



City Newsletter April 10, 2026

City of Bemidji Water Main Flushing Program Begins April 15

The City of Bemidji Water Department will begin its annual water main flushing program on Wednesday, April 15 at 7:00 a.m., with work expected to continue through approximately the end of May.

This important maintenance process helps ensure the quality and reliability of the city's water system by removing mineral buildup, including iron, from water mains. Crews will conduct flushing operations daily between 7:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., moving in a north-to-south pattern throughout the city and concluding in the Nymore area.

During this time, residents may notice temporary drops in water pressure or discolored water. The discoloration is typically caused by iron sediments being stirred up in the pipes and is not harmful. If discoloration occurs, residents are advised to run their cold water until it becomes clear again.

To help residents stay informed, the city has provided an interactive flushing map, available online at: <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/181bfc9f73e9446f82d91267449fd429>

The city appreciates the community's patience and understanding during this necessary maintenance effort.

For additional information, please contact Todd Anderson, Water & Sewer Superintendent, at (218) 333-1854.

City of Bemidji to Hold Annual Stormwater Program Public Hearing

Residents of Bemidji are invited to attend the City's annual public hearing to review the effectiveness of its Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP). The hearing will take place on Monday, May 4, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

The SWPPP is an important part of the City's efforts to protect local lakes, rivers, and stormwater systems from pollution. Each year, the City evaluates the program to ensure it meets state and federal requirements and continues to effectively manage stormwater runoff.

This public hearing provides an opportunity for community members to learn more about how stormwater is managed in Bemidji, ask questions, and share feedback. Public input plays a valuable role in helping the City improve its programs and maintain the health of local waterways.

Residents who are unable to attend the hearing but would like to provide comments or ask questions are encouraged to contact Jenna Roberts, Assistant City Engineer, at (218) 333-1856.

Community participation is key to protecting Bemidji's natural resources—your voice matters!

The City of Bemidji currently has opportunities to serve on various boards, committees and commissions. See our website for more information www.ci.bemidji.mn.us

- Housing & Redevelopment Authority (2 residents)
- City Library Board (1 resident and 1 Beltrami County resident)
- Parks and Trails Commission (1 resident)
- Public Arts Commission (1 non resident or city resident available)
- Housing Appeals Board (1 Tenant)
- Deer Management Committee (1 - Ward 4)



BOARD/COMMISSION APPLICATION

General Objectives and Guidelines

The City Council invites all interested parties to become involved in city government. It is the Council's desire to engage full participation in the development and implementation of the policies of the City of Bemidji. The Boards and Commissions of the City of Bemidji are voluntary advisory bodies to the City Council, charged with the responsibility of researching, reviewing and making recommendations to the City Council. Completed applications can be mailed or dropped off at City Hall or by email at cityclerk@ci.bemidji.mn.us.

Personal Information

Full Name: _____ Date: _____

Home Address: _____

Phone (C): _____ Phone (H): _____

Email Address: _____

Please select the Board/Commission you are applying for (additional information attached):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> City Library Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Heritage Preservation Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Merit Hearing Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Redevelopment Authority |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Trails Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> Housing Appeals Board |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City Planning & Zoning Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Arts Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> South Shore Design Review Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> City Charter Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sanford Center Advisory Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainability Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community and Police Advisory Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Please provide a statement as to why you are interested in serving on this board or commission (additional information attached):

Please provide a description of professional, civic or community activities which are relevant in qualifying to serve on this board or commission (additional information attached):

Please provide your qualifying education and experience which are relevant in qualifying to serve on this board or commission (additional information attached):

Please provide your availability to attend meetings and fulfill responsibilities to serve on this board or commission (additional information attached):

Please provide any references relevant in applying for this board or commission (optional):

Name	Address	Phone
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Name	Address	Phone
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Name	Address	Phone
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NOTE: This application is of public record. Public Service opportunities are offered by the City of Bemidji without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, disability, sex or sexual orientation.

