



APRIL/MAY 2026

PL PAPER

The official newsletter for City of Prior Lake

priorlakemn.gov

New Park Plan Moves Forward

Alternative approach to Parks Master Plan offers new options



City staff and members of the City Council have spent the past four months developing an alternative approach to manage the city's extensive park system after voters rejected a Parks Master Plan referendum last November. The plan was eight years in the making and identified \$120 million in need within our existing parks.

"There are 49 parks in the city of Prior Lake. This is four times the number of parks in other cities of our population size," said Kirt Briggs, Prior Lake Mayor. "Parks are a wonderful amenity to have, but they come with a need for ongoing investment. Many of our parks are now over 30 years old and showing their age as

maintenance costs mount. With the voters providing clear direction to council, it is time to put our parks on a sustainable financial path forward for our growing community."

Put simply, the city has more parks than it can maintain long-term and city leaders are considering consolidating parks that are close in proximity and have similar amenities. The goal is to efficiently deliver more varied experiences by reducing duplicative and worn-out features across our parks system.

Another option under consideration is divesting parcels of land with the proceeds from the sales being reinvested into the city's parks and trails. The city also continues to pursue outside funding sources, actively applying for grants and exploring partnerships to help cover maintenance and improvement costs.

Residents continue to show strong support for parks and trails, which is something the city looks to preserve even as it reevaluates how the system is funded and maintained.

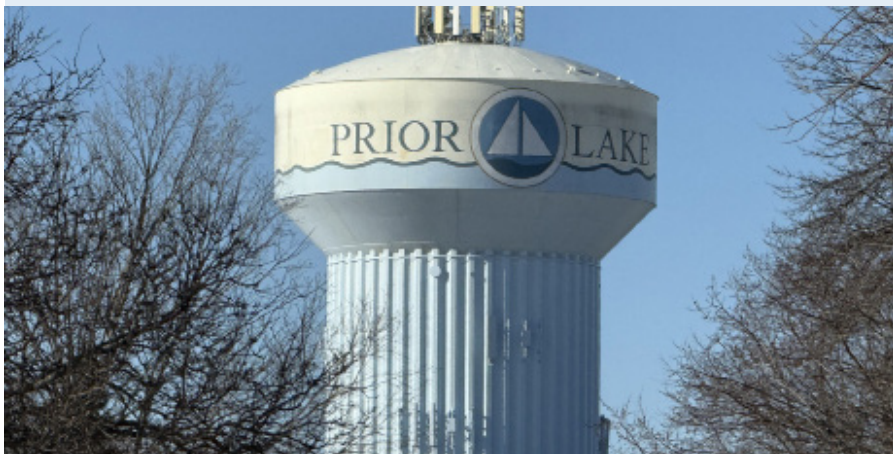
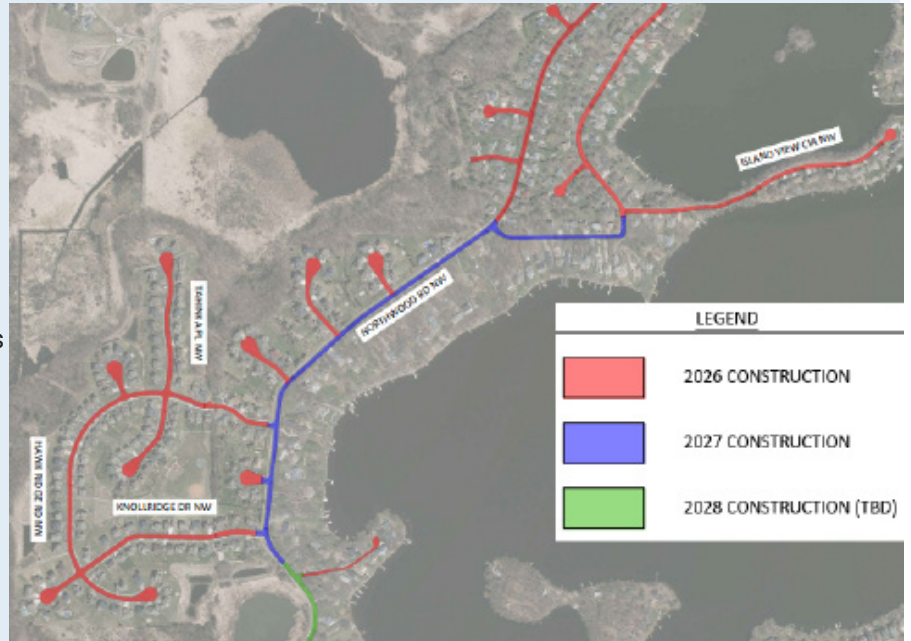
"Our end goal is clear," Briggs said. "We want to preserve what residents love about our parks while making responsible decisions that keep the system strong for future generations."



2026 City Improvement Projects

Northwood Road

This spring, the City will start a three-year road and utility improvement project in the Northwood Road area. Work entails replacement of all public utilities and the full reconstruction of Northwood Road. Side street improvements include rehabilitation of roadways, spot curb and gutter replacement, and some spot utility repairs. The primary focus for 2026 will be the side roads and cul-de-sacs off Northwood Road. Full reconstruction of Northwood Road is slated for 2027 and the final stretch along Butternut Circle completed in 2028. For more information about this project, email info@northwoodroadimprovements.com or contact the project hotline at 952-373-0176.

