



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2019

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Utility Billing Information</i>	2
<i>Park Shelter Reservations</i>	2
<i>Notes from the Arborist</i>	3
<i>Arbor Day Puzzle</i>	5
<i>Building Permit Information</i>	6
<i>What's New in Oak Park Heights</i>	7
<i>New Organics Recycling Program</i>	8
<i>Summer Park Program Schedule</i>	9
<i>Submit a Photo of the City</i>	10

ADOPT A STORM DRAIN ON YOUR STREET TO HELP KEEP OAK PARK HEIGHTS CLEAN AND PROTECT THE ST. CROIX RIVER

This spring, a new Adopt-a-Drain program debuted across the Twin Cities metro area, with a goal of engaging local residents to help prevent water pollution. Storm drains in Oak Park Heights help to protect neighborhoods against flooding, but they also flow to the St. Croix River, carrying debris off the streets and into our water.

You can make a difference by volunteering just 15-minutes, twice a month, to keep your

nearest storm drain clear of litter, leaves, grass clippings and dirt. Go to Adopt-a-Drain.org and use the map to find your neighborhood storm drains – then click and sign-up to adopt. Spend a few minutes each month picking up the garbage and debris near your drain and then go online to report your work so that we can measure our collective impact.

To dispose of the waste you collect, sep-

arate it into three categories and place it in the appropriate receptacle: trash, recyclables (glass and plastic bottles, cans) and compostables (leaves and grass clippings). Sediment collected in the spring contains winter road salt and should be put in the trash.

Adopt a storm drain today to help protect our water and keep our neighborhoods clean: www.Adopt-a-Drain.org.



Enclosure:
2018 Water Quality Report



PAY & VIEW OAK PARK HEIGHTS UTILITY BILLS ONLINE

PAY ONLINE

Go to www.cityof oakparkheights.com

1. Click "Utility Payments Online"
2. Scroll to bottom and click "Pay Online"
3. You will go to the payment portal website

OR CALL

877-885-7968

Have your bill handy to provide your account number

VIEW BILLS ONLINE

Go to www.cityof oakparkheights.com

1. Click "Utility Payments Online"
2. Scroll to bottom and click "View Bill Online"
3. You will go to the payment portal website
4. You will get an email each time your bill is ready

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



RESERVE A CITY PARK SHELTER

Are you thinking about having a get-together, graduation party, 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.

Visit the City's website to learn about the parks and to print the reservation form. Call or visit City Hall to check availability for your next event!



City Meetings (subject to change)

City Council:
2nd and 4th
Tuesdays at 6:00
p.m.

Planning
Commission:
2nd Thursday at
6:00 p.m.

Parks Commission:
3rd Monday at 6:00
p.m.

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

HIRING A TREE SERVICE/LANDSCAPE COMPANY

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 QUESTIONS?

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 email 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.

SPRING LANDSCAPING CHECKLIST

- Fertilize your lawn and apply crabgrass pre-emergent
- Complete any pruning before new growth starts
- Cut back ornamental grasses to new shoots
- Spread a two inch layer of mulch in planting beds to preserve moisture and maintain an attractive appearance
- Have hazardous branches or dead trees removed by a licensed tree worker



EMERALD ASH BORER (EAB)



Emerald ash borer (EAB) was identified in Washington County during the Fall of 2015. Check 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 Oak Park Heights 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.

PRAIRIE RESTORATION AREA MAINTENANCE

The two prairie restoration areas within the City (located to the north behind City Hall Building which runs east to Oldfield Ave N and the Valley View Park prairie restoration area located on the east side of Valley View Park on the west side of the wetland) will both be mowed this spring and have four timed weed control visits during the growing season. This work is simi-



lar to work in past years with the substitution of the spring mow instead of a burn which took place in Spring 2017. It is important that all of these prairie management tasks are done on a cycle to maintain quality vegetation. The City has contracted this year with Minnesota Native Landscapes, Inc. for the 2019 vegetation maintenance.

OAK WILT

DO NOT prune oak trees from April 1st - July 1st (high risk period).

