

City Continues to Seek Funding for Three Water Treatment Plants

PFAS Removal: No. 1 Legislative Priority for Hastings in 2025 Session

Securing funding for the construction of water treatment plants to address PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) and nitrate contamination in the city's drinking water is the top legislative priority for Hastings officials in the 2025 legislative session.

The city has submitted a capital budget request for \$16.6 million to help fund the eastern water treatment plant, a critical project in ensuring safe drinking water for residents and businesses. Both State Sen. Judy Seeberger and Rep. Tom Dippel have expressed strong support for our project and have introduced bills to support project funding.

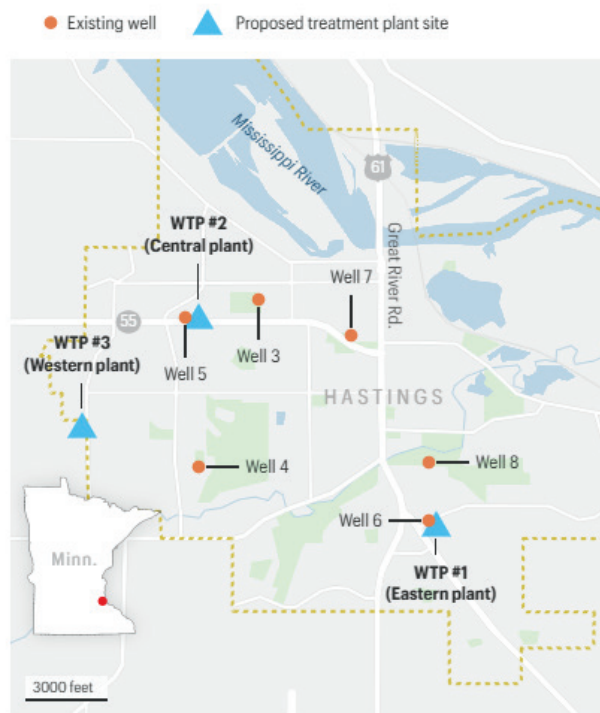
Funding Secured to Date

While the city awaits legislative action, work is already progressing on design of the central water treatment plant, which is expected to be located on the site of the

current Carbone's Pizza and Stacy's Stars. Those businesses will be relocated within Hastings. The city's Well #5 will connect to the central water treatment plant. This past fall, the city and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency identified a direct connection between that well and PFAS contaminants manufactured at the 3M Cottage Grove plant. As a result, the city expects to receive approximately \$14 million from the 3M Settlement Fund to offset the \$26.7 million cost of constructing the plant.

Additionally, the city has secured several key grants to assist in funding the project, including a \$1.2 million planning grant and a \$3 million emerging contaminants grant. To help cover ongoing costs, a 10% increase in water rates took

Wells and planned treatment plants



Source: City of Hastings • Map source: OpenStreetMap • Mark Boswell, The Minnesota Star Tribune

PFAS removal continued on page 4

Watch the State of the Community Presentations Online

The 2025 State of the Community Luncheon featured presentations by Hastings Mayor Mary Fasbender and Hastings Schools Superintendent Dr. Tammy Champa. The event was recorded Feb. 6 and available to view online at www.hastingstv.org.

The annual event focuses on community progress made in 2024 and plans for 2025. Thank you to the Hastings Minnesota Area Chamber of Commerce and the Hastings Golf Club & Events venue for hosting the event and to Hastings Community Television for recording and airing the event.





City of Hastings Government

Hastings City Hall

101 4th St. E.

Hastings, MN 55033

Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Phone: 651-480-2350

Fax: 651-437-7082

Website: www.hastingsmn.gov

Contact Your City Council

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mayormary@hastingsmn.gov

Ward 1: DawnMarie Vihrachoff 651-587-7458
dvihrachoff@hastingsmn.gov

Ward 2: Mya Beck 586-804-3456
mbeck@hastingsmn.gov

Ward 3: Lisa Leifeld 651-334-0306
lleifeld@hastingsmn.gov

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At-Large: Angie Haus 651-283-8364
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Contact Us

City Administrator
 Dan Wietecha 651-480-2326
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Aquatic Center: 651-480-2385
 Building Safety: 651-480-2342
 Civic Arena: 651-480-6195
 Code Enforcement: 651-480-2376
 Community Development: 651-480-2350
 Fire Business Office: 651-480-6150
 Parks & Recreation: 651-480-6175
 Police Business Office: 651-480-2300
 Public Works: 651-480-6185
 Utility Billing: 651-480-2351

Report Suspicious Activity! Call 911

Hastingsmn.gov

CITY COUNCIL NEWS

Thank you, Jen Fox; Welcome Council Member Beck

The city thanks Jen Fox, who served the residents of Ward 2 for the past four years. We greatly appreciate your commitment to the community. The Council welcomes Mya Beck, newly elected to represent Ward

2. We congratulate you and look forward to working with you. Congratulations to reelected Council Members Tim Lawrence, Lisa Leifeld and DawnMarie Vihrachoff. All took the oath of office in January.



