



City of Oak Park Heights

Tree City USA

Third Quarter 2013 Newsletter

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St. Croix River Crossing Update

The St. Croix Crossing Project is well underway, and bridge foundation work continues closest to the Minnesota shoreline with an increased presence of barges and personnel on the river.

Buoys are now in the river off the Minnesota shoreline providing a designated work zone area and narrowing the river channel. A 'no wake' zone is also in place around this work zone. Boaters should slow down, be mindful of the construction area, and not enter the designated work zone. This is for worker safety and the stability of the equipment.

Approach work on the Minnesota side continues as crews prepare numerous sites simultaneously. Prep work efforts involve clearing trees, vegetation and removing pavement from the 'Village neighborhood' of Oak Park Heights between Highway 36, Beach Road,



Continued on page 2...

St. Croix River Crossing Project Timeline—2013

- Section 1: South frontage road between Club Tara and Stagecoach - Early summer to mid-summer
- Section 2: Beach Road Bridge - Mid-summer to end of 2013
- Section 3: Hwy 36, east of Osgood Ave, and majority of Hwy 95 - Mid-summer to end of 2013
- Section 4: South frontage road between Osgood Ave and Club Tara - Late summer to end of 2013
- Ponds: Early summer to end of 2013
- Trails: Mid-summer to end of 2013

For more information about the St. Croix River Crossing Project, and for updates on the project timeline, visit the Minnesota Department of Transportation's St. Croix River Crossing Project website: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/stcroixcrossing/background.html>

St. Croix River Crossing Update ...continued from page 1

and Highway 95. Land preparation along the west side of Highway 95 continues in preparation for pipe construction work; land preparation east of Highway 95 will begin the week of June 10. Construction activities for the new frontage road extension south of Highway 36 and east of Club Tara, are expected to begin also the week of June 10. Beach Road/59th Street and Stagecoach Trail will remain open to traffic, while local access from 59th Street to Peller, Penrose and Penfield avenues is closed; access to the neighborhood is available at 58th Street from Stagecoach Trail.

Residents and neighborhoods are not the only ones impacted by the project; many steps have been taken to alleviate the impact to the environment throughout the project.

The St. Croix River valley is home to an abundant array of plants and animals with eagles nesting along the riverbanks, to ospreys perched on construction cranes keeping watch over the bridge's progress. The bald eagle, once endangered, has made a remarkable recovery. Now removed from the list of endangered species, the token symbol of the nation is still protected by the federal Migratory Bird Act, with two nests being protected, monitored and accommodated on project work sites.

Endangered and threatened species of mussels, particularly the Higgins pearly eye mussel, located adjacent to the future site of bridge piers to protect their continued recovery and preservation. Divers with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources have worked to identify and safely relocate these threatened mussel species. Conversely, threatening mussel species, like the Zebra mussel, are being mitigated and monitored throughout the project. Their presence is a threat to the pristine river valley ecosystem, and every precaution is being taken to prevent their spread.

A river valley is only as pristine as its waters. Maintaining a high level of water quality is paramount throughout and after construction of the project. As crews work to drive bridge piers, complete approach work, and prep both sides of the riverbank, all pollution, whether chemical, waste, or sediment will be alleviated through a system of filtration ponds and on-site, active water purification processing to help eliminate the environmental impact.

A multi-agency effort, years in the making, involving federal and state environmental compliance laws and acts, ensures the utmost care and respect for the St. Croix Valley's natural resources is an important part of the project. Environmental compliance is an ongoing process, especially on a project of such magnitude that is the St. Croix Crossing, but the time spent and effort expended on environmental impacts, and the successful steps taken so far, is a positive sign as the construction accelerates.

City Meetings (subject to change)

City Council:

2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission:

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

Parks Commission:

3rd Monday at 6:30 p.m.

Agendas and Minutes are posted on the City's website:
www.cityofoakparkheights.com

Minutes are not posted until after they have been approved by the City Council.

Bayport Fire Department Fire Rescuers



Check out what it means to be a firefighter with the Bayport Fire Department.

