



Edition:Edina



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CITY GOALS:



New Trail Segment Improves Safety and Access to 70th & Cahill Area

Shared Path Will Link Walkers, Cyclists to Regional Trails



A new trail segment in the 70th & Cahill area protects bicyclists and pedestrians from street traffic and connects to the Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail. Photo by Dan Carpenter

BY DEBBIE TOWNSEND

A new shared-use trail connects the 70th & Cahill area to the Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail and will eventually be part of a much longer trail.

The 515 feet of new asphalt path runs along the south side of West 70th Street from Cahill Road to just east of Amundson Avenue, where it connects with the existing Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail. That 14.6-mile trail runs through Hopkins, Edina, Minnetonka and Richfield.

The new segment, recommended in the City's Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan, is part of what's been named the Twin Loops – a trail system that eventually will connect all four quadrants of Edina, linking schools, parks and popular amenities.

"This new trail makes the Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail more accessible to residents who live off of Cahill or for people who are visiting the 70th & Cahill commercial node," said Transportation Planner Andrew Scipioni.

The area previously had a bike lane but no sidewalk. Scipioni thanked property owners who granted the City easements needed to build the wide trail segment and separate it from traffic by a curb. 70th traffic lanes were narrowed slightly to fit it all in.

"We could not have put in the trail without the easement granted to us by the adjacent properties," he said.

At 12 feet wide, the segment was built to regional trail standards as it's part of a future 21-mile north-south trail from Crystal to the Minnesota River at the south end of Bloomington. The Three Rivers Park District is taking the lead on the remaining 1.2 miles of "Segment A," which runs from West 70th Street to Bush Lake Road in Edina. It has applied for federal funding and anticipates building that segment in 2023 or 2024. It will take a few more years to complete that larger trail, which has the working title of "Canadian Pacific Rail Regional Trail."

The \$93,000 for this trail segment, built by JTS Construction, came from the City's Pedestrian and Cyclist Safety (PACS) Fund. Work started in 2019, with the final paving completed this spring. As part of the same project, the City replaced a 10-foot retaining wall on the south side of West 70th east of Amundson. The City's Public Works Department will maintain the trail in the winter.

"This trail segment and future pedestrian and bike improvements along Cahill and Amundson are really going to benefit all the business in that industrial node," Scipioni said.

For more information on the CP Rail or Nine Mile Creek regional trails, visit threeriversparks.org. For information on the Edina's Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan, visit EdinaMN.gov.

Stay Informed About the City's Response to COVID-19!



Edina COVID-19 Resource Hotline
952-826-0370



Resources for businesses, residents and seniors can be found at BetterTogetherEdina.org



EdinaMN.gov/coronavirus



Sign up for City Extra emails at EdinaMN.gov/CityExtra



Sign up for text notifications by texting EDINA to 57838

Stay Healthy

Wash your hands with hot, soapy water for at least 20 seconds; cover your coughs and sneezes; wear a mask when in public; practice social distancing and stay home if you are sick.

Stay Informed

To get reliable and updated information about COVID-19, refer to the Minnesota Department of Health, CDC or your health provider.

Challenge the Stigma

Sharing facts and accurate information about COVID-19 helps challenge rumors and stereotypes that have been negatively associated with racial and cultural groups or people wearing facemasks. There have been incidents of discrimination, bias and hate reported around the world during the pandemic.

If you believe you are a victim of a hate crime because of fear around COVID-19, contact the Edina Police Department, 952-826-1610.

If you feel you have experienced discrimination within the City's services, facilities or institution, contact Race & Equity Coordinator Heidi Lee, 952-826-1622.

Direct Balloting for Primary Election Begins Aug. 4

Expect Changes Due to COVID-19 When Voting In Person



BY KAITLIN GAULT

Edina residents voting in person for the Aug. 11 Primary Election can expect changes to the process due to COVID-19.

Direct balloting, when a voter puts a ballot directly into the ballot counter to run through the machine, will be available at Edina City Hall 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Aug. 4-7, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Aug. 8, and 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Aug. 10. Residents are required to go to their “home” City Hall for direct balloting; they are not able to go to the Hennepin County Government Center in Minneapolis as they have for absentee voting.