Pictured: Jen Fox and Mayor Mary Fasbender.



Pictured: Tim Lawrence, Lisa Leifeld, Mya Beck and DawnMarie Vihrachoff.

Council Approves 2025 Budget and Property Tax Levy

The City Council approved a 2025 budget of \$73.8 million and a property tax levy of \$20.1 million. The budget will help fund essential projects, including water treatment upgrades and public safety and infrastructure improvements. Specific projects for 2025 include:

- Constructing the \$26.7 million central water treatment plant
- Replacing Highway 55 traffic signals
- Completing the 2025 Neighborhood Improvements
- Reconditioning the Industrial Park water tower
- Hiring two additional full-time firefighter/EMTs
- Hiring a second school resource officer, a shared expense with the school district

2025
City Budget



\$73.8 M

2025
Property Tax Levy



\$20.1 M

Cost-cutting and efficiency measures were reflected in the budget and levy and include ongoing emphasis on asset management, which saves the city money in the long term, and prioritization of capital improvement projects and expenses.

The Council also approved a 2025 HEDRA special Levy of \$500,000-plus dollars for economic development activities that help grow key areas of the city such as the Vermillion Corridor, downtown and the Industrial Park.

Building For the Future - Housing and Commercial Development Progress

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This past year, the city had an impressive surge in new residential units. The city approved 43 new homes, marking the most significant single-family home construction in two decades! New single-family units at Heritage Ridge, Villas at Pleasant and South Oaks are helping to meet the growing demand for housing in our community.

Apartments were also on the rise. The second building of Current 33 apartments, located next to Terry's Hardware, opened this past year, adding 211 market-rate units to our housing stock. In addition, Lake Isabel Flats opened downtown with 89 units, and construction continues at Vermillion Acres, a 75-unit senior housing facility.

We also saw strong growth in our commercial and industrial sectors, with 81 approved permits totaling

\$19.8 million in valuation. Notably, the United Heroes League Stadium, part of the Hockey Day Minnesota initiative, will bring even more excitement and opportunity to our region. In the Industrial Park area, plans are being finalized for Rio Gran Trucking to purchase property to construct a new trucking facility. Storage Werk's completed construction on a storage rental facility and Lowe Auto Repair also completed a 6,000-square-foot building.

On the west side of town, Regina Assisted Living constructed a new receiving area and employee parking lot along with interior renovations; and the Dakota County Law Enforcement building expanded its incarceration space.

The city's Vermillion Street Corridor plan is moving forward. Thanks to

HEDRA, our Economic Development authority, we've acquired several key properties, including the Wells Fargo building at 400 Vermillion St. This will be the site of a mixed-use development that aligns with the planned Highway 61 expansion, set to begin in 2027.

Additionally, the city has launched a comprehensive review of our zoning codes, which are key to shaping development and ensuring it aligns with our long-term goals. Expect to hear more about this in the coming months, including opportunities for public input.

Information about these initiatives and others is in the 2024 Community Development Annual Report that is available on the city website.

Façade Improvement Program

The City of Hastings has committed \$50,000 to the Façade Improvement Program for 2025.



This program was established to provide partial funding for businesses to complete exterior maintenance projects. Currently, only businesses located along Vermillion Street and located within Downtown are eligible to apply. To learn more, visit the news section on the city website. If you're interested in applying, please reach out to Alex Menke at amenke@hastingsmn.gov or 651-480-2379.

Community Investment Fund



Applications for the 2025 Community Investment Fund project proposals are open, with a first review of applications set for March 10. The fund was created to encourage and support community partnerships and community-driven projects. The priority application deadline is March 10. Learn more and apply at www.hastingsmn.gov/CIF.

Did you Know?



The city and the Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce officially celebrated more than a dozen new, expanding or relocating businesses in Hastings in 2024! View a list while watching the 2025 State of the Community event at www.hastingsmn.org.

