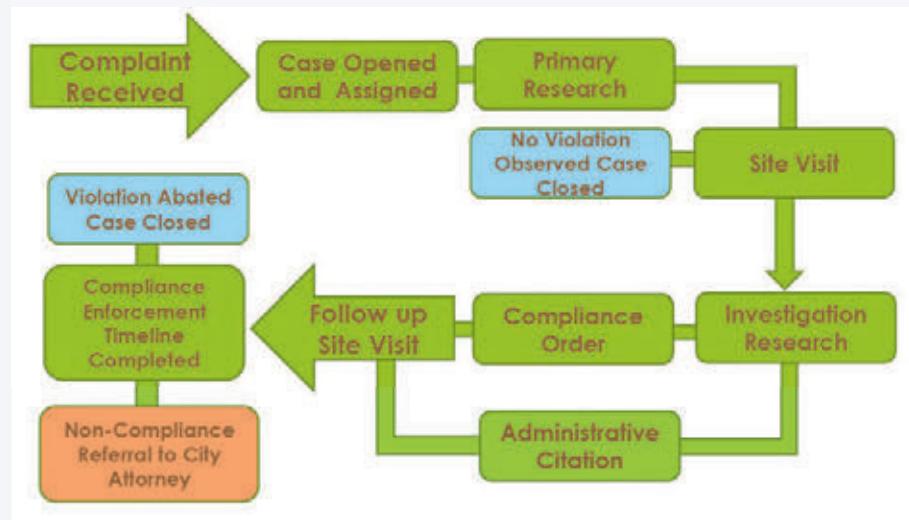
We take each complaint seriously and address it according to city ordinances and state law.

## How to File a Nuisance Complaint

Residents can report concerns in the way that is most convenient for them:

- **Phone:** Call City Hall during business hours to report a concern.
- **Email:** Send details and the property address to [info@slpmn.org](mailto:info@slpmn.org).
- **Online:** Use the City's complaint reporting form on our website for quick submission.

When submitting a complaint, providing the **address**, a **brief description**, and supporting information (like dates or photos) helps our staff respond more quickly.



## Why Complaints Matter

Your reports allow Code Enforcement to address issues such as:

- Exterior property maintenance
- Tall grass or noxious weeds
- Accumulation of junk or debris
- Inoperable vehicles
- Parking off of an approved driveway
- Right-of-way obstructions
- Noise and nuisance issues

Without a formal complaint, these issues may go unaddressed because staff does not actively patrol for them.

## Working Together for a Better Community

The reactive system works best when residents participate. By reporting concerns when they arise, you help maintain property values, improve safety, and preserve the quality of life we all expect in Spring Lake Park.

If you have questions about the process or need help identifying whether something qualifies as a nuisance, please contact the Code Enforcement Department—we're here to help.

Thank you for helping keep Spring Lake Park a great place to live!

Contact the Code Enforcement Department for specific questions and permit information.

📞 (763) 784-6491  
✉️ [info@slpmn.org](mailto:info@slpmn.org)  
🌐 [www.slpmn.org](http://www.slpmn.org)

## Winter Parking Restrictions are in Effect

As we are in the middle of winter, the world feels hushed and transformed. Snow blankets the ground in a soft, white silence, turning the familiar landscape into something almost magical. With the beautiful snow comes the parking restrictions. Please do not park on city streets from 2AM to 8AM each night. If there is a snowfall of 2 or more inches, there is no parking on city streets until they are plowed curb to curb.



## Minnesota's "Hands-Free" Law Reminder

On August 1, 2019, Minnesota law began requiring drivers to use hands-free devices while operating a motor vehicle.

### What's Allowed:

- Voice commands or single-touch activation to make calls, send text or use GPS
- Bluetooth or other hands-free technology (examples: dashboard mounts, earbud)
  - Remember, drivers are not allowed to wear headphones or earbuds in both ears. Drivers must be able to hear external sounds.

### What's NOT Allowed:

- Holding a phone or electronic device in your hand while driving
- Scrolling, typing or using apps manually
- Watching videos or livestreams
- This includes being stopped at a stop sign or stop light



### Headlights On = Safety for All

In Minnesota, drivers are required by law to turn on their headlights whenever it is raining, snowing, sleet, or hailing – or any other time visibility is reduced such as fog or smoke.