The Department is recruiting 14 – 21 year olds for this unique opportunity. If you are interested, contact Andy Swenson at 651-233-8920 or explorers@bayportfire.org.



What's included in trash pickup?

In addition to the typical garbage and recycling pickup, the City also covers the disposal of yard waste, large household items, and 'white-goods' such as televisions, refrigerators, couches, chairs, desks, water-heaters, stoves, dishwashers, dryers, etc. for single family residences and complexes with four units or less in Oak Park Heights. In order to have these items picked up in a timely fashion, please contact Judy Tetzlaff at City Hall, 651-439-4439, at least two days prior to collection day so that the special truck may be dispatched to your home. If you receive a bill from Veolia for these additional services, please call the City Administrator at 651-439-4439 as most, if not all, of these items are covered under the City's contract, and you should not be billed.



Some items are not included in your monthly fee are extra bags of garbage not placed in your container. The City's waste hauler, Veolia, will bill you \$1.50 per bag. Some other items that are picked up for a fee are sinks, toilets and construction debris. You will be billed by Veolia at a regulated rate as monitored by the City.

REMINDER!!

Waste and Recyclable pick-up is every THURSDAY. However, if one of the six holidays—New Years Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas—falls on a weekday, collection may occur on FRIDAY of that week.

Peddlers and solicitors are required to obtain a permit from the City to go door-to-door selling products/services, or providing information. If your home is approached, ask the individual to see their permit. If you see anything suspicious, please contact the Oak Park Heights Police Department at 651-439-4723. If you prefer that peddlers and solicitors not come to your home, clip the sign below and post it on your door.

PEDDLERS AND SOLICITORS PROHIBITED

Door to Door Sales activity is regulated by OAK PARK HEIGHTS CITY CODE. It is illegal for a salesperson to Solicit or Peddle at a home where this sign is posted.



This notice provided by
OAK PARK HEIGHTS POLICE DEPT.
14168 Oak Park Blvd. N.
Oak Park Heights, MN 55082

Tree City USA Award



The City of Oak Park Heights was once again recognized as a Tree City USA for 2012. The City has been recognized as a Tree City USA for over 30 years. To celebrate, the City planted a northern red oak tree at Autumn Hills Park on May 20, 2013. Pictured below: Court Melin, Parks Commissioner; Kathy Widin, Arborist; and Marty Hauble, Parks Commission Chair.

The Tree City USA award is administered by the Arbor Day Foundation in Nebraska.

Emerald Ash Borer

Emerald ash borer (EAB) has not yet been confirmed in Washington County. Check ash trunks for bark cracks and “S-shaped” larval galleries under the bark. If larvae are present there may be a lot of woodpecker activity, particularly in the top half of the tree. If you see any signs of EAB activity, please contact the Arborist. Do not move ash wood with intact

bark from one area to another. The city is continuing to remove ash trees which are doing poorly, are interfering with power lines, competing with other trees, have storm damage, or are blocking sight lines along the street. If you have an ash tree that you think should be removed, contact the Oak Park Heights Arborist.

Oak Wilt

Oak trees can be pruned up to April 1 in most years. Due to insect transmission of the oak wilt fungus to fresh wounds on healthy oaks, oaks should not be wounded or pruned from April 1 to July 1. If they are wounded during the growing season (April 1-October 1), the wounds should be painted with latex house paint to prevent oak wilt infection. It is best to prune oaks between October 15 and March 15.

Leafspot Diseases of Trees and Shrubs

In wet spring and summer weather, fungal leafspot diseases can be common. These diseases cause rounded black to brown spots on leaves. Some leafspots, such as oak anthracnose on white and bur oaks, can progress to large blotches and wilting of leaves. Most leafspot 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, is apple scab on apples and crabapples. If choosing a new tree, there are many cultivated varieties of crabs which have good scab resistance.

Diseased Elms and Oaks

Trees which are currently wilting due to Dutch elm disease or oak wilt (red or pin oaks) will be removed by the city at no charge to the homeowner. If you have a tree on your property which you think might have Dutch elm disease or oak wilt, contact the Oak Park Heights Arborist to come out and take a look.