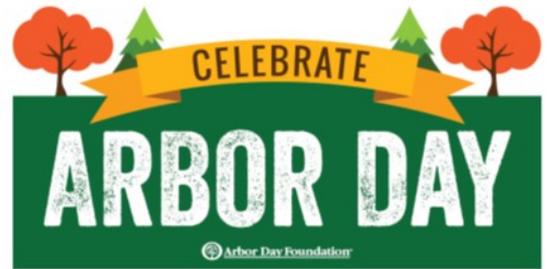
There is also a slight risk of oak wilt being spread via insects to fresh wounds from July 1st to September 15th. If oaks are pruned or wounded April 1st through September 30th, wounds should be painted immediately with latex house paint. It is best to prune oaks between October 15th and March 15th.



ARBOR DAY FUN!

Arbor Day is recognized in all 50 states as well as in many other countries. During Arbor Month the benefits of tree care and the importance of tree plantings are expressed. Arbor Day and Arbor Month are a great way to get the community active outdoors and make a difference in the appearance of their property and city parks. The City of Oak Park Heights has been named a Tree City USA for 37 years and the award is valued greatly by the community. Arbor Day is April 26 and the month of May is Arbor Month in the City of Oak Park Heights.

City of Oak Park Heights



P	K	H	C	N	A	R	B	T	V	H	T	S	R	N
N	U	F	F	A	E	L	M	A	R	T	E	P	U	A
N	A	U	M	A	P	L	E	T	O	N	C	R	X	N
G	E	G	W	A	T	E	R	I	O	O	U	I	H	E
N	E	E	I	I	L	K	N	B	T	M	R	N	C	D
I	S	N	D	N	E	I	Z	A	S	R	P	G	R	A
L	S	E	V	L	K	V	O	H	N	O	S	J	I	H
D	K	G	E	I	E	G	E	S	V	B	O	R	B	S
E	R	I	N	R	R	S	O	R	T	R	U	N	K	R
E	A	W	I	F	T	O	W	M	G	A	E	P	A	H
S	P	T	P	B	C	O	N	S	E	R	V	E	O	C
S	T	S	E	R	O	F	B	M	K	Y	E	Z	H	L
T	P	L	A	N	T	K	X	M	E	R	T	E	W	U
V	A	R	B	O	R	D	A	Y	I	N	A	I	N	M
S	U	O	U	D	I	C	E	D	R	L	T	B	C	X

- ARBOR DAY
- ARBOR MONTH
- BARK
- BIRCH
- BRANCH
- CITY
- CONSERVE
- DECIDUOUS
- ELM
- ENVIRONMENT
- EVERGREEN
- FORESTS

- FUN
- GINKGO
- HABITAT
- LEAF
- LIMB
- MAPLE
- MULCH
- NEEDLES
- OAK
- PARKS
- PINE
- PLANT

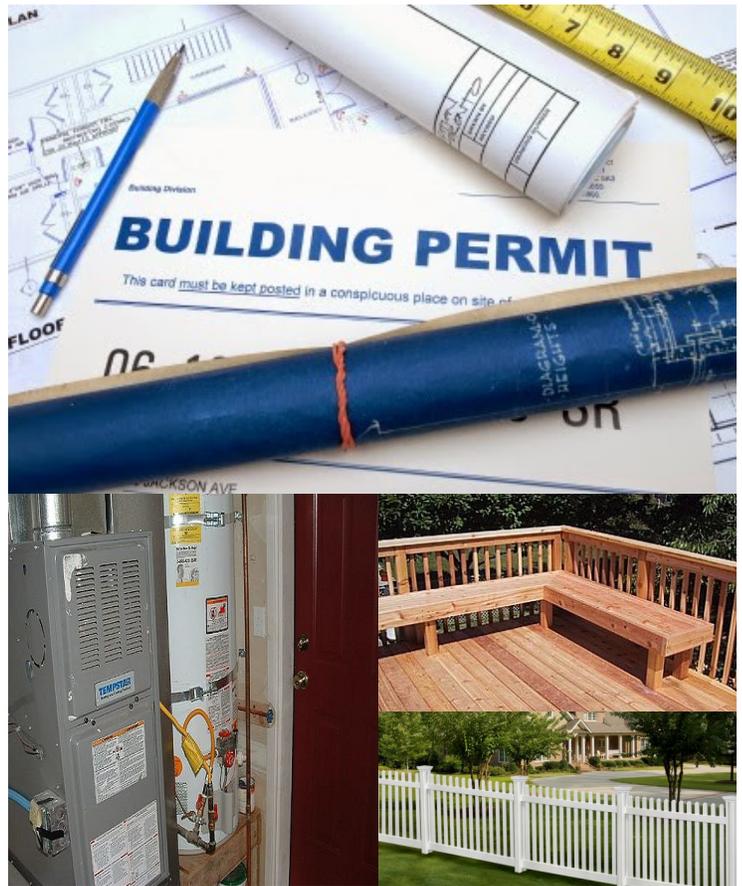
- ROOTS
- SEEDLING
- SHADE
- SOIL
- SPRING
- SPRUCE
- SUN
- TREES
- TRUNK
- TWIG
- WATER

