Meet the Des Moines Police Department’s
AWARD-WINNING K9 UNIT

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Parks and Recreation Insert Inside!
Each year, the Des Moines Mayor and City Council members make appointments to twenty local boards and commissions, who in turn offer a wide variety of services to the city council and citizens of Des Moines. For more information, or if you're interested in becoming part of the public process or applying for an open position, please visit [dsm.city](http://dsm.city) or contact the City Clerk's Office at 515-283-4209.

Meet the Street Use Team

Have you ever been to one of the many special events in Des Moines and wondered how these events come together? It all starts with the Street Use Team which is responsible for the safety, organization and logistics of all special events on our city streets. The team meets once a month with event organizers to guide them through the process of obtaining a street use permit and assists with policing, EMS services, liquor licenses, trail permits, sound permits and traffic control before, during and after the event. Next time you are at a special event, please thank our street use team for helping our city be a great place to play!

The City of Des Moines hosts many events throughout the year. If you’d like to hold your event on city streets in Des Moines, you can find the application at [www.dsm.city/streetuse](http://www.dsm.city/streetuse).

Boards and Commissions

Rules for Door-to-Door Peddlers

Spring and summer months are busy times for door-to-door peddlers, and each year the City receives complaints. Most peddlers represent legitimate businesses, but some do not. The City's ordinance requires that anyone going door-to-door selling a product or a service must have a city permit.

**DO:**

- Ask to see a permit; peddlers MUST have a copy
- Review the permit, making sure there is a city logo in the upper left-hand corner and has the city clerk's signature
- Report concerns to 515-283-4209
- On weekends, call the non-emergency police number at 515-283-4811
- If you are a peddler, be prepared to leave a copy of the permit

**DON’T:**

- Answer the door if you feel uncomfortable
- Give any personal information, such as social security or credit card numbers
- Ignore your instincts
Award-Winning Canine Units Recognized

Each spring, the Des Moines Police Department’s Canine Unit participates in the United States Police Canine Association (USPCA) certification course, known as one of the hardest courses in the country. This year, 58 canine teams from Iowa and Minnesota participated in the USPCA’s Region 21 trials in Ft. Madison, IA. DMPD had top dogs in both the Rooms Narcotic Search test and the Cars Narcotic Search test. Their perfect scores earned them the #1 spot in each test, achieved by intense training and around-the-clock care from their handlers.

Senior Police Officer Cordell Miller and his 86-pound canine Bello have served the City of Des Moines together for eight years, starting when Bello was 13-months old. While this isn’t the first time SPO Miller has received an award from USPCA, he’s extremely proud of Bello carrying on Des Moines’ excellent reputation for working dogs.

“It’s one of those things that’s very rewarding. Whatever you put into it is what you’re going to get in return,” SPO Miller explained. “When your dog does well, you feel good. That hard work is paying off.”

Senior Police Officer Daobandon Meunsaveng and his 72-pound canine Bero have worked together for three years. This is the second year in a row they’ve received a 1st place award from USPCA.

“We like the challenge. That’s the reason I joined the Canine Unit, because I knew it would be challenging,” said SPO Meunsaveng. “My goal is to compete nationally. I think Bero is going to make it happen, it’s just a matter of when.”

Also during the trials, the 2018 Patrol Case of the Year was awarded to Senior Police Officer Aaron Cawthorn and canine Nala for tracking a fleeing homicide suspect that led officers into a drainage tunnel after crashing a car.

The work of these officers doesn’t end when their shift is over. Maintaining their dog’s needs is a 24/7 responsibility. “I’m with Bello more than I’m with my family, so I can tell just by looking in his eyes if he’s not feeling well,” said SPO Miller. “If he could talk, he’d tell you the same thing about me.”

There’s a special bond that develops, extending well beyond their line of duty. “These dogs are obviously highly-trained, but they also have feelings. They’re highly-obedient working dogs, but they’re also a pet to us,” SPO Meunsaveng described.

Check Out the City’s New Website

In order to better serve residents and visitors, the City of Des Moines has made a major upgrade to its website. The new website – DSM.city – is designed to make it easier to find city information, news, and events.

Some of the updated features include:
- Resident-focused navigation to quickly access City information and services
- Clear language to make online City information easier to understand
- Improved search functionality powered by Google
- Mobile-friendly responsive design to ensure accessibility on devices of all sizes
- Automatic language translations to better serve residents

City Manager Scott Sanders, says, “I am excited for our residents to have access to the City’s new website. An incredible amount of work has gone into the project to assure the new website is innovative and resident focused. This improved tool will help all residents better understand the resources of the City which will correlate to an efficient delivery of services.”