### Why Does This Matter?

- It improves your visibility to other drivers, especially in fog, snow or rain
- It helps prevent accidents by making your vehicle easier to see
- It's the law – you can be issued a citation for not using your headlights in poor weather
- Don't rely on the automatic setting for your headlights – even though it is raining or snowing, it may be too bright for your lights to automatically come on

## Tips to Prevent Online Scams

- Be Skeptical of Unsolicited Messages
  - Don't click on links or download attachments from unknown or suspicious emails or texts
  - Watch for poor grammar, urgent language, or unfamiliar senders
- Verify Before You Trust
  - Double-check websites, email addresses and phone numbers
  - Contact companies directly using official contact info – not what is in the message
- Use Strong, Unique Passwords
  - Avoid using the same password across multiple sites
  - Use a password manager to keep track of them securely
- Enable Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)
  - Adds a layer of security to your accounts
  - Use authentication apps instead of SMS when possible
- Shop and Donate Safely
  - Only buy from secure websites (look for "https" and a padlock icon)
  - Research charities before donating, especially after disasters or emergencies
- Keep Software Updated
  - Regularly update your browser, antivirus and operating system
  - Updates often include security patches that protect against new threats
- Monitor Your Accounts
  - Check bank and credit card statements regularly
  - Set up alerts for unusual or suspicious activity
- Report scams to the FTC at [reportfraud.ftc.gov](http://reportfraud.ftc.gov)

## Contact and Connect with Us

The Police Department would also like to remind you that officers are available to serve our city and its citizens 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Please call 9-1-1 for any reason, and Anoka County Central Communications will dispatch an officer. We do not dispatch out of our office. If you need to speak with a specific officer, police administration or investigator, our front office is available during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM–4:30 PM. Please call 763-792-7200.

### Follow Us on Social Media



Like us on Facebook @slppd



## A Note from the Desk of the Public Works Director

As we enter the winter season, I would like to share a few important reminders regarding snow removal and winter operations. Your cooperation helps ensure safe and efficient service for everyone in our community.

### Snowplowing Operations

During snow events, plowing typically begins between **3:00 AM and 5:00 AM**, depending on the storm's end time. Our crews make every effort to plow as close to mailboxes as possible; however, for safety reasons, a clearance of approximately **2-3 feet from the curb** is often necessary. Homeowners are responsible for clearing snow around their mailboxes to ensure mail delivery. We also encourage residents to inspect mailbox posts during the summer months, as rotting or weakened posts can be damaged by the weight of snow.

### Snow Placement and Sidewalk Access

Please keep all snow on your own property. Pushing snow across roadways or onto sidewalks is prohibited and may result in a citation. If parking in your driveway near a sidewalk, leave **1-2 feet of clearance** between the sidewalk edge and the rear of your vehicle. Vehicles obstructing sidewalks may also be subject to citation. For homes with sidewalks, clearing a small area on each side of your driveway helps our operators stay aligned on the sidewalk and avoid turf damage.

### Garbage and Recycling Containers

When placing garbage or recycling carts, please position them at your driveway entrance, about **one foot back from the curb**, and ensure they are not placed on the sidewalk or in the street. Our operators work carefully to balance safe speeds with effective snow removal, and proper cart placement helps prevent tipping or damage.

### Property or Mailbox Damage

If sod or mailbox damage occurs, please contact Public Works. Lawn repairs will be addressed in the spring, and any mailbox issues caused by direct contact with city equipment will be handled promptly.

### Looking Out for One Another

Finally, we ask residents to please watch out for elderly neighbors during the winter months. If you are able to assist by clearing a driveway or walkway, it is greatly appreciated. If you know of someone who may need help, please contact George Linngren in Public Works, and we will do our best to connect them with assistance.

On behalf of the Public Works Department, I wish you a safe and happy holiday season — and perhaps a short winter.



### Be Safe This Winter

Plow drivers have large blind spots, especially in front of and behind the truck. Stay at least 75 feet (approximately 10 car lengths) away when traveling behind snow removal equipment of any kind. In addition, move away from the street as soon as you see the snow plow moving toward you. Snow plows are unable to stop quickly and must keep their momentum in order to keep the snow removal process going and not get stuck in heavy snow.

## Utility Billing Schedule

1st Quarter	January, February, March	01/01 - 03/31
Billed March 31	Due April 30	
2nd Quarter	April, May, June	04/01 - 06/30
Billed June 30	Due July 30	
3rd Quarter	July, August, September	07/01 - 09/30
Billed September 30	Due October 30	
4th Quarter	October, November, December	10/01 - 12/31
Billed December 31	Due January 30	

If payment is not received by the due date, a 10% late penalty applies.

