

ANOKA COUNTY NEWS

Volume 3-2021



ADDRESSING the Workforce Shortage

HIRING





Shortage Leads to
OPPORTUNITIES

Career seekers are uniquely positioned right now to find quality employment in Anoka County and the surrounding region, due to a variety of factors that have led to many employers having positions to fill.

The workforce shortage began prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, but effects of the pandemic have exacerbated that reduction. According to statistics from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), the county’s unemployment rate has nearly returned to pre-pandemic levels, but as of August 2021 the total labor force size was still down about 2.8 percent, which is about 5,600 people.

Hiring Demand

According to information from TalentNeuron, a provider of market intelligence based on large-scale data analytics, Anoka County had over 6,100 job postings from July 1 through the end of September. Some of the top fields needing workers in Anoka County include:

- Customer service rep: 732 postings.
- Warehouse worker: 576 postings.
- Direct support professional: 413 postings.
- Registered nurse: 347 postings.

According to DEED, the top job skills in the area employers are looking for include: verbal and written communications; customer service; scheduling; supervision; leadership; problem solving and collaboration.

“Anoka County, the state, and many areas of the nation are all facing the same issue right now — there’s a workforce shortage,” said Scott Schulte, chair, Anoka County Board of Commissioners. “The reasons for this are multi-faceted, and most recently the COVID-19 pandemic has further affected the available labor force. This is certainly a challenge, but for many people it’s an opportunity to get into or move up in the workforce, and Anoka County has resources to help anyone looking for work.”

Some of the following pages will detail resources available for career seekers through Anoka County’s Job Training Center and CareerForce in Blaine.

OCCUPATIONS
in Demand

Metro
Area



High School or Equivalent	Postsecondary Non-Degree Award	Associate Degree	Bachelor’s Degree or Higher
911 Emergency Dispatcher (\$67,204)	Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses (\$53,226)	Registered Nurses (\$88,275)	Software Developers & Software Quality Assurance Analysts (\$109,686)
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers (\$53,619)	Machinists (\$54,777)	Computer Network Support Specialists (\$70,174)	Market Research Analysts & Marketing Specialists (\$76,791)
Correctional Officers (\$60,958)	Law Enforcement (\$78,696)	Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists (\$81,126)	Construction Managers (\$97,224)
Customer Service Representatives \$43,930	Heating, Air Conditioning, & Refrigeration Mechanics (\$72,028)	Land Survey Technicians (\$61,817.60)	Information Security Analysts (\$103,848)
Sales Representatives, Wholesale & Mfg. (\$77,333)	Computer User Support Specialists (\$58,065)	Civil Engineering Technicians (\$60,320)	Substitute Teachers, Short-Term (\$37,480)
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers (\$50,220)	Medical Dosimetrists & Medical Records Specialists (\$55,980)	Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians (\$57,392)	Substance Abuse & Mental Health Counselors (\$50,762)
Pharmacy Technicians (\$40,284)	Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics (\$46,772)	Radiologic Technologists & Technicians (\$72,144)	Civil Engineers (\$93,662)
Social & Human Service Assistants (\$37,629)	Electricians (\$76,105)	Web Developers and Digital Interface Designers (\$81,675)	Computer Systems Analysts (\$100,128)

*Median wages source: 2021 DEED Occupations in Demand



Anoka County
JOB TRAINING CENTER

Find JTC on Facebook!



RESOURCES AVAILABLE Through CareerForce in Blaine

CareerForce in Blaine is one of the state's development and talent matching resources. Staff at CareerForce locations guide people toward rewarding careers, connect individuals to opportunities and help employers find the workers they need to grow and thrive.

CareerForce is a business-led network of private, public and nonprofit partners throughout Minnesota committed to helping:

- Individuals start, advance or change their careers.
- Employers attract, develop and retain talent.
- Minnesota thrive economically by continuing to build its world-class workforce.

CareerForce provides tailored resources in person, online and over the phone to help meet the needs of all Minnesota career seekers and employers.

"CareerForce offers an array of services to job seekers, and staff at our Blaine location are knowledgeable and eager to help people start or advance their careers," said District 2 Anoka County Commissioner Julie Braastad.

To contact CareerForce in Blaine, visit careerforcemn.com/blaine, or email careerforce.blaine@state.mn.us. Note: Limited in-person services are now available. Call 763-324-2300 for career services over the phone or to inquire about in-person services.