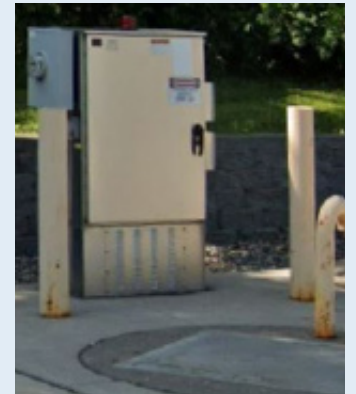


North Water Tower

The north water tower off County Road 42 and Crest Ave. will be repainted in 2026. The tower will be offline during this project, but no interruption to service is anticipated. The color scheme will match the south tower that was painted in 2021. More details will be shared as the project gets closer.

Raymond and Spring Lake Lift Stations

The City has 41 sanitary sewer lift stations to transport wastewater to the water treatment location. These lift stations are inspected weekly and rehabilitated every 15-20 years to help prevent costly backups in the system. Raymond and Spring Lake lift stations are scheduled for rehabilitation in 2026.



For more information about city street, utility improvement projects, and much more visit: priorlakemn.gov/maps

Cora Apartments Breaks Ground

Project years in the making now underway



The first phase of construction on the Cora Apartments development officially began January 20 with the demolition of two single-family homes on Dakota Street between City Hall and Lakefront Plaza.

The \$32 million mixed-use project includes 105 market-rate rental apartments, a street-front restaurant with rooftop deck, tenant outdoor amenities, underground parking, and an additional 28 off-street public parking stalls and six on-street parking spaces.

Other notable projects under development or completed:

Chula's Mexican-Latin Food & Spirits, 4636 Colorado St SE, expected to open this spring.

Dunkin' Donuts & Baskin Robbins, 5020 160th St. SE, opening to be determined.

Valvoline Instant Oil Change, 4120 Village Lake Drive, is now open.



Prior Lake Police Department Police Officer and Support Services Person of the Year Award



At the January 27 City Council meeting, the City recognized two Police Department employees for their outstanding service.

Officer Amanda Ley (left) was named 2025 Police Officer of the Year. In 2025, Officer Ley recorded 52 DUI arrests which reflects her proactive approach to impaired driving enforcement. Officer Ley is widely respected for her work ethic, professionalism, and commitment to our community.

Heidi Burton (below) was also honored as 2025 Support Services Person of the Year. Burton served as the PLPD's Evidence Technician, a critical role that ensures crime evidence

is managed properly to assist with police investigations. Burton stepped down from her position this January to transition to the next chapter of her life – motherhood. Burton is expecting her first child later this year.

Selected by their PLPD peers, both honorees were praised for their exemplary performance and contribution to the PLPD. Congratulations to Officer Ley and Heidi Burton on their well-deserved recognition.



City of Prior Lake Calendar

- April 14** City Council Meeting City Hall/7pm
- April 28** City Council Meeting City Hall/7pm
- May 12** City Council Meeting City Hall/7pm
- May 15** Music in the Park - Zero Below
Lakefront Park/6pm
- May 19** Somethin' Bout a Truck
Maintenance Center (17073 Adelmann St.)/4pm
- May 25** Memorial Day Holiday City Offices Closed
- May 30** Bike Rodeo 2026
Hidden Oaks Middle School/11am-3pm

Looking Ahead: Coin Carnival is June 12 and Beach Party is July 10



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City Council

- Kirt Briggs**
Mayor
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- Zach Braid**
Council Member
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- Kimberly Churchill**
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- Ethan Hellier**
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City Manager
Jason Wedel
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Somethin' 'Bout A Truck

Come explore the vehicles that help maintain our city!

Tuesday, May 19
4-7 p.m.

Prior Lake Maintenance Center
17073 Adelmann St SE
(weather make up date: May 20)



*MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

SATURDAY MAY 30
11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Hidden Oaks Middle School
15855 Fish Point Rd., Prior Lake
Free Event for ages 3-17

Prizes • Bike Obstacle Courses • Learn Traffic Laws
Learn Bike Safety • Meet First Responders
Emergency Vehicles • Open to scooters and wheelchairs
Helmets required
Bring your own wheels - equipment not provided



Pre-Registration encouraged at: priorlakemn.gov/bikerodeo

LAKEFRONT PARK BANDSHELL



Sit back and enjoy a free concert with friends!

Please bring a chair, your friends, dancing shoes and cash for food trucks.

Coolers are allowed in the park, but glass containers are not permitted.

May 15, 6-8 p.m.
ZERO BELOW

June 5, 6-8 p.m.
The C Notes

July 24, 6-7 p.m.
Prior Lake Windjammers

August 28, 6-8 p.m.
Skitzo Fonik

COIN CARNIVAL



Bring your coins to the kid's coin carnival. Any coin, for any game. Give each game a try to win carnival prizes. Games will include Hi-Striker, Duck Pond, Plinko and more! Local businesses can get involved by hosting games.

Friday, June 12 • 4-7 p.m.
Lakefront Park

To become a game host, visit priorlakemn.gov/sponsorship