## Utility Payment Options

- **Drop Box**
  - Located outside City Hall entrance: 1301 81st Ave NE
  - Available 24/7
- **Online Bill Pay**
  - Visit our website: [www.slpmn.org](http://www.slpmn.org) > Utilities > Payment options
  - Ask for an Online Payment Service Guide handout
- **Phone Payments**
  - Credit / Debit Cards
  - 763-792-7213
- **Recurring Payments**
  - Visit our website: [www.slpmn.org](http://www.slpmn.org) > Utilities > Payment options
  - Ask for an Online Payment Service Guide handout
- **Walk-In Payments**
  - City Hall: 1301 81st Ave NE
  - Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM



## Accepted Payment Types:

- Cash (small bills or exact change appreciated)
- Checks (personal or cashier)
- Credit / Debit cards
- Money Orders
- Bill Pays

\*All credit / debit card transactions carry a convenience fee.\*

**PLEASE NOTE:** Postmarks NOT accepted. Please allow 7-10 business days for mail delivery and processing.

## Haven't Received Your Utility Bill?

If you normally receive a paper bill and have not received it by the 7th day of the month in which your bill is due, please contact the Utility Billing Department.

If you are signed up for paperless billing, please make sure to check your "Junk" or "Spam" folder in your email. Paperless bills will come from City of Spring Lake Park—Utility Billing [noreply@bsacloud.com](mailto:noreply@bsacloud.com). You may need to mark this sender as "Not Junk" or "Safe" to see them in your inbox.

## Is Your Billing Address Up to Date?

Please inform the City of any changes to your billing address to ensure accurate and timely delivery of your utility bills. Keeping your information current helps avoid delays and disruptions in receiving important billing notices.



**Utility Billing:** 763-792-7213 | [bbrown@slpmn.org](mailto:bbrown@slpmn.org)

## 2026 Utility Rate Update

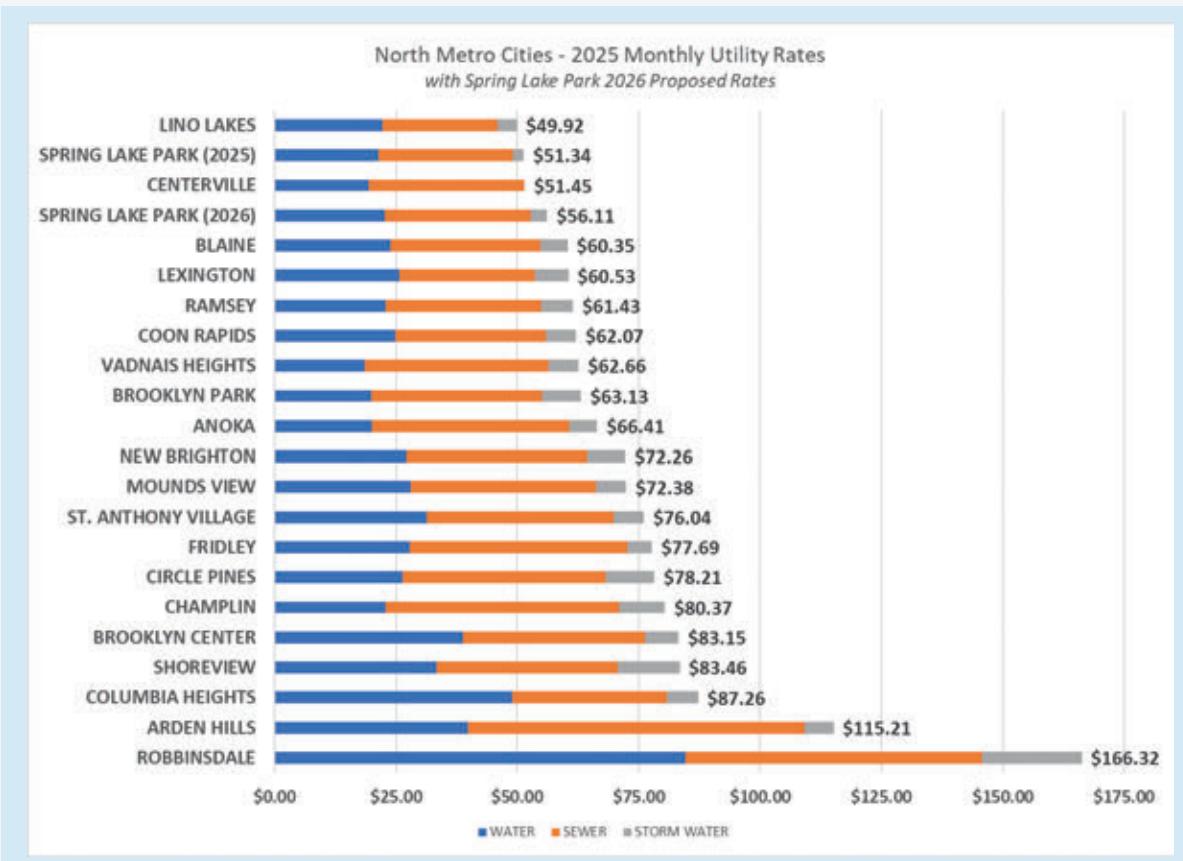
The City Council has approved the 2026 utility rates. These changes help the City keep up with rising costs and maintain safe drinking water, reliable sewer service, and strong stormwater management. Your utility fees support these services and allow the City to repair and replace aging equipment without using property tax dollars.