To help slow the spread of COVID-19, in-person voters are required to enter City Hall wearing

a mask or face covering that covers both the mouth and nose and keep it on until they exit the building. Facial coverings do not need to be worn by people with medical conditions that make it difficult to breathe, those who are deaf or hard of hearing or those who care for or interact with them, and people who are unable to remove a mask without assistance.

Upon entering and exiting the City Council Chambers, where the direct balloting will take place, voters will receive hand sanitizer. Election staff will ensure there is proper social distancing with at least 6 feet between voters. They will also be behind plexiglass and sanitize the voting machines regularly.

Edina City Clerk Sharon Allison is hoping in-person voters will be patient with this new process.

“Voters should come prepared with a mask or face covering and be prepared for potential delays,” said Allison. “While we are expecting

the majority to vote absentee, we can’t predict how many people will show up to vote in person. With the ongoing sanitation, cleaning machines in between voters and social distancing, it is likely that it will be a slower process than voters are used to.”

On Aug. 11, Primary Election Day, direct balloting will not be available at Edina City Hall. However, residents will be able to drop off their absentee ballot at City Hall until 3 p.m. and staff will ensure it is counted.

Edina residents must vote at a polling place for their precinct on Election Day. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. To find the correct polling place based on your address, visit the Secretary of State Polling Place Finder at pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us.

For more information about the election or the direct balloting process, visit EdinaMN.gov/elections or contact Allison at SAllison@EdinaMN.gov or 952-826-0408.



BY THE NUMBERS

Citywide Organics Collection Has Begun!

Organic carts were rolled out throughout June, with citywide collection starting the beginning of July. The program, aimed to reduce the amount of organic material in landfills, has started seeing success. Organics Recycling Coordinator Twila Singh encourages residents to start by taking a small bucket and just collecting kitchen scraps, then emptying into the organics cart when full. Lining the bucket with compostable bags makes cleanup even easier.



1
Number of staff positions dedicated to the City’s organics recycling program.

2

The number of trucks in Vierkant’s organics fleet.



13,500

organics recycling carts delivered to residents.

As of July 15, there have been only **8** carts where contaminants have been found. Contamination is considered any material that isn’t compostable.

– COMPILED BY KAYLIN EIDSNESS  

CARES Act Funding Provides Rent Relief, Small Business Loans

City Also Looks to Create Community COVID-19 Testing Program

BY JENNIFER BENNEROTTE

The City of Edina has a plan for spending almost \$4 million in federal CARES Act local funding to assist with extraordinary expenses associated with the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The U.S. Department of Treasury has offered guidance to local governments across the country about how to lawfully spend these federal funds. The State Auditor's Office and the League of Minnesota Cities have provided additional guidance.

At its July meeting, the Edina City Council approved a spending plan for the money. An additional \$400,000 will be given to Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People (VEAP) for its emergency rental assistance program. Earlier in the pandemic, the City provided \$100,000 for the program, so this allocation brings Edina's total to \$500,000.

An additional \$400,000 will be allocated for the City's Emergency Small Business Assistance Program. A few months ago, the Housing and Redevelopment Authority awarded 11 local businesses grants or forgivable loans of \$9,000 each. The City will take another round of applications in August and make awards in September.

The City is working with M Health Fairview Southdale Hospital to create a community

COVID-19 testing program. It is estimated such a testing program will cost about \$250,000.

The rest of the money will be used to cover general government costs associated with the pandemic response.

In other business last month, the Council:

- Approved a Comprehensive Plan amendment and rezoning for a redevelopment of property at the corner of Hankerson Avenue and 52nd Street. An existing two-story, four-unit apartment building and single-family home would be razed for contractor Donnay Homes to build two four-unit, two-and-a-half story townhomes.
- Approved a parking stall variance for M Health Fairview Southdale Hospital at 6401 France Ave. The hospital plans to construct a two-story addition above the existing second floor. The new construction would add approximately 38,206 square feet at the north side of the hospital facing Minnesota Highway 62. The addition would include 52 additional inpatient rooms on the new third and fourth floors. This project, along with future renovation, focuses on the hospital's movement from semi-private patient rooms (doubles) toward single patient rooms.

