



# City of Oak Park Heights

Tree City USA

Summer 2016 Newsletter

## Inside this issue:

City Department Spotlight	2
Arborist News	3
Pet Owner Reminders	4
Temporary Structures	4
Water Quality Report	5
Utility Bill Information	8
Yard Sale Signage	9
Lawn Maintenance/ Long Grass	9
Sanitary Sewer Reminders	10
Garbage and Recycling Info	10
Summer Park Program Schedule	11
Party in the Park Announcement	12

## City of Oak Park Heights Recognized as a Playful City USA!

Playful City USA is a national recognition program honoring cities and towns across the nation who are creating an agenda for play. The Playful City USA program is a unique self-assessment tool that assists communities in identifying local play assets and play deficits, and in developing a rigorous action plan driven towards increasing quality, quantity, and access for play in your city.

Once again the City of Oak Park Heights was one of only 257 cities across the country to be awarded the 2016 Playful City USA designation and only one of two in the State of Minnesota. The City is committed to providing the community with areas to play and increase physical activity and has developed a local action plan to increase the quantity and quality of play in the City. The City of Oak Park Heights was selected for the designation because of its commitment to children and play. For a park and trail guide, please visit City Hall or the City's website, [www.cityfoakparkheights.com](http://www.cityfoakparkheights.com).

For a list of summer park program activities, please see page 11 of this newsletter.

## Reserve a City Park Shelter

Are you thinking about having a get-together or a family reunion? The Brekke, Cover, Valley View, and Autumn Hills Park shelter buildings can be reserved free of charge for your event. The Autumn Hills Park Shelter does require a refundable \$100 deposit. Oak Park Heights typically opens the park shelters by Memorial Day weekend.



You may use the City's online reservation form to reserve either the Brekke Park or Valley View Park shelters. You may obtain the Autumn Hills Park Shelter reservation documents and information online as well. Or, you may call or visit City Hall anytime to reserve any of the shelters for your next event!

## City department spotlight

As a new feature, the City of Oak Park Heights will spotlight a different department in each newsletter this year. This edition features our Public Works Department. The City of Oak Park Heights Public Works Department is charged with the responsibility of maintaining the City's water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer utility systems. To maintain these utility systems on a daily basis, Public Works staff performs pump and component inspections and makes necessary repairs, performs valve inspections and repairs, engages in water sampling and testing, locating underground utility pipes and structures, maintains and repair hydrants, and responds to other requests for service. Public Works Staff also maintains the City streets and Right of Ways, parks and trails and City owned buildings.

To keep cost for services as low as possible, the City avoids the burden of operating and maintaining expensive limited use equipment. For example, the City enters into yearly service contracts for snow plowing, sewer jetting and televising, street sweeping and lawn mowing. Utility excavations are also performed under a service contract when necessary.

The public works staff, and all Oak Park Heights City employees, strive to provide top notch service to our residents and our commercial utility customers. Our office is located in the City Hall building at 14168 Oak Park Blvd N. You can contact us by calling (651) 439-4439.



Pictured above: Public Works Director Andy Kegley, Public Works Operator Andy Swenson and Public Works Operator/City Arborist Lisa Danielson

## Emerald Ash Borer

Emerald ash borer (EAB) has been identified in Washington County (Fall 2015). Check tree trunks and branches for “D-shaped” adult exit holes and “S-shaped” larval galleries. These galleries are under the bark and the bark maybe cracked open over the gallery and wound tissue. There may be a lot of woodpecker activity, particularly in the top half of the tree, seen most easily in the winter. If you see signs of EAB activity, please contact the

OPH City Arborist. Do not move ash wood with intact bark from one area to another, to avoid spreading EAB to new areas. If you would like information regarding insecticide injection to protect ash trees in your yard, contact the City Arborist. There are EAB handouts with images on the Arborist’s page of the City’s website and copies are also available at City Hall.