Here is what the updated rates mean for a typical home.

### What's Changing in 2026

For a typical home that uses 18,000 gallons of water per quarter, the following changes will take effect on January 1 and will be shown on your April 2026 water bill:

- Water charges will increase by about \$3.97 per quarter
- Sewer charges will increase by \$7.04 per quarter
- Storm water fees will increase by \$3.30 per quarter.
- Recycling fees will increase by \$0.36 per quarter.
- The street lighting fee will stay the same.



Overall, the average home will see a quarterly increase of about \$14.67, which is roughly \$4.89 per month. The full rate schedule is available at <https://slpmn.org/utilities/page/utility-billing-rates-schedule>.

Even with the 2026 rate adjustments, Spring Lake Park continues to have some of the most affordable utility rates in the north metro. A recent comparison of monthly water, sewer, and stormwater charges across nearby cities shows that Spring Lake Park remains well below the regional average.

According to the north metro survey of 20 cities, 2026 Spring Lake Park rates rank near the bottom third, meaning residents pay significantly less than many neighboring communities—including Robbinsdale, Arden Hills, Columbia Heights, Shoreview, Brooklyn Center, Champlin, Circle Pines, Fridley, Mounds View and others.

If you have any questions regarding the 2026 water, sanitary sewer, storm water and recycling rates for the City, please do not hesitate to contact City Hall at 763-784-6491.

# Parks and Recreation News and Updates

For all programs or classes register at [slprec.org](http://slprec.org) or by calling **763-792-7201**.

Spring Lake Park is leveling up! We're thrilled to announce exciting new additions to our recreation programming for youth and adults:

## → TEEN OUTINGS

Teens, get ready for unforgettable experiences! Our new Teen Outings program offers safe, fun, and social trips to local attractions, outdoor adventures, and more. It's a great way to make new friends and explore new places.

## → THAT GIRL STUDIO

Empowering young girls to be confident, strong, and kind - That Girl Studio is a new program focused on leadership, self-esteem, and community building through engaging activities and mentorship.

## → COUNTRY JAMMERS

Love Country Music? Join Country Jammers! Whether you play, sing, or just tap your boots, you're welcome! Drop in for a casual jam - no sign-up, no pressure, just good country vibes. Bring your instrument or your voice and or just come enjoy a foot-stomping good time at Able Park!

***Explore our new and upcoming programs at [slprec.org](http://slprec.org)***

**JAN  
24**

### **SNOW DAY**

Able Park 1:30 - 3:30 PM  
FREE

**FEB  
4**

### **ABLE PARK ADVENTURERS SUMMER PROGRAM INFO NIGHT**

Able Park 6:00 PM

**FEB  
11**

### **SWEETHEART DANCE**

SLP VFW 5:30 - 7:30 PM  
Register online \$8 a pair, \$4 each additional

**MAR  
28**

### **EASTER EGG HUNT**

Lakeside Lions Park: Sign-in begins at 12:00 PM  
FREE

**APR  
10**

### **MANDALA ROCK PAINTING**

SLP City Hall 1:00 - 3:30 PM  
\$35

### **EMPLOYMENT**

Looking for a fun, flexible, and rewarding part-time job? The City of Spring Lake Park is hiring for summer and seasonal positions that make a difference in the community.

- Able Park Adventurers Staff
- Youth Sports Officials
- Facility Supervisors
- Summer Public Works Employees

#### Volunteer Positions

- Youth Sports Coaches / Assistant Coaches

***Contact Parks and Rec for more information!***



(763) 792-7201



[recinfo@slpmn.org](mailto:recinfo@slpmn.org)

## **Spring Break Adventurers**

Join us for an exciting week of fun!

Prepare yourself for an action-packed week filled with games, crafts, engaging STEM activities, outdoor adventures, hearty laughs, and quality time with friends! Each day promises a new experience - come ready to enjoy!

#### **Details:**

- Ages: 6 - 12
- Time: 9:00 AM 4:00 PM
- Dates: March 9 - 13
- Cost: \$35 per child / day
- Location: Able Park

For more information and to register visit [slprec.org](http://slprec.org).



## Able Park Adventurers

Able Park Adventurers is expanding to **full-day sessions** this year, designed for active kids and busy families.

