

LIFE in the PRAIRIE



WINTER 2021

Inside
Reflecting on 2020

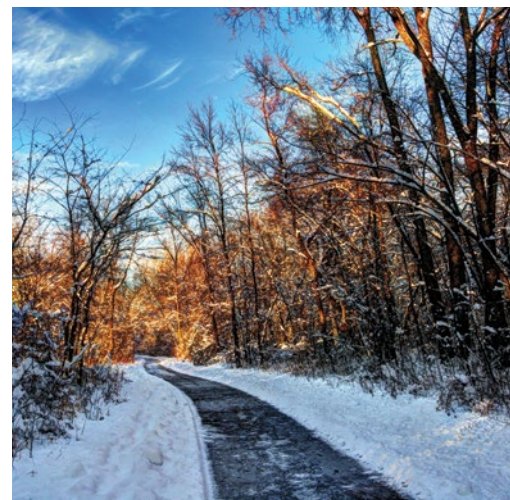




Residents of Eden Prairie,

As 2020 draws to a close, I want to acknowledge and recognize the significant challenges we have all faced while doing our part to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. We have sacrificed so much, and will need to continue to do so into the New Year as we prepare for the promise of a vaccine that will bring this pandemic to an end.

In this season of giving, I encourage you to think about those in our community who are suffering — financially or from the loss of loved ones — as well as those on the front lines who continue to provide essential services which make it possible for the rest of us to carry on with our daily lives. More than ever, I am proud of the kindness and generosity that have been on display in our community over these many months. From the financial donations to various causes and the enthusiastic support of our local businesses and restaurants, our friends and neighbors have truly come together to help one another through this unprecedented time in history.



Organizations serving those in need and many of our local businesses still need your support to make it through the pandemic. If you're in a position to help, please do. And if you're suffering, there is light at the end of this dark tunnel, so please use the resources available in our community to help you get through this challenging time. If you need help and don't know where to go, please reach out to me or another City Council member so we can connect you with resources.

Even during a pandemic, our City continues to fulfill its mission of delivering high-quality public services that contribute to a strong sense of community. There are many accomplishments and milestones from 2020 that are cause for celebration. One such milestone is the culmination of 16 years of service Council Member Brad Aho has provided our community. Brad's final Council meeting was Dec. 1 and we officially bid him farewell by proclaiming Dec. 1, 2020, "Brad Aho Day" in Eden Prairie.



It is my great honor and privilege to serve as Mayor of this exceptional community, especially during these unimaginable times. Thank you for your continued resolve, generosity and perseverance. I wish you and your families safety, health and compassion as we stay the course during this holiday season.



With Gratitude,

Ronald A. Case

Mayor Ron Case

2021 City Taxes

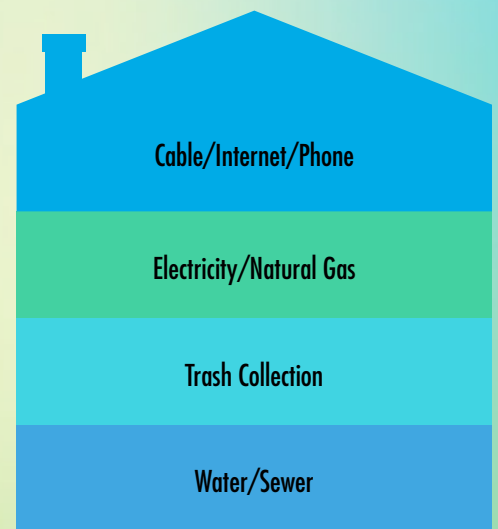
The 2021 City budget is \$53,055,474 and the property tax levy is \$38,780,660, an increase of 3.2% compared to 2020. The median single-family home (MSFH) in Eden Prairie is valued at \$413,800 for 2021, which represents a property value increase of .2%. As a result, the estimated City property tax for a MSFH in 2021 is \$1,335, a decrease of .3%.

