

Victoria Spirit

Fall 2020



A Clear Path, 1st Place (under 18), Hannah Bedow



CITY OF LAKES & PARKS



Lakes Parkway
1st Place, Sean Shannon



Showcase Victoria

Thank you to everyone who shared their beautiful photos of Victoria in our annual photo contest!



Summer on the Trail
Honorable Mention, Jennifer Valentine



Downtown West Development

The city-owned 13.5 acre parcel known as “Downtown West,” at the western intersection of Arboretum Boulevard and Stieger Lake Lane, recently advanced another step closer to development.

In June, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. consultants completed the “Downtown West Public Infrastructure Improvements Feasibility Study.” This took a project-level look at how streets would need to be extended and aligned, how water and sewer would connect to the site, how stormwater runoff would be managed and how trails and sidewalks would be incorporated.

Based on these concept designs, the city obtained real-world cost estimates for its investment in making Downtown West a reality. The study also divided the development project into phases to provide

a plan for the city’s investment to be done incrementally as the site develops.

The city is in discussions with a developer who is interested in kicking off phase 1 with a 125-unit market rate apartment at the southeast corner of the site. Additional phase 1 improvements would include extending Stieger Lake Lane onto the parcel, creating an important stormwater feature as a site amenity and building a large “central green” park space to include a plaza and connection to the adjacent Carver Park Reserve.

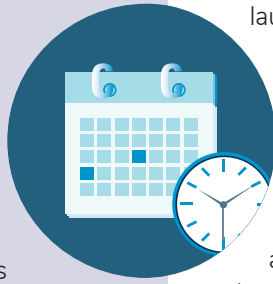
The city anticipates a public investment of approximately \$5.5 million for full site development, of which approximately \$3.2 million is needed to realize all phase 1 components. This includes extending Stieger Lake Lane to the site.



A proposed site rendering shows how potential development will take place in Downtown West in phase 1 and beyond.

City Government

All city government meetings are open, unless a closed meeting topic, such as a personnel or legal issue, is specifically allowed by state statute. With public notice, special meetings and workshops may be scheduled, and meetings may be cancelled. During the COVID-19 pandemic, meetings may be held via electronic means pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 13D.021 rather than in person at Victoria City Hall. See <https://victoria.civicweb.net/portal/> regarding citizen input and meeting participation. Regular meetings are listed below. Monday meetings will be canceled or rescheduled to accommodate public holidays.



City Council

2nd and 4th Monday at 6:30 pm

Available on live stream and video at <https://victoria.civicweb.net/portal/>

Lakes & Water Quality Committee

2nd Thursday at 6:30 pm

Parks and Recreation Committee

3rd Monday at 6:30 pm

Available on video at <https://victoria.civicweb.net/portal/>

Planning Commission

1st and 3rd Tuesday at 6:00 pm

Available on video at <https://victoria.civicweb.net/portal/>



Parks and Recreation Committee Members Visit Wassermann Lake Preserve

Wassermann Lake Preserve

Construction is on pace for completion this fall.

From the Mayor

The Victoria Farmers Market successfully launched last month with over 15 local vendors and many customers. Vendors offer a great variety-- including fresh seasonal produce, bakery items, jams, teas, chocolates, herbs, cheeses, microgreens, hot sauces and more. You can even add some Enki beer to your shopping bag. The market is a partnership among the city, SouthWest Metro Chamber of Commerce, Enki Brewing and the Minnesota Department of Health Statewide Health Improvement Partnership.