- **Program information night: February 4, 2026 at 6:00 PM at Able Park** - meet staff, learn about pricing, and ask questions.
- Registration opens **Monday, February 9, 2026 at 9:00 AM** - Spots fill quickly!
- Program hours: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM with **optional** early care (7:30-8:30 AM) and late care (4:30-5:00 PM) **for an additional fee**.
- A \$25 non-refundable deposit per week **is required** and a credit card **must** be on file for billing **two weeks before sessions**.
- Families who pay in full for the entire summer receive a 5% discount, with full details shared at the February 4 information night meeting.

## Park & Recreation Commission

Spring Lake Park is inviting adult and youth residents or SLP School District members (ages 15 and older) to apply for the Parks and Recreation Commission.

This advisory commission plays an important role in shaping city parks, recreation programming, senior services, and community events such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Tower Days, and Fall Fest. Commissioners work closely with city staff and fellow residents to help guide decisions that strengthen the community.

### Commission Details:

- Meeting Time: 6:00 PM on the first Tuesday of each month
- Location: Spring Lake Park City Hall
- Term Length: 3 years (1 year for youth members)
- Eligibility: Open to residents of Spring Lake Park or those living within the SLP School District.
- Expectations: Attend meetings regularly and assist with major city recreation events.
- \$35 stipend per meeting.

### Ready to Get Involved?

Visit <https://slpmn.org/bc-parkrec>, email the Park and Recreation Office at [recinfo@slpmn.org](mailto:recinfo@slpmn.org) or call 763-792-7201 to learn more and/or apply.

## Youth Co-Rec Softball

Youth Co-Rec Softball Leagues for ages 5-18\*

May 11 - August 1, 2026.

\*Players must be the required age by May 11

\*Youth age 18 must have graduated high school in Spring 2026.

Teams meet twice per week, with 1-2 practices and one weekday game (Monday - Thursday)

- Game schedules by age group:
  - **7U (ages 5-7) & 10U (ages 8-10):** Tuesdays at 5:45 PM or 7:00 PM
  - **13U (ages 11-13):** Thursdays at 5:45, 7:00, or 8:15 PM
  - **18U (ages 14-18):** Mondays at 5:45, 7:00, or 8:15 PM
- **Tournament weekend:** July 30 - August 1 (backup date August 2)

Fees: \$79 per child or \$89 after March 20, 2026 (pending availability.)

\*\*\*\*\* Lil' Slugger T-Ball (ages 4-5): Runs June 8 - July 8, with games on Mondays & Wednesdays, 6:00 - 7:00 PM  
Fees: \$39 per child or \$49 after March 20, 2026 (pending availability)

## Adopt-A-Flower Garden in Spring Lake Park!

The City of Spring Lake Park invites individuals, families, community groups, Scouts and businesses to participate in our Adopt-A-Flower Garden Program. This volunteer opportunity allows you to care for a designated flower or perennial garden in one of our city parks.

Adopters are responsible for weeding, watering, and pruning to keep gardens vibrant throughout the season. Garden assignments are based on preference and availability.

### Want to help, but can't Adopt?

- Donate plants (nursery or garden center gift cards/certificates only)
- Sponsor a garden – various levels available to support beautification projects.

### How to Get Involved

Visit <http://bit.ly/3KK4ECV> to learn more and download the Adoption Form. Return it to City Hall in person, by mail, drop box, or email: [recinfo@slpmn.org](mailto:recinfo@slpmn.org)

Let's grow something beautiful—together!



## ADULT HEALTH & ENRICHMENT

Take time for yourself with adult activities and classes that promote relaxation, healthy living, and meaningful creativity. Build new skills, nurture healthy habits, and enjoy hobbies that bring balance and fulfillment.

- 55+ Drivers Discount Program
- Foot Care Clinic
- Hypertension Control Seminar
- Yoga & Zumba Fitness
- Pickleball Classes
- Mandala Rock Painting
- Virtual Classes - From Cooking, "Crafting a Proposal", "Creating Passive Income", to Genealogy Classes.

## ADULT DAY TRIPS

Join us for unforgettable adult day trips featuring the best in live entertainment! Spend a tropical day at the zoo or enjoy hit musicals, tribute performances from favorites like Elvis and Johnny Cash with even more exciting outings on the way. Sit back, relax, and let us take you on a day full of great music, adventures, stories, and memories.

- MN Zoo Winter Getaway
- Mille Lacs Indian Museum & Grand Casino
- Church of Cash - Le Musique Room
- Elvis All Shook Up - Plymouth Playhouse

Join the fun!

## FREE SENIOR CLUBS

### Book Club

Meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month at 11:00 AM.

### BINGO

Join us at City Hall for FREE Senior Bingo on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month at 1:00 PM.

