

Going *Green* in City Facilities

“Greener” Municipal Facilities

As we update our municipal buildings, we take into consideration how we can make our existing buildings “greener.” A recent renovation at City Hall allowed for the replacement of the original 43-year-old HVAC system with a new, more efficient and compact roof unit. We also advocate that staff “power down” each day and turn things off, to save electricity.

LaserFische

The City of Hopkins now scans documents and plans into a program called LaserFische. This cuts down on storage of paper documents and is easily retrieved for review.

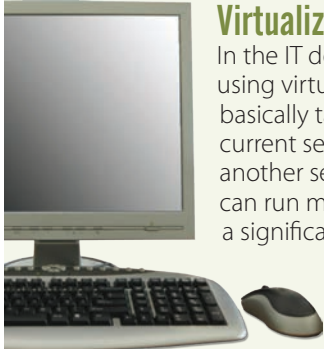


Lighting

Motion-activated lights were installed in the Police Department during remodeling and also in the Fire Department when they built the new station. The City is also making a transition to these light switches in other City buildings.

Virtualizing Servers

In the IT department they are using virtualizing servers which basically takes a “snap shot” of a current server and loads it onto another server so one computer can run multiple servers. This is a significant energy savings. 🍷



TREE CITY USA

Tree City USA

Hopkins has participated in Tree City USA for over 25 years. This means that the community developed standards leading to an organized approach to the city's urban forests. Tree City USA signs posted around a community tell visitors that we are a community that cares about its environment and indicates to prospective businesses that the quality of life may be better here. Also, increasing the numbers of trees directly affects air quality. Trees act as natural carbon sponges, absorbing carbon dioxide and improving our air quality.



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City of Hopkins



Hopkins is Going *Green*

Learn about the variety of ways the City of Hopkins is mindful of the environment

Going Green in Transportation

Mass Transit

Hopkins participates in Metro Transit's Park & Ride network. Hundreds of Hopkins residents have been able to utilize this for their daily commutes. To add to that network, the City Council has been a strong advocate for light rail transit lines out to the western suburbs. It's our expectation that by expanding the LRT's reach, there will be less congestion on the roads.

Trails

Promotion of our trails network encourages more biking, walking, and jogging. There are approximately five miles of trails and sidewalks in Hopkins. The trails connect to other cities, providing an alternative transportation method to and from work and a place for recreation. 🌱

Buy Local!

Hopkins Farmers' Market has provided the freshest products and supported our local farmers since the mid-1980s. Farmers' markets save time and money for both the shopper and the producer by reducing travel time and intermediaries.



Going Green with Resident Collaboration

Recycling

Hopkins was one of the first Cities in the area to adopt a "single sort" recycling program. Residents are able to recycle paper, glass, plastic and aluminum unsorted in one container, making recycling nearly effortless.

Hopkins Public Works, the Activity Center, and City Hall all have bins for used batteries. The Activity Center also recycles cell phones, greeting cards, box tops for education, pop tabs, and bottle tops.



Mandatory Water Restrictions

Water is our most precious natural resource. To help conserve water, the year-round City ordinance for water restriction went into effect on May 1, 2008. 🌱

Going Green in Storm Water Management

National Pollution Discharge Elimination System

Good storm water management is also of particularly high importance to us. Hopkins is one of 110 Minnesota cities participating in the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System. As part of our participation in this group, we have developed a storm water pollution prevention plan and report annually to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

We can control our water pollution and run-off by using a number of different practices: construction site erosion and storm water run-off management, sediment ponds, grass filter strips, private rainwater gardens, sump catch basins, street, and outreach. 🌱



Going Green Fostering Responsible Development

As a City, we have been selective on what businesses and industries we invite into our community. In 2005, the Hopkins' Excelsior Tech Center and Regency Projects were honored with recognition from the Sierra Club as one of America's Best New Development projects. Carl Pope of the Sierra Club said at the time, "Our hope is that Americans will be inspired by what is going on in the City of Hopkins and demand better projects in their own communities."

More recently has been the Excelsior Crossings redevelopment project, spearheaded by Cargill. The project will

be LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified, meaning its construction and design will meet the national benchmark for sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.



Hopkins has encouraged and zoned for increased density to reduce development footprints, promote walkable communities, and reduce urban sprawl. Examples of these efforts include Regency and Parkside developments as well as the Summit and Marketplace Lofts.