Hiring a Tree Service

For major tree work such as pruning or removal of large trees, it is best to hire an experienced, professional tree service. Tree contractors should be able to show proof of current coverage for liability insurance and worker's compensation. Tree services are required to hold a Tree Worker's License in Oak Park Hts. and this license must be renewed each year. Call the main office at City Hall if you would like to know if a tree service you are considering hiring has a Tree Worker's License for 2013. Having ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) Certified Arborists on staff indicates continuing education and professionalism. Ask the tree service for references and check them. Also ask for an itemized price quote, describing the work to be done, before you agree to hire a company. Do not give any money to a tree contractor prior to satisfactory completion of the specified job.

Tree Problems?

If you are an Oak Park Heights resident, and have a problem with a tree or shrub, such as an insect or a disease, have planting questions, or just want to have a plant identified, call Dr. Kathy Widin, the OPH Arborist, at 439-4439 Ext. 1106. She can either answer your question over the phone or make an appointment for a site visit. This service is paid for by the City of Oak Park Heights.



Attention Pet Owners

Leash Law Reminder

There have been reports of dogs not leashed and acting aggressively toward other walkers on City trails, specifically at the former Moelter Fly-Ash site. The City of Oak Park Heights has a leash law in effect that prohibits pets from running at large. Any dog or cat that is off the premises of the owner and not under the physical control (by leash or by voice) of the owner or another designated person is in violation of this Ordinance.

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 web-site: www.cityofoakparkheights.com.

Name the Park Contest—Help us name our new park!

The Oak Park Heights Parks Commission is looking for a name for its new park land located at the former Moelter fly-ash site north of Valley View Park and west of Cover Park. The park is in the planning stage, but already has a playground, trails, and prairie grasses, and a picnic shelter will be built later this year.

The contest is open to children 17 years and under. Entry forms may be obtained at City Hall during normal business hours, 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, or online at www.cityofoakparkheights.com. The deadline for entries is July 1, 2013.

All entries will be considered by the Parks Commission and narrowed down to two finalists, and the Parks Commission will choose the name of the park from the two finalists at their regularly scheduled meeting on August 19, 2013. The child who submits the winning park name will be recognized at the City's annual Party in the Park event on Sunday, September 8, as well as on the City's website and its Facebook page.

The park may not be named after a person, service organization, or a business. There is a limit of one entry per person. Full contest rules can be found on the City's website, www.cityofoakparkheights.com. For more information, contact Deputy Clerk Jenni Pinski by e-mail at jpinski@cityofoakparkheights.com or by phone at 651-439-4439.



2012 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

CITY OF OAK PARK HEIGHTS

PWSID: 1820020



2012 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, 2012. 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 water provided to customers may meet drinking water standards, but the Minnesota Department of Health has also made a determination as to how vulnerable the source 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 during normal business hours. Also, you can view it on line at www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/swa.

Call Public Works Director, Andy Kegley, at (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 2012. 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 ($\mu\text{g/l}$).

N/A—Not Applicable (does not apply).



Contaminant (units)	MCLG	MCL	Level Found		Typical Source of Contaminant
			Range (2012)	Average/Result*	
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	1.2-1.3	1.3	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	3-3.4	3.4	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)	1.3	1.3	.19	0 out of 20	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead (ppb) (07/19/2011)	0	15	4.9	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.

Help prevent sanitary sewer backups

The City of Oak Park Heights Public Works Department provides for the operation and maintenance of a sanitary sewer system that conveys wastewater to the metropolitan council's treatment facility. The treatment facility is the final stage conveying wastewater to an environmentally safe level for returning the water back to the ecological system (St. Croix River).

Oak Park Heights maintains roughly 28 miles of sanitary sewer mains. Each year nearly one quarter of the City's sanitary sewer mains are inspected and cleaned. This routine maintenance helps to prevent blockages and sewer backups.