WHAT DO DECKS, FENCES, WATER HEATERS AND FURNACES HAVE IN COMMON?

Typically, these projects and others will require a work permit to ensure compliance with 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. Contact us anytime if we can be of assistance – we are happy to hear from you! Contact Building Official Julie Hultman via email at jhultman@cityofoakparkheights.com or by phone 651-439-4439.



HOUSE NUMBERS—ARE YOURS VISIBLE?



House numbers are required by the City's Zoning Ordinance, and are essential for people to find you and can be critical for emergency response groups, such as the police department, fire department and emergency medical responders to assist you as quickly as possible.

To make it easy to locate your home, your house numbers should be:

- A minimum of 3 inches in height
- Made of a durable, weather resistant material such as metal, glass, plastic, etc.
- A color that stands out with the house or background upon which they are placed such as dark numbers against a light background
- Easily and clearly seen from the street when approached from any direction. You may want to consider having the numbers coated with a reflective material for better visibility at dark or locating them beneath a light source
- Attached to your home or a sign post that faces the street

If your home does not have your house number on it, make it a priority to put them on today.

LOCAL BUSINESS AND DEVELOPMENT NEWS

You've probably noticed the construction happening around town. It's been an exciting time for the City, with a number of new commercial and residential projects.

Welcome New Businesses:

BB Makeup Salon & Spa
14375 60th St. N.

Sodie's Cigar & Pipe
5946 Osgood Ave. N.

Coming Soon:

Lace Salon
14725 60th St. N.

Construction Underway:

Oak Park Sr. Living 2nd Addition
72 Unit Sr. Apartment Development
13912 Lower 59th St. N.



Panera Bread
13535 60th St. N. – At the corner of Norell Ave. N. & 60th St. N.

Palmer Station—13 Single Family Housing Development
Oak Cove N. - Off of Oak Park Blvd. N.

Public Storage Expansion
5710 Memorial Ave. N.

If you are interested in learning about what is coming or happening in the City, give us a call at City Hall. 651-439-4439

MIDDLE ST. CROIX WATERSHED UPDATES

Oak Park Heights is one of ten member communities in the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization (MSCWMO) that work to protect and improve water quality in Lake St. Croix. MSCWMO provides educational, technical, and financial assistance to the City to effectively manage water resources, and works in partnership with the Washington Conservation District to help private landowners install voluntary conservation pro-

jects that keep sediment and phosphorous out of the St. Croix River.

In 2018, MSCWMO helped member communities to install six new voluntary conservation projects and implement stormwater management rules for 18 development and redevelopment projects. Together, these efforts will stop 73.5 lbs. of phosphorus from flowing into the St. Croix River each year, equivalent to 36,750 lbs of algae in the water!



To learn more about the MSCWMO or get help for a conservation project on your land, contact: Mike Isensee, MSCWMO Administrator: miseensee@mnwcd.org.

NEW ORGANICS DROP-OFF PROGRAM

Organics are a resource, not a waste! More than one-third of our trash is organic material that can be recycled into compost. Recycling organics, such as food scraps and paper towels, is an easy way to reduce your trash and make a difference!

Washington County has started a new organics drop-off program for residents.

How to Get Started: sign up online (see web address below) and pick up a free starter kit. Start collecting at home, then bring bagged organics to the Washington County Environmental Center, 4039 Cottage Grove Dr. in Woodbury. Call for details and hours: 651-275-7475.

Accepted Items:

- Fruit and vegetables
- Meat, fish, and bones
- Dairy products
- Eggs and egg shells
- Bread, pasta, rice, and beans
- Nuts and shells
- Coffee grounds, filters, and tea bags,
- Paper towels, napkins, and tissues
- Pizza delivery boxes
- Certified compostible paper and plastic cups, bowls, plates, utensils, and containers



Organics Drop-off

AT THE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

Sign up at www.co.washington.mn.us/organics



CLIP AND SAVE!
2019 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 of children attending and their ages.

