Three watershed organizations extend into Fridley:

1) **Coon Creek Watershed District**: Contains 107 square miles of land draining into Coon Creek as well as Springbrook Creek, Stonybrook Creek, and Oak Glen Creek in Fridley. (CoonCreekWD.org)

2) **Rice Creek Watershed District**: Contains 186 square miles of land draining into Rice Creek, including Moore Lake in Fridley. (RiceCreek.org)

3) **Mississippi Watershed Management Organization**: Contains 59.9 square miles of land draining directly into the Mississippi River. (MWMO.org)

In our next few issues, we will be interviewing each of these organizations to find out what they are working on in Fridley and how Fridley residents can get more involved.

**Which watershed do I live in?**

Find out which watershed organization you live in on our interactive neighborhood map at FridleyMN.gov/CityMaps.

Enter your address in the search bar, and the map will provide you information on your watershed, neighborhood name, voting location and more.

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**Get to Know Your Watershed:**

Do you know where Fridley's stormwater goes? If rain falls on pervious surfaces (grass, landscaping, trees) it can infiltrate back into the ground, but rain that falls on impervious surfaces (concrete, asphalt, roofs) usually drains into a stormwater system. Water that enters the stormwater system does not just disappear—it is conveyed by pipe to a downstream body of water. Most of the stormwater runoff in Fridley eventually reaches the Mississippi River, but the path it takes depends on which watershed it is in. A watershed is all the land that drains ("sheds") to a particular body of water. In Minnesota, special units of governments called watershed districts and watershed management organizations oversee these watersheds to manage and protect our water resources.

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**Stay Connected!**

- Like Us on Facebook: search City of Fridley
- Follow Us on Twitter: @CityofFridley
- Watch City Programming: Search Fridley Municipal TV
- Sign up for email notifications on FridleyMN.gov

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**City News**

We want to hear your opinion about our Community Connection (City Newsletter) that is provided bimonthly to residents’ homes. We are looking to gauge readership and evaluate the effectiveness of our printed city newsletter.

Please let us know how regularly you read the Community Connection and suggestions you have to make the newsletter more valuable and informative for you. Here are a few ways to submit your feedback:

1. Fill out an online form at FridleyMN.gov/Newsletter.
3. Fill out the questionnaire to the right, and drop it off at City Hall.
Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) plans to build a new lift station at 6900 East River Road in Fridley to replace the existing lift station in Brooklyn Park. The lift station serves most of the wastewater flow from the northwest metropolitan area. It is an important part of the collection system that moves wastewater from homes and businesses in the area to the Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant in Saint Paul. The new lift station is one part of MCES’ multi-phase approach to preserve assets and improve wastewater management in the Fridley area.

New lift station will provide needed wastewater capacity and improve service

The existing lift station in Brooklyn Park is 50 years old and has reached the end of its useful life. It also no longer has the capacity to serve the current and future needs of the area. Condition evaluations of the facility have documented structural, mechanical, and electrical defects. These defects have led to system failure which has caused wastewater to back up into homes and damage private property. The deficiencies have also resulted in odor issues. The Brooklyn Park lift station will be converted to an odor control facility and continue to provide access to pipes that run under the Mississippi River.

The Fridley property is the right size and location for new facility

The Brooklyn Park site is not large enough to complete the rehabilitation and improvement work while also maintaining uninterrupted wastewater service. The site at 6900 East River Road, formerly Camp Lockeslea, is ideal because of its location close to existing wastewater infrastructure, size and availability. The new lift station will likely occupy less than half of the acquired site. MCES is discussing ideas for the long-term use of the remaining property with the City of Fridley.

What is a lift station?

A lift station is an important part of the regional wastewater system that moves, by pumping, water from pipes at a low elevation to pipes at a higher elevation. When water is at a higher elevation, we can rely on gravity to move it. Lift stations also have monitoring equipment, odor control equipment, and backup power to maintain uninterrupted service.

You can learn more about lift stations by watching Metropolitan Council’s video: How It Works – Lift Stations at youtube.com/watch?v=Z9-DXl028-Y.

Estimated project schedule and costs

The proposed Lift Station L32A in Fridley is programmed as a six-year project, with the planning phase occurring from 2018 to 2020 and design beginning in 2021. Construction is anticipated to start in 2023 and be completed by 2026. The new lift station is anticipated to be in operation by end of 2026.

The total project cost is estimated at $35 million and will be paid for by using regional wastewater charges and fees. There will be no special assessments to adjacent properties or to the cities of Fridley and Brooklyn Park for this project.