CAREERFORCE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Career Lab

Currently offering virtual services only. Employment services to assist people in returning to work as soon as possible. Visit careerforcemn.com/blaine or call 763-324-2300.

Assistive Technology (When Career Lab is Open)

ZoomText Xtra, JAWS, Narrator, PocketTalker, Optelec ClearView.

CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

CareerForce offers a variety of no-fee workshops and classes virtually. For workshop calendar, descriptions and registration visit careerforcemn.com/blaine.

Creative Job Search presents the foundations for a successful job search, including interviewing, effective resume strategies, networking, and more.

Interview workshops provide strategies and tips to help job seekers interview with confidence.

Resume writing classes teach key points and strategies for

writing a resume to help land the ideal job.

Other workshops include: Career Exploration Workshop, Taking Charge of Your Job Search, Job Search over 40, LinkedIn Getting Started, and Managing Personal Change.

Search for Open Positions Online

CareerForceMN.com

Search thousands of open positions by topic and location. Explore and set career goals with online assessments and information about wages, demand, and educational requirements for a wide variety of occupations.

MinnesotaWorks.net

Post resumes on MinnesotaWorks.net to reach thousands of employers. Create up to five unique resumes to customize your career search. Search job openings from verified businesses with advanced job search tools. Receive email notifications of new jobs that match your search criteria.

Empowers: Youth/Young Adult Services

Employment and Training services for youth and young adults, ages 14-24. Individualized services to explore careers, support training, and gain work experience through paid internships. 763-324-2284.

Dislocated Worker Program

Laid-off or permanently separated from employment? You may qualify for programs which may provide job search assistance, short-term training, and/or support services tailored to each individual's specific needs. For more information, visit anokacounty.us/dw or call 763-324-2284.

Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)

Employment and training program for low income Anoka County residents 55 years or older. Provides part-time employment opportunities at community service worksites. 763-324-2284.

Diversionsary Work Program (DWP)

Families applying for cash benefits receive intense job search assistance, case management, and program support for four consecutive months in a 12-month period. 763-324-2335.

Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)

Work-focused program that emphasizes economic stability for low-income families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). 763-324-2335.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Cash Assistance, Medical Assistance or SNAP

- Intake and ongoing public assistance programs and child support services.
- Eligible applicants may receive healthcare through Medical Assistance or MNSure.
- Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) is food support for low-income adults and families. Single able-bodied adults receive services and participate in work-related activities available through SNAP. Services offered virtually. Call the EZ Info Line: 763-422-7200.

Child Care Assistance

Federal and State childcare subsidy programs available to families participating in DWP or MFIP. Low-income families may be eligible for the Basic Sliding Fee program. Call 763-717-7711 to be screened.

Veteran Services

Current or former military members, no matter their era of service, receive priority services in all Minnesota CareerForce locations. Specially trained Veterans Employment Representatives assist eligible veterans who have significant barriers to employment. Call 763-324-2300 for a Veteran's Questionnaire. Visit mn.gov/deed/job-seekers/veteran-services/.

State Services for the Blind (SSB)

Provides tools, training and technology to help people who are blind, visually impaired, DeafBlind or experiencing vision loss, to live independently, prepare for, find and keep a job. Visit mn.gov/deed/ssb/jobseekers.

Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA)

A program for workers who lose their jobs or hours as a result of increased foreign trade activities. Workers may be eligible for training and re-employment services. Visit mn.gov/deed/job-seekers/recently-unemployed/layoff/trade-adjustment-assistance.jsp.

Adult Basic Education (ABE)

Educational opportunities for adults to acquire and improve their literacy skills, such as ESL classes, GED/Adult Diploma obtainment, and basic reading, writing, and math brush-up. Visit metronorthabe.org or call 763-433-4200.

Educational Opportunity Center (TRIO)

Onsite assistance with school and financial aid information. Call 763-324-2328 for an appointment.

SNAP Employment & Training

Program to assist SNAP recipients with job search assistance to gain employment. 763-324-2335.

Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC)

Federal tax credit for private-sector businesses, as an incentive for employers to hire workers in certain groups who consistently experience high rates of unemployment. Visit mn.gov/deed/wotc.