We’d like to hear from you. Click on “Take a Tour” in the middle of the home page to find a guided tour that will walk you through many of the new features, the new layout, and the improved navigation. Then, click on the link at the end of the tour (at the bottom of the website) to give us your thoughts and make suggestions for further improvements.

“We invest a lot of our time together. We place trust in our dogs, and they deliver.” – SPO Meunsaveng

Whether at home or at work, the officers and their dogs learn to respect each other and share a commitment to serving Des Moines.

“These dogs can be a tool we use. But they’re also our best friends and our partners,” SPO Miller explained. “They’ll lay down their life for us and those we’re trying to protect. At the end of the day, that’s what this is all about.”

Visit our new website: DSM.city
Blitz on Blight Program Begins with LOSST Funding

Thanks to funding from the Local Option Sales and Service Tax (LOSST), the City of Des Moines will more efficiently address the blight that harms neighborhoods. Blight is defined as a public nuisance structure, which can be a house, shed, garage, or commercial building, that has become unsafe or unfit for occupancy.

The long-term goals are to remove blight from neighborhoods and repurpose the land in a way that positively contributes to its neighborhood. Neighborhood Inspections Administrator SuAnn Donovan believes the Blitz on Blight program “will have a swift and positive impact on the quality and safety of neighborhoods.”

Currently, between 150 and 200 structures have been determined to be a public nuisance and new properties are being added to the list every day. Some properties have been on the list for almost 10 years. In the past, the city used federal grant funds to demolish approximately 10 structures per year. Since federal funds can only be used in part of the city, many structures were still standing.

The Blitz on Blight is a city-wide program that will start demolishing structures in the summer of 2019. With LOSST funds, the city can demolish 10 times as many blighted structures per year in a streamlined process. Structures that pose the greatest safety risks, such as fire-damaged houses, and structures that have been on the nuisance list the longest, will be demolished first. All buildings are vacant at time of demolition. The city does not take ownership of the property once demolition has been completed.

Public nuisances are often reported by residents making a complaint to the Community Development Department’s Neighborhood Inspection Division (NID). Inspectors will also be added to the division to do block by block inspections to locate public nuisance structures.

To report blight in your neighborhood, call NID at 515-283-4046 or email nid@dmgov.org.

SCRUB Days

**JUNE 15**
- MWA Transfer Station, 4198 Delaware Avenue
- MWA Compost Center, 1601 Harriett Street
- [MEGA SCRUB] Capitol Complex Lot #3 west of E 14th St, south of Court Avenue
  - 7 AM - 2 PM
  - 7 AM - 2 PM
  - 7 AM - 1 PM

**JULY 20**
- MWA Transfer Station, 4198 Delaware Avenue
- MWA Compost Center, 1601 Harriett Street
- [MEGA SCRUB] Polk County River Place, 2309 Euclid Avenue
  - 7 AM - 2 PM
  - 7 AM - 2 PM
  - 7 AM - 1 PM

Keep Your Alleyway Clear

Mowing season is here! Property owners with alleyways are reminded that it’s their responsibility to maintain the alley along their property line. Alleyways with overgrown vegetation make it difficult for your neighbors to share the alley and puts their vehicles at risk for damage.

**Want to avoid a fine?** Plants, grasses and weeds should be trimmed to below 12 inches.

**Want to report a complaint?** Call 515-283-4950.
Take the Tour in July

Join our celebration of National Parks and Recreation Month when you participate in Tour DM Parks!! As in previous years, we have designated 31 locations listed below, participants who visit the 31 spots are entered to win the grand prize of $1,000 CASH courtesy of our sponsor the Friends of Des Moines Parks.

How it works:
From July 1 – July 31, contestants must document their visit to the specific locations with a photo and share it on our social media networks (Facebook, Twitter or Instagram) with the official contest hashtag #tourdmparks2019.

Visit 10 Locations – Receive a t-shirt.
Visit 20 Locations - Receive $20 “Parks Bucks” certificate with an estimated retail value of $20, which may be used for any Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department program through June 30, 2020.

Entrants who submit photos of all 31 locations are then eligible to compete for the “Tour DM Parks” grand prize of $1,000.

Visit dmparks.org/tourdmparks to download your tour itinerary and view the full set of rules.