Stay up-to-date on project progress

You can learn more about the project on the Metropolitan Council’s Sewer Planning & Construction Updates page for the Fridley Area Lift Station (L32A) at MetroCouncil.org. From that webpage, you can also sign up for an e-newsletter or text alerts for this project.

You can contact project staff any time at info@fridleyarealiftstation.com or 763-520-8650.
Developments Ready to Break Ground

Ebenezer Senior Living
The former City Hall site has had a few delays along the way to its ground-breaking, but construction is ready to begin in December. The 135-unit senior complex will be situated along University Avenue and the frontage road will be removed, leaving additional greenspace and room for a trail on the area where the frontage road once was located. Each of these projects listed will require an approximate 18-month construction cycle between ground-breaking and occupancy. We look forward to seeing this construction underway as it will re-shape the appearance of the development area along University Avenue.

Fridley Station Village – Bldg. #3
Construction of the third and final building at the Fridley Station site was approved by the City Council. The building will be a 73-unit mixed income apartment complex. Construction of this building will be begin in December.

Axl Apartments
Fridley has been the home to many excellent development projects and continues to be an excellent place to live, work, and enjoy the amenities that surround.

The Holly Center site will soon see construction begin on a 261-unit apartment complex and a 10,000 s.f. commercial building. The demolition will start in December with the removal of the parking area in the southeast corner of the parking lot and soil corrections. Since one tenant remains in the building through January, access to and parking for that tenant will still be accommodated. Once that tenant space has been vacated, the entire building will be removed from the site and the new building footings and foundation can be constructed.

Altair
Altair is a luxury market-rate building located at 6060 Main Street NE in Fridley. The building is now preleasing and accepting applications for move-ins as early as January 4, 2021. Those interested in reserving an apartment can visit their website. The project is being developed by Minneapolis-based Sherman Associates. Residences include studio, one bedroom, one bedroom + den, and two bedroom floor plans available for lease. The project is being developed by Minneapolis-based Sherman Associates.

Amenities include:
- Granite countertops and stainless-steel appliances
- In-home washer/dryer
- Outdoor pool and patio
- Club Room
- Lounge
- Game Room
- Fitness center and Fitness On Demand virtual classes
- Coworking space
- Electronic Package Concierge
- Pet-friendly living
- Private dog park and dog wash
- On-site management and 24/7 emergency maintenance

Learn more at LiveAtAltair.com or contact the leasing office at 763-343-8607. Altair will open in January 2021.

Aura
Aura is a luxury 55+ apartment home community currently under construction at 6000 Main Street NE in Fridley. The property will feature 107 residences including studio, one bedroom, one bedroom + den, and two bedroom floor plans available for lease. The project is being developed by Minneapolis-based Sherman Associates.

Amenities include:
- Granite countertops and stainless-steel appliances
- In-home washer/dryer
- Indoor pool
- Two exterior patios
- Club Room
- Game Room
- Fitness Center and yoga studio
- Family room with grandkids area
- Pet-friendly living
- Outdoor dog park and dog wash
- Electronic Package Concierge
- On-site management and 24/7 emergency maintenance

You can visit LiveAtAura.com for more information and to join their interest list. Completion of the building is expected in early 2021.

For additional information on these or other current developments please check the City’s website at FridleyMN.gov.

17,140 registered voters, including 1,376 Election Day registrations
Fridley Fire answered 3,004 fire calls and conducted 763 fire inspections.
Fridley Liquor 2020 sales were over $6.7 million on an 8% increase over 2019.
403,926 web page views as of mid-November, which include the top 5 most visited pages: Springbrook Nature Center, Pay Your Utility Bill/Water Meter, Fridley Liquor, Building Permits, Public Safety Alerts & Reports.

1,802 participants in the paper shredding and drop-off events with 2,162 estimated by the end of year.

Fridley MN.gov
Smart Salting this Winter

Did you know one teaspoon of salt can permanently pollute five gallons of water—forever? Salt and de-icers contain chlorides, which can enter our waterways as snow and ice melt. Springbrook Creek is already listed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency as vulnerable to chloride contamination, and other Fridley waterbodies are close behind. Chloride contamination can kill fish and plants, as well as give a salty taste to drinking water. If you use salt during the winter, please follow these smart salting tips from our partners at the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO):

1) More salt does not equal faster melting — just more pollution and wasted money. Shoot for a 3-inch spread between salt granules. For $10–$20, a hand spreader can make the job easier and more accurate. To be more exact, try to apply no more than one pound per 250 square feet of pavement. (Tip: A regular-size coffee mug typically holds about one pound of salt.)

