



City of Oak Park Heights

Tree City USA

Summer 2015 Newsletter

Inside this issue:

Bayport Fire Dept. Call Statistics	2
Arborist News	3
Pet Owner Reminders	4
Building Permit Information	4
Water Quality Report	5
Environmental News	8
Street Recon. Update	9
Utility Bill Information	10
Summer Storm Preparedness	11
Parks Commission Vacancy	12
DNR Press Release	13
St. Croix River Crossing Update	14
Summer Park Program Schedule	15

Oak Park Crossing Park Ribbon Cutting Event—July 20, 2015

The Oak Park Heights City Council and Parks Commission would like to invite residents to the Oak Park Crossing Park Ribbon Cutting Event on Monday, July 20, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. Oak Park Crossing Park is the City's newest park and features a new playground and picnic shelter, walking trails, prairie grasses, and plenty of parking.



The new park is located north of Valley View Park and west of Cover Park at 15055 60th Street North, which is the former Moelter fly-ash site. The site has been capped off and turned into a beautiful park.

Oak Park Crossing Park received its name through a 2013 contest open to children 17 years and under. The entries were considered by the Parks Commission and narrowed down to three finalists. The winning name was submitted by resident Shelby Zeuli. Shelby was recognized at the City's Party in the Park on September 8, 2013, by Mayor Mary McComber, and will again be recognized at the ribbon cutting.

Please join the City Council and Parks Commission: Monday, July 20, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at Oak Park Crossing Park!

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.

Bayport Fire Department

Construction on the new Bayport Fire Department has officially begun. A ground breaking ceremony was held in spring was attended by representatives from all of the communities that Bayport Fire Department responds to. The ground work for the foundation is moving quick and soon Miller Excavating will be installing the water and sewer lines. The project is on course to be completed late 2015.



Below are call statistics for January—April 2015. If you have any questions for the Bayport Fire Department, they can be reached at 651-275-4401.

TOTAL CALLS	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	TOTAL
2013	108	88	76	93	365
2014	112	80	89	98	379
2015	98	93	102	123	416

YTD by CALL TYPE	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	TOTAL
Fire	4	3	5	5	17
Overpressure, Rupture, Explosion, Overheat		1		1	2
Rescue/EMS	70	71	78	79	298
Hazardous Condition	1	1		3	5
Service Call	3	1	3	6	13
Good Intent Call	17	5	13	17	52
False Alarm/False Call	3	11	3	12	29
TOTAL	98	93	102	123	416

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 214 cities across the country to be awarded the 2015 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.cityofoakparkheights.com.

Emerald Ash Borer

Emerald ash borer (EAB) has not yet been confirmed in Washington County. Top thinning and dieback is one of the first symptoms of EAB infestation, but may not appear until trees have been infested for a year or more. Check trunk and branches for “D-shaped” adult exit holes 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, as this is one way that emerald ash borer is easily spread. 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 OPH Arborist.

Oak Wilt

Due to insect transmission of the oak wilt fungus to fresh wounds on healthy oaks, oaks should not be wounded or pruned during the ‘high risk’ period from April 1st to July 1st. If they are wounded anytime during the growing season (April 1 - Oct. 1), the wounds should be painted with latex house paint to prevent oak wilt infection. It is best to prune oaks between Oct. 15th and Mar. 15th.

Leaf Spot 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 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 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.

Diseased Elms and Oaks

Elms which wilt this summer due to Dutch elm disease, or red or pin oaks which wilt due to oak wilt will be removed by the City at no charge to the homeowner. Trees and debris are removed from private property; however, the City does not pay to have the stumps ground out. Property owners wishing to have currently diseased trees removed, will need to sign a “Waiver of Trespass” in order to have a tree service, hired by the City of Oak Park Heights, enter their property for removal and clean-up. If you think you have Dutch elm disease or oak wilt on your property, call the OPH Arborist.

Tree Problems?

If you have a problem with a tree or shrub, call Lisa Danielson, the new Arborist at 439-4439. Lisa graduated from the Univ. of Wis. River Falls with a degree in Conservation Biology and is a Public Works employee at the City. The former Arborist, Kathy Widin, is available on a very part-time basis to help oversee the program until mid-August, when she will be retiring. The Arborist can either answer your question over the phone and/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

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.cityofoakparkheights.com.