Mini-Tour
As a special celebration of the 125th anniversary of the first four Des Moines parks, entrants who visit four specific locations and share photos with the hashtag #minitour will win a commemorative coin valued at $5.00 each. These locations are:

- Grandview Park (Disc Golf)
- Greenwood Park (Pond)
- Union Park (Gazebo at SW corner)
- Waveland Park (Golf Course Entrance sign)

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

This guide will provide information about upcoming programs and offerings including:

- Aquatics
- Athletics
- Community Gardens
- Community Recreation Centers
- Environmental Education
- Rentals
- Special Events

Limited print copies are available, but you can download one for yourself at dmparks.org.

2019 DESIGNATED LOCATIONS

| A.H. Blank Golf Course - Driving Range | Edna Griffin Park - Playground |
| Ashworth Park - Breedlove Plaza | Ewing Park - Mountain bike flow trail |
| Belle Turner Park - Wood Sculptures | Gray’s Lake Park - Christine Hensley Terrace |
| Brody School Park - Tennis Court | Greater Des Moines Botanical Gardens - “Spectral Liberation” Sculpture at Entrance |
| Brook Run Park - Playground | Harmon Park - Bridge |
| Burke Park - Historical Sign | James W. Cownie Soccer Park - Entrance Sculpture |
| Carl Voss Trail - Laurel Hill Cemetery - Scattering Ground |
| Hartford Avenue Bridge | MacRae Park - EMC Overlook |
| Carney Park - Home Plate | Martin Luther King Jr Park - Basketball Court Mural |
| Cheatam Park - Basketball Court | Pioneer Park - Large Tree Near Shelter |
| | Pioneer Columbus Community Recreation Center/Stone Park - Wading Pool |
| | Principal Park - Right Field Fountain |
| | Principal Riverwalk - Monumental Journey |
| | Principal Riverwalk - Red Bridge Viewing Platform |
| | Redhead Park - Playground |
| | Riverwalk Dog Park |
| | Sheridan Park - Spryground |
| | Tower Park - Spryground |
| | Valley High Manor Park - Swingset |
| | Western Gateway Park - Miffy Sculpture |
| | Witmer Park - Pickleball/Tennis Court |
| | Woodlawn Park - Community Garden |
**Saturday, 11th**
*National Kids In Parks Day*
- Butterfly Garden Plant
- GrowFly.
- Star Viewing at Ewing Park
  - Free Flicks at Gray’s Lake Park - *“Lego Movie 2: The Second Part”*
- $1 Bike and Boat Rentals
- Youth Music Showcase
- Woodland Cemetery Tour

**Wednesday, 15th**
- Birding Basics

**Friday, 17th**
- Spring Perennial Divide
- Lifeguard Training

**Saturday, 18th**
- Lifeguard Training
- Star Viewing in Ewing Park

**Sunday, 19th**
- Lifeguard Training

**Tuesday, 21st**
- Evening Pickleball at Pioneer Columbus
- Bald Eagle Nest Viewing

**Wednesday, 22nd**
- Birding Basics

**Thursday, 23rd**
- Evening Pickleball at Pioneer Columbus

**Friday, 24th**
- Milkweed Planting for Monarchs

**Saturday, 25th**
- Splash Pools Open
- Northwest Family Aquatic Center Open for Memorial Day Weekend

**Sunday, 26th**
- Northwest Family Aquatic Center Open for Memorial Day Weekend

**Monday, 27th**
- Community Recreation Centers Closed for Memorial Day
- Northwest Family Aquatic Center Open for Memorial Day Weekend

**Tuesday, 28th**
- Evening Pickleball at Pioneer Columbus
- Bald Eagle Nest Viewing

**Wednesday, 29th**
- Birding Basics

**Thursday, 30th**
- Evening Pickleball at Pioneer Columbus

**Friday, 31st**
- Milkweeds for Monarch Butterflies

**Saturday, 1st**
- Kids Vs. Cops
- Spraygrounds Open
- Youth Pre-K and Kindergarten, Elementary Flag Football
- Registration Open
- 5 vs 3 Adult Basketball, Ultimate Frisbee Registration Opens
- New Bookwalk - Waveland Trail: Planting a Rainbow
- Birding Basics

**Tuesday, 7th**
- Evening Pickleball at Pioneer Columbus
- Bald Eagle Nest Viewing

**Wednesday, 8th**
- Birding Basics

**Saturday, 11th**
- National Kids In Parks Day
- Butterfly Garden Plant
- GrowFly.
- Star Viewing at Ewing Park
- Free Flicks at Gray’s Lake Park - *“Lego Movie 2: The Second Part”*
- $1 Bike and Boat Rentals
- Youth Music Showcase
- Woodland Cemetery Tour