2) If you must apply salt or deicer, clear off any loose and/or compacted snow first. Apply the product on ice only; do not apply it on dry pavement. Temperatures often drop after a snowstorm, so double-check the label on your salt or deicer product to make sure it will work before you apply it (rock salt does not work below 15°F). You can use the table on the right from the MWMO to check the lowest pavement temperature different deicers will work.

3) Sweep away any extra salt once the ice is gone to keep it from washing into the stormsewers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Melting Agent</th>
<th>Lowest Melting Temp.</th>
<th>Things to Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urea</td>
<td>20°F</td>
<td>Promotes algae growth in waterways; over-application can harm plants; slow-acting; relatively pet safe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sodium Chloride (NaCl)</td>
<td>15°F</td>
<td>Harmful to plants; harmful to concrete; very corrosive to metal, cheap and abundant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnesium Chloride (MgCl2)</td>
<td>-10°F</td>
<td>Harmful to plants, corrosive to metal, relatively high cost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potassium Acetate (KAc)</td>
<td>-15°F</td>
<td>Can cause surface slickness; lowers oxygen levels in waterways; biodegradable, relatively high cost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcium Chloride (CaCl2)</td>
<td>-20°F</td>
<td>Corrosive to metal; leaves slimy residue; less harmful to concrete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sand</td>
<td>No melting</td>
<td>Provides traction only; potential pollutant; can be swept up and reused</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Help Monitor Our Water for Salt Pollution!

Chloride pollution is a growing problem in Minnesota. Coon Creek Watershed District is seeking your help to find salt pollution “hot spots”. They are looking for citizen monitors to check the levels of chlorides in local waterbodies which then can be targeted for salt use optimization projects. Coon Creek Watershed is especially interested in volunteers from northern Fridley.

Interested? Please contact Britta Dornfeld, the Outreach Specialist for the Coon Creek Watershed District, at 763-258-7305 or at bdornfeld@cooncreekwd.org.

Wind Up! with Windsourse

Are you supporting renewable energy? Let us know by participating in our Wind Up! Challenge. As part of our Energy Action Plan, we are launching the #WindUpChallenge to encourage 50 additional residents to sign up for Xcel Energy’s Windsource® program by February 28.

Windsourse is an easy way for every Fridley resident to support renewable energy and reduce their carbon footprint, regardless of whether you rent or own. When you sign up for Windsourse, additional wind energy is produced on your behalf. You can sign up to offset all or just a portion of your electricity use with renewable energy through the program. It costs the average Fridley household less than $5 a month to cover 100% of their electricity use. If you are not already a part of Windsourse, join over 600 other Fridley households by signing up today. Then, let us know you have joined at FridleyMN.gov/WindUpChallenge. If you already subscribe to Windsourse or support renewable energy but cannot subscribe at this time, we would like to hear from you too! Fridley residents who sign up for the Wind Up! Challenge by February 26 will be recognized on our website as a “Fridley Renewable Energy Supporter” and help us meet the City’s energy goals!

Sign up and join your neighbors today: FridleyMN.gov/WindUpChallenge.
Utility Billing Changes – What Residents Need to Know

As a resident of the City of Fridley, you receive a quarterly utility bill that combines four key services: water, sanitary sewer, storm water and recycling.

The changes in your bill from one quarter to the next can sometimes be a bit difficult to understand. Some changes are due to the time of year, as seasonal consumptions can vary significantly. For example, during the warmer months, you have extra water usage to maintain your lawn or fill a pool. Other changes are due to a fixed or variable rate change determined by the city. In addition, charges like sanitary sewer for residential and small multi-family are calculated once a year and carried forward for the next three quarters.

Utility Rate Changes

Utility Funds: Based on the current revenue and expenditures projections, and to maintain an adequate balance of cash in each fund, there will be a modest 3 percent increase in all utility fees.

Recycling Fund: The City’s recycling fund is used to cover the cost of the City’s residential recycling program. Currently, the City has a contract with Republic Services Inc. to provide city-wide curbside recycling. Due to the decrease in demand and the increase in cost of recycling, the quarterly Recycling fee will increase from $9.83 in 2020 to $11.20 in 2021 (14 percent). This is an increase of $1.37 per dwelling unit per quarter for residential units of 12 users or less.