Building Permit Benefits and Processes

Many home improvement, building, and remodeling projects require a permit from the city before work can begin. We're here to guide you through the process, making sure everything goes smoothly! Here's how obtaining a permit benefits you:

1. **Public Safety and Peace of Mind:** A building permit helps the city's code official ensure your project meets safety standards, reducing the risk of unsafe construction and protecting you and your loved ones.
 2. **Code Compliance:** Following the code ensures your project will meet minimum safety standards, giving you confidence that your work is built to last.
 3. **Property Value:** A permit shows potential buyers that your project was completed legally and properly, which can increase the value of your property.
 4. **Historical Record:** Permits create a record of your maintenance and remodeling, which can be useful for future projects or when selling your home.
1. **Get Started:** Visit City Hall or check out our website at www.hastingsmn.gov/buildingsafety for forms, applications and helpful informational handouts.
 2. **Submit Your Forms:** Download and print the forms you need for your project, fill them out and return them to the Building Safety Department. You can send your application by email to building@hastingsmn.gov, or drop it off in person at City Hall.
 3. **Need Help?** We've got you covered! If you have any questions, feel free to call us at 651-480-2342 – we're happy to assist!
 4. **Apply Online:** For simple permits that don't require a plan review, you can easily apply online through our permit portal. It's also a great way to check your permit status, make payments and schedule inspections.
 5. **Review & Approval:** After we've reviewed your application and construction documents for compliance, we'll reach out with details on how to obtain your approved building permit!

Here are the steps to get your permit, and we're happy to assist you along the way!

PFAS Removal *continued from front page*

effect this year, with an additional rate increase in July if further funding is not secured. The total cost to build all three water treatment plants is estimated at \$68.9 million.

Timelines to Build and Operate the Plants

Design on the central water treatment plant is progressing, with a targeted construction start in August. The eastern water treatment plant, which will be located in the Industrial Park, is shovel ready and construction is

expected to start in January 2026. Meanwhile, the location for the western water treatment plant is slated for south of General Sieben Dr. off of Northridge Dr. All three plants are expected to be fully operational in late 2028, to meet Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements,

More Information

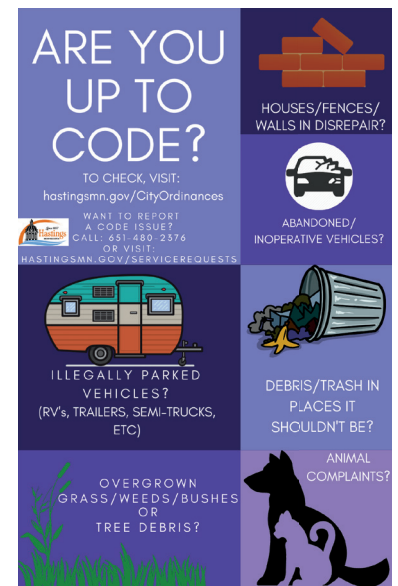
For more details on PFAS in Hastings, including updates on the city's plans, resources for health-related questions and frequently asked questions, visit www.hastingsmn.gov/PFAS.

Property Maintenance Ordinance

The city's property maintenance ordinance sets rules for maintenance and use of existing properties within the city. The purpose of the ordinance is to protect, preserve and promote public health, safety and welfare.

Reporting property maintenance or nuisance concerns can be difficult, especially if it concerns a neighbor. Residents who are uncomfortable discussing concerns with a neighbor or who have a neglected vacant home in their neighborhood, can:

1. Call the Code Enforcement Division at 651-480-2376.
2. Use our online Service Request form at www.hastingsmn.gov/servicerequests; OR
3. Download a Property Maintenance Complaint Form to fill out and submit at City Hall.



Common property complaints:

- Grass/weeds longer than 12"
- Inoperable/unlicensed vehicles
- RV violations
- Snow on sidewalks
- Exterior maintenance
- Excessive noise

Visit the city website and search code enforcement to learn more.

Learn to Fix and Mend at a Free Fix-It Clinic



Instead of trashing broken household items, bring them to a Dakota County Fix-It Clinic for free fixing or mending. Last year, Fix-It Clinics helped Dakota County residents save nearly 4,000 pounds of items from the landfill. These clinics are held monthly at rotating locations and are run by skilled volunteers who love to lend a hand. You'll learn how to troubleshoot and tinker, and hopefully fix your items onsite or at home.

In addition to keeping useful items out of the landfill, these events bring people together and empower you to fix things on your own.

