

FIICLEY COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Parks and Rectedion

MARCH/APRIL 2022 NO. 235

WE BELIEVE IN A FRIDLEY THAT IS A SAFE, VIBRANT, FRIENDLY AND STABLE HOME FOR FAMILIES AND BUSINESSES.

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email: info@FridleyMN.gov

Mayor – Scott Lund

Councilmember-at-Large – David Ostwald Councilmember 1st Ward – Tom Tillberry Councilmember 2nd Ward – Steve Eggert Councilmember 3rd Ward – Ann Bolkcom City Manager – Wally Wysopal

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Adopt-A-Park

You can make a difference! The City of Fridley is looking for community members, families, organizations, and businesses to adopt a park. Adopt-A-Park participants will work alongside City of Fridley Parks and Recreation staff to help keep our City parks clean and beautiful.

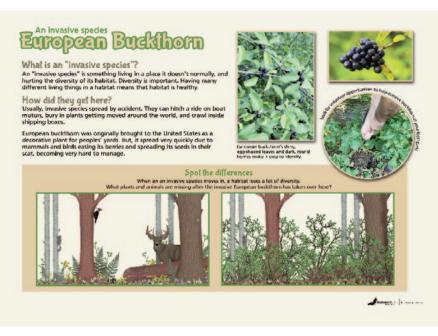
Volunteers will be responsible for picking up litter, removing weeds, and reporting any vandalism or safety hazards to City staff. Responsibilities may vary from park to park. Adopting a park is a minimum one-year commitment with four cleanups per year. The City has over 30 different City parks available for adoption. After you have been approved to adopt a park, you will have a short training with Fridley Parks staff to learn more about your adopted park. The City of Fridley will recognize

Adopt-A-Park participants through community events and by placing signs in adopted parks with the Adopt-A-Park group's name. To check which parks are available to adopt and register, please visit **FridleyMN.gov/AdoptAPark** or call Fridley Parks and Recreation at 763-572-3570.

Adopt-A-Park Success Story

The City of Fridley would like to thank Frank and Maija Sedzielarz for their wonderful work adopting Innsbruck Nature Center through the City of Fridley's Adopt-a-Park program! Frank and Maija have gone above and beyond the normal expectations of an Adopt-A-Park group and made a generous donation to fund a much-needed improvement to the park, a replacement of damaged interpretive signage.





Pictured above, is one of five new interpretive signs that were purchased and installed through their generous donation. In addition to the sign pictured on invasive species, other educational topics include Great-Horned Owls, Painted Turtles, White-tailed Deer, and Dragonflies. Thank you, Frank and Maija!





Development Update

Ursa at Fridley Station Village

Ursa, the affordable building at Fridley Station Village located at 6030 Main Street is now accepting applications and opened February 2022. This 73-unit apartment building includes one-bedroom, two-bedroom and threebedroom floor plans. Each home features in-home washer/dryer, kitchen island, private balcony or patio, and fully equipped kitchen with black appliances. Building amenities include Club Room, Outdoor Patio with grill station, Fitness Center, Outdoor Tot Lot, Electronic Package Concierge, private resident storage, and underground and surface lot parking options. Ursa participates in an affordable housing program and household income limits apply to all homes.

For more information visit LiveAtUrsa.com or call 651-504-0511.





Medtronic: Rice Creek Campus

Medtronic's Rice Creek Campus at 7000 Central Avenue N.E. continues to work on their new entrance feature and complex chiller addition to their building. The campus has been and continues to be a very striking campus with beautiful corporate architecture; befitting of the renowned international medical device industry that it has become. Additional landscaping and some drive-aisle parking modifications will be made as well. Rain gardens have been planned by the new entry to both enhance the beauty of the site and to manage and treat storm water before it enters the creek. The project expects to be completed by mid-May 2022.

Harbors Assisted Living at 53rd Avenue and 4th Street N.E.

The 18-unit addition to the Harbors Assisted Living building at 5300 4th Street is complete. The addition is connected to the original building through a 2-level skyway. Landscaping and exterior and interior finishing touches were completed last fall. For more information visit TheHarborsMN.com or call 763-792-8990.



Vacant Lot behind Target on 53rd Avenue.

