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City of Inver Grove Heights

Insights

Important Information for Residents

The Program Helps Improve Sustainability

Inver Grove Heights is 100th GreenSteps City in the State

On March 14, City Council passed a resolution and became the 100th GreenStep City – a tie with the City of Barnum, which joined on the same day.

This means the City is on its way to completing several activities that will help it continue to work toward a sustainable future for you, your children, and your children’s children!

Minnesota GreenStep Cities is a voluntary assistance, recognition, and challenge program designed to help cities achieve their sustainability and quality-of-life goals. GreenSteps is a

free, continuous improvement program, managed by a public-private partnership.

The program is based upon 29 Best Practices (which includes 175 possible opportunities to meet those Best Practices) centered on five categories, and address financial, environmental and social matters, as illustrated in the table.

The Best Practices are designed to help cities like ours to provide services in the most efficient and effective manner possible.

For more information about GreenSteps Cities, visit the website at www.mngreenstep.org.

Spring Code-Enforcement Reminder

Please remember to keep your lawns cut to a height of 8 inches or under. Tall grass can attract critters and give a property the appearance of vacancy, which can target vandals.

If you compost, please be mindful that compost piles must be screened from view and fenced or enclosed on three sides to prevent the scattering of yard wastes.

Only yard waste produced on the property can be composted on the site and the pile should be managed in a manner to prevent odor, harborage of animals, and stockpiling of material which does not readily decompose within a calendar year.

<u>Buildings and Lighting Best Practices</u> 1 – 5	<u>Environmental Management Best Practices</u> 15 - 23
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Public Buildings – Existing* 2. Private Buildings - Existing 3. New Green Buildings 4. Outdoor Lighting and Signals 5. Building Reuse 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15. Purchasing* 16. Urban Forests* 17. Stormwater Management* 18. Parks & Trails 19. Surface Water Quality 20. Wastewater and Water Facilities 21. Septic Systems 22. Solid Waste Reduction 23. Local Air Quality 
<u>Land Use Best Practices</u> 6 – 10	<u>Economic & Community Development Best Practices</u> 24 – 29
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Comprehensive Plan* 7. Efficient City Growth 8. Mixed Uses 9. Efficient Highway-Oriented Development 10. Conservation Design 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 24. Benchmarks/Community Engagement* 25. Green Business Development* 26. Renewable Energy 27. Local Food 28. Business Synergies 29. Climate Adaptation/Community Resilience 
<u>Transportation Best Practices</u> 11 – 14	<p>Best Practices are met by completing one or more of the 175 possible opportunities that pertain to each category; the Best Practices marked with an asterisk <i>must</i> be met to reach the Step 3 Level. (The Best Practices highlighted above in yellow, are those that Staff believe the City has already met.) Having identified the minimum of at least 8 Best Practices in which the City already engages, Inver Grove Heights could be named as a Step 2 Level GreenSteps City.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Living Streets* 12. Mobility Options* 13. Efficient City Fleets 14. Demand Side Travel Planning 	

River Heights Chamber of Commerce Hires New Director of Tourism

Become an Election Judge

Be part of the election process. The State Primary is August 9 and the General Election is November 8. Election judges must be at least 18 years old and available for a 2-hour training. Apply under "jobs" invergroveheights.org or request an application via email mtesser@invergroveheights.org.

The River Heights Chamber of Commerce and the Inver Grove Heights Convention and Visitor's Bureau welcome Tracy Shimek as the new Tourism Director.

"We are excited to have Tracy become part of our team on April 11, 2016." says Jennifer Gale, President of the River Heights Chamber of Commerce.

With more than 10 years of experience in the tourism and hospitality industry she brings a great breadth of experience, knowledge and established relationships to the position. She has vast experience in creating and implementing marketing material to engage and communicate to current and future clients including direct mail, email, and sales sheet profiles, as well as engaging customer



Tracy Shimek

outreach by exhibiting at tradeshows and conferences.

In her previous experience with Padelford Riverboats and as a board member for Tour Minnesota Association, she has developed a strong understanding of marketing within the tourism community of the Twin Cities and has experience leveraging relationships to collaboratively promote the region.

Tracy has Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and Political Science from Gustavus Adolphus College in

St. Peter, Minnesota, from which she graduated magna cum laude in June, 2003. She was also a member of Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society.

You can reach Tracy at tracy@visitigh.com.