Vocational Rehab Services (VRS)

Services for those with disabilities or barriers to employment. Provides a variety of services, such as helping career seekers prepare for work, giving employment information, and providing referrals and job search assistance. VRS also provides guidance and assistance to help keep your job. Schedule an appointment to learn more at 763-279-4350.

CareerForce in Blaine
1201 89th Ave NE, Suite 335

How to Easily Inquire About Job Training Center Programs and Services

A great resource for career seekers is the one-page interest form available on the Anoka County Job Training Center's website, anokacounty.us/jtcapply. Those who fill out this form will be contacted by a JTC staff member within one business day and provided with resources and referrals at no cost.

If a career seeker is interested in applying for a program to get help from a vocational counselor, the staff member will connect them to the JTC intake team.

The Anoka County JTC has programs available that can help youth as young as 14 find their first job, help laid off workers get back to work, help seniors find part-time employment — and everything in between. Services available vary depending on program eligibility, but may include:

- Individualized job search assistance from a career counselor.
- Assessments to help decide on a career path.
- Assistance with the cost of training, including on-the-job training.
- Employment for youth, adults and seniors to gain work experience and build their resumes.

"The interest form is a recent addition to the Anoka County Job Training Center's website, and it's a great way for potential career seekers to pose questions to JTC staff about available services," said District 4 Anoka County Commissioner Mandy Meisner.

Easy Virtual Hiring Events to Continue Through 2021

Anoka County will continue its EZ Virtual Fair events through 2021, with the plan to return to in-person events in 2022 and continue an online presence in the metro area in the future.

For those who are unfamiliar with EZ Virtual Fairs, they're essentially online job fairs that offer nearly all the services of in-person events. The Easy Virtual Fair experience mirrors in-person job fairs in many ways: There are several employers present, all with openings at their companies. Representatives from these companies reach out to jobseekers, oftentimes through an instant messaging feature before jobseekers even check out a company's page. Each company featured in the job fair has easily accessible contact information, and jobseekers can read job descriptions, express their interest and chat with company representatives in real time. EZ Virtual Fairs provide a path for career-seekers to submit resumes to employers, allow screening and interviewing for job openings and expand the reach of employment-related events. They also enable real-time interaction between agencies. The system is 100 percent mobile and accessible, which enhances access for all.

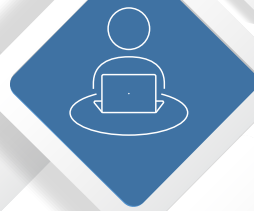
Upcoming events include:

Nov. 17: General Hiring Event
Dec. 1: General Hiring Event
Dec. 8: General Hiring Event
Dec. 15: Healthcare Hiring Event
Dec. 22: General Hiring Event

"EZ Virtual Fairs were established as a way for Anoka County to continue to offer hiring events throughout the pandemic, and we're continuing them through the rest of 2021 so employers and employment seekers can connect in an easy, convenient way," said District 5 Anoka County Commissioner Mike Gamache. "These events offer robust employment-related resources, and they've resulted in successful hiring."

Create your Career Profile at anokacounty.easyvirtualfair.com and register for fairs at careerforcemn.com/blaine.

Anoka County
Job Training Center



Blaine Virtual Room Allows Safe On-Site Meetings

With Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES) funds procured in 2020, Anoka County was able to set up five virtual rooms across the county, one of which is now available for use at the Blaine Job Training Center.

Customers who would like to meet with CareerForce or Job Training Center staff at the Blaine location can choose the virtual room option to converse in a safe, contact-free environment.

Visitors who wish to use the virtual room need to make an appointment, and on the day of their meeting they must check in with a staff member at the building they're visiting. The room is available for appointments 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday to Friday. Call (763) 324-2300 for appointment information.

"Anoka County invested in these rooms as a way to continue to conduct important business with customers during the pandemic, and they're still available for use," said District 6 Anoka County Commissioner Jeff Reinert. "The room at the Blaine location allows for contact-free interaction, and our Job Training Center staff can use these meetings as a starting point to direct customers to more in-person, online, or over-the-phone services."