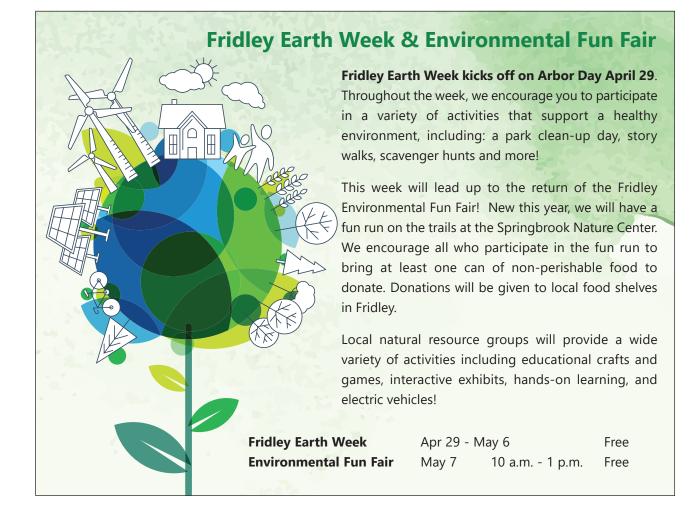
In 2020, a developer received City Council approval to construct an assisted living facility on the vacant lot behind Target. In anticipation of that property being developed, the developer cleared many of the large trees. Further review of that project is expected by the Planning Commission and the City Council in April or May 2022.

Save the Date: 2022 Town Hall Meeting

SATURDAY, APRIL 23 AT 10 A.M. FRIDLEY CIVIC CAMPUS – CITY HALL

Join us for our annual town hall meeting! You will hear from City leaders with updates on projects, developments and other initiatives. It will also be a great opportunity to provide community input through a question and answer session.

More information will become available on our website at **FridleyMN.gov** and social media channels.



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2022 Elections Information

- August 9, 2022 Regular Primary
- November 8, 2022 General Election

Important Dates

- Candidate Filing for Fridley offices begins May 17, 2022 and runs through May 31, 2022
- Early Voting for the Regular Primary begins June 24, 2022
- Early Voting for the General Election begins September 23, 2022

Local Candidates

For Fridley City Council, the following vacancies will be on the ballot: Council members for Wards 1, 2 and 3. Terms for these Council positions are four years beginning January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2026.

Election Judges

Election judges help guarantee the rights of voters are protected on Election Day. They are responsible for the administration of election procedures in each polling location on Election Day. The City is now recruiting for election judges. If you would like more information, or

are interested in applying please visit the City's website

Redistricting

Redistricting is the process of redrawing the boundaries of election districts to ensure that the people of each district are equally represented. It is done in the United States every ten years, after the completion of the decennial Census. City governments must reestablish all precincts after the State has finalized its redistricting plan. Cities have the option to reconfirm existing precinct boundaries, or they may choose to rewrite, or realign precincts for various reasons. Cities with wards must redistrict ward boundaries to ensure compliance with ward population equality and other legal requirements.

In early 2022, staff will begin meeting to discuss this plan and prepare to assess if ward or precinct boundaries should be redrawn. The City Manager and City Clerk will provide goals and timelines to prepare the plan in anticipation of receiving Federal census data. The City may not redistrict its wards before the State legislative redistricting plan has been adopted. Once the State's redistricting has been completed, the City may redistrict wards and precincts within 60 days of legislative redistricting, or by March 29, 2022, whichever comes first.

An ordinance establishing new ward boundaries will follow the City's required process for City Code updates requiring two readings and publication in the Official Publication. Pursuant to State law, the redrawn ward boundaries will become effective on August 9, 2022, the date of the State primary election. For more information on the City's redistricting project, please visit FridleyMN.gov/1594/Redistricting.

For More Information

For more detailed election and voter information, including where to vote, please visit the Minnesota Secretary of State's website at www.sos.state.mn.us or contact the City Clerk's office at CityClerk@FridleyMN.gov.

Recodification

A complete review and update of the Fridley City Code (Code) is underway. The recodification process involves the Fridley City Council (Council), the City Attorney and a wide array of staff who work collaboratively to suggest updates to the Code for the public and Council to consider. The process will include a thorough inventory of the Code, analysis of every chapter to ensure compliance and alignment with the Charter, state statutes, federal laws and various best practices.