Do I Need a Building Permit?

When planning your project, keep in mind that many projects require a building permit prior to the project starting.

Some common do-it yourself projects such as decks, porches, gazebos, fences, sheds, re-roofing, re-siding, new plumbing or heating or alterations to your existing services, window replacement, driveway replacement and parking pads typically require a permit to ensure compliance to adopted construction and local ordinance codes. Many projects will require property line verification.

If you are hiring a contractor for your project, make sure they are licensed, have obtained a permit for the work you that you have hired them for, and that the inspections appropriate to your project are being scheduled while they are working.

Building permit applications and information on a variety of projects are available at City Hall and can also be found on the City webpage at www.cityofoakparkheights.com. If you don't find what you are looking for, let us know. We will do our best to get you the information you need.

Mowing Season Reminder

Overgrown grass is one of the most common complaints the City receives. Overgrown grass is unsightly and over time can compromise public safety. Oak Park Heights City Nuisance Ordinance 1109.03 has a maximum height limit for grass. Grass and weeds cannot be over 6 inches in height or it is violation of the City Ordinance. Be a good neighbor, mow your lawn on a regular basis and keep it below the 6-inches.

2014 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

CITY OF OAK PARK HEIGHTS

PWSID: 1820020



2014 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, 2014. 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 (press 5) 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

The results contained in the following table indicate an exceedance of a federal standard. Some other 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 2014. 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	1.3-1.6	1.42	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	2.9-3.4	3.4	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Total Coliform Bacteria	0 Present	>1 present	N/A	5 ★	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.

★ We had a violation of the Total Coliform Rule on September 3, 2014. Due to local construction on the City's water mains and as a precaution, the City chlorinated the water distribution system until November 18, 2014. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed, and this was a warning of potential problems. In response to this problem, OPH notified residents of the situation, disinfected the system, and retested to ensure that the water was safe before discontinuing the chlorine feed.

Contaminant (units)	MCLG	AL	90% Level	# sites over AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	.16	0 out of 20	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.
Lead (ppb) (07/19/2011)	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 by-products 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.

Chlorination of City Water

As a result of the Street Reconstruction and related water utility construction where utility lines will be exposed, the City of Oak Park Heights took a precautionary measure and started a chlorine feed to the City's water distribution system. The chlorine feed will be set to achieve the **MN Department of Health minimum requirement of at least .02 -.05 ppm.**



The chlorine feed began on Monday June 15th and will be terminated after water main construction is completed in October, 2015.

Please note: As the chlorine levels fluctuate and/or decrease closer to .02 ppm – the “chlorine smell” may be more noticeable because the chlorine reacts to organics in the water. Despite the possible odor, the water is within Dept. of Health Standards and is typically due to lowering amounts of chlorine over time. Public Works Staff samples and tests the water daily to ensure it is safe.

If you have questions please call Andy Kegley, Public Works Director at (651) 439-4439.

Reduce Harmful Chemicals in Your Home

You can reduce exposure to harmful chemicals at home by purchasing less hazardous household products.

- Look for products that list all their ingredients on the label. Generally, fewer ingredients are better.
- Use a multi-purpose cleaner rather than buying many specialty cleaners.
- Use single-ingredient products (baking soda, white vinegar, lemon juice, salt) that serve several functions.
- Choose products that are made from plant-based materials like citrus, seed, vegetables, herbs or pine oils.
- Choose products that have low or no volatile organic compounds (VOCs). VOCs are toxic chemicals that are released into the air.
- Choose chlorine-free products.
- Choose water-based glues, adhesives and paints.

Choose the least toxic product to do the job. A product with the signal word *Caution* on its label is less hazardous than a product with the signal word *Warning*, *Danger* or *Poison*.

Many people are switching to homemade cleaners to reduce exposure to hazardous chemicals. Inexpensive ingredients like baking soda, vinegar and dish soap often clean just as well as store-bought products. You can find more information about non-toxic cleaners at www.Reduce.org.

If you have an unwanted product with any of the signal words (poison, danger, warning, caution), take any leftovers to the Washington County Environmental Center located at 4039 Cottage Grove Drive in Woodbury, Minnesota. For hours and directions, call 651-430-6655.



