

MAY 2024

CITY OF NEW PRAGUE CITY NEWS



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Chat with your City Council

By: Maggie Bass

At the November 6th City Council meeting we were presented with the findings of the recreational needs study. The study was conducted, in part, to provide vital information for the city's updated comprehensive plan.

The recreational needs study looked at the City's current inventory such as baseball fields, soccer fields, basketball courts, miles of trails/sidewalks, community/recreation center, pickle ball courts, etc., usage of the facilities, physical condition and future needs.

Here are some highlights from the study:

- New Prague has ten parks for a population of approximately 8,200 residents. That's one park for every 820 residents. Data provided to the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) indicates that for a city of 20,000 or less residents the average is one park for every 1,225 residents. So, New Prague is well above the national standard.
- For a city of 20,000 or less the NRPA average for trails is 15 miles of outdoor trails or greenways. New Prague has 6 miles of off-street trails and 24 miles of paved trails/sidewalks.
- Using the same 20,000 residents or less, the average for community/recreation centers is one for every 9/785 residents. New Prague, in partnership with the school district, has three facilities.
- When it comes to playgrounds, basketball courts, tennis courts, adult and youth baseball fields, adult and youth soccer fields, football fields, pickle ball courts, ice rinks, golf courses and lacrosse fields, New Prague meets or exceeds the national standard.

While we look good compared to the NRPA national standard, we know there are needs for improvement. On a more granular level, some of the baseball fields could be upgraded to include better irrigation and grass, improved fencing, bleachers, lighting and dugouts. There is a need to create additional soccer and lacrosse fields. As the city grows, there may be a need for an outdoor sports park and a dedicated indoor recreation facility.

As mentioned earlier, the recreational needs study information and recommendations are being taken into consideration as the city finalizes its comprehensive plan. This plan projects the city's needs out ten years, so the study was definitely valuable to the overall recreational needs for New Prague.

Be on the look out for more information about the updated comprehensive plan on the city's website at <https://www.ci.new-prague.mn.us>.

The official newsletter for the City of New Prague. Published monthly to update community members on city government news.

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STUDENT SUMMER PROMO

MAY 1 - JULY 31, 2024
Membership valid for 3 months after the date of purchase.

Promo Fee: \$99 (tax included)

Ages 10 - College Undergrad

*Includes access to:
Cardio & Weight Room, Group Fitness Classes, Aquatic Center, Open Gym



**Age restrictions apply. Visit our website for facility age requirements



Rent a Park Shelter

If you live in New Prague, consider reserving one of the park shelters for your next summer picnic, class reunion, or family gathering! Applications are available on the city website.



Tree Giveaway Saturday, April 27th

If you have ordered a tree, you may pick it up at the Memorial Park pavilion between 10am-12pm on April 27th.



Street and Utility Improvement Projects

The 2024 Street and Utility Improvement Project will start on April 15th with the general contractor, BCM Construction, setting up temporary water and starting the removal of the old driving surface ahead of utility construction the following week. The Project has been split into four phases, with Phase 1 including Lyndale Avenue N between Main Street and 4th Street NE along with 1st Street NE between Pershing Avenue N and Lexington Avenue N. Each phase of the project will last approximately 10 weeks, though they will overlap as utility crews will start work on the next phase while street crews complete restoration of the previous. The full scope of the project improvements includes replacement of water main, storm sewer, sanitary sewer, and reconstruction of streets with sidewalks primarily in the area just west of last year's project.

Residents on the 2024 project are encouraged to contact Julie at jbrinkman@sehinc.com to be put on the list for construction updates that will be emailed on a weekly basis once work starts. Please be sure to include your name, property address, and preferred email address to be added to the list.

A walkthrough and review of last year's 2023 Street and Utility Improvement Project has been completed and a punch list assembled. Some minor concrete repairs are expected on sidewalks, driveways, and curb and gutter ahead of final paving, likely to occur in late May or June. Some additional work may occur in April and May including overseeding of last year's planted grass.

2024 City Wide Clean Up Event

The annual City Wide Clean Up event will occur on three different days this year. Mattress collection will occur at the Wastewater Treatment Plant parking lot (507 12th St NE) on May 11th from 9am-12pm. Free drop off for general refuse will be held on May 18th from 6:30am-12:00pm at Memorial Park Baseball Stadium parking lot (401 Lexington Ave S). Document shredding will occur on June 8th from 9:00am-12:00pm at the City Hall parking lot (118 Central Ave N). City residents must provide a photo ID and current city utility bill.

City-Wide Garage Sale: May 11th

With the City-Wide Garage Sale scheduled for Saturday, May 11th, we would like to share a reminder of the garage sale sign ordinance. Signs not posted by authorized government officials are prohibited within the public right-of-way, easements, and publicly-owned land. The Police Department and DOT may remove signs in the right-of-way if they pose a safety issue. Typically, on city streets, the right-of-way is the area from the back of the curb into a yard about 12 feet. This is not private property, thus signs are not permitted here, nor on state highways. Residents may place signs on private property as long as they have the owner's permission.

Central AC/Air Source Heat Pump Tune-Up Rebate

The New Prague Utilities Commission offers its *electric customers* a rebate for the completion of a professional inspection, cleaning, and tune-up of each air conditioner or ASHP between April 1 and September 30. A professional tune-up can improve unit efficiency by about 10%. It includes cleaning the outdoor condenser, checking for refrigerant leaks, checking air flow, and checking refrigerant charge and pressure.

1. Complete the "Customer" section on the rebate form. *Please note: Only one tune-up per cooling unit every two years or every ten years depending on the service provided.*
2. Schedule a tune-up with your AC contractor.
3. Have your contractor perform the tune up between April 1 and September 30, and complete the "Contractor" sections of the rebate form. Mail or bring in your rebate form and original invoice (showing customer name, address, and date of service) to the utility office. Please see our rebate form for specific requirements, terms & conditions. Rebate forms can be found on the city website.