Energy Efficiency:

FIGURE 1: Residential (18,000 Gallons Used)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>Increase ($)</th>
<th>Increase (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>$21.00</td>
<td>$21.60</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Usage</td>
<td>$47.72</td>
<td>$49.12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal</td>
<td>$68.72</td>
<td>$70.72</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
<td>2.91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanitary Sewer</td>
<td>$51.00</td>
<td>$52.50</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Usage</td>
<td>$61.30</td>
<td>$63.10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal</td>
<td>$112.20</td>
<td>$115.60</td>
<td>$3.30</td>
<td>2.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storm Water</td>
<td>$9.85</td>
<td>$10.10</td>
<td>$0.25</td>
<td>2.54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recyclables</td>
<td>$9.83</td>
<td>$11.20</td>
<td>$1.37</td>
<td>13.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Utility</td>
<td>$190.85</td>
<td>$197.52</td>
<td>$6.67</td>
<td>3.49%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average residential quarterly utility bill

Some easy ways to reduce water consumption include:
- Turn off the water while washing dishes by hand
- Run the clothes washer only when full
- Update to a water-efficient washer, toilet and/or irrigation system. The City will be offering rebates later this year for an upgraded system.
- Shorten shower time (one to two minutes shorter saves approximately 25 gallons of water per month)

No one likes rate increases, but they are sometimes a necessity. The City believes in a Fridley that is safe, friendly, and vibrant and provides stable homes for families and businesses. Residents should be assured of the best quality of services at the best value and ensure the future of these community assets. If you have any questions on your Fridley utility bill, you can reach us at 763-573-3529.

Please consider enrolling in our automatic payment plan to save time and not ever have to worry about late fees again. A cut-out form is included below.

FIGURE 3: REPORTED 2020 TOTAL UTILITY BILL FOR 6,000 GALLONS

Minneapolis/St. Paul Metro Respondent Service 5,000 or Greater

Attention Utility Customers!

Did you know… You can have your City of Fridley utility bill paid automatically with our free Direct Payment Program!
- Save money (no stamps, no processing fees)
- Save time (no checks to write)
- No late fees, no worries!

Direct Payment is a free service and enrollment is as easy as 1, 2, 3!
1. Simply complete the form to the right.
2. Attach a voided check or savings withdrawal slip.
3. Return it to us with your current City of Fridley utility payment or mail anytime. Once you are enrolled, your utility bill will state *** Bank Draft***. It’s that simple!

Bills are paid automatically from your checking or savings account on the due date. You can withdraw anytime by contacting us at least 10 days prior to your due date.

Utility Bill Direct Payment Program Form
Mail completed forms to:
City of Fridley, Attn: Utility Billing
7071 University Ave NE, Fridley MN 55432

Questions? Call us! 763-572-3529

City of Fridley, MN

Name: ___________________________ Daytime Phone#: ________________
Address: ________________________
Utility Account #: ________________ Financial Institution: ________________
By signing below I am authorizing the City of Fridley Utility Department to automatically withdraw my utility payment from my checking / savings account.
Signature __________________________ Date __________

Attatch voided check or savings withdrawal slip here.
Where to Skate in Fridley

Did you know the City of Fridley creates and maintains the general skating rinks and hockey rinks throughout the city? Ice skating is a great way to spend time outside with family and friends! Use the rinks as an opportunity to brush up on your skills, learn to skate, play a pick-up game or to just have fun!

We need about 10 consecutive days of freezing temps in order to create safe and usable ice – a 3 to 4 inch even layer. Warm weather, freezing rain and even snow can slow the process, but we will get those rinks ready as soon as possible.

Hours are weekdays 4:00 - 9:00 p.m.; weekends, and school-out days 12:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Cold Weather Guidelines
As a general guideline, we suggest cancelling outdoor activities if temperatures fall below 10 degrees Fahrenheit or there is a wind chill of -25 degrees.

Sledding Hill – If you are looking for a great place to bring the sleds – try out Commons Park! The sledding hill is located just beyond the playground and picnic shelter.

Explore Springbrook Nature Center – Snowshoe Style!
Snowshoeing is the perfect way to enjoy the winter season at Springbrook Nature Center. We have several options for your next adventure. Sign up for our Snowshoeing Outdoor Adventures program, an naturalist-led snowshoe hike for groups of up to nine people. It is perfect for friends and family, scout groups, or kids ages 5 and older.

If you want to explore the Nature Center on your own, a variety of snowshoe sizes and styles can be rented for $5 per pair. We do require a base of at least 3” of snow in order to offer classes or rentals.

You spoke, we listened!
The feedback you provided last year in our four parks planning workshops helped shape the vision and goals for the future parks and trails throughout the city.

We are beginning the Conceptual Design Phase, which is the next step in our park system plan.

