



Waconia Wavelength

A City of Waconia Newsletter Publication

April 2020



City of Waconia and COVID-19

The City of Waconia is closely monitoring the COVID-19 virus and situation. To help mitigate the spread of the virus and protect our citizens, employees, and their families the City has implemented the following changes:

- City Hall is closed to the public. City staff are still working and are available by phone (952-442-2184), email, or appointment. During the Governor's "Shelter in Place" order, City staff will be working rotating shifts in an effort to promote social distancing between staff and to keep City services running.
- Public Services staff are assisting property owners with questions by phone and will only do home visits in emergent cases. Staff will be working rotating shifts in small teams in an effort to promote social distancing and keep essential services running. The Public Services Facility is operating by appointment only. Public Services staff can be reached at 952-442-2615.
- Safari Island Community Center and the Waconia Ice Arena are currently closed.
- Park Board and Planning Commission meetings have been cancelled during the next few weeks. City Council meetings are being conducted virtually.

How can you help?

Over the coming weeks, there are several things that Waconia residents can do to help during this difficult time.

- Take all appropriate measures in preventing the spread of this virus, including: washing your hands with soap and water, covering your cough, avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth, avoid close contact with people who are sick, and stay home when you are sick.
- Please be mindful that paper towels, baby wipes, flushable wipes, and other similar items do not break down like toilet paper and can cause sanitary sewer overflows, which in turn can cause additional public health issues. Paper products other than toilet paper can clog your city sewer system, including pipes and pumps. **We are asking that you do not flush anything other than toilet paper down your toilet.**
- Please continue to shop and eat local! It is so important to our many small businesses in town! Many of your favorite places in town are offering delivery or curbside pick-up!

Additional information & resources

- You can continue to use and drink water from your tap as usual. The EPA has a [Q&A \(link\)](#) available that answers questions surrounding COVID-19 and drinking water.
- During this time when students are not able to access their school buildings, the Waconia School District and Café #110 is offering free meals to all children 18 and under, available for pick-up Monday through Friday. More information is available on the [school district's website](#).
- Workers who are not able to work as a result of COVID-19 have benefits available to them. Workers who are unemployed or have hours reduced due to the COVID-19 outbreak are asked to apply for unemployment benefits online at [uimn.org \(link\)](#).

Please visit www.waconia.org/COVID-19 for more details on the City's response and additional resources. We appreciate the dynamic and rapidly changing situation we are all in and know it has required difficult decisions for businesses, residents, and organizations in our community. Waconia is a strong and caring community, and we are confident we will all get through this together.

2020 Infrastructure Improvement Project

Each year, infrastructure improvements are planned to be constructed or reconstructed to provide the public with a sustainable system of roads, utilities, trails, and sidewalks as well as to improve the City with greater connectivity among residents, safer traveling for vehicle and pedestrians, and a healthier quality of life.

The 2020 Infrastructure Improvement Project consists of street reconstruction of Main Street from Walnut to Maple; Walnut Street from 3rd Street West to 1st Street West; 3rd Street West from approximately 350 feet west of Cherry Street to approximately 200 feet east of Walnut Street; and Cherry Street from 3rd Street West to 2nd Street West.

The project also includes sidewalk reconstruction along both sides of Main Street and the east side of Walnut Street and new sidewalk construction on the west side of Walnut Street and the south side of 3rd Street. There are also trail reconstructions planned for the south side of 3rd Street West along the Fairgrounds, along Oak Avenue to the north of Highway 5, and along the north side of Community Drive to the east of Wildcat Way.

There are several other components to the project and more details, including a project timeline, can be found at www.waconia.org/2020project.

Hydrant Flushing

Beginning on March 30, the Utilities Department will start the process of flushing hydrants. Hydrant flushing ensures adequate water flow is available to firefighters, residents and businesses. It also helps maintain the City's water clarity and quality by clearing iron and mineral deposits from the water mains (distribution pipes).



While hydrant flushing is happening in your area, you may see some slight discoloration in your water. Residents are cautioned against doing laundry, especially white clothing, while City crews are in the area. Water is safe to drink and can be cleared up by running the cold water.

Please visit www.waconia.org for more details on when the Utility team will be in your neighborhood.

2020 Yard Waste/Compost Schedule



Compost and yard waste drop off for City of Waconia residents has been **cancelled for the month of April**.

At the moment, we anticipate reopening in May, but dates and times may change. We will keep the public posted via the City's newsletter and [website \(www.waconia.org/compost\)](http://www.waconia.org/compost).

Cancelled Events

The spring pancake breakfast which was scheduled for April 19, 2020 has been cancelled.

The annual Public Services Open House event, scheduled for May 2, 2020, has been postponed. A new date for the event is currently pending.

Playground Update

The City of Waconia has elected to close all playgrounds for the duration of the Governor's Stay at Home Order. Playgrounds and park structures aren't sanitized and it is important for everyone to play their part in contributing to the social distancing and stay-at-home guidelines the Governor has issued.

Trails are still open, and we encourage everyone to get out for some fresh air – whether it be a run, walk, bike ride, etc. Be sure to practice social distancing if you are doing so.

The City will also be opening tennis courts this weekend. Tennis is a great sport to play while practicing social distancing. Please continue to monitor the City's social media account and www.waconia.org/COVID-19 for updates related to closures specific to COVID-19.