## Oak Wilt

**DO NOT prune oak trees from April 1<sup>st</sup> to July 1<sup>st</sup> (high risk period).** There is also a slight risk of oak wilt being spread via insects to fresh wounds from July 1<sup>st</sup> to September 15<sup>th</sup>. If oaks are pruned or wounded April 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>, wounds should be painted immediately with latex house paint. It is best to prune oaks between October 15<sup>th</sup> and March 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Leafspot diseases of trees

In wet spring and summer weather, fungal leafspot diseases can be common. These diseases cause rounded black to brown spots on leaves. Fungal leafspot diseases can also cause leaf fall and leave trees thin or bare of leaves. Some leafspots, such as oak anthracnose on white and bur oaks, can cause the leaf edges to brown and curl, progressing to large blotches and wilting of leaves. Most leaf-

spot diseases are short-lived during the spring and cause little damage to trees and shrubs. A fungal disease which can continue to infect trees in summer and cause leaf loss on susceptible varieties, is apple scab on apples and crabapples. If choosing a new flowering crabapple, there are many cultivated varieties which have good scab resistance.

## Leafspot diseases of trees

When hiring a tree service and or landscape company for tree pruning, chemical treatment or tree removals contractors are required to have a current Tree Worker’s License with the City of Oak Park Heights as required by City Ordinance 1307. A current list of licensed tree workers can be obtained from City Hall.

## Tree problems?

If you have a problem with a tree or shrub, such as insects, diseases, site factors, or just want to have a plant identified, call Lisa Danielson, the City Arborist at 651-439-4439 or via e-mail at [ldanielson@cityofoakparkheights.com](mailto:ldanielson@cityofoakparkheights.com). She can either answer your question over the phone or make an appointment for a site visit. This service is free for residents of Oak Park Heights.



## Attention Pet Owners

### Leash Law Reminder

The City of Oak Park Heights City Council updated its Leash Law Ordinance effective March 1, 2015. All dogs and cats that are off the premises of the owner must be on a leash at all times and under control of the owner or another designated person. If you do not have your dog or cat on a leash, you will be in violation of the new Ordinance.

Also, when you are out walking your pet, please remember to bring a plastic bag. Pet owners are required by City Ordinance to clean up pet waste on public and private property. Removal and proper disposal of pet waste helps keep our City clean and healthy.

### Pet Licenses

All dogs and cats in the City for more than 30 days are required to have a City Pet License. There is no charge for this service and it could save your pet from a trip to the animal shelter. Bring proof of your pet's rabies vaccination to City Hall to receive a pet license and tag. For more information, please call City Hall at 651-439-4439. City Ordinances can be viewed on the City's website: [www.cityfoakparkheights.com](http://www.cityfoakparkheights.com).

## Portable and/or temporary storage/parking (accessory) structures

City Ordinance 401.15.D "*Accessory Buildings, Uses and Equipment*" sets forth the criteria established for accessory buildings, including but not limited to the area of the yard it may be located, its general design elements including, among other things, its height, size and compatibility to the principle structure upon a lot.

City Ordinance requires that accessory structures be compatible with the principle building upon a lot and that they be of the same or similar quality exterior material used for the principle building. The full text of City Ordinance 401.15.D can be obtained from City Hall and viewed on the City webpage at [www.cityfoakparkheights.com](http://www.cityfoakparkheights.com).

Portable, temporary canopy and/or storage structures such as those below do not meet the established criteria and are prohibited for use.

There are a variety of ways to manage exterior storage needs, including but not limited to, the possibilities of relocating items to existing enclosed storage spaces, installation of a privacy fence, storage shed construction, and/or a garage addition.

If you find yourself in need of additional exterior storage, contact the City Building Department to discuss potential solutions.



# 2014 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

## CITY OF OAK PARK HEIGHTS

PWSID: 1820020



### 2015 Drinking Water Report

The City of Oak Park Heights is issuing the results of monitoring done on its drinking water for the period from January 1 to December 31, 2015. The purpose of this report is to advance consumers' understanding of drinking water and heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water resources.

#### Source of Water

The City of Oak Park Heights provides drinking water to its residents from a groundwater source: two wells ranging from 290 to 310 feet deep, that draw water from the Jordan aquifer.