Show up to the upcoming Fix-It Clinic on Saturday, May 17 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Pleasant Hill Library Hastings. The event is free, and you do not need to register to participate.

Bring up to three items that need fixing or mending. The most common items people bring are lamps, vacuums and clothes for mending. You must be able to carry items into the clinic, so no overly large items.

For future dates and more information, visit www.dakotacounty.us, search fix-it clinic.

Partially funded by Dakota County and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Mattress and Shred Event Set for May 31



Mark your calendars for this event! Mattresses and box springs will be accepted at \$30/piece, payable directly to Certified Recycling (pricing subject to change). Mattresses in good condition will be donated to Bridging, while all others will be deconstructed and recycled by Certified Recycling. Document shredding is free! Paper is shredded on-site by a National Association for Information Destruction (NAID) certified shredding company and then properly recycled into paper pulp. Need to get rid of something else? Check out the Recycling Guide by visiting www.dakotacounty.us and searching recycling guide.

Saturday, May 31

9 a.m. to noon

Cal Ruedy Public Works Facility
(1225 Progress Dr.)

Yard Waste & Construction Debris Drop-Off Begins in Mid-April

Hastings residents can take advantage of the Yard Waste & Construction Debris Drop-Off service starting in mid-April (weather permitting). This service is available exclusively to Hastings residents, so be sure to bring proof of residency when visiting. Grass, leaf and brush drop-off is free, while construction material is \$25 per cubic yard (\$25 minimum charge) payable by

cash or check only. Please note that commercial debris is not accepted.

To find the official opening date, seasonal hours and further details about the service, visit the city's official website at hastingsmn.gov and search yard waste. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Tennis Sanitation at 651-459-1887.



Hastings Civic Arena



Ice Rental

Available through May 8

Open Skating Sessions

Wednesdays: 1-2:30 p.m.

Fridays 10-11:30 a.m.

Freestyle Sessions & Stick and Puck Sessions

Check our online schedule for dates and times. Visit www.hastingsmn.gov and search Master Arena Schedule.

Birthday Party Rentals

\$100/hour. Call 651-480-6195 for details.

Turf Rentals

Begin March 18

\$84 per hour

Turf rental includes batting cages, soccer nets and lacrosse nets.

Advertising Opportunities

Advertise your business or organization at the Arena

For more information, call the arena office at 651-480-6195.

Hastings Civic Arena Questions

Contact Arena Manager, Jeff Elliott at jelliott@hastingsmn.gov or 651-480-6195.

Leagues



Adult Sand Volleyball Leagues

Leagues begin in May. All games played at Pioneer Park. Leagues:

- Mondays – Co-Ed Upper 6's Double Headers
- Thursday – Co-Ed Lower 6's Double Headers

Adult Softball League

Begins in May. Regular season games are followed by a double elimination tournament. Games played at Veterans Athletic Complex. League:

- Tuesdays – Men's

Adult Pickleball Leagues

Leagues begin in May. Regular season games are followed by a tournament. Games played at Roadside Pickleball Courts. Leagues:

- Mondays – Men's Doubles
- Tuesdays – Women's Doubles
- Wednesdays – Mixed Doubles
- Thursdays – Mixed Doubles

Adult Bags League

The league begins in June. Regular season matches are followed by a tournament. Matches are played at Pioneer Park. League:

- Wednesdays – Open Doubles

League Registration & Questions

Visit www.hastingsmn.gov/athletics.

Contact Sports Coordinator Phil Vargas at 651-480-6181 or pvargas@hastingsmn.gov

Spring Events



Arbor Day – Tree Planting

Volunteer to plant trees in celebration of Arbor Day!

Interested? Contact Hastings Parks and Rec at call 651-480-6175 or by email at parksinfo@hastingsmn.gov to sign up for yourself or your group.

Friday, April 18

1-2:30 p.m.

Lake Isabel Park

800 2nd Street East

DIY Parks & Trails Cleanup

Help keep Hastings parks and trails clean, safe and beautiful. Plan a DIY cleanup with your family, community group, business or just yourself!

Interested? Contact Hastings Parks and Rec at 651-480-6175 or by email at parksinfo@hastingsmn.gov for a park or trail assignment and to schedule your cleanup date of choice. Bags and garbage grabbers are available to groups.

Birds and Bison Bike Tour

20-mile guided bicycle ride

Saturday, May 3

9 a.m.

FREE!