Mental Health Resources Available Through Anoka County

Mental health challenges can affect anyone at any time in their lives, regardless of age, gender, or sexual orientation.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also had a major effect on people's lives and has led to feelings of grief, isolation, and fear. If you're feeling overwhelmed due to the pandemic or for other reasons, Anoka County has several resources to help, many of which can be accessed by visiting the Behavioral Health Services webpage at anokacounty.us/2440/Community-Resources:

- The Anoka County Mobile Crisis Response team has a crisis line (763-755-3801) that's staffed 24/7 to respond to people having mental health emergencies.
- There's a link to the SAMHSA Treatment Services Locator, which is a federal government website that can help people find treatment facilities near them.
- There's information, telephone numbers and links to Advocacy organizations, such as the National Alliance on Mental Health, Make it OK, Mental Health Minnesota, and the Mental Wellness Campaign for Anoka County.
- For those who want to support people in their communities who are struggling with Mental Health issues, there's also information on the site about how to get involved by joining the Anoka County Mental Health Advisory and Coordination Council. This council, and the Children's Mental Health Advisory and Coordination Council, both serve as advisory committees to the Anoka County Board of Commissioners. Members on these councils have a voice regarding mental health issues in Anoka County and can impact positive change.

If you're dealing with mental health issues, you're not alone. Nearly 1 in 5 American adults will have a diagnosable mental health condition in any given year. But by accessing the right resources, either through Anoka County or other organizations, you can learn how to accept and adapt to trauma, prioritize self-care, process big changes and manage other situations that can negatively affect mental wellbeing.



Anoka County Launches 'Love Where You Live' Campaign

Anoka County recently developed a 'Love Where you Live' campaign that encourages our residents to shop, work and enjoy recreation activities in Anoka County — in essence to support and love where you live.

Supporting local communities is always important, but it's especially vital now, when so many businesses are still struggling to rebound from the pandemic.

Anoka County, through this campaign, will be taking the opportunity to remind people about the importance of investing in where they live. To have stable, growing communities, Anoka County needs the support of residents, so everyone should consider helping their communities in any way they can — eat at a local restaurant, buy clothing from an area merchant, find local service providers to do home improvement projects, apply for a job at that business right down the road.

"Anoka County has a thriving small business community, an ample amount of recreation opportunities, and a hardworking, generous resident population," said District 3 Anoka County Commissioner Robyn West. "Let's leverage these assets to ensure Anoka County continues to be a great area to live, work and play."

Coupled with this initiative is the county's Love Where you Live campaign logo. Anoka County encourages residents and businesses to display it however they'd like — online, on printed materials, or in stores. Anoka County is looking to get the word out as much as possible about this initiative, and this logo can spark conversations about the importance of supporting our local communities.

To access the logo, which includes play, shop and work versions (below), visit anokacounty.us/4091/Anoka-County-Love-Where-You-Live.



SAFETY

Foley Boulevard Project Update

The Foley Boulevard railway grade separation is underway. This project includes reconstruction of Foley Boulevard, from a 4-lane undivided roadway to a 4-lane divided roadway with turn lanes and multi-use trail, with an overpass at the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railroad tracks. The project will improve public safety and reduce traffic congestion on County Road 11 by constructing a bridge over the BNSF railway. This project is scheduled to be completed by fall of 2022. For project updates and more information, visit anokacounty.us/3706/CSAH-11-BNSF-Railway-Grade-Separation.

UpRiver Real Estate Event

THURSDAY, NOV. 18 | 9 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

Running Aces
15201 Running Aces Blvd. Columbus, MN 55025
Registration/Networking begins at 8:30 a.m.

Hosted by:

Join area real estate professionals to get the latest market updates in the north metro, learn about recent projects and area economic development initiatives.

ANOKA COUNTY
Regional Economic Development

Recycle Smart This Holiday Season



Do not place these in your recycling cart; take them to a drop-off location.



Batteries and Battery Enclosed Electronics

(household and rechargeable)
Why: Batteries and electronics with non-removable batteries can explode and start fires if crushed or punctured.

Every month garbage trucks and recycling facilities experience fires when batteries are improperly thrown away.

Recycle: Batteries and some battery enclosed electronics can be taken to the Anoka County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facility or select recycling centers and drop-off events. Go to AnokaCounty.us/HHW for location, hours and a list of accepted items. Go to AnokaCounty.us/RecyclingDirectory for other recycling locations.

Tanglers are any item that get wrapped around sorting equipment at recycling facilities, such as plastic bags, holiday lights and electrical cords.

Why: These items become tangled on machinery and workers can spend hours each day removing them, causing costly processing delays.