**Tuesday, 14th**
- Evening Pickleball at Pioneer Columbus
- Bald Eagle Nest Viewing

**Wednesday, 15th**
- Birding Basics

**Friday, 17th**
- Spring Perennial Divide
- Lifeguard Training

**Saturday, 18th**
- Lifeguard Training
- Star Viewing in Ewing Park

**Sunday, 19th**
- Lifeguard Training

**Tuesday, 21st**
- Evening Pickleball at Pioneer Columbus
- Bald Eagle Nest Viewing

**Wednesday, 22nd**
- Birding Basics

**Thursday, 23rd**
- Evening Pickleball at Pioneer Columbus

**Friday, 24th**
- Milkweed Planting for Monarchs

**Saturday, 25th**
- Splash Pools Open
- Northwest Family Aquatic Center Open for Memorial Day Weekend

**Sunday, 26th**
- Northwest Family Aquatic Center Open for Memorial Day Weekend

**Monday, 27th**
- Community Recreation Centers Closed for Memorial Day
- Northwest Family Aquatic Center Open for Memorial Day Weekend

**Tuesday, 28th**
- Evening Pickleball at Pioneer Columbus
- Bald Eagle Nest Viewing

**Wednesday, 29th**
- Birding Basics

**Thursday, 30th**
- Evening Pickleball at Pioneer Columbus

**Friday, 31st**
- Milkweeds for Monarch Butterflies

**Saturday, 1st**
- Pools and Aquatic Centers Open
- Youth Pre-K and Kindergarten Kickball Registration Open
- Youth Pre-K and Kindergarten Tee-Ball Registration Open
- Youth Elementary Coach Pitch Baseball Registration Opens
- Youth Middle School Flag Football Registration Open
- 5 vs 3 Adult Basketball, Bags Registration Closes
- New Bookwalk - Evelyn K. Davis Park: Growing Vegetable Soup
- Train the Trainer Stand Up Paddleboard Class
- Yoga in the Park
- Carp Fest

**Sunday, 2nd**
- Train the Trainer Stand Up Paddleboard Class

**Monday, 3rd**
- Wading Pools Open
- Water Safety Instructor Training

**Tuesday, 4th**
- Evening Pickleball at Pioneer Columbus
- Bald Eagle Nest Viewing
- Plant
- GrowFly.
- Water Safety Instructor Training

**Wednesday, 5th**
- Water Safety Instructor Training

**Thursday, 6th**
- Evening Pickleball at Pioneer Columbus
- Free Flicks at Witter Park - *“Spider-Man Into the Spider-Verse”*
- Water Safety Instructor Training

**Friday, 7th**
- Free Fishing Friday
- Water Safety Instructor Training

**Saturday, 8th**
- Star Viewing in Ewing Park
- Yoga in the Park
- Woodland Cemetery Tour

**Sunday, 9th**
- Stand Up Paddleboard Intro Class

**Monday, 10th**
- Swim Lesson Session 1
- Private Swimming Lessons

**Tuesday, 11th**
- Swim Lesson Session 1
- Evening Pickleball at Pioneer Columbus
- Bald Eagle Nest Viewing
- Private Swimming Lessons

**Wednesday, 12th**
- Swim Lesson Session 1
- Private Swimming Lessons

**Thursday, 13th**
- Swim Lesson Session 1
- Evening Pickleball at Pioneer Columbus
- Free Flicks at Grandview Park
- *“Mary Poppins Returns”*
- Private Swimming Lessons

**Friday, 14th**
- Swim Lesson Session 1
- Family Day - Pools

**Saturday, 15th**
- Swim Lesson Session 1
- Yoga in the Park

**Sunday, 16th**
- Father’s Day - Pools

**Monday, 17th**
- Swim Lesson Session 2
- Private Swimming Lessons
- DMMC Music Camps - Rock and Hip Hop

**Tuesday, 18th**
- Swim Lesson Session 2
- Private Swimming Lessons
- Bald Eagle Nest Viewing
- Stand Up Paddleboard with the Naturalist
- Evening Pickleball at Pioneer Columbus
- DMMC Music Camps - Rock and Hip Hop