### 500 Card Club

Join us for at City Hall **every Thursday at 1:00 PM** whether you're a seasoned player or just starting out.

### Hand and Foot

Join our drop-in games at City Hall **every Wednesday at 1:00 PM**. New players always welcome.

### Up & Down the River

Join us at City Hall on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at 1:00 PM**. No experience needed.

## YOUTH CAMPS, ACTIVITIES & CLASSES

Our youth and teen programs are in full swing! Kids ages 6 - 12 can join New Adventurers, plus we offer dance and tumbling, music, arts and crafts, babysitter courses, sports, and a variety of teen programs. Fun, learning, and new friendships start here!

### TEEN OUTINGS : AGES 12 - 17

LOCATION: MOUNDS VIEW COMMUNITY CENTER

Made possible by partnership with SLP Lions

### ELM CREEK PARK TUBING

Date: Wednesday, January 28

Time: 5:30 PM - 9:30 PM | Fee: \$20

### THRIFT SHOPS & COFFEE STOP

Date: Saturday, February 21

Time: 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM | Fee: \$15



### TIMBERWOLVES GAME

Date: Thursday, March 5

Time: 5:30 PM - 10:00 PM | Fee: \$25

### MOVIE NIGHT

Date: Friday, May 1

Time: 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM | Fee: \$20

### PARENT'S NIGHT OUT! | AGES 6 - 12

LOCATION: MOUNDS VIEW COMMUNITY CENTER

Drop off your kids at the Mounds View Community Center for a fun-filled evening with our trained youth staff. Children will enjoy supervised gym games, arts and crafts, movies, and more while you enjoy a few hours to yourself. Each Parent's Night Out includes supervision by our trained youth staff, dinner and a drink, engaging and age-appropriate activities.

Date: Friday, January 9

Time: 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Drop off / Pick Up: Mounds View Community Center

Fee: \$30 per child

**Registration Deadline: Monday, January 5**

### UPCOMING FAMILY EVENTS

- Country Jammers Music - Jan-May, 2026
- Snow Day - Sat, Jan 24
- Sweetheart Dance - Wed, Feb 11
- Find Snow Buddy - Mon, Feb 23 - Fri, Feb 27
- Easter Egg Hunt - Sat, Mar 28
- Pancake Breakfast - Sun, Apr 19
- Earth Day - Sat, Apr 25

For all programs or classes register at [slprec.org](http://slprec.org) or by calling **763-792-7201**.

# Spring Lake Park Tower Days

**Thursday, June 4 – Saturday, June 6**

**New!**

Days and Events!

Join us for an exciting lineup featuring:

Live Music  
Community Parade  
Bingo & Prizes  
Tasty Bites  
Beer Garden Vibes  
Ninja Anywhere Action Course  
Games and Fun  
Classic Car Show  
Fireworks Finale  
And so much more!

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**Power Local Moments. Create Lasting Impact.**

Sponsor Spring Lake Park's Tower Days. Enhance your brand through sponsorship of our biggest event of the year.

**The earlier you sponsor, the longer your exposure!**

- **Tower Tribute \$5,000+**, Top billing, premium exposure, and exclusive perks
- **Spring Lake Legacy \$2,000 - \$4,999**, High visibility and strong brand presence
- **Community Champion \$1,000 - \$1,999**, Support with impact and recognition
- **Neighborhood Supporter \$500 - \$999**, Great for small businesses and local leaders
- **Friend of Tower Days \$0 - \$499**, Perfect for individual and grassroot supporters

Contact: Anne 763-792-7201 | [ascanlon@slpmn.org](mailto:ascanlon@slpmn.org)



# 2026 Recycling Days

March 14 | May 9 | July 11 | September 12 | November 14

8AM - Noon

Recycle Technologies | 10040 Davenport St NE, Blaine MN



## RECYCLE 2 ITEMS FOR FREE WITH COUPON

- Appliances
- Lamps / Bulbs / Ballasts / Fixtures  
**DO NOT TAPE LAMPS TOGETHER**
- TV's & Monitors (prices vary by size)
- Car / Truck tires without rim
- Hard Drive Shredding
- Mattresses & Box Springs (all sizes)
- Batteries (small household & rechargeable)
- Propane tanks & dry chemical fire extinguishers
- Exercise equipment

- Miscellaneous electronics
  - Printers, scanners, fax machines
  - Commercial copiers
  - Small electronics (DVD/VCR players, stereos, speakers, coffee makers, record players, toasters/toaster ovens, landline phones, small appliances, video game consoles, etc.)