June 4 - Craft in the Park: Cover Park from 10 am to noon

June 6 - Party in the Park: Brekke Park from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm

June 11 - Craft in the Park: Brekke Park from 10 am to noon

June 13 - Craft in the Park: Autumn Hills Park from 6:30 pm to 8 pm

June 18 - Craft in the Park: Brekke Park from 10 am to noon

June 25 - Craft in the Park: Brekke Park from 10 am to noon

June 27 - Kids Bingo: Autumn Hills Park 6:30 pm to 8 pm

July 9 - Craft in the Park : Autumn Hills Park from 10 am to noon

July 11 - Craft in the Park: Autumn Hills Park from 6:30 pm to 8 pm

July 16 - Craft in the Park: Autumn Hills Park from 10 am to noon

July 23 - Craft in the Park: Autumn Hills Park from 10 am to noon

July 25 - Craft in the Park: Autumn Hills Park from 6:30 pm to 8 pm

July 30 - Turtle Presentation: Autumn Hills Park at 10:30 am

August 6 - Reptiles Around the World Presentation: Autumn Hills Park at 10:30 am

August 13 - Craft in the Park: Autumn Hills Park from 10 am to noon

August 15 - Snake Presentation: Autumn Hills Park from 6:30 pm to 8 pm

August 20 - Magic and Balloons: Autumn Hills Park from 10 am to noon

S
U
M
M
E
R

SUBMIT YOUR OAK PARK HEIGHTS PHOTOS

The City is seeking your photos that have been taken in the City of Oak Park Heights. Photos could be of landscapes, nature, people, places, events, or anything that captures the beauty of our City. By submitting a photo, you will be granting the City the right to use it on the website, Facebook, in the City newsletter or annual calendar, and on other informational and marketing materials.

Please send your photos to City Clerk Jennifer Pinski: jpinski@cityofoakparkheights.com. Information about your photo, such location and date, is appreciated. Include your name for photo credit.



Photo credit: C. Dougherty

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.

2018 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

CITY OF OAK PARK HEIGHTS

PWSID: 1820020



2018 Drinking Water Report

MAKING SAFE DRINKING WATER

Your drinking water comes from a groundwater source: two wells ranging from 290 to 310 feet deep, that draw water from the Jordan aquifer.

Oak Park Heights works hard to provide you with safe and reliable drinking water that meets federal and state water quality requirements. The purpose of this report is to provide you with information on your drinking water and how to protect our precious water resources.

Contact Andy Kegley, Public Works Director, at 651-439-4439 or akegley@cityfoakparkheights.com if you have questions about Oak Park Heights' drinking water. You can also ask for information about how you can take part in decisions that may affect water quality.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sets safe drinking water standards. These standards limit the amounts of specific contaminants allowed in drinking water. This ensures that tap water is safe to drink for most people. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulates the amount of certain contaminants in bottled water. Bottled water must provide the same public health protection as public tap water.

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.

OAK PARK HEIGHTS MONITORING RESULTS

This report contains our monitoring results from January 1 to December 31, 2018. We work with the Minnesota Department of Health to test drinking water for more than 100 contaminants. It is not unusual to detect contaminants in small amounts. No water supply is ever completely free of contaminants. Drinking water standards protect Minnesotans from substances that may be harmful to their health.

Learn more by visiting the Minnesota Department of Health's webpage [Basics of Monitoring and Testing Drinking Water in Minnesota: www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/com/sampling.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/com/sampling.html)

How to Read the Water Quality Data Tables

The tables below show the contaminants we found last year or the most recent time we sampled for that contaminant. They also show the levels of those contaminants and the Environmental Protection Agency's limits. Substances that we tested for but did not find are not included in the tables.

We sample for some contaminants less than once a year because their levels in water are not expected to change from year to year. If we found any of these contaminants the last time we sampled for them, we included them in the tables below with the detection date.

We may have done additional monitoring for contaminants that are not included in the Safe Drinking Water Act. To request a copy of these results, call the Minnesota Department of Health at 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Definitions

- ◆ **AL (Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- ◆ **EPA:** Environmental Protection Agency
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **Level 1 Assessment:** A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.