edenprairie.org/Budget

Monthly Household Service Cost Comparisons



2021 City Taxes (MSFH)
\$111.25

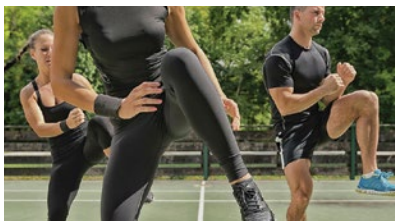


Other Estimated Household Services
\$315

Reflecting on 2020

Although 2020 has been a challenging year, our work as a City continued to ensure the health, safety and vitality of our community. Through conservative budgeting and spending, CARES Act funding and a stable tax base, the City has fared well in this time of economic uncertainty and the outlook for 2021 is positive as well. Despite the pandemic, we accomplished much in 2020 that I'd like to share with residents and taxpayers of this community.

While continually adjusting operations and recreational offerings according to Minnesota Department of Health COVID-19 safety guidelines, the Parks and Recreation Department offered several new or modified programs and events for the community to safely enjoy. Highlights include **The Great Pumpkin Path** and **Boo Drive-Thru** events, and the popular **Fitness in the Parks** program was expanded to meet high demand from our residents.



The Fire Department led the implementation of the City's **Emergency Management Plan** to respond to the coronavirus pandemic, issued building inspection permits for **development projects valued at more than \$173-million** and placed its first two **hybrid command/inspection vehicles** into service.



Much progress was made on construction of a new **Pump Station and Water Storage Reservoir**, which will be fully operational in early 2021. Public Works also remained busy with the **Southwest LRT project** and a record year of **pavement management projects**, while leading the process for final adoption of the City's **Climate Action Plan**.

The Police Department implemented a **drone program** for public safety needs such as finding fleeing suspects, locating missing and endangered people, and other tactical and investigative functions. Responses to recommendations from the **President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing** and the state of Minnesota's **Deadly Force Encounters Working Group** were published on the City website, which demonstrate how the Department meets and exceeds many of the recommendations.



We welcomed **Scheels** and **Hampton Inn**, as well as **new housing options** serving a wide range of resident demographics, and the City Council accepted the **Housing Task Force report** outlining recommendations for affordable housing and tenant protection policies. The City also provided help for residents and businesses to **mitigate impacts of the pandemic**, such as rent relief and temporary outdoor seating plans.

The accomplishments we achieve would not be possible without the assistance of about 50 residents and nearly 20 high school students who volunteer to serve on the City's six commissions. This year, commission members:



Honored indigenous history by developing an **Eden Prairie Land Acknowledgement Statement** and guide for others in the community to use it, and honored individuals and organizations with **Human Rights Awards**



Played an important role reviewing **new COVID-19 safety policies and procedures** and provided input for developing an **updated strategic plan**



Approved plans for **Eden Ridge** and **Prairie Heights** single-family residential developments, and reviewed proposals for **Flying Cloud Commons** and **Golden Triangle Industrial**



Reviewed and recommended approval of **Climate Action Plan** and encouraged participation in metro-wide **Home Energy Squad Intercity Challenge**



Completed historical interpretive panel for new **Pump Station and Water Storage Reservoir**, and collaborated on **Cummins-Phipps-Grill House** restoration project



Collaborated with Metropolitan Airports Commission to **address noise concerns** and **ensure compliance** with agreed-upon aircraft weight limits at Flying Cloud Airport



On behalf of your elected officials and everyone who works for the City of Eden Prairie, thank you for allowing us the opportunity to serve you.