## RECYCLE FOR FREE WITHOUT COUPON

- Holiday lights (**string only, no rope lights or decorations**)
- Scrap metal (must be clean with all non-metal material removed)
- Tablets, servers, cables, laptops & cell phones (if server or laptop contains a hard drive add \$7 each)
- Sealed lead acid car batteries
- Paper shredding - 2 box limit (no laminated or carbon papers or 3-ring binders. Paperclips & staples are okay.)

## ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED

- Child car seats
- Furniture or household goods
- Garbage
- Building, construction, or compost materials
- Household Hazardous Waste (paint, oil, etc.)
- Carbon Monoxide & smoke detectors (can be thrown in the trash after removing battery)

**Payment accepted: Cash or check ONLY**

**\*\*Small bills appreciated\*\***



## **RECYCLE 2 ITEMS FOR FREE**

**Recycle Technologies**

10040 Davenport St NE, Blaine, MN

SLP / Up to \$30 Value

LIMIT 1 COUPON PER HOUSEHOLD

DATE: **MARCH 14, 2026**  
8 AM - 12 PM

**Residents are responsible for any costs above \$30.00**

Coupons and price lists for 2026 recycling events can be found on our website:  
<https://slpmn.org/recycling>

Recycle Technologies  
reserves the right to refuse  
items.

Please DO NOT drop off  
items before or after the  
event.

## **Questions on the event?**

Contact Haley Morrison  
763-792-7240 | [hmorrison@slpmn.org](mailto:hmorrison@slpmn.org)

These events are funded by the Anoka County Board of Commissioners & State SCORE funds (Select Committee on Recycling & the Environment)

## FREE Organics Recycling Program

Did you know the City offers a FREE organics recycling program for residents? This program makes it easy to recycle food scraps and other compostable materials, helping reduce waste and support a more sustainable community. Sign up today and start turning everyday scraps into something beneficial for the environment.

### What are organics?

Organics are the items from your home that can be composted and include:

- all **food scraps** such as leftovers, peelings, and spoiled food
- **other compostable household items** such as plant trimmings and popsicle sticks
- soiled, **non-recyclable paper products** such as paper towels, napkins, take-out delivery pizza boxes, and paper egg cartons
- **certified compostable products**, compostable food ware and bags labeled with a Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) logo.

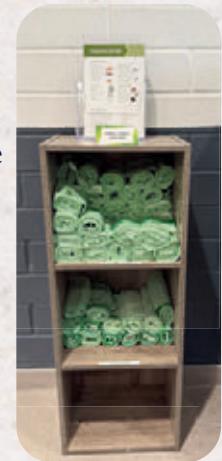


### How to Get Started:

1. Email Haley Morrison at [hmorrison@slpmn.org](mailto:hmorrison@slpmn.org) with your name, address, and a contact phone number to sign up.
2. Pick up a free starter kit at Spring Lake Park City Hall, including a kitchen pail and compostable bags.
3. Start collecting accepted organic items.
4. Secure the bag\* and drop it off in the organics dumpster located behind the green fence in the City Hall parking lot.
5. Repeat! Additional free bags are available at City Hall during business hours (Monday–Friday, 8:00 AM–4:30 PM).

\*All organics must be securely bagged in a brown paper bag or BPI-certified compostable bag.

For a full list of accepted and non-accepted organics items visit:  
<https://www.anokacountymn.gov/4408/Organics-Food-Scraps-Recycling>



## City Hall Recycling Drop-Off

Spring Lake Park offers a FREE recycling drop-off program for all Spring Lake Park residents. The drop-off site is located inside the Link at City Hall and is available to residents Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM–4:30 PM.

### Accepted Items:

- Cell phones (with or without batteries)
- Laptops, iPads, tablets
- PC's (computer towers)
- Hard drives
- Holiday string lights (**NO household / LED lightbulbs or fluorescents**)
- Small hand-held electronics
- Gaming consoles (Xbox, PlayStation, etc.)
- Ink Cartridges
- Batteries (single-use and rechargeable)
  - There is a separate container for batteries located in the Link area. **Please do not place batteries in the Electronics container.**
- Used prescription eyeglasses, non-prescription sunglasses, and reading glasses



## Smart Salting Practices to Protect our Water

Information provided by the Coon Creek Watershed District | [www.cooncreekwd.org](http://www.cooncreekwd.org)

Lakes, creeks, and rivers throughout the metro are getting saltier. The rise in chloride pollution, primarily from deicing chemicals (salts), is bad news for our aquatic plants, animals, and drinking water.

It takes only one teaspoon of salt to permanently pollute five gallons of fresh water. Once chloride is in a waterbody, there is no practical way to remove it. Alternatives to chloride have other tradeoffs in cost, environmental impacts, and service. Therefore, the leading strategy for managing chloride pollution is to be smart about its use; applying it only when, where, and in the amount needed. This also means that every effort, big or small, helps reduce chloride pollution.