Oil and Water Don't Mix



Used motor oil is the largest single source of oil pollution in our lakes, rivers and streams.

Watershed Tip



Used motor oil never wears out - it just gets dirty and can be recycled, cleaned and used again. Motor oil poured onto the ground or into storm drains, or tossed into trash cans (even in sealed containers) can contaminate and pollute the soil, groundwater, streams, and rivers.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that over 200 million gallons of do-it-yourself used oil ends up in the trash, in water and poured on the ground each year.

Keep oil out of our lakes and rivers!

- 1) Recycle used motor oil at a local collection center.
- 2) Have your car checked for any leaking fluids that might run-off into storm drains. Cars that leak oil and other fluids pollute our water.
- 3) Recycle and re-use oil filters. Recycling one ton of drained oil filters produces 1,700 pounds of steel and recovers about 60 gallons of used oil.

Stormwater runoff from rain and melting snow flows over rooftops, streets, sidewalks and parking lots, across bare soil, and through lawns and storm drains. As it flows, runoff collects and transports soil, pet waste, salt, pesticides, fertilizer, oil and grease, litter and other pollutants. **This water drains directly into nearby creeks, streams and rivers, without receiving treatment at sewage plants.** One quart of oil poured down a storm drain can contaminate one million gallons of water.

Graphics and content courtesy of Mid-American Regional Council



The Mississippi River

Photo courtesy of pca.state.mn.us

Update on Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area Rulemaking

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is embarking on the next phase of rulemaking for the Mississippi Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA). During this phase, an Administrative Law Judge will review the proposed rules and take public input through a formal comment and public hearing process.

This phase will begin in early April when the DNR publishes a Notice of Hearing to adopt rules for the MRCCA. This notice kicks off an approximately three-month comment period on the proposed rules, including three public hearings in mid-June.

The proposed rules will replace a 37-year-old Executive Order that currently regulates development in the MRCCA. Designated by Governor's Executive Order in the 1970s, the MRCCA is a 72-mile land corridor along the Mississippi River in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.

The MRCCA is governed by special land-development regulations that protect and preserve the unique natural, recreational, transportation, and cultural features of this section of the river.

The corridor comprises 54,000 acres of land in 30 jurisdictions including the easternmost 1,000 feet of Inver Grove Heights, bordering the Mississippi River. These regulations are implemented through local plans and zoning ordinances, and include structure setbacks from the river and bluffs and requirements for structure height, the design of public and private facilities, vegetation management, land alteration,

and subdivisions.

City staff has been involved in rule development over the past five years and have provided feedback to the DNR in the development of rule drafts.

You can find the proposed rules, the Statement of Need and Reasonableness (SONAR) and other information about the proposed rules at the DNR website: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/rules/mrcca/index.html>. The SONAR explains the need and justification for the proposed rules. It's a useful companion document to review along with the proposed rules. To learn more, visit the DNR website and sign up for e-mail updates.

Public Hearings Scheduled

Interested parties may submit written comments on the proposed rules throughout the comment period and/or provide oral comments at one of the following three public hearings:

Tuesday, June 14, 2016, 4:30 p.m.
Schaar's Bluff Gathering Center
8395 127th Street East, Hastings,
Minnesota 55033

Wednesday, June 15, 2016, 4:30 p.m.
Greenhaven Golf Course Event Center
2800 Greenhaven Road, Anoka,
Minnesota 55303

Thursday, June 16, 2016, 10:00 a.m.
Mississippi Watershed Management Organization
2522 Marshall Street NE,
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55418

Inver Grove Heights Contact

The Inver Grove Heights contact for the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area is:

Allan Hunting

City Planner

[ahunting@](mailto:ahunting@invergroveheights.org)

invergroveheights.org

651-450-2554



Farmers' Market Opens in June

Purchase fresh and locally grown fruits, vegetables, seasonings, salsa, honey, flowers, and more at the Saint Paul Farmers' Market! The market will be open on Sundays, June 19 to October 2, 8 a.m.–1 p.m. in the parking lot of Veterans Memorial Community Center. Veterans Memorial Community Center is located at 8055 Barbara Avenue.

Spring Is In the Air and Theft is in Bloom

An unfortunate by-product of our nice spring weather is the "theft from vehicle" calls our officers have been taking lately. Every year as the weather improves we see an increase in these reports.