During this phase, residents will start to see the park improvements take shape. Please visit FridleyMN.gov/FindingYourFun-Updates for up-to-date project information and opportunities to provide additional input.

On January 18, 2021, the project website will include a link to an interactive site map. This will allow you to see the individual concept plans for proposed park improvements.

Interactive Map features will include:
• Park improvement plans & estimated costs
• Draft phasing approaches
• Links to share feedback on priority projects

Location | General | Hockey
--- | --- | ---
Briardale Park: 6171 Rice Creek Dr. | × |
Commons Park: 555 - 61st Avenue NE | × | [2]
Flanery Park: 1487 Onondaga Street | × |
Hackmann Park: 1071 Hackmann Circle | × |
Hayes Elementary*: 615 Mississippi Street | × | × |
Logan Park: 155 Logan Parkway | × |
Madsen Park: 7358 - 73rd Avenue | × | × |
Ruth Circle Park: 9160 Ashton Avenue | × | × |
Sylvan Hills: 6205 Jupiter Dr | × |
Plymouth Square Park: 4801 Main Street | × |

* Due to construction at Hayes, the rinks may be removed from this location.
Give Your Feedback on Bus Rapid Transit in Fridley

Metro Transit is requesting feedback to select the next bus lines for arterial Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). Bus Rapid Transit lines, such as the A Line on Snelling Avenue, are a faster form of bus service. Four routes have been selected for consideration out of an original pool of 19 routes. Of these four, three will be selected as the top priorities. Route 10, which runs from downtown Minneapolis through Fridley to the Northtown Transit Center, is one of the routes being considered. Let Metro Transit know which routes you think should be prioritized at MetroTransit.org/Network-Next. The survey will close on January 20.

Fridley Liquor Launches E-Commerce Site

Fridley Liquor is adding an exciting new level of service in early 2021 by launching a new e-commerce website that allows customers to purchase products online and pick them up at the store.

Staff members worked to get approximately 2,000 different product photos and corresponding information on the website for customers to choose from. FridleyLiquor.com/Shop will be available soon. Look for announcements on the City’s and Fridley Liquor’s social media pages when the site is up and running.

Winter Parking in Effect through April 1

Friendly reminder: Fridley does not declare snow emergencies. From November 1 through April 1, however, it is a violation to park any vehicle on City streets between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. It is a violation to stop, park or leave standing a vehicle in such a manner as to impede the plowing or removal of snow, ice or waste from public streets or highways regardless of date or time.

Violators will be tagged and towed, and subject to storage charges. Fridley City Code, Chapter 506.05
Figuring it out: Recycling

With more people working from home, Fridley is recycling more than ever! Are you a confident recycler or sometimes unsure if you are doing right? Check out this information to make sure that you are on the right path. You do not have to recycle everything to make a difference, so when in doubt – throw it out. Trash in the recycling contaminates the recycling stream and makes the recycling process harder.

Make sure you are recycling right.
The best option is to put your recyclables in the cart loose. A paper bag can be used, but NEVER use a plastic bag. Plastic bags jam up the equipment and your items might get thrown out.

Recycle the basics:
Focus on items that you know are recyclable: aluminum cans, glass and plastic bottles, plain paper, and cardboard. Throw everything else in the trash can.

Recycle beyond the basics:
Start recycling other types of plastic containers, food cans, cartons, mixed paper. Remember, not all plastics are recyclable, even if they have a number on them. If you are not sure if an item is recyclable, visit FridleyMN.gov/Recycling or call 763-572-3594 to find out before putting it in the recycling cart.

Start using drop-offs:
Many items that cannot be recycled curbside can be recycled at drop-off facilities including plastic bags, mattresses, clean Styrofoam, and more.

Start composting:
Recycle your food waste into compost using backyard composting or the organics recycling program.

Find Your Recycling Day
Here are a few reminders for your recyclables, and this year’s calendars! To check your specific recycling day and if you should follow the Gray or Blue calendar, visit FridleyMN.gov/CityMaps. View the Fridley Neighborhoods interactive map, enter your address and click on Recycling Information.

You can also use the map to learn about your neighborhood, nearby parks, voting information, utility billing dates and more.

Recycling Drop-Offs
Recycle your mattresses, appliances, electronics, batteries, and more at our six recycling drop-offs in 2021:

January 9, March 13, May 8, July 10, September 11, and November 13
8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

All recycling drop-offs will be held at Green Lights Recycling (enter at 1525 99th Ln NE, Blaine). For a full list of items accepted and pricing visit FridleyMN.gov/Dropoff or call 763-572-3594. Cash or check only.

$30 in free items for all Fridley residents.