Sincerely,

Rick Getschow
City Manager





Snow Events: What You Need to Know

When the forecast indicates a snow accumulation of 2 inches or more, the City declares a Snow Event. When snow accumulation reaches 2 inches, a Snow Emergency is in effect; do not park on City streets until noon the next day. Streets maintenance crews maintain safe and passable roadways throughout a Snow Event, and perform a full curb-to-curb cleanup from 3 a.m.–noon, weather permitting.

edenprairie.org/Snow

First-Time Homebuyer Program

The City of Eden Prairie offers a zero-interest, deferred loan up to \$10,000 for qualifying first-time homebuyers purchasing a home in Eden Prairie. Program guidelines and income requirements apply. Applications accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

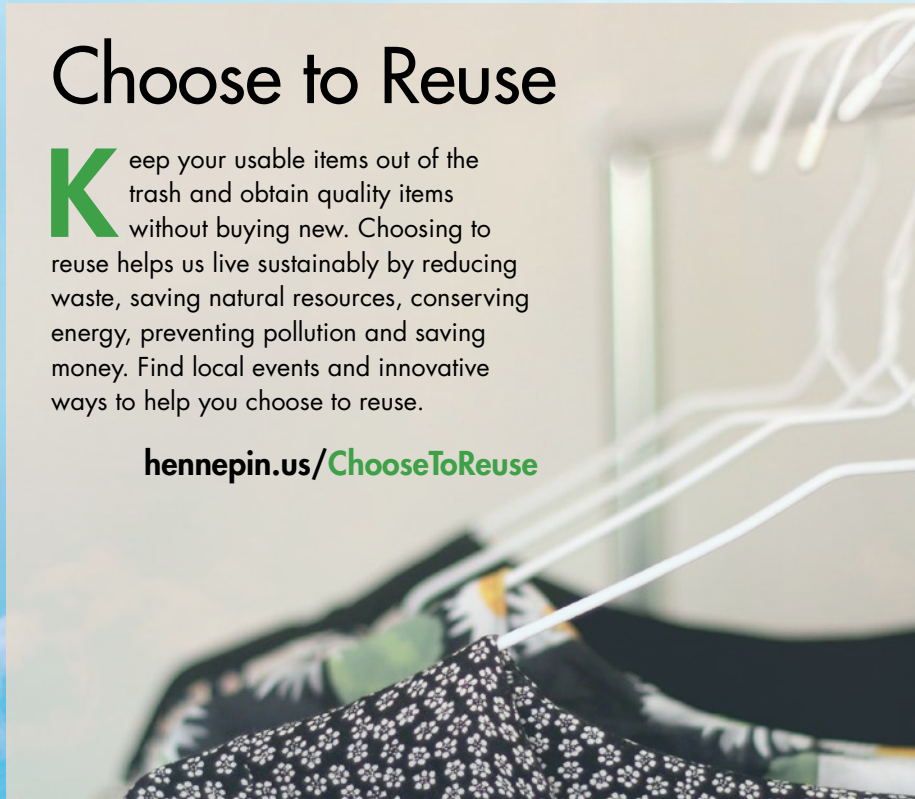
edenprairie.org/Homebuyer



Choose to Reuse

Keep your usable items out of the trash and obtain quality items without buying new. Choosing to reuse helps us live sustainably by reducing waste, saving natural resources, conserving energy, preventing pollution and saving money. Find local events and innovative ways to help you choose to reuse.

hennepin.us/ChooseToReuse



Holiday Light Recycling

Recycle Your Holidays™ is a statewide holiday light recycling program. Residents can drop off unwanted light strands at any **Eden Prairie Liquor** location through the end of the year.