The Code is a collection of ordinances, or local laws, adopted by the Council and arranged into a common structure. Coupled with the City Charter (Charter), it provides the foundation for nearly all municipal functions – it governs

numerous procedures of the City, and many behaviors of residents and business owners. On August 23, 2021, the Council authorized the City Manager to begin recodification. The project is led by the City Manager's Office and facilitated by the City Clerk's Office. At its January 24, 2022 meeting the Council heard an update from staff on Title 1 of the Code and provided direction. At its meetings in February the Council conducted a public hearing and two considerations of the ordinance to update Title 1. The City has created a webpage for the project where all supporting documents may be viewed. Any questions on the project may be directed to the City Clerk's office at CityClerk@FridleyMN.gov.



Reminder: Sales and Repair of Vehicles

Repair or painting of motor vehicles and small engines is not permitted either as a business or a hobby. Minor repairs are allowed if completed within one day.

Vehicle dealers cannot buy, sell or store vehicles on residential property.



DIY Resilient Yards Workshops from Blue Thumb

Will you be spending time in your yard this summer? Before you begin your projects, attend a Blue Thumb workshop to learn simple, DIY tactics that make your yard healthy and beautiful, welcoming to pollinators, and protect our lakes and streams.

You will receive online resources when you register for a workshop. Join the workshop on Zoom on April 12 from 6:30 - 8 p.m. to learn about rain gardens, native plantings for pollinators, bee lawns, and the Lawns to Legumes program. Bring your questions about landscape design, soil health, trees and shrubs, and more. The cost is \$15 (scholarships are available). Register for a workshop on the Blue Thumb website: bluethumb.org/events.

This workshop is sponsored by the Rice Creek Watershed District, Anoka Conservation District, and the City of Fridley..

Other workshops available this spring include Resilient Yards workshops on March 29 and May 5, and a Pollinator Plants and Bee Lawns workshop on April 5.

Recycling Drop-off

March 12 from 8 a.m. - noon

All Fridley residents can receive \$30 in free items with proof of residency. What can that include?

- Two appliances
- A small TV
- Electronic media
- A large 60" TV for only \$25
- 4 Tires
- · And more!

Recycle your mattresses appliances, electronic, batteries, and more. All recycling drop-offs will be held at Recycle Technologies Inc. (formerly Green Lights Recycling), enter at 1525 99th Lane NE, Blaine. Paper shredding, scrap metal, batteries, fluorescent light bulbs, bicycles and handheld electronics are always free. See a full pricing list at

FridleyMN.gov/Dropoff



Fridley Community Calendar

March

- 3 Housing & Redevelopment Authority Meeting
- 7 Charter Commission Meeting
- 7 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting
- 8 Environmental Quality & Energy Commission Meeting
- 14 City Council Meeting
- 16 Planning Commission Meeting
- 28 City Council Meeting

April

- 4 Charter Commission Meeting
- 4 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting
- 7 Housing & Redevelopment Authority Meeting
- 11 City Council Meeting
- 12 Environmental Quality & Energy Commission Meeting
- 20 Planning Commission Meeting
- 23 Town Hall Meeting
- 25 City Council Meeting

NOTE: City Council and Commission meetings start at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are held at the Fridley Civic Campus, 7071 University Avenue NE. The public is welcome.

Hearing impaired persons who need an interpreter or other persons with disabilities who require auxiliary aids and would like to attend a meeting, should contact Roberta Collins at 763-572-3500 at least one week in advance.

Organics Recycling – It's Easier Than You Think

Landfills around the Twin Cities are running out of space, making it more important than ever to reduce our trash. If you already recycle at home, it is easy to start recycling your organics as well. Organics, such as food waste, paper towels, and compostable products, are the most common types of material in the trash and the greatest source of greenhouse gas emissions from landfills.

Similar to bottles and cans, your food waste can be collected, processed, and turned into something valuable—compost! Organics recycling is as easy as regular recycling. Sign up for the organics recycling program, collect your organics in the compostable bags*, put the bags in your organics recycling cart, and wheel the cart down to the curb on organics recycling day. Your organic material will be collected by Republic Services and sent to a commercial composting facility.