- ◆ **Level 2 Assessment:** A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.
- ◆ **MRDL (Maximum residual disinfectant level):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- ◆ **MRDLG (Maximum residual disinfectant level goal):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- ◆ **NA (Not applicable):** Does not apply.
- ◆ **NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** A measure of the cloudiness of the water (turbidity).
- ◆ **pCi/l (picocuries per liter):** A measure of radioactivity.
- ◆ **ppb (parts per billion):** One part per billion in water is like one drop in one billion drops of water, or about one drop in a swimming pool. ppb is the same as micrograms per liter (µg/l).
- ◆ **ppm (parts per million):** One part per million is like one drop in one million drops of water, or about one cup in a swimming pool. ppm is the same as milligrams per liter (mg/l).
- ◆ **PWSID:** Public water system identification.
- ◆ **TT (Treatment Technique):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- ◆ **Variations and Exemptions:** State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

Water Quality Data Tables

Contaminant (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Action Level	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	90% of Results Were Less Than	No. of Homes with High Levels	Violation	Typical Sources
Copper (06/07/17)	90% of homes less than 1.3 ppm	0 ppm	0.18 ppm	0 out of 20	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Lead (06/07/17)	90% of homes less than 15 ppb	0 ppb	2.8 ppb	1 out of 20	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing.

Contaminant (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Limit (MCL)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Nitrate	10.4 ppm	10 ppm	3 ppm	N/A	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.

Substance (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Limit (MCL)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Fluoride	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	0.72 ppm	0.28 - 0.98 ppm	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive to promote strong teeth.



Potential Health Effects and Corrective Actions (If Applicable)

Lead: Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Copper: During the year, we failed to provide lead results to persons served at the sites that were tested as required by the Lead and Copper Rule during the timeframe allowed.

Lead: During the year we failed to provide lead results to persons served at the sites that were tested as required by the Lead and Copper Rule during the timeframe allowed.

Some People Are More Vulnerable to Contaminants in Drinking Water

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. The developing fetus and therefore pregnant women may also be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water. These people or their caregivers should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (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.

LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Drinking Water Sources

Minnesota's primary drinking water sources are groundwater and surface water. Groundwater is the water found in aquifers beneath the surface of the land. Groundwater supplies 75 percent of Minnesota's drinking water. Surface water is the water in lakes, rivers, and streams above the surface of the land. Surface water supplies 25 percent of Minnesota's drinking water.

Contaminants can get in drinking water sources from the natural environment and from people's daily activities. There are five main types of contaminants in drinking water sources.

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses, bacteria, and parasites. Sources include sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, pets, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants** include salts and metals from natural sources (e.g. rock and soil), oil and gas production, mining and farming operations, urban stormwater runoff, and wastewater discharges.
- **Pesticides and herbicides** are chemicals used to reduce or kill unwanted plants and pests. Sources include agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and commercial and residential properties.
- **Organic chemical contaminants** include synthetic and volatile organic compounds. Sources include industrial processes and petroleum production, gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants** such as radium, thorium, and uranium isotopes come from natural sources (e.g. radon gas from soils and rock), mining operations, and oil and gas production.

The Minnesota Department of Health provides information about your drinking water source(s) in a source water assessment, including:

- How Oak Park Heights is protecting your drinking water source(s);
- Nearby threats to your drinking water sources;
- How easily water and pollution can move from the surface of the land into drinking water sources, based on natural geology and the way wells are constructed.

Find your source water assessment at [Source Water Assessments](http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/swa) (www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/swa) or call 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Lead in Drinking Water

You may be in contact with lead through paint, water, dust, soil, food, hobbies, or your job. Coming in contact with lead can cause serious health problems for everyone. There is no safe level of lead. Babies, children under six years, and pregnant women are at the highest risk.

Lead is rarely in a drinking water source, but it can get in your drinking water as it passes through lead service lines and your household plumbing system. Oak Park Heights provides high quality drinking water, but it cannot control the plumbing materials used in private buildings.



Read below to learn how you can protect yourself from lead in drinking water.