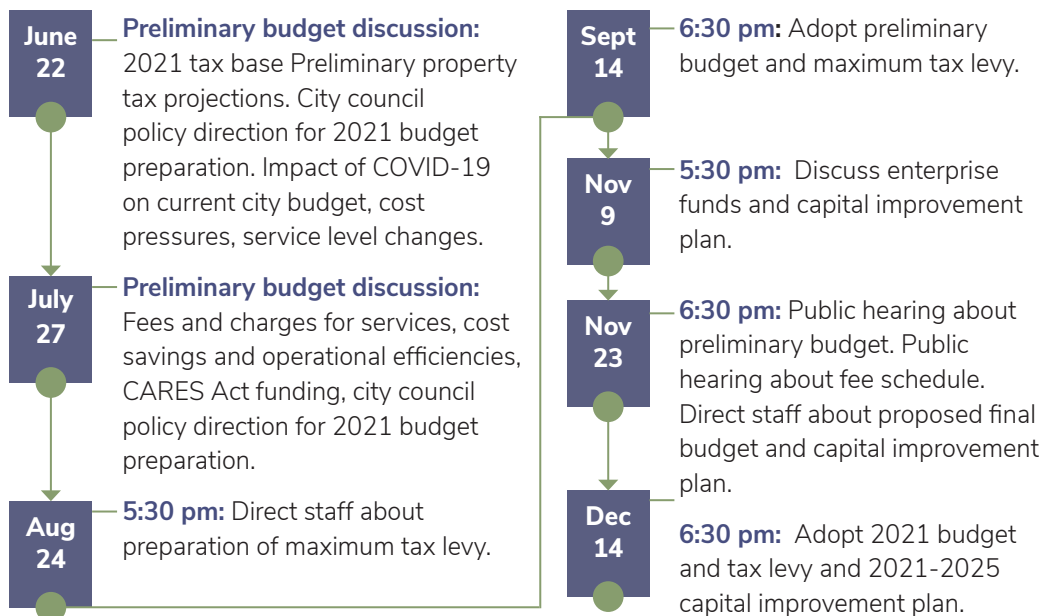
The market responds to our community's desire for easy access to fresh local produce and other locally-made foods. In a survey done this winter, 72% of respondents regularly shop at a farmers market, and 96% said they were likely to shop at a Victoria Farmers Market at least twice a month. One comment echoed the views of many

respondents, "Great idea! Make it happen!"

While farmers markets often serve as a community gathering place--with live music, on-site food preparation and children's activities--COVID-19 containment rules don't allow for that this year. The Victoria Farmers Market follows best safety practices issued by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. Handwashing facilities are provided, a social distancing shopping route is marked, and on-site eating and drinking is prohibited.

I encourage you to come explore the market and take home some great locally-produced food through October 8 on Thursday evenings from 3-7 pm in the parking lot at Enki Brewing. Parking is easily available on Stieger Lake Lane and in the marked parking lot across the street from the market. Weekly offerings vary, and you can keep up-to-date with market vendors on the Victoria Farmers Market Facebook page. See you there!

2021 Budget Timeline For City Council Actions



All Victoria City Council meetings are held in council chambers at city hall. Due to COVID-19 regulations, some or all council members may participate via electronic means. All meetings are open the public; although public participation may be available only via electronic means. Meetings are televised on Mediacom channel 8, streamed live online and available post-meeting on the city's YouTube channel.

For detailed access information and public participation instructions, visit our website or <https://victoria.civicweb.net/Portal/> or contact Assistant to the City Manager Alyssa Swanson at aswanson@ci.victoria.mn.us or 952-443-4215.

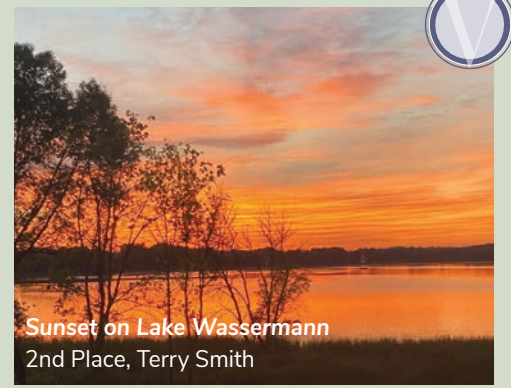
Protecting Water Quality

Natural buffer areas around lakes and bodies of water are extremely important to protect water quality and precious natural resources. In Victoria, many acres of publicly-owned wetlands, natural grasslands and outlots border the shores of our lakes and ponds behind residential homes.

To protect these valuable resources, please avoid doing the following in public buffer areas:

- Mowing, tree trimming, brush removal
- Dumping or storing items
- Building docks or boat launches
- Walking on or destroying natural vegetation

Most of the city's lakes have adjacent parks or other public access. Enjoy water-related amenities from properly designated locations.



Sunset on Lake Wassermann
2nd Place, Terry Smith

2020 Election Information

The Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State encourages voters to vote by mail using an absentee ballot due to health concerns created by the pandemic. Victoria residents still have the opportunity to vote in person prior to election day or on Tuesday, November 3.

Early voting is September 18-November 2 at the Government Center, 600 East 4th Street, Chaska: Monday-Friday at 8 am-4:30 pm; Saturday, October 31 at 10 am-3 pm; and Monday, November 2 at 8 am-5 pm.