2015 Street Reconstruction Project Update

Phase I – 62nd St N and to the South

Removals occurred on Paris and Paul Ave's south of Upper 61st N. Pavement was removed from 62nd, Paris, Paul and Upper 61st. An alternative parking suggestion for residents on Paris and Paul can be along the east side of Beach or on Upper 61st east of Beach.

The temporary water mains and service lines are being tested. Watermain installation is tentatively scheduled to begin 6/15/15, weather-permitting. First the contractor will tie in temporary water to the homes along 62nd, on Upper 61st, and on Paul and Paris between Upper 61st and 62nd.



Reconstruction work will start on 62nd and work from the east to the west with the new watermain. During the installation of water main, be aware that trenching activity may cut off access to your driveways during working hours. An alternative parking suggestion for residents on 62nd during the water main work is along 63rd St. N or east of Beach on Upper 61st.

Phase II – north of 62nd and west of Paris

This phase is tentatively scheduled to begin early to mid-July.

Phase III – north of 62nd and east of Paris.

This phase is tentatively scheduled to begin late August/early September.

Osman Avenue

This phase is tentatively scheduled to begin 6/15/15 weather permitting.



Valley View Park Parking Lot

Work to replace the Valley View parking lot was scheduled to begin on 6/15/15. The project may impact access to and from the park shelter during active construction, but when construction activity is not occurring on site, there should be full access to the park amenities.

Please note: Door-to-door notices will be provided for concrete curb work that will impact driveway accessibility and for water main shutdowns affecting your home.

Please call Lucas Miller of Stantec directly with any scheduling or construction-related items. And please call the Project Hotline at 651-604-4727 for a recording of project updates or to leave a message with a question or concern.

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



We accept...



Pay ONLINE

Go to 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

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.

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

Second quarter 2015 utility bills

The outdoor utility payment drop box has been relocated from near the front door to 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 2015 (April 1 – June 30) will be mailed to residents in January and will be due August 9, 2015.

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.

Storm Preparedness in Oak Park Heights

Residents should be advised that the City of Oak Park Heights maintains an Emergency Preparedness Plan that will be implemented in the event the City experiences a storm, similar to what recently occurred in the City of Hugo. The City's Police and Public Works Departments, along with the Bayport Fire Department would immediately implement the strategies as outlined.

Generally, it is anticipated that water and sewer services will be operational as these facilities are underground, but the City may implement emergency water consumption practices should direct power be lost to the City's two wells. This would basically only allow household use, not the sprinkling of lawns or car washing, etc. The City maintains back-up generation power that can operate wells and sewerage lift-stations, but again these can only accommodate typical household usage.

Downed power lines can be the most dangerous aspect of storm clean-up, and residents are requested to not make attempts to clear tress, limbs and braches that may be entangled in power lines. Generally, the electricity distributions system in the City as operated by Xcel Energy lie underground in most areas, however extreme caution should be taken until trees and limbs are first verified as safe for removal.

Residents and businesses are encouraged to have an Emergency Preparedness Kit that will provide relief and resources in the event of a storm event and/or where electricity outages may be several days. Please visit www.codeready.org for a listing of what every household or place of business should have in their Emergency Preparedness Kit.

Lastly, in the event of a severe storm, you should contact City Hall at 651-439-4439 for information on clean-up and response. Or, if you are able, check the City's website for "Storm Response Information" as this will be updated regularly.

Above all, patience and neighbors helping each other will result in the most effective and efficient clean-up/response to any disaster, large or small. The City will do its part to ensure a quick return to normalcy.

Things to know about Washington County's Warning Sirens

There are 62 sirens in Washington County. The Washington County Sheriff's Department tests all sirens at 1:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month from March through October. The criteria for activating the sirens is as follows: when a tornado warning is issued for Washington County by the National Weather Service; when the National Weather Service indicates sustained wind speed of 76 miles per hour or more; or when a City or County Public Safety Official re-requests activation due to imminent danger to life and/or property.

Monitor weather information sources and

watch the weather itself for any changes that could endanger you or those around you. Make preparations to initiate your emergency plans. Consider canceling outdoor activities. If you are in a mobile home, travel trailer or recreational vehicle, consider moving to shelter as the storms move into your area, before warnings are issued, especially if these are fast moving storms. Stay informed and be prepared.