1. **Let the water run** for 30-60 seconds before using it for drinking or cooking if the water has not been turned on in over six hours. If you have a lead service line, you may need to let the water run longer. A service line is the underground pipe that brings water from the main water pipe under the street to your home.
 - * You can find out if you have a lead service line by contacting your public water system, or you can check by following the steps at: Are your pipes made of lead? Here's a quick way to find out: <https://www.mprnews.org/story/2016/06/24/npr-find-lead-pipes-in-your-home>
 - * The only way to know if lead has been reduced by letting it run is to check with a test. If letting the water run does not reduce lead, consider other options to reduce your exposure.
2. **Use cold water** for drinking, making food, and making baby formula. Hot water releases more lead from pipes than cold water.
3. **Test your water.** In most cases, letting the water run and using cold water for drinking and cooking should keep lead levels low in your drinking water. If you are still concerned about lead, arrange with a laboratory to test your tap water. Testing your water is important if young children or pregnant women drink your tap water.
 - * Contact a Minnesota Department of Health accredited laboratory to get a sample container and instructions on how to submit a sample: [Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program](https://eldo.web.health.state.mn.us/public/accreditedlabs/labsearch.seam) (<https://eldo.web.health.state.mn.us/public/accreditedlabs/labsearch.seam>)
The Minnesota Department of Health can help you understand your test results.
4. **Treat your water** if a test shows your water has high levels of lead after you let the water run.
 - * Read about water treatment units: [Point-of-Use Water Treatment Units for Lead Reduction](http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/com/poulead.html) (<http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/com/poulead.html>)

Learn more:

- Visit [Lead in Drinking Water](http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/lead.html) (<http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/lead.html>)
- Visit [Basic Information about Lead in Drinking Water](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead) (<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>)
- Call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. To learn about how to reduce your contact with lead from sources other than your drinking water, visit [Lead Poisoning Prevention: Common Sources](http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead/sources.html) (<http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead/sources.html>).

HELP PROTECT OUR MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE—WATER

The Value of Water

Drinking water is a precious resource, yet we often take it for granted.

Throughout history, civilizations have risen and fallen based on access to a plentiful, safe water supply. That's still the case today. Water is key to healthy people and healthy communities.

Water is also vital to our economy. We need water for manufacturing, agriculture, energy production, and more. One-fifth of the U.S. economy would come to a stop without a reliable and clean source of water.

Systems are in place to provide you with safe drinking water. The state of Minnesota and local water systems work to protect drinking water sources. For example, we might work to seal an unused well to prevent contamination of the groundwater. We treat water to remove harmful contaminants. And we do extensive testing to ensure the safety of drinking water.

If we detect a problem, we take correction action and notify the public. Water from a public water system like yours is tested more thoroughly and regulated more closely than water from any other source, including bottled water.

You Can Prevent Pollution

Many of our daily activities contribute to the pollution of Minnesota's surface water and groundwater. You can help protect these drinking water sources by taking the following actions:

- Lawn and property:
 - Limit use of herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers on your property.
 - Keep soil in place with plants, grass, or rocks.
 - Cover temporary piles of dirt with a tarp or burlap sack.
 - Keep leaves and grass off of streets and sidewalks.
 - Maintain any septic systems, private wells, and storage tanks to prevent leaks. Seal any unused wells.



- Out of date medications: Never flush unwanted or out-of-date medications down the toilet or sink. Always take them to a waste disposal or prescription medication drop-off site. More information is available at [Managing unwanted medications \(www.pca.state.mn.us/living-green/managing-unwanted-medications\)](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/living-green/managing-unwanted-medications)
- Hazardous materials: Safety store hazardous materials such as paint, batteries, herbicides, pesticides, and pool chemicals. Dispose of them at a proper waste disposal facility or drop-off event. Do not dump down storm drains, sink or onto your land. Learn more at: [Keep hazardous waste out of the garbage \(http://www.pca.state.mn.us/featured/keep-hazardous-waste-out-of-the-garbage\)](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/featured/keep-hazardous-waste-out-of-the-garbage).
- Pet waste: Pick up after your pet and put waste in the trash.
- Trash: Seal trash bags and keep litter out of the street.
- Winter ice removal: Chemicals used to break up the ice are called deicers or anti-icers. They can be harmful to the environment, corrosive to driveways and sidewalks and harmful to plants, pets and humans. Always shovel first, and then only apply deicers/anti-icers lightly if needed. Learn more at [10 smart salting tips to protect Minnesota waters \(https://www.pca.state.mn.us/featured/10-smart-salting-tips-protect-minnesota-waters\)](https://www.pca.state.mn.us/featured/10-smart-salting-tips-protect-minnesota-waters).
- Keep an eye out for car and motor fluids: Seal or repair any fluid leaks that could run off onto streets and into storm drains. Take used motor oil or other fluids to a neighborhood drop-off site.
- Be a water advocate: Spread the word; get involved. There are many groups and individuals working to protect water across Minnesota.