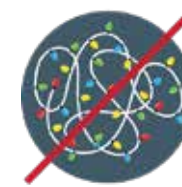


Plastic Bags, Stretch Film and Air Pillows

Reduce/Reuse: Avoid using plastic bags by bringing your own bag. Bring packaging materials to mailing stores for reuse.

Recycle: Clean, dry bags and stretchy film can be taken to large retailers or grocery stores. Also, puncture plastic air pillows and recycle it with other plastic film. Look for collection containers by store entrances.

Trash: Throw away non-stretchy cellophane, black, wet or food contaminated bags and remove plastic handles.



Holiday Lights and Cords

Recycle: Many city halls and recycling centers collect these items for recycling. Go to AnokaCounty.us/RecyclingDirectory for locations.



Food

Why: Food scraps can be 30-40 percent of what we throw away. Stop losing your hard-earned dollars on wasted food.

Reduce/Reuse: There are many tools, tips and resources to help prevent food waste. Go to AnokaCounty.us/ReduceandSaveTheFood.com.

Compost: Anoka County has many organics drop-off locations and several cities offer curbside organics collection. Sign up and get started today! Go to AnokaCounty.us/Organics to find out about what is accepted and how to sign up.

Flat 2022 Preliminary Property Tax Levy Approved

The Anoka County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved a flat preliminary property tax levy during the board's regular meeting Sept. 28.

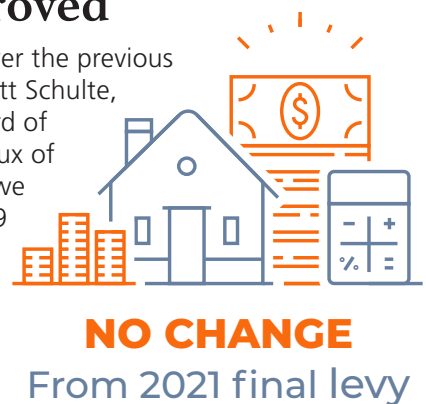
The 2022 proposed budget reflects the priorities of the county to provide safe roads and eliminate congestion; work with residents to improve their lives; protect and serve the community in a manner that preserves public trust; attract and retain an engaged, skilled county staff; and provide clear, accurate and effective information to residents and staff about county initiatives.

The county's Truth in Taxation meeting is at 6 p.m. Dec. 2. Details about that meeting will be posted on the county's website, anokacounty.us. The Board of Commissioners will approve the final levy and budget during their 9:30 a.m. Dec. 3 regular meeting. The levy can be reduced prior to final approval, but it cannot increase.

"We're doing things responsibly in Anoka County, we really are — commissioners and staff met many times throughout this budget process to craft a preliminary

levy that is no increase over the previous year's final levy," said Scott Schulte, chair, Anoka County Board of Commissioners. "The influx of federal and state dollars we received due to COVID-19 certainly helped this past year. We were able to give a lot of that money back to the community, and we were able to utilize it to offset some county expenses. This board always takes the budgeting process seriously, and this year the goal was to establish a flat preliminary levy. We accomplished our goal, and I'm proud of the work that was put in to make it happen."

Note: Anoka County only has authority over the county portion of the property tax bill; cities and school districts have their own taxing authority.



ANOKA COUNTY LIBRARY

Visit the online event calendar for information on upcoming events & programs
anokacountylibrary.org

FREE TOOLS FOR LEARNING



Tools for School - HelpNow

Students of all ages (youth and adult) access free online learning tools with your library card. Sessions in English or Spanish.

- Homework help
- Live online tutoring
- SAT prep
- FAFSA assistance
- Adult Learning Center
- Flashcards
- Writing Lab

Tools for Career - JobsNow

Access to real-time career advice and resources with your library card. Focus on a desired career field.

- Live online coaches
- Resumes and cover letters
- Prepare for interviews

LinkedIn Learning

Tools for Success - LinkedIn Learning

Sharpen your skills in business, design, and technology with your library card. Achieve goals with online courses.