**Wednesday, 19th**
- Swim Lesson Session 2
- Private Swimming Lessons
- DMMC Music Camps - Rock and Hip Hop

**Thursday, 20th**
- Swim Lesson Session 2
- Private Swimming Lessons
- Free Flicks at Evergreen Park - *“Hotel Transylvania 3”*
- Evening Pickleball at Pioneer Columbus
- UPCYCLE Stewards event
- DMMC Music Camps - Rock and Hip Hop

**Friday, 21st**
- Swim Lesson Session 2

**Saturday, 22nd**
- Yoga in the Park

**Monday, 24th**
- Swim Lesson Session 3
- National Swim a Lap Day - Pools
- Private Swimming Lessons
- DMMC Music Camps - Rock and Hip Hop

**Tuesday, 25th**
- Swim Lesson Session 3
- Evening Pickleball at Pioneer Columbus
- Bald Eagle Nest Viewing
- DMMC Music Camps - Rock and Hip Hop

**Wednesday, 26th**
- Swim Lesson Session 3
- Private Swimming Lessons
- DMMC Music Camps - Rock and Hip Hop

**Thursday, 27th**
- Swim Lesson Session 3
- Evening Pickleball at Pioneer Columbus
- Stand Up Paddleboard with the Naturalist
- Private Swimming Lessons
- DMMC Music Camps - Rock and Hip Hop
- Free Flicks at Bates Park - *“Aquaman”*

**Friday, 28th**
- Swim Lesson Session 3
- Plant
- GrowFly.

**Saturday, 29th**
- Yoga in the Park
**Monday, 1st**
- Adult Bags (Fall) Registration Open
- Adult Flag Football Registration Opens
- Adult Kickball Registration Opens
- Adult Softball (Fall) Registration Opens
- Tour DM Parks Begins
- Cemeteries Decoration Clean-up and Flag Removal
- New Bookwalk - Gray's Lake Park: One Duck Stuck

**Tuesday, 2nd**
- Evening Pickleball at Pioneer Columbus
- Cemeteries Decoration Clean-up and Flag Removal

**Wednesday, 3rd**
- Cemeteries Decoration Clean-up and Flag Removal

**Thursday, 4th**
- Evening Pickleball at Pioneer Columbus
- Cemeteries Decoration Clean-up and Flag Removal

**Friday, 5th**
- Cemeteries Decoration Clean-up and Flag Removal

**Saturday, 6th**
- Free Flicks at McHenry Park - Park Madness Winner
- Yoga in the Park

**Monday, 8th**
- Swim Lesson Session 4
- Private Swimming Lessons

**Tuesday, 9th**
- Swim Lesson Session 4
- Private Swimming Lessons
- Evening Pickleball at Pioneer Columbus

**Wednesday, 10th**
- Swim Lesson Session 4
- Private Swimming Lessons

**Thursday, 11th**
- Swim Lesson Session 4
- Private Swimming Lessons
- Free Flicks at Woodlawn Park - How To Train Your Dragon: Hidden World
- Evening Pickleball at Pioneer Columbus

**Friday, 12th**
- Swim Lesson Session 4
- Family Day - Pools

**Saturday, 13th**
- Stand Up Paddleboard Intro Class
- Woodland Cemetery Tour

**Monday, 15th**
- Swim Lesson Session 5
- Private Swim Lessons
- Adult Ultimate Frisbee Registration Closes

**Tuesday, 16th**
- Swim Lesson Session 5
- Private Swim Lessons
- Evening Pickleball at Pioneer Columbus

**Wednesday, 17th**
- Swim Lesson Session 5
- Private Swim Lessons
- Stand Up Paddleboard with the Naturalist

**Thursday, 18th**
- Swim Lesson Session 5
- Private Swim Lessons
- Evening Pickleball at Pioneer Columbus
- UPCYCLE Stewards event

**Friday, 19th**
- Swim Lesson Session 5
- Glendale Cemetery Prairie Clean-up

**Saturday, 20th**
- Yoga in the Park

**Monday, 22nd**
- Swim Lesson Session 6
- Private Swim Lessons

**Tuesday, 23rd**
- Swim Lesson Session 6
- Private Swim Lessons
- Stand Up Paddleboard with the Naturalist

**Wednesday, 24th**
- Swim Lesson Session 6
- Private Swim Lessons

**Thursday, 25th**
- Swim Lesson Session 6
- Private Swim Lessons
- Free Flicks at Brenton Skating Plaza - "Black Panther"
- Evening Pickleball at Pioneer Columbus