The Edina City Council will next meet 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 5 and Tuesday, Aug. 18. For more information, visit EdinaMN.gov.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, Aug. 5, 7 p.m.
City Council meeting, Virtual

Monday, Aug. 10, 6:30 p.m.
Community Health Commission meeting, Virtual

Monday, Aug. 10, 7 p.m.
Parks & Recreation Commission meeting, Virtual

Tuesday, Aug. 11, 7 a.m.-8 p.m.
State Primary Election. To find your polling place, visit pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us

Wednesday, Aug. 12, 7 p.m.
Planning Commission meeting, Virtual

Thursday, Aug. 13, 7:30 a.m.
Housing & Redevelopment Authority meeting, Virtual

Thursday, Aug. 13, 6 p.m.
Energy & Environment Commission, Virtual

Monday, Aug. 17, 7 p.m.
Heritage Preservation Commission meeting, Virtual

Tuesday, Aug. 18, 7 p.m.
City Council meeting, Virtual

Thursday, Aug. 20, 6 p.m.
Transportation Commission meeting, Virtual

Tuesday, Aug. 25, 7 p.m.
Human Rights & Relations Commission meeting, Virtual

For a complete listing of meetings and events, visit EdinaMN.gov.





EDINA FARMERS MARKET FINDING SUCCESS AT ROSLAND PARK


Muddy Tiger owner Jyotiee Kistner serves Marathi street food to customers at the Edina Farmers Market. Muddy Tiger's cuisine is influenced by the state of Maharashtra, from the western region of India. Muddy Tiger and numerous other vendors continue to gather from 3 to 7 p.m. every Thursday through Sept. 24 at Rosland Park. Photo by Kaylin Eidsness


City of Edina Goals

The City of Edina has four budget goals. Look for the goal icons throughout this publication to read stories about how the City is working to meet these goals.

 **Strong Foundation:** Maintain physical assets and infrastructure.

 **Reliable Service:** Maintain service levels that best meet the needs of the community.

 **Livable City:** Plan for connected and sustainable development.

 **Better Together:** Foster an inclusive and engaged community.

Come
HOME 2 EDINA
nd Mortgage Program

Need Help With Your Mortgage Payments?

The Edina Housing Foundation approved two new programs to help ease the financial burden some homeowners in Edina are facing because of COVID-19.

Visit ComeHome2Edina.com and click on the "Stay In Edina" tab at the top to learn about the Forbearance and Refinance Second Mortgage programs and if you qualify.

For questions, contact Affordable Housing Manager Stephanie Hawkinson at shawkinson@EdinaMN.gov or 952-833-9578.

CITY OF EDINA
4801 WEST 50TH STREET
EDINA, MN 55424

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CAR-RT-WS

Fall and Winter Activity Registration Starts Online Aug. 19

Classes Will Be Added, Adjusted as Guidelines Change

BY DEBBIE TOWNSEND

Fall and winter fun is still on.

The Parks & Recreation Department plans to offer a majority of the fall and winter activities and classes that Edina residents enjoy each year, including golf and skating lessons, youth sports, adaptive programs and activities for all ages.

Registration begins at noon Wednesday, Aug. 19, at edinamn.maxgalaxy.net.

Participants might notice a few changes as classes are modified to meet health guidelines and help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

"The quality of our programs will not be compromised, and we will be working diligently to ensure that we are following the current executive orders," said Recreation Supervisor Amanda Clarke. "As the coronavirus-related restrictions change, we will be continuing to evaluate our activities."

One other change this year: Residents won't be getting a copy of the Activities Directory in their mailboxes. The online registration system gives staff the opportunity to continue to add and adapt classes as the guidelines around coronavirus change.

To assist people, the registration website has been redesigned to make it easier to browse through classes, find what you're looking for and sign up on the spot. People can see all the options by age range or by activity, such as golf or ice skating.


Register for classes and activities at edinamn.maxgalaxy.net.

Find more information at EdinaParks.com.

"Parents of young children have asked for an easy way to find classes, so we added a Preschool/Kindergarten section just for them," said Recreation Supervisor Tiffany Bushland.

The activity and class offerings will be posted at edinamn.maxgalaxy.net on Aug. 12 so people can browse through and determine what they'd like to sign up for.

More information is also included in the new "Activities" section at EdinaParks.com.

For more information or to register for classes using the Connect Card, call the Parks & Recreation Department at 952-826-0367. 



A Learn to Skate instructor wears a face mask during lessons at Braemar Arena. Fall and winter activities are resuming and will include measures to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Photo by Dan Carpenter