Parks Commission Vacancy

The City is seeking applications to fill vacancies on the City of Oak Park Heights Parks Commission.

The Parks Commission is a board of five members, appointed by the City Council, who meet regularly on the third Monday of each month, typically at 7:00 pm as well as on other occasions, when needed.

The objectives of the Parks Commission are to make recommendations to the City Council, which will guide the development of city parks, trails and related services and facilities. Commission terms are three years and run from January to December.



If you are a resident of Oak Park Heights and are looking for an interesting and rewarding opportunity to participate in development and governance of Oak Park Heights, please visit the City's website to download an application packet or stop by City Hall. Applications are due July 31.

If you have any questions, please contact Deputy Clerk Jennifer Pinski at (651) 439-4439 or via e-mail at jpinski@cityfoakparkheights.com.

The City of Oak Park Heights is on Facebook!

“Like” the City's Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/City-of-Oak-Park-Heights/501816333214972>
to receive up-to-date information on events, meetings, programs, and city news.



Oak Park Heights Local Business & Development News

Welcome New Businesses:

Mainstream Boutique – 5815 Neal Avenue North
Sky Dragon – 5980 Neal Avenue North, Suite 600

Coming Soon:

Guardian Supply – 5659 Memorial Ave. N.
Salon Concepts - 5915 Norwich Ave. N.

Five bighead carp captured in St. Croix River near Oak Park Heights

DNR News Release—June 2, 2015

Five bighead carp were captured in the St. Croix River in the past week, just south of Stillwater near the Xcel Energy Allen S. King power plant, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

This is the furthest upstream invasive carp have been detected in the St. Croix, and is about 7 miles north of the previous point. Prior to these captures, four bighead carp have been taken in the St. Croix River, dating back to 1996.

The DNR and anglers caught the fish.

"The DNR thanks the anglers who have reported the capture of bighead carp and have sent photos so they could be immediately verified," said Nick Frohnauer, DNR invasive fish coordinator. "Knowing these details allowed our invasive carp crew to do follow up sampling in a timely manner."

The DNR responded with intensive sampling in an effort to determine if more invasive carp are in the area. DNR staff set additional gill nets and conducted electrofishing. Additionally, they are working with a contracted commercial fishing operator to seine a large bay.

Silver and bighead carp are two of four species of invasive carp threatening the Mississippi River and other native ecosystems. They can grow to 60 pounds, impacting the base of the food chain by consuming large amounts of plankton relied on by native fish.

Populations of bighead and silver carp are established in the Mississippi River and its tributaries from southern Iowa northward. While bighead and silver carp have been found as far north as Hastings, there is no evidence bighead or silver carp are reproduc-

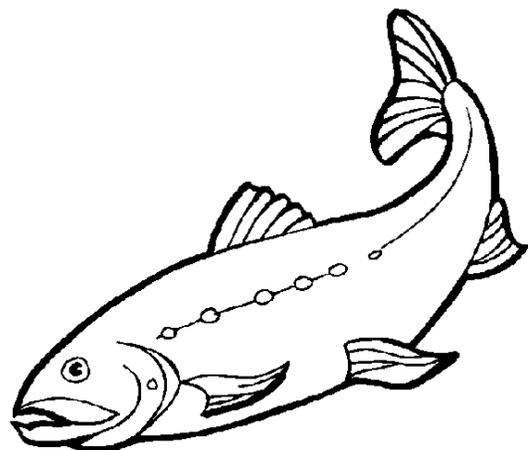
ing in the Minnesota waters of the Mississippi or St. Croix rivers.

Protection of the St. Croix River is important to the DNR and its local and regional partners. The DNR takes a multi-pronged approach based on the recently revised Minnesota Invasive Carp Action Plan:

- Monitoring for invasive carp by using targeted surveying and contracted commercial fishing.
- Partnering with the University of Minnesota's Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center, federal agencies, and other universities researching ways to prevent the spread and manage populations of invasive carp.
- Actively participating in the Upper Mississippi River workgroup in implementing actions to combat invasive carp.

The DNR reminds anyone who catches a bighead, silver, black, or grass carp to immediately contact the DNR at 888-646-6367 or ornick.frohnauer@state.mn.us. Do not release the fish. Take a photo, and store the fish until it can be delivered to the DNR.