**Friday, 26th**
- Swim Lesson Session 6

**Saturday, 27th**
- National Parent's Day - Pools

**Monday, 28th**
- Swim Lesson Session 5
- Private Swim Lessons

**Tuesday, 29th**
- Swim Lesson Session 6
- Private Swim Lessons

**Wednesday, 30th**
- Swim Lesson Session 6

**Thursday, 31st**
- Swim Lesson Session 6

**Friday, 9th**
- Family Day - Pools

**Saturday, 10th**
- STAR Party w/ Free Flicks at Ewing Park (Lilac Arboretum) - "Incredibles 2"
- Yoga in the Park

**Tuesday, 13th**
- Evening Pickleball at Pioneer Columbus
- Stand Up Paddleboard with the Naturalist

**Thursday, 15th**
- Adult Bags (Fall) Registration Closes
- Adult Flag Football Registration Closes
- Adult Kickball Registration Closes
- Adult Softball (Fall) Registration Closes
- Evening Pickleball at Pioneer Columbus
- UPCYCLE Stewards event

**Saturday, 17th**
- Yoga in the Park
- Woodland Cemetery Tour

**Sunday, 18th**
- Doggie Dive
- Pools and Aquatic Centers Close

**Tuesday, 20th**
- Evening Pickleball at Pioneer Columbus
Memorial Day Weekend Cemetery Activities

On Memorial Day weekend, visiting a cemetery has become a tradition for many. Guests often leave bouquets, plant flowers, clean headstones or place flags as they pay their respects. Offices at Laurel Hill and Glendale Cemeteries will be open on Saturday, May 25 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, May 26 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Monday, May 27 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visitors can receive assistance locating gravesites as well as purchase floral decorations. A wide variety of plastic/silk floral bouquets will be available, ranging in price from $8.00 to $25.00.

Volunteers are also needed to clean the facilities and assist guests. To learn about volunteer opportunities or sign up, visit http://bit.ly/MemorialDayVolunteers.

Find Serenity in the Rose Garden This Summer

Due to the construction at Gray’s Lake Park, Yoga in the Park moves to the Clare and Miles Mills Rose Garden in Greenwood Park this year. Yoga, sponsored by UnityPoint Health - Des Moines, will be held Saturdays at 9 a.m. from June 1 - September 28. Special thanks to the many volunteer instructors who make this program possible.

View the full instructor list and parking information at dmparks.org.

Any Age Can Learn to Swim This Summer

Since 2014, nearly 12,000 people have been taught the valuable life skill of swimming in Des Moines’ pools and aquatic centers. It’s important for individuals of all ages to be comfortable not just in the water, but around it, as unforeseen situations can always arise.

Classes offered this summer include:
- Baby/Infant and Me
- Preschool Swim
- Learn to Swim Levels 1-5
- Adult Swimming Lessons
- Private Lessons

The cost is $30 per person for group lessons and $80 per person for private lessons. New in 2019, six sessions are available, starting June 10. Just as in previous years, swim lesson class sizes are restricted and registration is first come, first serve.

To ensure that everyone can participate, financial assistance is available for qualifying families through a program subsidized by the Friends of Des Moines Parks. Please call 515-518-4770 for more information.

We also offer Water Safety Instructor (June 3 – 7) and Lifeguard Training (May 17 – 19). Our team has many openings for lifeguards. If you are given a conditional offer for employment with Des Moines Parks and Recreation, the lifeguard training course will be provided at no charge.

Visit dmparks.org to view session dates, times, class descriptions and to register.

Bike or Golf FORE! Our Parks

The Friends of Des Moines Parks will be hosting their 6th Annual FORE! Our Parks golf outing and bike ride at Waveland Golf Course on Friday, June 14. Learn about Des Moines’ parks while supporting the economic, environmental, health and recreational benefits they provide central Iowans. The event has reached a 5-year fundraising total of $150,000.

Join us for a shotgun start at 12 p.m. for the best-ball or 1 p.m. start for the bike ride. Register online at Friendsofdmparks.org. Cost is $150 for individuals, $500 for foursomes or $75 per cyclists or $125 for two cyclists.

Data Drives Decisions!

Each year, National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project collects information about how trails, bike lanes and streets are used in Des Moines. Trail use data helps identify and prioritize where new bicycle and pedestrian facilities should be constructed, evaluate the effectiveness of such facilities, and apply for grant funding to maintain existing facilities and build new connections.

