

# SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

The City of Burnsville promotes development that maintains or enhances economic opportunity and community well-being while protecting and restoring the natural environment upon which people and economies depend. Sustainability meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

## MN GreenStep Cities Step 5 Award

Minnesota GreenStep Cities Program is a voluntary recognition program to help cities achieve their sustainability goals. There are 112 cities in the program at various levels. Each city implements actions that focus on cost savings, energy use reduction and that encourage civic innovation. The City of Burnsville implemented best practices and actions, measured and reported our results, and now has shown improvement. Only a few cities have qualified for Step 5.

- ✓ **kBTU per square foot, per year:** reduced from 113.31 in 2014, to 107.17 in 2015, to 103.68 in 2016
- ✓ **Percentage of lighting that uses LED's for streetlights:** increased from 12% to 24%; added 50 street lights in 2016
- ✓ **Increased the net number of new trees planted:** 15 more than last year



### What's Next? **Organics Recycling for Other Municipal Buildings**

The State of Minnesota has a goal of recycling 75% of our waste by 2030. The Twin Cities Metropolitan Area is now at 49.9%. To reach recycling goals, we need to improve our ability to collect organics. The MPCA conducted a waste composition study in 2013 and estimates that if all material that could be recycled or composted were captured, we could achieve an 81% recycling rate. The City of Burnsville is already collecting organics and recycling at the Ice Center and an organics program is now being considered for Burnsville City Hall and the Ames Center.

## Organics Recycling Program at the Ice Center

Ice Centers are where residents gather to have fun, skate, watch others skate and generate a lot of trash

The Burnsville Ice Center is open year-round and has a concession stand that is open from September through May.

There are approximately 340,000 people that visit the Ice Center annually.

Dakota County applied for a grant to start an organics recycling program and the Burnsville Ice Center agreed to participate in the program.



**Before** the program started the Ice Center recycled **10%** of their waste.

**After** the program was in place, recycling **jumped to 30%**.

Organics recycling was at **9%** for a total of **39%** diversion rate.

Trash went from **90%** to **61%**.

**The material that is collected for organics recycling is brought to a commercial compost facility and is used for a soil amendment.**

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## Drinking Water Protection Overlay District

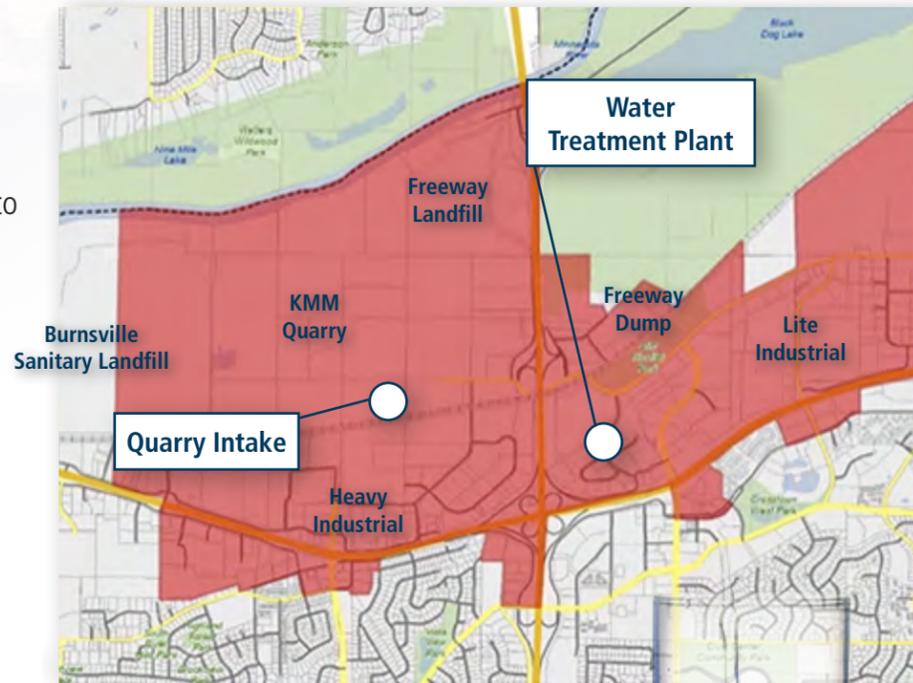
Annually, the City of Burnsville pumps more than 3.2 billion gallons of water. The service area includes approximately 90,000 residents in Burnsville and Savage. To protect Burnsville's drinking water, aquifers and quarry sources from potential pollution, an overlay district was developed and adopted by the City Council in June of 2015.

It is unique for a city the size of Burnsville to go above and beyond state standards to protect and ensure the safety of the water supply.

In the District, proactive testing is done to ensure pollutants aren't present.

Drinking water and aquifers are protected through a long-term management strategy and a two-part ordinance including:

1. Provisions for new development, building expansions or land disturbance activities in the overlay district
2. Provisions for all existing businesses in the overlay district



## Fishing Line Recycling by Eagle Scout



Jack Morrison's Eagle Scout project is installing fish line recycling boxes at Crystal Lake and Wood Pond. All fishing line collected will be recycled by the Berkley Conservation Institute, where it will become part of 9 million miles of line recycled since 1990. Once recycled, the line will be used to make habitat crates, park benches and numerous other products.

**"We found a kingfisher caught up in fishing line and dangling from a tree," said Burnsville Natural Resources Technician Caleb Ashling. "We were able to set it free. These new boxes should help protect our wildlife friends by keeping excess fishing line out of our ecosystems."**

## Beekeeping Ordinance

On May 2, 2017, the **City Council approved** an ordinance to allow beekeeping within R-1A one-family rural residential zoning district. Beekeeping is allowed as long as the hives meet the accessory structure setbacks for the zoning district. Beekeepers are responsible for managing the hives, providing an on-site water source, adequate living space, and management of any unusual aggressive behavior or swarming of the honey bees. **Beekeeping is a practice that is highlighted as a sustainability goal with the Green Step Cities program.**

Many surrounding communities currently allow beekeeping.



## What's Next? Police Department

The building that houses the **City of Burnsville Police Department is being renovated** to meet current standards for security and operational efficiency. As a part of the project a number of sustainable building practices have been incorporated. This aligns with the Sustainability Guide Plan strategy that states the city will "promote green building techniques for both city-owned facilities and private development."

The sustainable building practices include:

- Infrared radiant heaters in the garages.
- Destratification fans in the large garage.
- High efficiency water heater.
- LED lighting in all interior and exterior fixtures
- Energy recovery wheel in the air handler.
- Motion sensor, dimming and daylighting controls in all areas for lighting