

TRANSPORTATION



TEXAS AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

This project will start construction in April with expected completion in November 2017. The city will be coordinating the street reconstruction work with CenterPoint Energy's project to replace a 24-inch natural gas main and 10-inch distribution line. Texas Avenue will be closed to through traffic, with a detour on Louisiana Avenue. Project limits: Minnetonka Boulevard to Hwy. 7

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- CenterPoint Energy work starts in April
- City project starts in early summer
- New street will have two vehicle travel lanes, on-street bike lanes and on-street parking
- Pedestrian improvements include bump outs at intersections, sidewalk reconstruction and safety improvements throughout the corridor
- Signal improvements and street light replacement
- Street trees planted throughout the corridor in 2018
- Metro Transit bus service detoured to Sumter Avenue
- Vehicle through traffic detoured to Louisiana Avenue

SOUTHWEST LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT (SWLRT)

Construction is expected to start in late 2017, with work from Eden Prairie to Target Field in Minneapolis expected to last into 2020. More information related to construction in St. Louis Park available later this summer. Service is expected to begin in 2021.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Light rail stations at Louisiana Avenue, Wooddale Avenue and Beltline Boulevard
- Park-and-ride lots at Louisiana Avenue and Beltline Boulevard
- The Three Rivers Cedar Lake Regional Trail will be grade separated in St. Louis Park, passing under Wooddale Avenue via an underpass and over Beltline Boulevard via a bridge.



Louisiana Station

HIGHWAY 169

Construction started in January 2017 and will be done in November. Major traffic impacts and delays are resulting from this project, although St. Louis Park has seen fewer effects. Hwy. 169 is closed between Bren Road and 7th Street (Lincoln Drive/5th Street). Motorists can also expect lane restrictions and periodic ramp closures in the remaining project area. Project limits: Hwy. 55 to just north of Hwy. 62

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Nine Mile Creek bridge in Hopkins, Minnetonka and Edina reconstructed
- W. 16th Street ramps on southbound Hwy. 169 closed
- Longer merge lanes at Cedar Lake Road entrance and exit ramps.
- Noise wall repair, concrete barrier replacement and improved pedestrian accessibility at intersections throughout the corridor.
- Pavement repair from Hwy. 55 to Hwy. 62.

ORGANICS

St. Louis Park offers curbside organics recycling service to residential customers at no extra cost. Organics recycling provides residents with a simple way to keep food scraps and food-soiled paper out of the garbage. This material is collected weekly in carts and delivered to an industrial composting facility just south of the Twin Cities. This service is also available to eligible small businesses.



Textile & Home Goods Recycling

The city has partnered with Simple Recycling to offer residents a convenient option for recycling unwanted clothing, linens, shoes and small household goods they no longer need. Items are collected at the curb from residents who receive city recycling services, every other week on their recycling day.

Zero Waste Packaging

The city's Zero Waste Packaging Ordinance went into effect January 1, 2017. Food establishments that use single-use packaging to serve food or send it with customers to-go must provide options that can be recycled or composted. Residents and guests in the city can now look for items such as recyclable plastic containers and certified compostable cups.

SMART BUDGET

For 2017, the City Council adopted a \$35.8 million General Fund Budget and \$30.2 million property tax levy. The changes in assessed market value and the community's tax capacity were relatively strong throughout all sectors. The value of all single-family homes increased 5.8 percent, the value of condos and

townhomes increased 6.4 percent, the value of all apartment buildings increased 9.5 percent, and the value of commercial-industrial properties remained stable with a 6.5 percent increase. The median home value increased from \$240,100 to \$254,200.



The above information graphic is a representation of just some of the services provided by the City of St. Louis Park for what totals approximately \$3 per day on a median value residential property.

FOR CITY EVENTS, ACTIVITIES & NEWS:

- /// stlouispark.org
- f [facebook.com/stlouispark](https://www.facebook.com/stlouispark) or @stlouispark
- t twitter.com/stlouispark or @stlouispark

MAKE SERVICE REQUESTS OR RECEIVE CITY INFORMATION VIA THE APP OR VISIT MYSTLOUISPARK.ORG



2017 REPORT to THE COMMUNITY



ST. LOUIS PARK, MINNESOTA continues to thrive as one of the region's most successful communities with strong redevelopment, increasing home values and a diverse mix of businesses choosing St. Louis Park.

The following pages offer a glimpse into city activities.