RecycleMinnesota.org



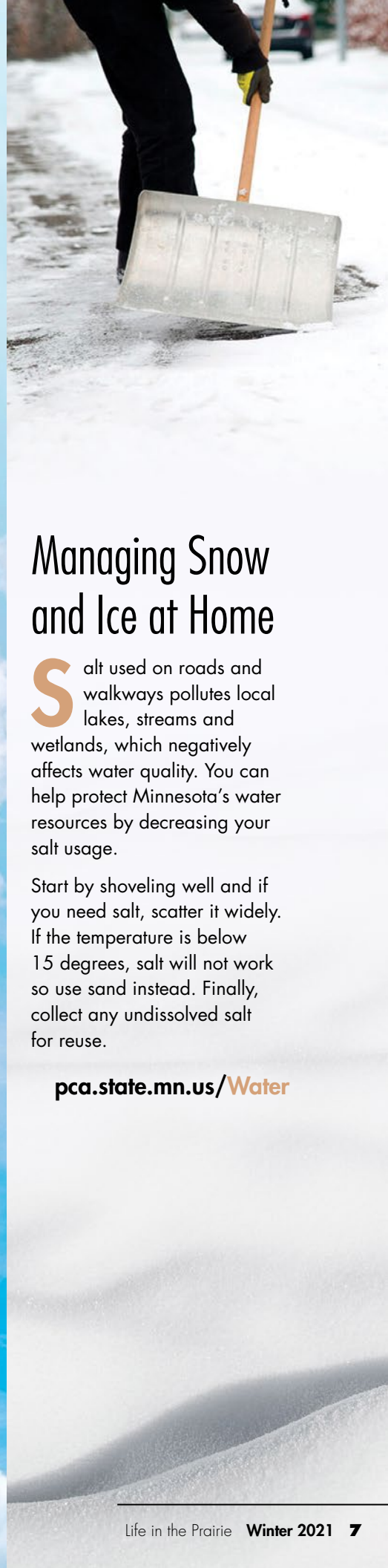
 **SUSTAINABLE
EDEN PRAIRIE**
edenprairie.org/SustainableEP

Managing Snow and Ice at Home

Salt used on roads and walkways pollutes local lakes, streams and wetlands, which negatively affects water quality. You can help protect Minnesota's water resources by decreasing your salt usage.

Start by shoveling well and if you need salt, scatter it widely. If the temperature is below 15 degrees, salt will not work so use sand instead. Finally, collect any undissolved salt for reuse.

pca.state.mn.us/Water





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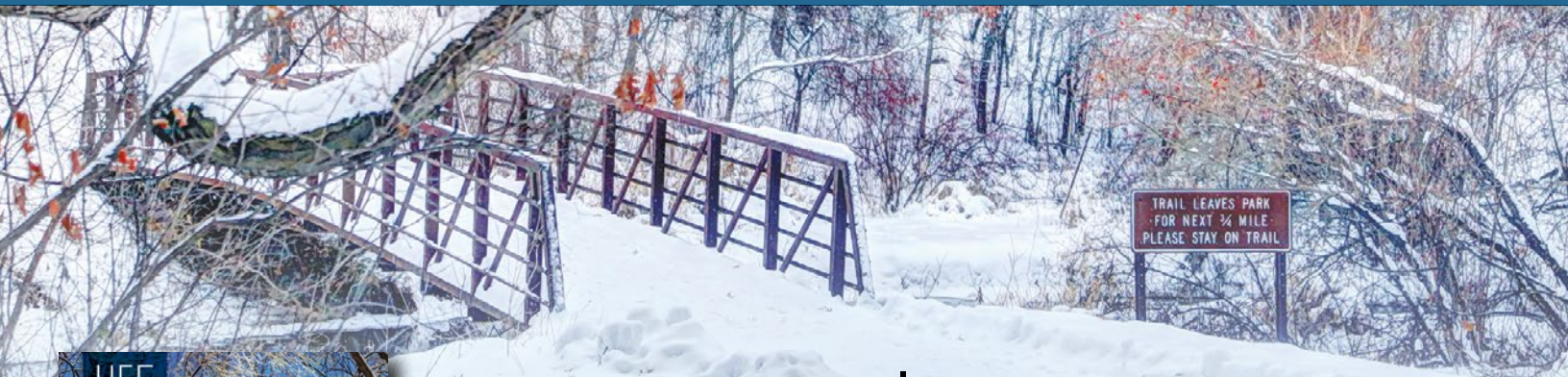
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COVID-19 Online Resources

Eden Prairie's Emergency Management Team continues to work closely with public safety officials in neighboring cities and schools, along with EMS, county and state partners to protect our community.

The City's COVID-19 website features frequently updated information, including:

- How to safely conduct business with the City
- What you can do to help our community
- Public health and safety information
- Resources for Eden Prairie residents and businesses
- Answers to frequently asked questions about the City's response to COVID-19

edenprairie.org/Coronavirus



On the Cover:
Staring Lake Trail