Learn more & register online:

www.visithastingsmn.org/bike-tours

Park Rentals



Park Shelter Rentals

Park shelters are a convenient and affordable venue for outdoor family gatherings, birthday parties, graduations and more! Costs vary based on the park. Visit our website for more information at www.hastingsmn.gov.

Party Wagon Rentals

The Party Wagon is available for Hastings Residents. It includes 40 folding chairs, 6 tables, yard games, a 10 x 10 tent, & coolers. Cost: \$135.16

Rental Questions:

Contact 651-480-6175 or parksinfo@hastingsmn.gov

Hastings Music + Market



Vendor Applications Open

Join us at Levee Park for 12 Thursdays this summer featuring Hastings Music + Market! These events will begin June 5 and provide fun for all ages. Each Thursday event will have a live music performance, a craft market with local vendors and a newly added kid's entertainment area! The timeline for each event is as follows:

Craft Market: 6-8:30 p.m.

Kid's Entertainment Area: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Live Concert: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

If you are interested in being a market vendor, there is a registration fee of \$15 per event (discounts available when booking multiple). Vendors can sign up on the city's website at www.hastingsmn.gov/makersmarket. The city is not accepting applications from direct sales company representatives.

Community Activities



Coffee with a Cop

Enjoy coffee and conversation with neighbors and Hastings Police officers. No agenda, just a chance to talk with our local law enforcement.

Tuesday, March 25

8:30-10:30 a.m.

Froth & Cork

110 4th St. E.

Food for Kids Food Drive

April 21-May 9

Visit United Way of Hastings at www.unitedwayofhastings.org.

Public Safety Day 2025

Tuesday, May 13

5-7 p.m.

Hastings Police Department

What's Happening at Lake Rebecca Park?

In late fall 2024, a contractor was hired to complete natural resource enhancement work in greater Lake Rebecca Park. This work includes the removal of non-native and invasive plants and trees, and planting and enhancement of native plants and trees, with an overall goal of improving the native habitat. Work in this area will continue during the winter and through 2025.

We anticipate hiring a contractor to complete work within Lake Rebecca's developed recreation areas to include reconstructing the boat launch parking lot,



reconstructing the lake access parking lot, reconstructing existing trails, removing ash trees, converting mowed turf areas to native grass and wetland habitats, as well as doing some shoreline stabilization work. Once final plans and approval have been completed, solicitation for bids will be conducted. 2025 will be a busy year at Lake Rebecca Park.

Scan the QR code to view the city calendar.

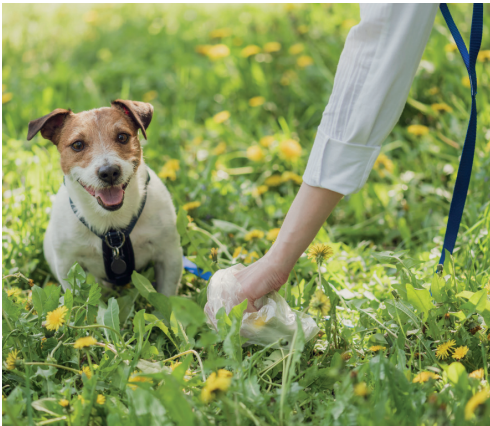




PRSRT-STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Hastings, MN
Permit No. 166

POSTAL CUSTOMER

IMPORTANT SPRING REMINDERS



Please Pick up Your Pet's Waste

Your pet is adorable, but it's waste is not. As you get out to enjoy the city parks this year, please be mindful to pick up after your pet and dispose of the waste properly.

City ordinance requires pet owners to clean up after their pets at home and in public.

This simple courtesy allows others to enjoy the parks while maintaining water quality. Thank you!



Properly Dispose of Products

An illicit discharge is any discharge to the storm sewer system that is not composed entirely of storm water. This includes everything from an accidental spill to an intentional dumping. Anything that reaches a catch basin will reach the nearby river, pond or lake.

The city respectfully asks residents to properly dispose of their hazardous materials. The Recycling Zone in Eagan is open to residents and businesses for dropping off such hazardous waste. For more information and a full list of accepted materials, visit www.dakotacounty.us, search Recycling Zone.



Report a Pothole

It's that time of year when potholes start popping up. If you see one that requires city attention, please submit an online service request at www.hastingsmn.gov/servicerequests, or call Public Works at 651-480-6185.

While the goal of Public Works staff is to locate and fix all potholes as quickly as possible, your assistance in locating them is invaluable.