*Compostable bags are available for free to program participants at City Hall and Springbrook Nature Center and also can be purchased from local retailers.



Sign up for organics recycling at **FridleyMN.gov/Organics.**

Program is \$10.98/month through Republic Services

Three Free Months when you sign up in March*

*Free months will be applied to second billing cycle.



FREE Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event

Products used to maintain your home, yard and vehicle or control pests are hazardous. Drop them off at our free household hazardous waste collection site for safe disposal.

HOW DO I KNOW?

Check the label. If it says CAUTION, WARNING, DANGER or POISON, it doesn't belong in the trash unless the containers are empty.

ITEMS ACCEPTED

Antifreeze

Batteries

Bug killers/repellents

Cell phones

Cleaners

Light bulbs and string lights

Fluorescent lights

Gasoline
Mercury thermometers
Needles and syringes

PaintPropane

Propane tanks (full or empty)
Oil and filters

Vaping devices
Weed killer

Prescription medication (pills, powders, liquids, creams, sprays and pet medications)

Scan for more accepted items:



COLLECTION SITE

EVENT HOURS

Saturday, April 30, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

COLLECTION EVENT DETAILS

AT THE EVENT:

Load items into your truck or cargo bed and stay in your vehicle while staff unload. Bring drivers license or proof of residency.

CAN'T MAKE IT?

Visit the year-round collection site in Blaine for HHW disposal. Find location and hours at AnokaCounty.us/HHW.



Questions? Visit AnokaCounty.us/HHW or call 763-324-3400.

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Get Comfortable in 2022- New Insulation Rebates!

New in 2022, the Fridley HRA is offering rebates of up to \$500 for home insulation projects. If your home feels drafty in the winter or hot in the summer, improved insulation and air sealing can help. Adding insulation to your attics and walls has many benefits including improved comfort, lower energy bills, increased energy efficiency, and prolonged life of your home mechanicals such as the air conditioner and furnace. Improved insulation can also eliminate ice dams and frozen gutters which form as heat from your home escapes and melts the snow on your roof. While insulation projects typically pay for themselves in a few years through energy bill

savings, this program offsets the upfront cost to make it easier than ever to get started.

The Fridley Insulation Rebate will match utility (Xcel Energy or CenterPoint Energy) insulation rebates up to \$500 for projects completed after January 1, 2022. All applicants must have had a Home Energy Squad visit occurring after January 1, 2019 to qualify. During the Home Energy Squad visit, you will receive a blower door test to measure your home for air leaks, as well as a complete insulation inspection of your attic and walls using an infrared camera, among

other services. The Home Energy Squad advisors will let you know if you qualify for a rebate and help schedule your project from a list of pre-approved contractors. Once you receive your utility rebate, simply send the City a copy and complete the short application to receive your insulation rebate. Qualified attic air sealing, attic insulation, wall insulation, and rim joist insulation projects are eligible. Funding is available on a limited, first-come basis. Learn more about the insulation rebate and other HRA programs at **FridleyMN.gov/HomePrograms** or call 763-572-3593.

Spring Cleaning: Streets Style

Spring will (hopefully!) be arriving soon! Our street sweepers are eager to get all the salt and sand off of the roads. Due to the unpredictable personality of Minnesota weather, we are not able to provide an exact date for street sweeping. Our Public Works team tries to clear the streets after the last snowfall, and before the "April showers." Typically, streets are cleaned in late March or early April.

Street sweeping is essential to remove winter debris buildup before the rainy season arrives to avoid washing salt and other debris into the City's storm sewer system. We do this to reduce stormwater pollution and maintain the water quality. Ways you can help include: picking up dog poop, sweeping near your storm drains, or installing a raingarden on your property.

Hydrant flushing

After we finish street sweeping, we move onto hydrant flushing in April. Hydrant flushing occurs twice a year, in the spring and fall, when the City flushes its water mains through the fire hydrants. This helps clear the water of small amounts of sediment like iron or manganese that settle over time and it verifies that the hydrants are in good working order.