The Minnesota Department of Health has made a determination as to how vulnerable our systems' source(s) of water may be to future contamination incidents. If you wish to obtain the entire source water assessment regarding your drinking water, please call 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 (and press 5) during normal business hours. Also, you can view it on line at [www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa).

Call Public Works Director Andy Kegley (651) 439-4439 if you have questions about the City of Oak Park Heights drinking water or would like information about opportunities for public participation in decisions that may affect the quality of the water.

#### Results of Monitoring

No contaminants were detected at levels that violated federal drinking water standards. However, some contaminants were detected in trace amounts that were below legal limits. The table that follows shows the contaminants that were detected in trace amounts last year. (Some contaminants are sampled less frequently than once a year; as a result, not all contaminants were sampled for in 2015. If any of these contaminants were detected the last time they were sampled for, they are included in the table along with the date that the detection occurred.)

#### Key to abbreviations:

**MCLG**—Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**MCL**—Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**AL**—Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirement which a water system must follow.

**90th Percentile Level**—This is the value obtained after disregarding 10 percent of the samples taken that had the highest levels. (For example, in a situation in which 10 samples were taken, the 90th percentile level is determined by disregarding the highest result, which represents 10 percent of the samples.) Note: In situations in which only 5 samples are taken, the average of the two with the highest levels is taken to determine the 90th percentile level.

**ppm**—Parts per million, which can also be expressed as milligrams per liter (mg/l).

**ppb**—Parts per billion, which can also be expressed as micrograms per liter (µg/l).

**N/A**—Not Applicable (does not apply).



Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found		Typical Source of Contaminant
			Range (2014)	Average/Result*	
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	.95—1.3	1.21	State of Minnesota requires all municipal water systems to add fluoride to the drinking water to promote strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	10.4	10.4	3.1—3.6	3.6	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Total Coliform Bacteria	0 present	>1 present	N/A	1 ★	Naturally present in the environment.

\*This is the value used to determine compliance with federal standards. It sometimes is the highest value detected and sometimes is an average of all the detected values. If it is an average, it may contain sampling results from the previous year.

★ Follow-up sampling showed no contamination present.

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	AL	90% Level	# sites over AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (ppm) (07/23/2014)	1.3	1.3	.16	0 out of 20	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead (ppb) (07/23/2014)	0	15	4	0 out of 20	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. City of Oak Park Heights is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Monitoring may have been done for additional contaminants that do not have MCLs established for them and are not required to be monitored under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Results may be available by calling 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 during normal business hours.



## Compliance with National Primary Drinking Water Regulations

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

*Microbial contaminants*, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

*Inorganic contaminants*, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

*Pesticides and herbicides*, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

*Organic chemical contaminants*, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

*Radioactive contaminants*, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

**Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.**

## Go GREEN: Pay & View Oak Park Heights Utility Bills Online



We accept...



### Pay ONLINE

Go to [www.CityOfOakParkHeights.com](http://www.CityOfOakParkHeights.com)

1. Click "Pay Utility Bill"
2. You will go to our payment processor's website where you should register and make your payment

### Or CALL

**1-877-885-7968** (have your bill handy to provide your account number)

### View Bills Online

Go to [www.CityOfOakParkHeights.com](http://www.CityOfOakParkHeights.com)

1. Click "View Utility Bill"
2. You will go to our payment processor's website to register
3. You will get an email each time your bill is ready

*You don't have to pay online to view your bills online.*

### WHY?

*Help save natural resources by viewing and paying online.*

- Easy, fast and secure
- Pay immediately, schedule a payment or set up Auto-Pay
- Keep costs down; opt out of paper bills
- Print receipts, view payment history and more



### City Meetings (subject to change)

#### City Council:

2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. (during summer months, the Council may only meet once per month)

#### Planning Commission:

Typically the 2nd Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

#### Parks Commission:

3rd Monday at 7:00 p.m.

Agendas and Minutes are posted on the City's website:  
[www.cityofoakparkheights.com](http://www.cityofoakparkheights.com)

### Second quarter 2016 utility bills

**There is an outdoor utility payment drop box located in the landscaped circle directly outside the City Hall entrance. This will allow for you to drive up to the box to drop off your payment rather than having to get out of your vehicle.**

Utility bills for the second Quarter of 2016 (April 1 — June 30) will be mailed to residents in July and will be due August 9, 2016.