The good news is you can minimize your chances of being a victim by taking a few simple preventative measures. Parking your vehicle inside your garage, and making sure your garage door is closed before you go to bed is a great way to significantly reduce your chances of being victimized.

If you must park your car outside overnight, lock it, and make sure you leave nothing inside your vehicle that you don't want stolen. The persons committing these crimes are looking for easy targets, and if you leave valuables in your car they will find a way to steal

them.

Finally, your garage door opener, is it in the car you have parked outside? If so, you have just given someone the opportunity to enter your garage, and possibly your home if your service door is unlocked.

Taking these few simple precautions will go a long way towards protecting you and your valuables.

If you see suspicious people in your neighborhood, especially in the evening hours call 9-1-1 immediately. Most of these thieves are caught because a concerned neighbor sees suspicious activity and reports it immediately.

If you do become the victim of a theft from vehicle, call 9-1-1 and report the theft so if and when we catch the thieves we can match your stolen property with the items in their possession.

Volunteer Opportunities

We need volunteers to scan documents for historical preservation and make them easily accessible to staff who need to view them.

You need to be available between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, and ideally could work one to two 3-4 hour shifts per week.

Experience working with office machines, Excel, Adobe, and basic computer skills desired.

Must be detail-oriented, organized, and able to work independently.

Training is provided.

To apply, send an email to Diane Erickson at derickson@invergroveheights.org or call 651-208-4840.

Upcoming: Storm Water Annual Meeting

The City of Inver Grove Heights will be holding a public meeting at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at City Hall, 8150 Barbara Avenue, to review the City's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). This meeting is an opportunity for residents to learn about and provide input on storm water issues as they pertain to the City's SWPPP.

The SWPPP is a document required

by the State and Federal government that outlines how the City will work towards reducing pollution in storm water runoff.

Attendance from City residents is strongly encouraged, as the City seeks your input into the SWPPP. If you are interested in these issues but unable to attend the public meeting, contact Tom Kaldunski, City Engineer, at (651) 450-2572 or via email at tkaldunski@invergroveheights.org by May 9, 2016.

Inver Wood Golf Course — 2016 Season

Our website, www.inverwood.org, provides a convenient way for you to find information and register golf programs and leagues for 2016. Sign up for a group lesson, participate in free clinics, enroll your child in our junior programs, or purchase a player's card.

You'll also find complete information about the golf courses with a video tour of the facility, hole-by-hole descriptions of our course, and video golf lessons.

Book your tee time online at www.inverwood.org or call our reservation line today (651-457-3667).

Did You Know?

- Inver Wood now has an 18-Hole FootGolf Course. Inquire about tee times or groups through our website or call the golf shop at the number above.

- Inver Wood had more than 500 junior and women participants in our Free Friday and Saturday Summer Clinics. Information on dates and times are posted on our website.

- Inver Wood had more than 50,000 rounds last year between our Championship, Executive and FootGolf courses.

Free Log Rolling Demonstration!

See what the sport of log rolling is all about! Sunday, May 22, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.; Monday, June 13, 2-3 p.m., at the Veterans Memorial Community Center.

Free: Log Rolling Clinics

Try your feet at this new aquatic sport! These clinics will go over the basics and allow you to put your best foot forward. Saturday, July 9, 10 a.m.-11 a.m.; Friday, July 22, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Free! Hike It! National Trails Day Event

Celebrate National Trails Day on Saturday, June 4, at 10 a.m. at Harmon Park Reserve! Spend the morning walking these unpaved trails in some of the most beautiful terrain in Inver Grove Heights. Participants will receive a free gift and snack. Wear appropriate shoes as trails are dirt and single-track. Strollers and dogs are not allowed. Event is free.

Pre-registration is recommended by Thursday, June 2, but registrations will be welcomed the day of the event. Register online at www.invergroveheights.org/onlineregistration.

Young or Old...Enjoy a Summer of Free Music & Entertainment

Groovin' In the Park: All kids concerts are at South Valley Park at 10:30 a.m. Rain out location is VMCC; call 651-450-2595 if weather is questionable. Tuesday, June 21: Kid Power with Rachel (music and live-animal show); Tuesday, July 19: Will Hale & Tadpole Parade; Tuesday, August 16: Alphabits.

Free! Junior Footgolf Clinics (Ages 8-17)

Come to Inver Wood and learn about FootGolf! Skills challenges like longest kick and closest to the hole will be held. Grab your soccer ball and friends and join us at Inver Wood Saturdays, May 14, June 11, and July 9, 12:30 p.m.-2 p.m., Inver Wood Golf Course.