Library Lockers open daily 6 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Key Fob required for after hours

Pickup holds 7 days a week at 4 locker locations: Johnsville, Mississippi, Northtown, St. Francis
tinyurl.com/ACLLockers



Monthly Book Clubs for Adults

- Centennial Library
6:45 p.m.
4th Monday every month
- Crooked Lake Library
5:30 p.m.
3rd Monday every month

NEW History Book Club

- Johnsville Library
2 p.m.
1st Wednesday every month

NEW Any Book Book Club

- Rum River Library
6 p.m.
2nd Thursday every month
No assigned reading.
Share recent reads and expand your reading list.



eLibrary - No overdue fees eBooks, Audiobooks, Magazines

Libby by OverDrive brings the eLibrary to the next level with favorite features including: tags, reading history, sample a book, define a word, exporting notes and highlights, dyslexic font setting, and more.

Book Club In-A-Bag Kits

Start a book club - kits include eight copies of the same title and discussion questions.



Winter Reads begins Jan. 1

Avoid the winter blues and complete activities and book reviews to enter for prize drawings. Local authors will be highlighted on social media and the library's READ LOCAL webpage through February. Share good reads online with the Beanstack Tracker app or anokacounty.beanstack.org.



Local Author Fair - Save the Date

Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022

Connect with published writers from our community at the 5th annual Local Author Fair. Books will be available for purchase directly from the authors during the fair.

A keynote award-winning Minnesota author will kickoff the fair (register through the online event calendar for keynote). Registration is not required for the fair and is open to all ages.

CREATE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Ideas, Information, Inspiration

creativebug®

CREATIVEBUG

Find creative inspiration. Watch video tutorials, arts and crafts workshops, and techniques. Learn how to paint, knit, crochet, sew, screen print, and more. Download patterns, templates, and recipes. Access online with your library card.

creativebug.com/lib/anokacounty



KITCHEN COLLECTION

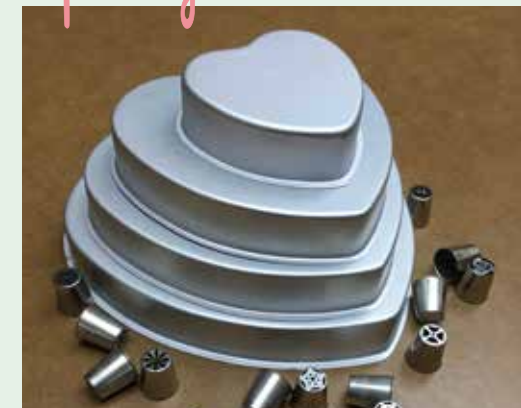
Checkout uniquely shaped bakeware and decorating tools. Why purchase novelty bakeware when you can borrow it for free from the library?

tinyurl.com/ACLKitchenware

MEMORY MAKER KITS

Designed to engage caregivers and people with memory loss, dementia, and Alzheimer's disease. Kits contain a variety of books, games, conversation cards, and CDs featuring music or radio programs from the past that will trigger fond memories. Each kit is unique.
tinyurl.com/ACLMemoryMakerKit

Specialty Bakeware



Find more unique items in the catalog
anokacountylibrary.org

BOOKS AND MORE - SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

COON LAKE MASTER PLANNING INITIATIVE

Last year, the Met Council requested submissions for additions to the regional parks and trails system. Regional parks typically provide access to a significant natural resource, draw visitors from outside the area and typically have more than 100 acres. Anoka County requested that Coon Lake County Park be added, and it was approved. Once a park becomes part of the Regional Parks System, the Met Council supports it with coordinated regional planning, funding, system protection, information, marketing, and advocacy.

Now that Coon Lake is within the regional parks and trails system, a master plan must be developed. A master plan is a planning document that will guide future development of the park for the next 10 to 20 years. It must address several

items including boundaries, development concepts, timing of development, operations, accessibility, and natural resources. First steps in the process are to engage the public for input and feedback on future plans to ensure the park is welcoming for all. The Parks Department is working on the Coon Lake Regional Park Master Plan in the coming months, so look for feedback opportunities in the near future.

If you have questions or comments please contact:

Karen Blaska
Park Planner
763-324-3412
karen.blaska@co.anoka.mn.us

GATHER IN THE BLUE HERON ROOM

ROOM CAPACITY - 120 PEOPLE
RENTAL RATE - \$70/HOUR

CHOMONIX
GOLF COURSE

MORE INFORMATION AT CHOMONIX.COM OR CALL 763-324-3434.

LEARN TO LOVE WINTER

ANOKACOUNTYPARKS.COM • 763-324-3350

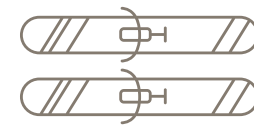
SNOW DAY

ANOKA COUNTY PARKS • CITY OF BLAINE • CITY OF LINO LAKES

JANUARY 29, 1 - 4 PM
AT WARGO NATURE CENTER

Snow Day is a **free event** open to the public.