To make this happen, over 100 volunteers are needed to count bicyclists and pedestrians and hand out survey cards at 20+ spots throughout the city September 10, 11 and 14. As a thank you, volunteers can choose between $10 in Bike Ped Bucks when you volunteer for a single shift or a free 2020 Des Moines Mayor’s Annual Ride registration when you register to volunteer for multiple shifts.

Visit dmparks.org for more information about the project or to select your shift.
Here is an update on the anticipated construction schedules:

**Scott Avenue Bridge**
- **Fall 2019** – Minor construction may begin with bridge open to traffic
- **Spring 2020** – Begin full closure of the bridge
- **December 2020** – Bridge to reopen one traffic lane in each direction
- **Summer 2021** – Construction to be completed and bridge reopened to all traffic

**SW 1st Street Multi-Use Trail Bridge**
- **April 2019** – Bridge closed for construction
- **Trail detour in place along Fifth Street Bridge**
- **December 2019** – Trail to reopen across bridge
- **Summer 2020** – Construction to be completed

**Walnut Street Bridge**
- **Fall 2022** – Replacement is planned to begin

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**Do You Need Flood-Related Information?**

The City of Des Moines can provide you with the following information:

- Whether a property is in or out of a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) and associated regulatory requirements
- Additional flood insurance data for a property, such as the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) zone and the base flood elevation
- Whether a property is in or out of a floodway and associated regulatory requirements
- Estimated flood depth data for a given property
- Documented historical flood information
- Locations that should be protected because of their natural floodplain functions, such as mapped wetlands, critical habitats, and areas identified as "Open Space" on the City's land use map

To request this information, please contact the Permit & Development Center at 515-283-4200 or stop in at 602 Robert D. Ray Drive during normal business hours. There is no charge for this service.

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**Sexual Harassment? Not In Our City!**

If you feel you have been treated unfairly, contact our office for free and confidential assistance.

#KnowYourRightsDSM
The City of Des Moines, in partnership with Trees Forever, will plant over 550 new trees this year and provide care for over 2,500 trees. Much of this work will be done by teenagers and young adults through the new Growing Futures initiative where Trees Forever will help grow the next generation of young leaders and the next generation of trees, side-by-side.

Join this tree-rific effort! Visit the Trees Forever events calendar at www.treesforever.org/events to find upcoming volunteer events. Plus, you can help plant even more trees by making a tax-deductible donation to Trees Forever!

Visit www.treesforever.org. Give or send donations to Trees Forever, 80 West 8th Street, Marion, IA 52302 and mention “Growing Futures” in the subject line (all funds donated will only be used for tree plantings in the City of Des Moines).

Leave your mark on our city – plant trees today!

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Stay Safe While Grilling

Break out the barbecue and celebrate spring in your own backyard. Stay safe by following these simple guidelines.

• Keep your grill a safe distance from combustibles, including your home’s overhang.
• Clean your grill thoroughly before the season and before each use.
• Empty the grease trap and remove build-up from the grates and burners.
• Check gas-fired barbecues for leaks by opening the main gas valve and spraying the hoses and fittings with soapy water. You should see no bubbles. If you do, have a professional make repairs before using the grill.
• Consider using a chimney-type starter with your charcoal grill, as it requires only paper to start. If you do choose lighter fluid, apply only to start the fire, not to intensify an existing fire.
• Be sure the grill is continuously supervised by an adult.
• Keep a fire extinguisher nearby.
• Be sure you have a clear escape path should a fire occur.

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Need Help Restoring the Green to Your Yard?

The City’s storm water utility wants to help you improve your yard by offsetting the cost of soil quality restoration by as much as 50%. Find the application online at dsm.city/dsmrebate.

As houses are built, topsoil is removed, and the remaining subsoil is compacted by construction activity. With high clay content and little organic matter, yards can suffer in the heat and need a lot of fertilizer and water to stay healthy. Plus, yards with poor soil quality contribute to poor water quality due to their inability to absorb water or infiltrate it to the roots of turfgrass.

Soil quality restoration improves soil health on new or existing lawns. It starts by reducing the compaction through deep aeration and then increases organic matter with the addition of compost. It leads to healthier, more functional soils that can absorb more rainfall. Keeping the water where it lands is the best way to protect everything downstream.
Symposium Recap

In March, more than 650 attendees participated in the 33rd Annual Civil and Human Rights Symposium, “Move Passion to Progress.” The daylong event featured interactive workshops geared towards providing action steps to take on important issues. Richie Reseda’s keynote touched on the role that everyone plays in mass incarceration and how people impacted by it can benefit from policies that lead to a more equitable justice system.