During hydrant flushing, deposits from the water lines may create yellowish-brownish discoloration of water in homes hear the flushing area. While this water is safe for drinking, it may discolor laundry. If discoloration lasts longer than two days, call us at 763-572-3566. You can also call the same number for current flushing locations and updated information.





Migration Celebration

Saturday, May 14 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Bring the entire family to Springbrook Nature Center to learn more about birds through hikes, crafts, games, and more. Free event! Learn more at SpringbrookNatureCenter.org.





Daylight Savings Time Begins March 13

Change Your Clocks, Change Your Batteries

Now is a great time to change the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors!

FridleyMN.gov/FireSafety

Change Your Clocks, Change Your Batteries

It is almost time to "spring forward" and change your clocks as daylight savings time starts. Fridley Public Safety also recommends that when you change your clocks, it is a great time to change the batteries on your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors as well. The National Fire Protection Association reports that everyone should switch out their smoke alarm batteries twice per year. Make it an easy-to-remember task by pairing it with updating your clocks. Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, tasteless and invisible gas. Signs of CO poisoning include headache, nausea, fatigue, vomiting and disorientation. Cooking and heating units that burn fuel and are not properly ventilated or malfunction can be a source of CO in the home.

What You Need to Know

- Carbon monoxide alarms should be installed within 10 feet of each sleeping room or inside each sleeping room.
- Test alarm monthly.
- Follow the instructions on the package to properly install the CO alarm.
- If the battery is low, replace it.

If the Alarm Sounds

- Make sure you and your family know the sound the CO alarm makes.
- The CO alarm will sound if CO is detected. It makes a different type of sound to indicate a low battery.
- If a CO alarm sounds and you feel ill, make sure everyone in the house gets to fresh air and call 9-1-1 immediately.

Prevent CO Poisoning

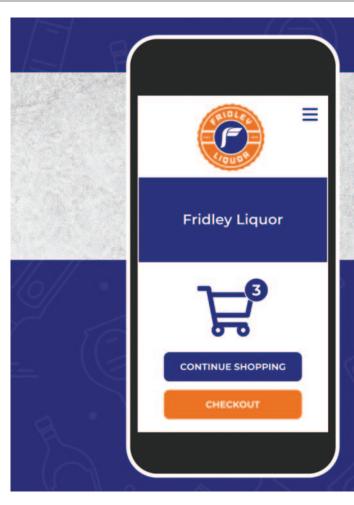
- When warming a vehicle, move it out of the garage. Opening the garage door is not enough.
- Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not blocked by snow or anything else.
- During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove and fireplace are clear of snow buildup.
- A gas-powered generator should only be used outdoors and in a well-ventilated location away from windows, doors and vent openings.

- Gas and charcoal grills can produce CO, only use them outside.
- Never use your oven or stove to heat your home.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys inspected by a professional yearly.

For questions about fire safety and preventing CO poisoning, contact the Fridley Fire Division by email at FridleyFire@FridleyMN.gov or call 763-572-3613.

Free Batteries through Fridley Fire

Fridley Fire is still offering free batteries, as well as smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to all Fridley residents. As you check your detectors on March 13, if you need a new smoke or carbon monoxide detector call the Fridley Fire Division at 763-572-3616 or request one online at **FridleyPublicSafety.org/1546**.



BUY ONLINE

Pickup curbside or in-store

START SHOPPING AT FridleyLiquor.com/Shop

Available only at the 57th Ave. location (next to Cub Foods)

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Fridley Fire Division's Tips for Tornado Safety

March is the beginning of tornado season in Minnesota. Fridley Fire Division wants to remind you that the safest place to be in the event of a tornado is an underground shelter, such as a basement. If you do not have a basement, pick a small, windowless interior room or hallway on the lowest level.

Remember the word, DUCK when a tornado warning is issued or if threatening weather is forecast.

DUCK stands for:

- **D** Down to the lowest level
- **U** Under something sturdy
- C Cover your head
- K Keep in shelter until the storm has passed

"It's also important to know your community's tornado alert system," says James Lange, Fire Marshal/Chief 2. "Tornados often occur suddenly with little or no warning." Fridley Fire Division also recommends subscribing to alert services that will send text messages or emails alerting you to local emergencies or bad weather.