This winter, try the following tips to reduce your salt use and protect our local water resources:

- 1. Check the temp:** Traditional rock/road salt is NOT effective at temperatures below 15 degrees (F). When temperatures plummet, consider sand or grit for traction.
- 2. Shovel often:** Shoveling early and often will reduce ice formation.
- 3. Reuse product:** Sweep up and re-use excess salt, grit, and sand.
- 4. Scatter Sparingly:** More salt does not equal more melting. Try to space salt granules 2-3 inches apart. A coffee cup of salt, roughly 8oz, is enough salt to treat 150 square feet.



## Grants for Native Plants and More!

The Rice Creek Watershed District has grant funding available in 2026 to residents looking to plant native plants, construct a raingarden, or install a rain barrel on their property. Native plants are a great alternative to traditional landscaping due to their inherent properties of providing habitat and food for pollinators and stormwater infiltration through extensive root systems. Rain barrels are a great way to reduce stormwater runoff from downspouts and reuse the water for your landscaping or other yard care needs. Funding will be available starting January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, and will be awarded on a rolling application basis until funds run out for the year.

Residents can explore RCWD's Water Quality Grant Program and Mini Grant Program for project funding options and apply for a grant at [www.ricecreek.org/grants/](http://www.ricecreek.org/grants/). If you are unsure which grant program is the best fit for your project, please contact Grants and Outreach Technician, Molly Nelson, at [mnelson@ricecreek.org](mailto:mnelson@ricecreek.org) for answers to general questions or to set up a site visit for further assistance.



# SAFETY IS THE #1 CONCERN

Oversalting does NOT provide extra safety, but it does damage property and pollute water.

## Snow & Ice Management Tips



### SHOVEL EARLY AND OFTEN



### SELECT THE CORRECT PRODUCT

Salt only works when pavement temperature is above 15°F. (use a temperature gun to check). In colder temperatures, use different products.



### SCATTER SALT SPARINGLY

Space salt granules 2 to 3 inches apart.

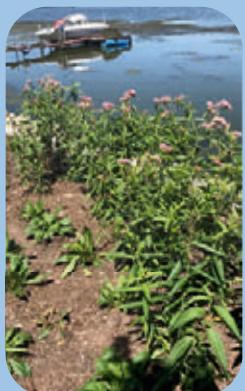


### SWEEEP UP & RE-USE EXCESS SALT



### HIRE CERTIFIED APPLICATORS

Encourage your contractor to become Smart Salt Certified.





1301 81<sup>st</sup> Ave NE  
Spring Lake Park, MN 55432

**Dated Material**  
**Postmaster: Time Sensitive Material**

### Upcoming Events

Office Closed (New Year's Day)	Jan 1
Office Closed	Jan 2
City Council Meeting	Jan 5
Office Closed (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)	Jan 19
City Council Meeting	Jan 20
Planning Commission Meeting	Jan 26
City Council Meeting	Feb 2
Office Closed (Presidents Day)	Feb 16
City Council Meeting	Feb 17
Planning Commission Meeting	Feb 23
City Council Meeting	Mar 2
Daylight Savings Time Begins	Mar 8
Recycling Day (8AM-Noon Recycle Technologies)	Mar 14
City Council Meeting	Mar 16
Planning Commission Meeting	Mar 23
City Council Meeting	Apr 6
City Council Meeting	Apr 20
Recycling Day (8AM-Noon City Hall)	Apr 25
Earth Day Clean Up (9AM-11AM Able Park)	Apr 25
Planning Commission Meeting	Apr 27

All meetings begin at 7:00 PM, and are held at City Hall,  
1301 81<sup>st</sup> Ave NE.

### **Spring Forward-Daylight Savings Time Begins March 8, 2026**

Remember to set your  
clocks ahead 1 hour and  
change the batteries in  
your Smoke and  
CO2 detectors.



### **Spring Lake Park Panthers Win 5A State Championship**

At its December 1, 2025 meeting, the Spring Lake Park City Council proudly recognized the Spring Lake Park Panther Football Team as and proclaimed the day as "Spring Lake Park Panthers Football Day" in the City of Spring Lake Park. Congratulations to Coach John Stewart, the coaching staff, players, and the many families and fans whose support made this MSHSL Class 5A Championship season possible. Your hard work, teamwork, and Panther pride have made our entire community proud.



### **Public Notary Services**

The City of Spring Lake Park offers Public Notary services to residents at no cost. If you need a notary, please call City Hall at 763-784-6491 to make an appointment prior to stopping in.

This way, we can ensure a notary is available and ready for your visit.