Experience **LIFE** in the Park

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

CENTRAL PARK WEST

I-394 and Hwy. 100
Five more buildings are planned for construction at The West End at I-394 and Highway 100. The new phases include two six-story multiple-family residential buildings, a six-story limited-service hotel, two 11-story office buildings, a 2,534-stall parking ramp and a central gathering space. At full build-out, the multi-phase development consists of 363 apartment units (with 11 affordable units), 126 hotel rooms and 706,706 sq. feet of Class A office space. The project, which began in 2015, also included the reconstruction of Utica Avenue along the west boundary of the development. **Developer: DLC Residential.**

CENTRAL PARK WEST I

Central Park West I is the first of two new apartment buildings at The West End. The 199-unit building and the adjacent Linear Park is under construction and expected to be completed in 2017. **Developer: DLC Residential**

AC HOTEL BY MARRIOTT AT CENTRAL PARK WEST

Adjacent to Central Park West I at The West End, the 126-room limited-service AC Hotel was approved in 2016 and began construction in 2017. **Developer: TPI Hospitality**

10 WEST END

This 11-story 335,710 sq. feet office building was approved in 2016. The building will be located on the south side of the Central Park West Linear Park. Construction schedule is yet to be determined.

Developer: The Excelsior Group & Ryan Companies

THE SHOREHAM

3907 Hwy. 7
Bader Development is redeveloping a 2.23-acre block at the southwest corner of County Highway 25 and France Avenue. The \$45-million, mixed-use project includes a five-story building with 148 apartments (including 30 affordable units) and 20,000 sq. feet of commercial office space. The project will result in retaining one local business, attracting a new medical clinic and creating more than 50 new jobs. Site preparation began in the fall of 2015 and construction will be completed in early 2017.

Developer: Bader Development

PLACE

5725 Hwy. 7
The City of St. Louis Park EDA purchased the former McGarvey Coffee site in 2015 and owns the vacant land to the west. The EDA intends to sell the property to PLACE, a non-profit developer, along with property at

West 36th Street and Wooddale Avenue for construction of a mixed-use, mixed-income, creative community. The concept includes 299 apartment units, a hotel, live-work spaces, small scale commercial spaces, and an urban agriculture space that is integrated with an anaerobic digester that would provide heat and power to the development. The site plan is oriented toward the regional trail and the current frontage road with a mix of buildings ranging from 2 – 6 stories in height with a one-acre urban forest along a portion of the trail that also manages storm water on the site. The project will be carefully integrated with the Wooddale Avenue SWLRT station. **Developer: PLACE**

ARLINGTON ROW WEST AND EAST

SW corner of Wayzata Boulevard and Texas Avenue
Melrose Company purchased excess right-of-way along Wayzata Boulevard in July 2015. The firm received approvals for developing two three-story 17-unit market rate apartment buildings on the west site and 27 units in a three-story building on the east site. The development will include solar canopies over the surface parking lots. Construction is anticipated to begin in the spring of 2017.

Developer: Melrose Company

4800EXCELSIOR

Location: 4760 and 4900 Excelsior Boulevard
Description: A six-story mixed-use redevelopment is under construction immediately west of the landmark Excelsior & Grand. The \$48 million project will contain 164 apartment units (146 market-rate and 18 affordable units at 60% of the area median income) and 28,228 square feet of ground floor commercial space which will be leased to Fresh Thyme grocery and liquor store. Construction is expected to be completed by the end of 2017.

Developer: Weidner Apartment Homes

PARKWAY 25

4001 County Road 25 & 4025 Hwy. 7
Sela Group is building a five-story 111-unit mixed-use apartment building that will include 8500 sq. feet of ground floor commercial space on the sites of the former Vesco's restaurant and Valu Stay Inn motel. The project has received zoning approvals and is expected to begin construction in the spring of 2017.

Developer: Paz Sela, Sela Investments

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT

9960 Wayzata Blvd., adjacent to the Marriott West
The 142-room hotel was approved in 2016 and started construction in 2017.

JAPS-OLSON COMPANY

Location: 7500 Excelsior Blvd
Description: Japs-Olson, a major commercial printer and direct mail company, is constructing a \$16 million expansion of its facility at the northeast quadrant of Excelsior Blvd and Meadowbrook Road. The company is adding 192,000 sq. ft. of production and warehouse space to its existing 513,000 sq. ft. building which is expected to result in approximately 150 new jobs. Japs Olson also partnered with MCWD to create a trailhead on Excelsior Blvd to connect to the boardwalk trail system located adjacent and east of the property. The project will be completed in spring 2017. **Developer: Japs-Olson Company**

CHICK-FIL-A

Knollwood Mall
Chick-fil-a is proposing to build a new restaurant on the former TCF site at Knollwood Mall. Zoning applications have been submitted and if approved, the new store is expected to be built later in 2017.

ST. LOUIS PARK VISION 3.0: SHAPE THE FUTURE

Be part of shaping the future of St. Louis Park by participating in the city's third visioning process, St. Louis Park Vision 3.0.