Fire Safety Now that spring is here, Fi

Recreational

Now that spring is here, Fridley Fire Division wants you to enjoy your recreational fires safely. Here is a reminder of Fridley's recreational fire rules:

- No fires are allowed between midnight and 9 a.m.
- Only clean wood or charcoal may be burned. This means no burning of trash, leaves and brush.
- The ground within 5' of the fire pit or other contained area must be cleared of all combustible material.
- The fire pit or other contained area must be at least 25' away from a structure. This distance may be reduced to within 15' from a structure when contained in an outdoor fireplace or container approved by the Fridley Fire Division.
- Recreational fires may not be started on windy days when smoke may create a nuisance for neighbors.
- The fire must be attended by an adult from the time it is ignited until it is fully extinguished.
- Fire extinguishing equipment, such as a garden hose, must be readily available to put out the fire.

Poison Prevention

While some poisonous products, such as household cleaners, are obvious, others might not be so easy to spot. According to Nationwide's "Make Safe Happen" campaign the top five poisonous household products include hand sanitizers, button batteries, laundry detergent packets, e-cigarettes and medications.

Fridley Fire Division warns that these items pose a bigger risk than you may think. For example, just two to three squirts of certain hand sanitizers can make children really sick – even to the point of alcohol poisoning.

Children have a way of getting into everything, even household items that can be dangerous. In fact, nine out of 10 poisonings occur in the home.

It is important to keep these products up high and put away.

For more information about poison prevention, visit Makesafehappen.com/safety-tips/poison-prevention-kids.

If you have any questions about poisoning, call 1-800-222-1222 or call 9-1-1 for potentially lifethreatening situations.



Winter Parking in Effect through April 1

Friendly reminder: Fridley does not declare snow emergencies. From November 1 through April 1, however, it is a violation to park any vehicle on City streets between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m.

It is a violation to stop, park or leave standing a vehicle in such a manner as to impede the plowing or removal of snow, ice or waste from public streets or highways regardless of date or time.

Violators will be tagged and towed, and subject to storage charges.

Fridley City Code, Chapter 506.05



Seasonal Hiring

We will begin hiring for our seasonal Recreationand Public Works positions soon! Visit **FridleyMN.gov/Jobs** to look for open positions as well as create an account on NEOGOV to receive job posting updates.

Typical openings include:

Recreation Program Assistant

Examples of work performed include: helping to carry out lesson plans and activities, playing and interacting with children, and chaperoning off-site trips. Daytime hours, Monday - Friday, starting in June.

Preschool Program Assistant

Examples of work performed include helping to carry out lesson plans and activities, playing, crafting and interacting with children.

Preschool Program Leader

Examples of work performed include creating and leading lesson plans (crafts, songs, games and more), playing and interacting with children, and communicating regularly with parents and guardians. Monday through Thursday.

Youth Sports Instructor

These positions are responsible for instructing youth ages 4-10 in a variety of instructional sports including soccer, t-ball, track, and more. Daytime and evening shifts, flexible schedule.

Seasonal/Temporary Public Works Maintenance

Hiring now! Do you like working outdoors? Join Fridley Public Works this summer! Help perform a variety of tasks for the parks, streets, sewer and water divisions. Monday through Friday hours available. Pay range is \$15.19 - \$17.51 per hour.







See Parks and Recreation Brochure for more information.

Full Camp Descriptions and Health Guidelines are available at springbrooknaturecenter.org

This is a popular, all-day program (7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) that offers continuous activities running June 14 - August 19. Kids grades K-7 get to participate a wide variety of activities each week (see Parks and Recreation brochure for details). All activities are included in the weekly fee of \$165. Full information and registration will be available in March at **FridleyMN.gov/Rec**





44th Avenue Bridge – Resident Feedback Needed

Anoka County and the City of Fridley are requesting resident feedback on need and scope for improvements to the 44th Avenue bridge over the BNSF railroad tracks between East River Road and Main Street. During public outreach on the City's trail



plan in 2019, the 44th Avenue bridge was identified as a safety concern for bicyclists and pedestrians due to lack of sidewalks and trails. Staff are requesting resident feedback to determine and shape this project. Share your thoughts on the bridge at **FridleyMN.gov/44thBridge**.