Reduce Backflow at Cross Connections

Bacteria and chemicals can enter the drinking water supply from polluted water sources in a process called backflow. Backflow occurs at connection points between drinking water and non-drinking water supplies (cross connections) due to water pressure differences.

For example, if a person sprays an herbicide with a garden hose, the herbicide could enter the home's plumbing and then enter the drinking water supply. This could happen if the water pressure in the hose is greater than the water pressure in the home's pipes.

Property owners can help prevent backflow. Pay attention to cross connections, such as garden hoses.

The Minnesota Department of Health and American Water Works Association recommend the following:

- Do not submerge hoses in buckets, pools, tubs, or sinks.
- Keep the end of hoses clear of possible contaminants.
- Do not use spray attachments without a backflow prevention device. Attach these devices to threaded faucets. Such devices are inexpensive and available at hardware stores.
- Use a licensed plumber to install backflow prevention devices.
- Maintain air gaps between hose outlets and liquids. An air gap is a vertical space between the water outlet and the flood level of a fixture (e.g. the space between a wall-mounted faucet and the sink rim). It must be at least twice the diameter of the water supply outlet, and at least one inch.
- Commercial property owners should develop a plan for flushing or cleaning water systems to minimize the risk of drawing contaminants into uncontaminated areas.

HOME WATER TREATMENT

Overview

Most Minnesotans, whether they drink from a public water supply or a private well, have drinking water that does not need treatment for health protection. Water treatment units are best for improving the physical qualities of water—the taste, color, or odor.

No single treatment process can remove all substances in water. If you decide to install a home water treatment unit, choose a unit certified and labeled to reduce or remove the substance of concern. If there is more than one substance you want to remove from your water, you may need to combine several treatment processes into one system.

Even well-designed treatments systems can fail. You should continue to test your drinking water after you install a treatment unit. All home water treatment units need regular maintenance to work correctly. Regular maintenance may include changing filters, disinfecting the unit, or cleaning scale buildup. Always install, clean, and maintain a treatment unit according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Learn more at [Home Water Treatment \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/hometreatment.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/hometreatment.html).

Beware of Water Treatment Scams

False claims, deceptive sales pitches, or scare tactics have been used by some water treatment companies. Every person has a right to decide what is best for themselves and their family, and you may choose to install additional water treatment to further lower the levels of contaminants of emerging concern, chlorine, and other chemicals in your water. However, you should be cautious about purchasing a water treatment system. If you are considering the purchase of a home water treatment system, please read the Minnesota Department of Health's recommendations online at [Warning: Beware of Water Treatment Scams \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/beware.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/beware.html).

City of Oak Park Heights

14168 Oak Park Blvd N

Oak Park Heights, MN 55082-2007

Presorted
Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Twin Cities, MN
Permit No. 90100

City of Oak Park Heights

14168 Oak Park Blvd. N.
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
Carly Johnson: 261-5801
Mike Liljegren: 351-2742
Mike Runk: 439-5458

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.*

OAK PARK HEIGHTS SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY

The City of Oak Park Heights will be hosting a Spring Clean-up on
Saturday, May 4, 2019 from 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The Clean-up will be in the southwest corner of the former St. Croix Mall (Andersen Corporation) parking lot in Oak Park Heights. Proof of residency such as a utility bill or driver's license will be required.

COMMON ITEMS DISPOSED OF:

- Appliances such as washers, dryers, ovens, and water heaters
- Brush and yard waste (please use compostable bags)
- Construction materials such as doors, windows, and lumber
- Furniture such as sofas, chairs, and tables
- scrap metal
- carpet
- Electronics such as televisions and computers
- Lawnmowers (please drain all gas and oil)



THE FOLLOWING WILL NOT ACCEPTED:

- Mattresses and box springs will not be accepted at this event, but can still be picked up curbside for no charge—please call City Hall to schedule)
- Hazardous waste (such as paints, stains, oil, gas, pesticides, or other chemicals from your home)
- Tires, stumps, and firewood

If you have any questions, please call City Hall at 651-439-4439.