As a resident, you can 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
- Grease
- Sanitary napkins
- Rags or towels (both cloth or paper)
- 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

Inflow and infiltration (I&I) is also a potential cause of sewer backups. I&I refers to clear water getting into the sanitary sewer system. This might occur through cracks or leaks in sewer pipes and manholes or from sump pumps incorrectly connected to the sanitary sewer system. Investigation completed by the Metropolitan Council confirms OPH does not have a significant I&I issue to date.

Because of the potential for I&I to create system issues, City ordinance prohibits property owners from disposing of clear water into the sanitary sewer system. This includes water from any roof, surface or ground sump pump, foundation drain, or swimming pool.

The sewer line from your home, business or other property to the City sewer main is your responsibility. **That means that you as the property owner are responsible for clearing any blockages.** Property owners must schedule service and pay the cost of clearing any blockage located in the individual sewer line on their property.

If you have questions regarding the City's sanitary sewer maintenance program, sewer backup response or a specific incident, please contact City Hall at (651) 439-4439. To report emergencies after hours please call the Public Works emergency on call phone at (651) 485-2304.

Summer watering ban—even/odd schedule

Summer is here! It is time to remind everyone that Oak Park Heights has an even-odd watering ban except for the watering of new sod and young trees. While the City's water supply is adequate, the regulation is intended to conserve water and balance demands on the City's water system.

To secure the conservation of municipal water as a resource for the benefit of the people of the City of Oak Park Heights, all water sprinkling and irrigation

systems and practices shall be regulated to allow water sprinkling and irrigation systems to operate in the following manner: as to all properties which property address ends in an even number, those properties will be allowed to sprinkle or irrigate on even numbered calendar days. As to all properties whose property address ends in an odd number, their right to use sprinkling and irrigation systems shall be limited to calendar number days ending in odd numbers.

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.

Brekke Park is located on Omar Avenue south of the former St. Croix Mall. The park has a covered shelter building with restrooms as well as a tot lot, baseball diamonds, playground equipment, and barbeque grills.

Valley View Park is located on Osgood Avenue at the edge of the city limits. This park has a covered shelter building, picnic areas, play-grounds and a beautiful passive park area with trails, a prairie restoration area and wetlands.



Autumn Hills Park is located at 5697 Norwich Parkway off of 58th Street adjacent to the Boutwells Landing campus. The park contains meandering trails, trail access parking, and playground equipment. It has a 2,000+ square foot shelter, which includes a covered gathering area with a small kitchen/serving area, men's and women's restrooms, and a water fountain.

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!

Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Community

The Minnesota National Guard has pioneered a program which employers community leaders to synchronize efforts and build an enduring network of support for service members and families throughout the deployment cycle. The Yellow Ribbon Community Campaign is a reminder that supporting service members cannot end when they return home from deployment and the yellow ribbons are untied. A Yellow Ribbon City develops an action plan and organizes groups to support military families.

The City of Oak Park Heights has been recognized as a Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Community for its effort in supporting military members and their families while defending the democratic values of the United States of America. The City is proud to support, appreciate, and say thank you to our military members and their families for their service sacrifices and all they do.

If you are interested in helping with this initiative or want more information, please visit the St. Croix Valley Yellow Ribbon organization's website at www.stcroixvalleyyellowribbon.org or e-mail them at info@stcroixvalleyyellowribbon.org. You may also contact Oak Park Heights Police Chief Brian DeRosier at 651-439-4723.

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.cityofoakparkheights.com

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

**PARTY IN THE PARK
PLANNING COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

The City's annual Party in the Park will take place on **Sunday, September 8, 2013** from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Brekke Park, 5500 Omar Avenue.

The City Council would like to form a planning committee for this year's event. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please contact Jenni Pinski by phone at 651-439-4439 or by e-mail at jpinski@cityofoakparkheights.com.

Committee members will help plan this year's ice cream social theme and will help obtain donations for the event's raffle.

NEW COMMUNICATION TOOL!



The City of Oak Park Heights is on Facebook!

Like our page at

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/City-of-Oak-Park-Heights/501816333214972>

to receive up-to-date information on events, meetings,

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