Board/Commission Information

Charter Commission	Review the city charter and make recommendations for changes to the City Council and to the voters. Qualified voter required. No member of the City Council may serve on the Charter Commission. Appointment by District Court Judge. Meets annually in June or as needed at City Hall.
Heritage Preservation Commission	The primary function of the Heritage Preservation Commission is to advise the City Council on matters relating to historic preservation. Members must have demonstrated an interest in the historical, cultural or architectural development of the City and at least two members shall be preservation-related professionals, if available in the community. Per Minnesota Statute 471.193, the Commission must include a member from the Beltrami County Historical Society, if available. Meets on the third Tuesday of the month as needed at 4:30 p.m. at City Hall.
Housing Appeals Board	The primary function of this Board is to hear and decide all appeals brought under the Housing Code, Uniform Building Code, Uniform Building Code and Rental Housing Registration Ordinance, including appeals from the Building Inspector's decision to deny, not renew, revoke or suspend a Registration Permit or Provisional Registration Permit. Make up of this Board is as follow: two contractors, two homeowners, one landlord and one tenant. Meets as needed at City Hall.
Housing & Redevelopment Authority	The purpose of the HRA is to oversee the operations of the Northland Apartments. City residency required by Minnesota Statute 469.003. A tenant is appointed on an annual basis. Meets the last Tuesday of the month at Noon at Northland Apartments meeting room.
City Library Board	The purpose of this Board is to advise the City Council as to management and operation of the Bemidji Public Library. Three non-City residents may be appointed per Minnesota Statute 134.09. Members can serve up to three consecutive, three year terms. Meets the third Tuesday each month at 5:00 p.m. at the Public Library.
Merit Hearing Board	This Board hears appeals from an employee separated from employment to determine just cause. City residency required. Meets as needed at City Hall.
City Planning & Zoning Commission	The Commission's primary function, among other duties pursuant to City Code, is to evaluate proposed planning and zoning requests. This includes variances from the development code, special use permits, and zoning amendments. Other responsibilities include subdivision

review and assisting in updating the comprehensive plan. City residency required. Meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Parks & Trails Commission

Advises the Council and City Manager in all matters relating to parks and trails. City residency required. Meets the second Tuesday of the month at 4:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Public Arts Commission

To promote public appreciation, accessibility and patronage of public art in the Bemidji community, and review and recommend to the city council public art activities on city owned or controlled property, as well as property owned or controlled by the Bemidji Economic Development Authority (BEDA), and advise the city council generally on public art related matters. Three non-City residents may be appointed per City Code. Meets the second Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. at City Hall.

South Shore Design Review Committee

The SSDRC follows the Design Guidelines as set forth in the South Shore Planned Unit Development which addresses site planning, exterior architecture and landscaping for public, civic, commercial, office, mixed-use and residential components of the South Shore Development. They are based on the Design Principles and complement the Master Plan, convey the City of Bemidji and BEDA's intentions to the builders of housing, offices and shops, and establish parameters for review of site plans and architectural drawings.

A seven-member South Shore Design Review Committee (SSDRC) shall administer these Design Guidelines.

Staff support for the SSDRC will be provided by the City of Bemidji. Initially, as sole Owners of the South Shore Development, the City of Bemidji and the BEDA will select six of the SSDRC members. The seventh member will be a appointed position from the City Planning Office. Committee members may ultimately be selected from additional South Shore Development property owners as the area develops. Committee membership should rotate. Meets as needed at City Hall.

Community and Police Advisory Board

The Board is made up of eleven (11) representatives. The Bemidji Chief of Police and one (1) Bemidji City Council Member will participate as two (2) non-voting members of the Board.

Board Members should have an interest in strengthening community and police relationships. Board Members should be representative of the City of Bemidji and that representation should strive to include diversity. Board

Members include city residents, representatives from the business communities, spiritual communities, faith organizations, service organizations and educational groups in the City of Bemidji. Efforts will be made to ensure diversity and representation from every city ward.

Citizens wishing to be a member of the Board shall complete an application; participate in an interview process and a criminal background investigation. Board Members must complete eight (8) hours of ride-a-longs with the Bemidji Police Department within three (3) months of appointment. The Board will have at least four regular meetings each year which will be set during the January annual meeting. Special meetings may be called by the Board Chair when deemed necessary. Meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 4:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Sustainability Commission

An advisory body to the City Council. Its purpose is to promote resiliency, sustainability, and green initiatives in the Bemidji community, to promote, develop, recommend community sustainability partnerships and networking, to review and recommend to the City Council activities on City owned or controlled property, as well as property owned or controlled by the Bemidji Economic Development Authority (BEDA), and to advise the City Council generally on sustainability related matters.

The Commission shall consist of seven (7) members, three (3) of which may be non-City residents, with demonstrated experience and expertise in sustainability practices and efforts, and holding no official position with the city. Meeting the second Thursday of the month at 3:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Sanford Center Advisory Board

The Sanford Center Advisory Board serves as an advisory board to both the Sanford Center Management and the Bemidji City Council regarding the management and operations of the City's Sanford Event Center, as required under the management agreement between the City of Bemidji and the management company.

Membership consists of nine (9) members; two of which are At Large Members of the City of Bemidji. Each member shall be considered a voting member for purposes of action taken or to be taken by the Board. Meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 a.m. at City Hall.