

Community



Spring Forward With Us

Embrace this season of growth with fresh possibilities!

As the weather warms, parks offer a perfect escape for community members—and ensuring accessibility is key to helping everyone feel welcome. At the end of 2024, the **Public Health Law Center**, in partnership with SHIP, published a park planning guide titled ***Elevating Equitable Access to Parks***. This resource explores the many dimensions of accessibility in parks and serves as a valuable tool for park planners.

News, Resources, and Grants

County Health Rankings & Roadmaps:

[County Health Rankings & Roadmaps \(CHR&R\)](#) is a program that provides resources and tools to support community-led efforts in diagnosing core health issues and implementing evidence-informed solutions. CHR&R offers annual data snapshots of the health of nearly every county in the nation. The 2025 dataset has been released, and you can view the [Anoka County Snapshot](#) to see how our health ranks this year.

2025 Minnesota Food Shelf Survey:

Food shelf managers: the Minnesota Food Shelf Survey is back for 2025! Visit the [SuperShelf Statewide Survey webpage](#) to learn more. April marks the start of the next phase of this initiative - the Food Shelf Shopper Survey! The deadline for responses is June 20th, 2025. SHIP is offering survey implementation support to participating food shelves. Contact megan.barry@anokacountymn.gov to learn how we can help.

Spotlight- Farmer's Market Season Approaching

[Minnesota Grown](#) connects Minnesotans directly to farmers, farmers markets, and other producers. Use the [MN Grown Directory](#) to find somewhere near you to support our local growers this season.

Are you a farmers market organizer or partner looking to connect with others?

Join the virtual Monthly Farmers Market Coffee and call for a chance to listen and share information, advice, and best practices!

Email megan.barry@anokacountymn.gov for more info.



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Cultivating Connection

Spring is in the air, and we are excited to share resources and opportunities for you to get outside! It's time to have gardening on the mind and plan out all the delicious produce you want to grow.

News, Resources, and Grants

Resources:

- **Ask a Master Gardener:**
If you have a gardening-related question, visit the [Master Gardener website](#) to receive research-based answers from local Master Gardener volunteers.
- **Farm to Early Care:**
Initiatives connect young children with nutritious, locally-grown foods and support farmers in their communities. For more information visit the [The Farm to Early Care website](#)

Grant Opportunities:

- Visit the [Empowering Small Minnesota Communities \(ESMC\) Grants Library](#) to see what grants, technical assistance, and other tools are available for sustainable community infrastructure projects.
- Funding opportunities are currently available through the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) grant for projects aimed at increasing access to fruits and vegetables, promoting walking and biking, creating supportive environments for breastfeeding families, and other related initiatives. For additional details regarding available funding opportunities, please visit the [Anoka County Community Partner Awards webpage](#).

Spotlight- How Gardening Nurtures Young Minds

As a licensed home child care provider, Jodell Eisenschenk, owner of Heart of Lino Child Care, was excited to take part in a Farm to Early Care project, creating raised bed gardens for the children in her care. The gardens not only gave the kids the chance to learn about where food comes from, but also increased their access to fresh fruits and vegetables for meals and snacks. Gardening helps the children develop fine motor skills, understand the importance of healthy eating, and gives them a sense of pride as they watch their plants grow.



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