On Tuesday, November 3, Victoria residents can vote at their assigned voting location between 7 am-8 pm. Voting locations are:

- **Precinct 1:** Victoria City Hall, 1670 Stieger Lake Lane
- **Precinct 2:** Victoria Recreation Center, 8475 Kochia Lane
- **Precinct 3:** Lions Park Pavilion, 1505 82nd Street



Details about voter registration, options for casting ballots, absentee ballot request and a map of voting precinct boundaries are available at www.ci.victoria.mn.us/2020Voting.

Election Judges

Interested in becoming an election judge? Learn about the duties and apply today at www.ci.victoria.mn.us/ElectionJudge.

Candidate Forum

The League of Women Voters of Eastern Carver County is planning a candidate forum at Victoria City Hall on Wednesday, September 30. It will be live streamed and recorded for online and television audiences only. Learn more by visiting the website at www.lwvnmn.org/eastern-carver-county or email lwvecc@lwvnmn.org.

Victoria AAA Bond Rating Reaffirmed

S&P Global Ratings (formerly Standard & Poor's) reaffirmed the city's AAA bond rating in June 2020 and evaluated the outlook as stable.

The report cites the following factors in its assessment:

- Very strong economy
- Very strong management with strong financial policies and practices
- Strong budgetary performance with operating surpluses

- Very strong budgetary flexibility (fund balance of 60% operating expenditures)
- Very strong liquidity
- Weak debt (31% of expenditures) with 74% of debt scheduled to be retired in 10 years

This credit rating is the highest credit rating available from S&P, and the City of Victoria is one of only 27 Minnesota municipalities and 426 nationally with this AAA rating. Read the ratings report at www.ci.victoria.mn.us.

National Night Out is October 6

Due to concerns about COVID-19 and large group gatherings, Victoria firefighters, Carver County Sheriff's deputies and city council members will participate in "drive-by and wave" visits. Register your block party at www.ci.victoria.mn.us/NationalNightOut by August 31 to request a "drive-by and wave" visit.

Guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Minnesota Department of Health should be followed, including social distancing. **This event is subject to change based on current COVID-19 health guidelines and recommendations.**

Fall Compost Weekend

Fall compost weekend is October 17-18 at 1416 Stieger Lake Lane between 8 am-4 pm. Leaves, grass, brush and tree limbs no larger than 4" diameter, cut into 4' lengths, will be accepted. This event is open to Victoria residents only; identification showing current address is required. No commercial waste will be accepted.

This event is powered by volunteers, who typically work a two-hour shift. Social distancing and all other public health guidelines around COVID-19 will be observed. No lifting is required. Contact Assistant to the City Manager Alyssa Swanson at aswanson@ci.victoria.mn.us or 952-443-4215 to volunteer.



City of Victoria
 P.O. Box 36
 1670 Stieger Lake Lane
 Victoria, MN 55386

PRSR STD
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 Permit #32324
 Twin Cities, MN

*******ECRWSS*******
POSTAL CUSTOMER



Activities Sampler Programs may require registration.

VICTORIA RECREATION CENTER

- In-person and virtual fitness classes
- Gym, fitness center and walking track
- Personal training
- Drop-in day care

Users must register for classes and make appointments to use amenities.

View current status and register at www.ci.victoria.mn.us or call 952-443-4255 for information.



Carver Park Reserve
 Honorable Mention, David Schnell

CARVER COUNTY LIBRARY

StoryWalk

All ages
 Outside Victoria Library.
 August 19 ● 10 am-2 pm ● free

The Loft Literary Center

Great Communications Skills.
 Adults ● online
 September 5 ● 1:30-3 pm ● free

Ukulele with Katy Vernon

Family-friendly music.
 All ages ● online
 October 3 ● 10:30-11 am ● free

View www.carverlib.org or call 952-442-3059 for information.

LOWRY NATURE CENTER

Peeking at Pond Water

Explore pond water with a naturalist
 All ages ● Lowry Nature Center
 September 7 ● 9-11 am ● free

Prairie Seed Collection

Collect native wildflower seeds to help increase plant diversity

Ages 12+ ● Lowry Nature Center
 September 17 ● 10:30 am-1:30 pm ● free

View www.threeriversparks.org/location/lowry-nature-center or call 763-694-7650 for information.

Eat Street 2020 – Dine Locally in Downtown Victoria

There are many options to dine locally in downtown Victoria. Restaurants are seating indoors and outdoors, following guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Minnesota Department of Health.