Huck Finn Fishing Derby (All Ages)

Set the hook into some fishing with our Huck Finn Fishing Derby. We'll have fishing contests for the largest fish, smallest fish, and most fish caught! Prizes are awarded for tournament winners and each participant receives a fishing goodie bag. Register early, space is limited!

Friday, June 10, 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m.; Check-in at 6 p.m. Simley Island Park. Cost is \$5 per person. Register online at www.invergroveheights.org/onlineregistration.

Penny Carnival

Enjoy games, prizes, inflatable bounce house, special booths, and more! All activities cost between one and five cents. Thursday, July 14, 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m., Veterans Memorial Community Center.

Adult Pickleball Instruction

Pickleball is the fastest-growing sport in North America, and it's a great way to get a workout and have fun. All equipment will be provided for intro and instructional classes. All classes and open play take place at North Valley Park, 2800 70th Street East. Sign up at www.invergroveheights.org/onlineregistration.

Pickleball Intro: Tuesday, June 7: Class times are 6:30 p.m. and 7:30pm; fee: \$5 per class.

Pickleball Instruction: Beginner 1: Tuesdays, June 14 to July 12; 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. or 7:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.; fee: \$52 per class. Beginner 2: Thursdays, June 9 to 30; 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.; fee: \$52.

Pickleball Open Play:

Join this fun and social open play on Thursdays. Beginner to advanced players will have the opportunity to learn the game and/or work on their game. No scheduled matches; come ready to play at 6 or 7 p.m., matches start on the hour. Please bring your own racquet and balls. Thursdays, July 19-Aug. 30. Fee: \$21.

Lacrosse Fundamentals (Ages 4-10)

This is great for beginners and current U9 players. Players will be split up into appropriate age/ability groups. Each week will include skill stations, demonstrations, and games. Equipment is provided but you are welcome to bring your own. Instruction is led by Simley High School coaches.

At Oakwood Park, Sundays, June 12-July 24. Ages 4-6: 5:30-6:30 p.m.; ages 7-10: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Fee: \$55 per session.

Recreation and More

Photo Contest

Are you a great photographer? We are looking to redesign the City's website and need photos of Inver Grove Heights. Photos selected for the website will be displayed in the City Hall lobby and a small token of appreciation will be given out. Send photos to mtesser@invergroveheights.org. Deadline: June 3, 2016.

Youth Tennis

The Recreation Division is offering tennis lessons for youth ages 5-7, tennis club for ages 7-11, and junior team tennis for ages 12-16. All programs begin the week of June 13. For more information, dates and times visit www.invergroveheights.org/onlineregistration.

Insights

Important Information for Residents

This newsletter is published bi-monthly and is mailed, one copy per residence, to all residential and postal customers in the City of Inver Grove Heights.

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU

If you have any comments, give us a call at (651) 450-2500.

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

- George Tourville, Mayor (651) 450-2507
- Tom Bartholomew (651) 450-2505
- Rosemary Piekarski Krech (651) 450-2504
- Paul Hark (651) 450-2503
- Jim Mueller (651) 450-2506

ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

- Joe Lynch (651) 450-2511

ON THE WEB

www.invergroveheights.org

E-MAIL

cityhall@invergroveheights.org



May/June 2016

City Council

- Monday, May 2 Study Session, 6 p.m.
- Monday, May 9 City Council meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall
- Tuesday, May 23 City Council meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall
- Monday, June 6 Study Session, 6 p.m.
- Monday, June 13 City Council meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall
- Monday, June 27 City Council meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall

City Commissions

- Tuesday, May 3 Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall
- Tuesday, May 17 Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall
- Tuesday, June 7 Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall
- Tuesday, June 21 Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall
- Wednesday, May 11 Park & Recreation Commission meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall
- Wednesday, June 8 Park & Recreation Commission meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall
- Thursday, May 26 Environmental Commission meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall
- Thursday, June 23 Environmental Commission meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall

Other

- Monday, May 9 Economic Development Authority, 5 p.m. City Hall
- Tuesday, May 10 Housing Committee, 5 p.m., City Hall
- Thursday, May 26 CVB meeting, 9:30 a.m., River Heights Chamber of Commerce Board Room
- Thursday, June 23 CVB meeting, 9:30 a.m., River Heights Chamber of Commerce Board Room