Auto pay is available. With auto pay, there is no need to waste time writing and mailing a check. Paying your utility bill electronically allows you to save time and money on stamps and late fees. The amount you owe on your utility bill is automatically withdrawn from the account you designate on the billing due date each month. You will continue to receive your bill so that you know the date and amount to be withheld from your account.

If you are interested in participating, please call or stop by City Hall to obtain an enrollment form. The form is also available on the City's website, under City Information, Forms & Handouts. Call Judy Tetzlaff at City Hall, 651-439-4439, if you have questions.

## Planning a yard sale? Consider your signage.

Oak Park Heights City Ordinance 401.15.G. sets forth regulations for signage within the City. The purpose of the ordinance is to provide regulation of sign aspects in order to promote public health, safety and welfare, while striving to maintain, enhance and improve the visual appearance of the City.



A temporary sign permit is not required for placing your yard sale sign, though the following rules are to be followed:

- ◆ Signs are to be freestanding. Please do not attach them to trees, fences, utility poles or other permanent post structures.
- ◆ Signs are not allowed within a public right-of-way or any other location that creates a visual obstruction.
- ◆ Signs are to be no larger than 12 square feet in size and shall not contain or imitate a traffic sign or signal.
- ◆ Signs are to be removed at the end of the sale.

## Lawn maintenance

Tall grass and weeds create nuisance hazards to neighborhood residents and contribute to an unkempt look and feel to a neighborhood. Overgrown grass and weeds create conditions where pests dwell, can become a potential fire hazard during dry periods and can hide trash and other hazards which can be dangerous to neighbors, children and pets. Pests are more comfortable in these overgrown conditions.

City Ordinance requires that all grass be kept to a height of less than 6 inches. Weeds and grass greater than 6 inches in height are considered a public nuisance by City Ordinance 1109.03.



## Oak Park Heights Local Business & Development News

### Welcome New Businesses:

Tommy's Nails—5980 Neal Avenue N., Suite 700

Twin Cities Orthopedics—Sports Training & Physical Therapy—5805 Neal Avenue N.

## Sanitary Sewer Use

The City's Public Works Department provides for the collection, operation and maintenance of a wastewater system that ultimately leads to treatment and the return of water back to the ecological system at an environmentally safe level.

Oak Park Heights has approximately 28 miles of sanitary sewer mains, roughly 750 sanitary sewer manholes and four lift stations. Each year about 30,000 linear feet or roughly six miles of the City's sanitary sewer mains are cleaned and inspected. Mains that require a higher level of maintenance are cleaned more frequently. This routine maintenance helps to prevent blockages and sewer backups; however when unauthorized items are flushed into the sanitary sewer, the City's ability to prevent backups is no longer controllable.

As a resident, you play a key role in preventing sanitary sewer backups. To help prevent backups, please dispose of the following items properly by NOT dumping in a drain or flushing down the toilet:

- ◆ Diapers
- ◆ "Flushable" wipes (These do not dissolve, therefore they clog sanitary sewer lines and pumps)
- ◆ Cooking grease and oil
- ◆ Sanitary napkins
- ◆ Rags or shop towels
- ◆ Garage waste products such as oil, grease, gasoline, antifreeze
- ◆ Household waste such as ashes, corrosives, glass, metals, paint, poisons, or solvents
- ◆ Yard waste such as sand, soil, or mud.

Sanitary sewer problems should be reported to the City of Oak Park Heights Public Works Department during business hours by calling City Hall (651) 439-4439. The public works department also has a 24 hour emergency only hotline (651) 485-2304. OPH, as in many other Cities across Minnesota, the sewer main is owned by the City of OPH. City staff are responsible to maintain the City main lines. The sewer service or lateral from your home, business or other property to the City sewer main is the property owner's responsibility. That means the property owner is responsible for clearing any blockages in the service lateral between the home and the main.