Here's what's happened so far:

- On February 21, about 55 community members were trained as facilitators to host a future-focused conversation with their neighborhood or community group, and report insights back to the Vision 3.0 Steering Committee.
- On February 22, about 30 community members attended the first Town Hall meeting at St. Louis Park City Hall to discuss their vision for St. Louis Park.
- On March 2, the first Facebook Live town hall took place. View it on the city's Facebook page @stlouispark. Your comments and answers to questions are welcome and will be recorded.

You can still be involved:

Tune in to a Facebook Live Town Hall April 13 at 8 p.m. via the city Facebook page @stlouispark. If you can't make it during the live broadcast, watch it later on Facebook. Answer the Vision 3.0 Question of the Week on Facebook, Twitter or Nextdoor. Questions are posted each Tuesday on Facebook and Twitter and on Wednesdays on Nextdoor.

RACE EQUITY

In 2016 a team of St. Louis Park City Council members and city staff participated in a year-long program on advancing racial equity. This program was facilitated by the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) along with the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) Center for Social Inclusion (CSI), and provided an introduction to the roles, responsibilities and opportunities for government to advance racial equity.

The city participated with the following goals in mind:

- Gain understanding of racial equity.
- Develop a shared racial equity analysis including definitions.
- Analyze policies and practices from a racial equity perspective.
- Strategize with others on how government can advance racial equity.

So far, the city has:

- Developed a racial equity statement.
- Provided training to all city staff on racial equity.



The city is moving into year two with LMC and CSI, along with development of department action plans and continued education and understanding. Work with advancing racial equity is a journey that will continue as part of the city's regular business and service delivery. The city council is also working with the Human Rights Commission, Multicultural Advisory Committee and other groups on ideas and direction for continued outreach in advancement of race equity.

Mayor Jake Spano said, "As we conduct city business and make decisions that affect our community, we want to hear from the full range of people who represent our community. To make that happen, it is important that we are deliberate and intentional about reaching out for input from people who were historically not part of the decision-making process. The result of St. Louis Park's work on racial equity will result in more effective delivery of city services to all of our neighborhoods and make our community a more equitable, inclusive and welcoming place to call home."

City of St. Louis Park Racial Equity Statement

If the practices, programs and services of the city are not fair, inclusive and equitable to all, the potential of the community and those it serves is diminished. From an elected, appointed and staffing perspective, our organization does not mirror the community. We will strive for racial equity by building understanding of the issues in our organization and intentionally and proactively take measures that break down barriers to a just and inclusive community.

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY



2,279
BUILDING PERMITS



2,273
ELECTRICAL PERMITS



2,406
PLUMBING & SEWER/WATER PERMITS



1,993
MECHANICAL PERMITS

BUILDING PERMIT VALUATION

2016: \$173,000,000



ePlan Overview

Beginning January 2, 2017 the Inspections Department began to offer electronic building plan submittal and review for new residential and all types of commercial construction permitting. This program will improve the plan review process and conserve the vast quantities of paper used for printing plan sets.

The trend of residents and business owners reinvesting in the community continues upward. Home remodeling projects and additions remain very popular. In an increase from past years, permits were issued for 14 new single-family homes. Of the many multi-family and commercial projects started, the largest value improvement occurred as Methodist Hospital expands and remodels. More than 20,000 construction code inspections were completed in response to the permits issued.

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

The following activities support the city's strategic goal to be a leader in environmental stewardship and to increase environmental consciousness and responsibility in all areas of city business:



Now that the community Energy Action Plan is written, efforts to implement strategies in the plan are underway. A kick-off meeting in December 2016 helped launch this community-wide initiative. Key goals outlined in the plan are for St. Louis Park to source 100% renewable electricity by 2025 and to achieve carbon neutrality by 2040. The city is working on completing a community-wide Climate Action Plan to serve as the road map for containing the greenhouse gas inventory and strategies for reductions to achieve these goals across the entire community.



The city is installing solar arrays on Fire Station #2, 2262 Louisiana Ave. and on the Municipal Service Center, 7305 Oxford St. Both projects are under 40 kW in size. Additionally, some city electricity utility accounts will be changed to a renewable source offered by the utility.



The city is developing a Living Streets Policy to be used to inform decision-making throughout all phases of transportation projects. Goals of the policy include, increasing safety for all users, promoting travel by walking or bicycling, improve aesthetics of street, and reducing overall environmental impacts.

1,360 TOTAL VOLUNTEERS



10,700 TOTAL HOURS DONATED

26 officially organized neighborhoods

1 newly organized neighborhood in 2016: Meadowbrook

9,845 residents on Nextdoor.com (private social network for neighbors)

14 neighborhoods print and distribute newsletters and flyers.

100 individual neighborhood events in 2016.