Participants will have the opportunity to sample a variety of winter activities including snowshoeing, ice fishing, kick-sledding, winter crafts, live animal presentation, and more. No pre-registration is required and all ages are welcome. Come join us for an exciting day in the snow.



CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Cross-country ski in the Anoka County Parks at 4 locations:

Bunker Hills (Rental Available)
Coon Rapids Dam (Rental Available)
Chomonix Golf Course (Rental Available)
Rum River Central

\$6/rental - 3 hour max.
+ \$10 for a daily MN State ski pass

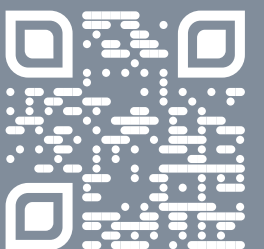
See trail maps at anokacountyparks.com



GIVE THE GIFT OF
ADVENTURE



Purchase online at
anokacountyparks.com



Road Projects Conducted to Prepare for Highway 10 Improvements



The brunt of this year's roadwork to prepare for large-scale improvements on the U.S. Highway 10 corridor has been completed or will be finished before the end of the year.

This work includes:

- Highway 47 and Bunker Lake Boulevard intersection improvements (Cities of Anoka and Ramsey) – Work on this project commenced this past spring. The project will add dual left turn lanes on Highway 47 (in both directions), an extended right turn lane for westbound Bunker Lake Boulevard traffic wanting to turn right to head north on Highway 47, replacement of the existing traffic control signal system, new oxbow bridge deck and other associated repairs, ADA improvements, sidewalk

facility extensions and more. The work is scheduled to be completed in mid-November of 2021.

- Bunker Lake Boulevard Reconditioning between Armstrong Boulevard and Sunfish Lake Boulevard (City of Ramsey) – This project includes the construction of a new traffic control signal system at the intersection of Sunwood Drive and Bunker Lake Boulevard, the addition of left and right turn lanes at several locations, access modifications, and new bituminous surfacing where necessary. All this work is geared towards reducing traffic delays and congestion on Bunker Lake Boulevard during construction on Highway 10. All paving and roadway improvements are scheduled to be completed by mid-November. The traffic signal system steel components (e.g. signal poles and mast arms) are on order, but due to material shortages associated with the pandemic, the signal poles and mast arms will not arrive until February of 2022. At that time, the signal will be erected and placed into service.

- Pedestrian improvements on the Round Lake Boulevard bridge over Highway 10 (City of Coon Rapids) – This project modified the existing bridge over Highway 10 as well as the westbound Highway 10 on-ramp from northbound Round Lake Boulevard to make room for a new pedestrian path along the east side of Round Lake Boulevard. This new facility provides a critical connection and safety improvement for pedestrians and bicyclists traveling between the Riverdale Shopping Center on the south side of Highway 10 and the Riverdale Crossings retail center on the north side of Highway 10. This project is complete and was a joint effort between Anoka County, MnDOT, and the City of Coon Rapids.

- 7th Avenue bituminous overlay between Buchanan Street and 40th Lane (City of Anoka) – This project included a bituminous mill and overlay along a portion of 7th Avenue. This route will see an increased amount of traffic during construction on Highway 10 as roadway users find alternate routes for their commute. This project also included the reconditioning of the traffic control signal system at the intersection of 7th Avenue and 38th Avenue.

"This preparation work has been essential for the start of the major U.S. Highway 10 projects in the coming years," said District 1 Commissioner Matt Look. "Anoka County and our partners have done a great job in anticipating the shift of traffic flow off Highway 10 as construction commences, and the requisite work has been completed to accommodate for this temporary rerouting of vehicles."