This was the culmination of the Des Moines Civil and Human Rights Commission’s efforts to enhance and mobilize engagement on issues affecting communities in Des Moines. The symposium was born out of the 2018 Bridging the Gap dialogues where residents, business leaders, and local government came together to strategize ways to address community issues. Those dialogues made obvious there was passion and support for addressing issues, and a need for guidance to engage beyond dialogue into action steps for policies that could lead to a more equitable city for all.

Through this process, a series of recommendations were developed and presented by the Commission to City Council in February and are undergoing council review for policy implementation. They focus on quality affordable housing, economic stability, workforce demographics, and ongoing mandatory training for city staff.

The Commission is interested in finding more ways to bridge the gap between residents and ways for them to implement change by working with local government. To suggest a topic for future community dialogues, please email humanrights@dmgov.org.

Simple Steps to Success

The foundation for a child’s success begins the day they are born. Infants immediately hear words and phrases. The more words a child hears from a caring adult, the better prepared they are for learning to read. There are five simple things you can do with your child every day to help them succeed: read, write, sing, play, and talk.

Simple Steps to Success is a Des Moines Public Library campaign that encourages parents to practice these skills with their children. The greatest amount of brain growth occurs between birth and the age of five. The early years of a child’s life are the most important years in helping them develop. It’s never too early to start, and all it takes is a few minutes every day to make a big difference in a child’s life.

- Practice these skills wherever you are, whatever you are doing.
- Sing with your child while waiting at a stoplight.
- Talk with your child about the colors and shapes of food at the grocery store.
- Point out letters and words while riding in the car.
- Visit the library and explore the stations set up to encourage these skills.

Check out a wide variety of books that will pique your child’s interests, whatever they are. Go to the Simple Steps website, dmpl.org/simplesteps, for tips, videos, book suggestions and other resources to help parents and caregivers.

This program is funded by a grant provided by Polk County Early Childhood Iowa. The library works in collaboration with local organizations in order to reach a diverse, broad audience with the campaign.
Some of the brightest and most important lights on a fire truck or ambulance are called “scene lights.” Not only do they help firefighters and medics perform critical tasks at your home or business, they also help us find you. Des Moines’ municipal code requires numbering on all existing buildings—including houses—so that, if an emergency strikes you or a loved one, we can reach you as quickly as possible.

- Be sure your house number is easily visible from the street.
- Apply numbers that are white or black and stand out against their background.
- Use numbers at least 4” high, if your home or business is within 100 feet of the street.
- Use numbers 6” high, if your home or business is more than 100 feet from the street.

Dates to Know

**MAY**
- **16** – AVID series: Madeline Miller, author of *Circe*, 7:00 p.m., Central Library
- **18** – Des Moines Police Department’s Run with the Police 5K Fun Run/Walk 9:00 a.m. Des Moines Police Station 100 Block of East Court Avenue
- **23** – AVID Author Series: C.J. Chivers 7:00 p.m. Central Library
- **27** – Memorial Day, many City Offices are closed

**JUNE**
- **1** – All pools and aquatic centers open for the season
- **7** – Summer Reading Kickoff 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., South Side Library
- **15** – Mega SCRUB Day

**JULY**
- **4** – Independence Day, many City Offices are closed
- **15-17** – NASA scientist Dr. K. Renee Horton will visit Des Moines Public Library locations
- **20** – Mega SCRUB Day
- **27** – Crossroads – A Journey with the Blues, Iowa Blues harmonica artist Malcom Wells. Attendees will receive a free harmonica. 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Forest Avenue Library

Visit [dsm.city/calendar](http://dsm.city/calendar) for further information.

Help Police and Firefighters Find Your House

Library Hours Expand July 1

The library will be open longer each week thanks to your Local Option Sales & Service Tax dollars.

**Central Library: 1000 Grand Avenue**
- Monday-Thursday: 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.
- Friday: 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- Saturday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Sunday: 1 – 5 p.m.

**Franklin Avenue Library: 5000 Franklin Avenue**
- Monday-Thursday: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
- Friday: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- Saturday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Sunday: 1 – 5 p.m.

**East Side: 2559 Hubbell Avenue**

**Forest Avenue: 1326 Forest Avenue**

**North Side: 3516 Fifth Avenue**

**South Side Library: 1111 Porter Avenue**
- Monday-Thursday: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
- Friday: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- Saturday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.