### Garbage and recycling

Garbage pickup in Oak Park Heights is every Thursday (on the weeks containing New Years Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas, pickup will be on Friday). Please have your trash container curbside by 7:00 a.m. on pickup day. To facilitate better snow removal and mail delivery, bring containers from the street as quickly as possible after disposal.

Recycling pickup is every-other-Thursday (except those weeks with holidays noted above). The recycling calendar is available on the City's website, along with information on what can be recycled and where to bring hazardous waste and electronics for disposal.

**City ordinance requires that your trash and recycling containers be screened from public view at all times, except when placed curbside on pickup day, such as in a fenced in area or inside a garage or accessory building.**

**CLIP AND SAVE!**  
**2016 Summer Park Activities Schedule**

All events are free! Look over the following schedule, and mark the dates on your calendar. Please check the City's website for further updates on summer programming in the parks.

All ages are welcome to attend the activities.  
Children under six must be accompanied by an adult.  
Pre-registration is appreciated for the craft activities.  
E-mail Gina at [gzeuli@q.com](mailto:gzeuli@q.com) with number of children attending and their ages.

June 21: Glass Painting: Brekke Park, 10 a.m.—12 p.m.

June 28: Plants and Planters: Brekke Park, 10 a.m.—12 p.m.

June 30: Family Fun Night—Community Thread Volunteer Opportunity: Autumn Hills Park, 6:30—8 p.m.

July 5: Fabric Decorating Autumn Hills Park, 10 a.m.—12 p.m.

July 12: Stepping Stones: Autumn Hills Park, 10 a.m.—12 p.m.

July 14: Family Fun Night—Bingo: Autumn Hills Park, 6:30—8 p.m.

July 19: Wood Crafts: Autumn Hills Park, 10 a.m.—12 p.m.

July 26: Puppets: Autumn Hills Park, 10 a.m.—12 p.m.

July 28: Family Fun Night—Music: Autumn Hills Park, 6:30—8 p.m.

August 2: Candle Art: Brekke Park, 10 a.m.—12 p.m.

August 2: Party in the Park: Brekke Park, 4:30 p.m.—6:30 p.m.

August 9: Ceramic Banks: Brekke Park, 10:30 a.m.

August 11: Family Fun Night—Animals or Exercise: Autumn Hills Park, 6:30—8 p.m.

August 16: Raptor Center: Autumn Hills Park, 10 a.m.—12 p.m.

August 23: Magic Show: Autumn Hills Park, 10 a.m.—12 p.m.

# City of Oak Park Heights

14168 Oak Park Blvd N, Box 2007  
Oak Park Heights, MN 55082-2007

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Standard  
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Permit No. 558

## City of Oak Park Heights

14168 Oak Park Blvd. N.  
PO Box 2007  
Oak Park Heights, MN 55082  
Phone: 651-439-4439  
Fax: 651-439-0574

Police non-emergency: 651-439-4723  
Police Emergency: 911

Office Hours:  
Monday through Friday  
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
excluding legal holidays

### MAYOR

Mary McComber: 351-7879

### COUNCILMEMBERS

Chuck Dougherty: 491-0419  
Mike Liljegren: 351-2742  
Mike Runk: 439-5458  
Mark Swenson: 270-5385

### CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Eric Johnson

Visit our Website!  
[www.cityfoakparkheights.com](http://www.cityfoakparkheights.com)

*The Oak Park Heights  
newsletter  
is published by the City  
of Oak Park Heights.  
Comments are welcome.  
651-439-4439*

## City of Oak Park Heights

Summer 2016 Newsletter

### 2016 PARTY IN THE PARK

The City of Oak Park Heights invites all city residents to attend the  
2016 Party in the Park on National Night Out!

Tuesday, August 2, 2016 from 4:30 p.m.—6:30 p.m.  
Brekke Park (5500 Omar Avenue)

Come join the fun!



Hot dogs, chips, and snow cones  
Live music  
Prize raffle  
Children's games and activities  
Promotional items from city businesses



The event is free and a great way to meet the City Council  
and area business owners!

### The City of Oak Park Heights is on Facebook!

Find and "Like" the City of Oak Park Heights on  
Facebook to receive up-to-date information on events,  
meetings, programs, and city news.

