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NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATE

City News for Neighborhood Association Leaders and Residents
June 2023 | [View as Webpage](#)



Summer is in full swing, and we share important updates about firework use in the City of Des Moines, a new park on the south side of the City, Vision Zero, and more!

As always, thank you for joining the Neighborhood Update, and have a safe Fourth of July!

Sign Up to Receive This Newsletter Each Month

Firework use Remains Illegal in the City of Des Moines and its Parks System

2023 Fireworks Message from Des Moines Police, Fire a...



This weekend, public fireworks displays will light up the Des Moines skyline, but the Des Moines Police want to remind you that it is illegal for residents to ignite or explode consumer fireworks within the City of Des Moines.

Consumer fireworks are sold within the City of Des Moines because [state law prohibits](#) cities from restricting fireworks sales. However, the City of Des Moines [has banned the use or explosions of consumer fireworks](#) within City limits. Citations for consumer fireworks use carry a \$625 fine. Those who set off fireworks may also be liable for paying the costs for any damage.

“There’s a real cost to people choosing to set off fireworks in our public parks,” Parks and Recreation Director Ben Page said. “It’s a huge disappointment when we’ve had facilities shut down and unavailable to the public due to fireworks damage. That’s resources taken away from the community because of selfish decisions of a few people setting off fireworks.”

Fireworks also cause significant fire safety concerns this year. Dry conditions combined with the density of trees and houses in Des Moines lead to increased fire risks this year.

“We’ve seen multiple residential fires in previous years that were traced back to fireworks use,” Des Moines Fire Marshal Jonathan Lund said. “Fireworks need a lot of space to be used safely, and combined with dry conditions, illegal fireworks use could put people in danger of serious fires.”

Residents are encouraged to celebrate the Fourth of July at the public fireworks display listed at [CatchDesMoines.com/Events](https://www.catchdesmoines.com/events).

CONSTRUCTION AROUND THE CITY



City Council Adopts Vision Zero Plan and Moves Forward With SS4A Grant

After extensive analysis and stakeholder meetings, the City Council has officially approved Des Moines' Vision Zero Transportation Safety Action Plan. During Monday's meeting, the Council passed the plan with a 6-0 vote. The City Council also gave the green light to proceed with the Safe Streets For All (SS4A) Implementation Grant process.

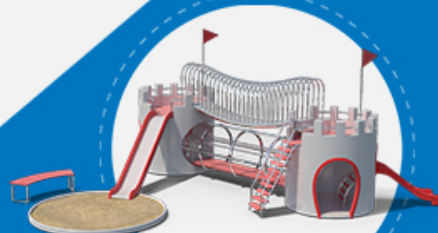


"We are dedicated to designing safe infrastructure for all modes of transportation," City Traffic Engineer John Davis said. "By adopting Vision Zero and moving forward with the Safe Streets For All Grant, our goal is to accelerate the process of achieving our goal of eliminating traffic deaths and serious injuries."

Utilizing data-driven insights, the Vision Zero plan takes a proactive approach to road safety with the goal of eliminating crashes resulting in traffic deaths and severe injuries. Over the past 12 months, the City of Des Moines and consultant Toole Design processed internal crash data from 2017-2021 to [create High Injury Network \(HIN\) maps for all crash corridors](#). The HIN maps were utilized to identify the most fatal and severe injury crash corridors and where improvements would have the highest impact.

The application for the SS4A Grant will be submitted in July, with the awards expected in Winter 2023. Achieving the goal of zero traffic deaths and serious injuries is a challenging and ongoing process, and it's not one objective versus another but rather the use of complementary objectives working together to reach zero.

PARKS AND RECREATION



Historic MacRae Park Improvements Complete

MacRae Phase 3 Improvements Completed



This week, the final phase of the MacRae Park Renovations was completed, providing residents with a fully updated version of the century-old Des Moines landmark. Over the course of the \$2.75 million dollar, multi-phase project, the final renovations include the addition of a pedestrian and bike-friendly loop, the Linda & Tom Koehn Boardwalk overlooking the fishing-friendly pond, and the Larry E. Moore Playscpare featuring a recycled log playground. The play area also offers a unique water sprayground, limestone seat walls and nooks, a saucer swing, and a sand play area.

Learn more about the new park in the video above!

ADDITIONAL NEWS



RAGBRAI is Around the Corner!



If you weren't already aware, RAGBRAI is around the corner and coming to Des Moines! Our friends at Catch Des Moines shared a few words with us that we find important to share with our neighborhood leaders. Next month we will have a special edition of the Neighborhood Newsletter with more detailed information.

"We're thrilled to host RAGBRAI in Greater Des Moines this Summer as this iconic event is part of Iowa culture, a communal experience and something so much larger than a bike ride. We're expecting 50,000 cyclists riding from Ames to Des Moines on July 26th and from Des Moines to Tama-Toledo on July 27th. The route will impact Polk City, Polk County, Ankeny, Des Moines, Pleasant Hill and Altoona. For more information on road closures, detours, or details on RAGBRAI, please visit ragbraidesmoines.com or call [\(515\) 699-3469](tel:5156993469). Please continue to check the website as we'll be updating items as the event approaches.

RAGBRAI will overnight in Des Moines on July 26th at Water Works Park with Lynyrd Skynyrd playing a free concert for cyclists and the public that evening at the Lauridsen Skatepark.

Whether you're a resident, a rider, or just want to be a part of the rocking atmosphere, we look forward to welcoming you to the heart and soul of Iowa.

Thank you – Catch Des Moines"

Again, look for more information in this newsletter next month, or contact Catch Des Moines above.

The Monthly Update From Your Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator

Neighborhood Leaders,

Frequently Asked Question: How can our neighborhood association reach all residents within our neighborhood boundaries?

Answer: Send a boundary-wide postcard using these cost-saving tips:

- Ensure postcards include all meeting and event dates, times, locations, website, social, and contact information
- Work with a local printer to determine the most cost-effective layout and print options.



- Use the USPS Every Door Direct Mail® program. This service allows neighborhood associations to send flat mail up to 3.3 ounces at a reduced rate to every mailing address within the neighborhood's boundaries. Address information is not needed; mail routes are selected in the mailing process.
- If the neighborhood association is a 501 (c)3 tax-exempt organization, inquire with the USPS on nonprofit postage rates.

For more cost savings tips—and revenue-generating ideas—read the Print Communications section of the [Neighborhood Association Toolkit](#). This section includes real-world tips for postcards, newsletters, flyers, and more.

Thank you for continuing to make a difference in your neighborhoods and in the City of Des Moines.

Heather Tamminga
Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator

You may contact Heather at HCTamminga@dmgov.org or call (515) 283-4775.

Five Years Later,
Stormwater
Infrastructure Has
Leaped Forward

Removal of
Cemetery
Decorations Begins
July 1

Guide to Summer
2023 Fun in Des
Moines Parks



Read to Succeed with the Des Moines Public Library!

The Des Moines Public Library's Summer Reading Challenge has begun. You can register at any of the six locations or below on the DMPL's website. When you register for the Summer Reading Challenge, you'll immediately receive a free book!

Work your way through our challenge program by reading for 20 minutes or completing various learning activities. Once the challenge is complete, turn in your worksheet and you'll get a small prize and be eligible for the big prizes in the end-of-summer drawing.

[SIGN UP NOW](#)

Thank you for subscribing to our Neighborhood Update!

We'd love to hear what you think about this newsletter. What kinds of information are you interested in, or what would be helpful for your neighborhood? Send your suggestions to communications@dmgov.org.

City of Des Moines | [DSM.city](https://www.dsm.city)



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