For more information on invasive carp in Minnesota, visit <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasive-carp/index.html>



St. Croix Crossing Construction Update

All work being done on Highway 36, including the business driveways, permanent striping and signing, landscaping and the trials will be completed by the end of June.

St. Croix Crossing bridge construction is underway at all five piers in the river. Some summer construction highlights are:

- Construction crews will be installing pre-cast river bridge segments at Piers 8 and 9. Crews anticipate beginning to place segments at Pier 12 in late summer. Crews will be constructing the pier towers at these pier locations at the same time they are placing segments that make up the driving surface of the new river crossing.
- Crews will be constructing the crossbeams and pier tables at Piers 10 and 11. The crossbeam connects the upstream and downstream columns at each pier location. The pier table is constructed on-site in the shape of a segment. It is the first step in the bridge deck construction process.
- Crews will be constructing Pier 13 on the Wisconsin bluff. They will be employing a top-down construction method in order to disturb as little of the bluff as possible.



Construction of the Minnesota approach will continue through the summer. Some portions are cast-in-place, or built on-site, while other sections of the spans are constructed using segments that are cast at the project's on-site casting yard near the Highway 36/95 interchange.

During this busy construction season, boaters are asked to respect the one-mile slow/no wake worker safety zone in the St. Croix River between Stillwater and Bayport. Stay between the red and green buoys that are there to guide boaters through the bridge construction site.

Public boat tours of the bridge construction site via the St. Croix Boat & Packet paddle boats are back for a second season. Wednesday tours will occur from 12:30 to 2 p.m. and again from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Saturday tours will occur from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Tours are scheduled for the following dates, rain or shine:

- Wednesday, June 17
- Saturday, June 20
- Saturday, July 18
- Wednesday, July 22
- Saturday, Aug. 15
- Wednesday, Aug. 19
- Saturday, Sept. 19
- Wednesday, Sept. 23

Go to www.stillwaterriverboats.com for reservation information and more details. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$6 for children ages 4 to 12.

Stay connected

- Visit the project website: www.mndot.gov/stcroixcrossing (Sign up for weekly email updates)
- Call the hotline at 1-855-GO-CROIX (462-7649)
- Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/saintcroixcrossingmndot
- Follow us on Twitter @stcroixcrossing
- Stop by the office at 1862 Greeley St. S., Stillwater

CLIP AND SAVE!
July/August 2015
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 with number and ages of children attending.

July 7

Kids Bingo in the Park: Brekke Park, 10 a.m.—12 p.m.

July 14

Minnesota Zoomobile Animal presentation: Autumn Hills Park, 10:30 a.m.—12 p.m.

July 21

Craft in the Park – Clay and Sculpture: Brekke Park, 10 a.m.—12 p.m.

July 28

Magic and Balloons: Autumn Hills Park, 10:30 a.m.

July 31

Family Movie in the Park: Autumn Hills Park. Movie begins at dark (approximately 9:30 p.m.). Popcorn/beverages available for purchase.

August 4

Craft in the Park – Candle Art: Autumn Hills Park, 10 a.m.—12 p.m.

August 4

Party in the Park: Brekke Park, 4:30 p.m.

August 11

The Ridiculous Puppet Company Show: Autumn Hills Park, 10:30 a.m.

August 18

Craft in the Park – Mandalas & Mosaics: Oak Park Crossing Park, 10 a.m.—12 p.m.

August 21

Family Movie in the Park: Autumn Hills Park. Movie begins at dark (approximately 8:45 p.m.). Popcorn/beverages available for purchase.

August 25

Craft in the Park – Surprise!! Come to the park for a surprise activity.
Oak Park Crossing Park, 10 a.m.—12 p.m.

City of Oak Park Heights

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Police Emergency: 911

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

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Mark Swenson: 270-5385

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Eric Johnson

Visit our Website!

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 2015 Newsletter

2015 PARTY IN THE PARK

The City of Oak Park Heights invites all city residents to attend the
2015 Party in the Park on National Night Out!

Tuesday, August 4, 2015 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!

New Pickleball Court—Swager Park

Check out the new pickleball court at Swager Park!

Pickleball is a sport where two to four players volley a perforated ball
over a net using solid paddles. It is great exercise and great fun!

Swager Park is located in the 5800 block of 58th Street tucked between
two neighborhoods. Parking is located off of Olene Avenue.