Background on the large-scale projects

To address traffic and safety issues on U.S. Highway 10, three of the largest projects in recent memory are being developed. Starting from the east, the first project will upgrade the aging U.S. Highway 10 bridge over the Rum River and reconstruct the Ferry Street interchange to improve traffic flow and reduce congestion. This project has an estimated cost of \$64 million and is scheduled to break ground in the spring of 2022. The second project, known as the "Anoka Solution," will also break ground in early 2022. This is an \$85 million undertaking that will replace the congested and inefficient at-grade signalized intersections at Thurston and Fair Oak Avenues with grade-separated overpasses and include the addition/extension of existing frontage and backage roads to better serve the community. Construction on the Ramsey Gateway Project, focused on Ramsey and Sunfish Lake boulevards, will include recommended replacement of at-grade signalized intersections with grade-separated interchanges, construction of new frontage roads to provide safer access to local businesses, and bridges over the parallel BNSF railroad. This project is estimated at \$138 million. All three projects, which wouldn't be possible without the hard work and partnerships between the local communities, MnDOT, local/state/federal elected officials, local businesses, and the public, are now fully funded.

Career Opportunities Available at Anoka County Sheriff's Office

Are you looking for a way to make positive differences in the lives of others, while opening yourself up to exceptional career growth potentials? The Anoka County Sheriff's Office is looking for people from all walks of life to join its team of public safety professionals as deputies and detention deputies.

The Anoka County Sheriff's Office provides for an ever-changing and purposeful career that goes beyond traffic violations. Deputies aid in life-or-death situations, process and examine serious crashes, conduct marine rescue missions, investigate crimes ranging from thefts to homicides, participate in a county-wide S.W.A.T. team, and much more. With over 445 square miles of county land and water coverage, the types of experiences a deputy will encounter is incalculable.

Some of the Office's current deputies, sergeants, lieutenants, commanders, and even the sheriff have formed relationships with the community that have lasted decades past the encounter(s) that brought them together. What was just "a day at work" for a deputy, turned into a situation that drastically changed another's life, and allowed the deputy to offer some much-needed support in a sometimes-tragic circumstance.

Working as a detention deputy in the county jail is also a phenomenal way to keep the community safe and help individuals who are at their lowest points in life. The

Anoka County Sheriff's Office provides jail services for adult offenders to all law enforcement agencies located within Anoka County. Inmates at the jail have charges ranging from DWIs, white collar offenses, terrorism, homicide, and more.



Being a detention deputy is a wonderful way to begin a career in law enforcement, or to grow within the jail itself. Detention deputies are desirable candidates for growth opportunities due to their excellent interpersonal communication skills they learn on the job while dealing with a variety of inmates. Additionally, detention deputies can join a Special Response Team which handles dangerous inmate situations and can join deputies as members of the Marine Unit, which handles water-related rescues for the county. On top of the wide array of specialty assignments for both positions, Anoka County offers competitive compensation plans and benefit packages for employees.

Visit governmentjobs.com/careers/anoka to learn about what positions are currently available. Make sure to check back often as the list is always updated. Being a deputy or detention deputy isn't for everyone, but it might just be for you!

Attorney's Office Uses Grant Funding to Augment Programs, Services

The Anoka County Attorney's Office, like many public-service organizations, uses grant funding to augment programs and services. In some cases, the Attorney's Office is the grantee and in others the office partners with other agencies. But in all cases these programs are collaborative, multi-disciplinary efforts.

Auto Theft: Automobile thefts have been increasing in Minnesota and Anoka County saw a 33 percent increase in 2020. These thefts are often committed by organized groups and repeat offenders who drive recklessly, damage property and cause injuries, cross jurisdictional boundaries and frequently use stolen vehicles to facilitate other crimes. To address this issue, the state created the Automobile Theft Prevention Program. The County Attorney's Office uses grant funds awarded through the program to support a full-time auto theft prosecutor, which means expert attention, consistent communication with law enforcement, and improved efficiency.

Crime Victims Prosecutorial Services: The Victim/Witness

Services Unit of the County Attorney's Office has participated in this state grant program for five years. The aim is to improve access to the justice system for underserved victim populations, including the elderly, LGBTQ, and non-English speaking. The funds support training, public education efforts, and two staff who focus on the grant-supported work.

Lethality Assessment Program: The County Attorney's Office, in partnership with local law enforcement agencies and Alexandra House, uses federal grant funds for training and services related to assessing high-risk domestic violence situations. The program, now in its 12th year, has been highly successful in reducing domestic homicides.

Sexual Assault Kit Initiative: The County Attorney's Office received a new grant this year to focus on the prosecution of sex assault cases. This grant program began several years ago to address the backlog of untested rape kits in Minnesota. With the backlog now clearing, attention is turned to prosecuting identified perpetrators.



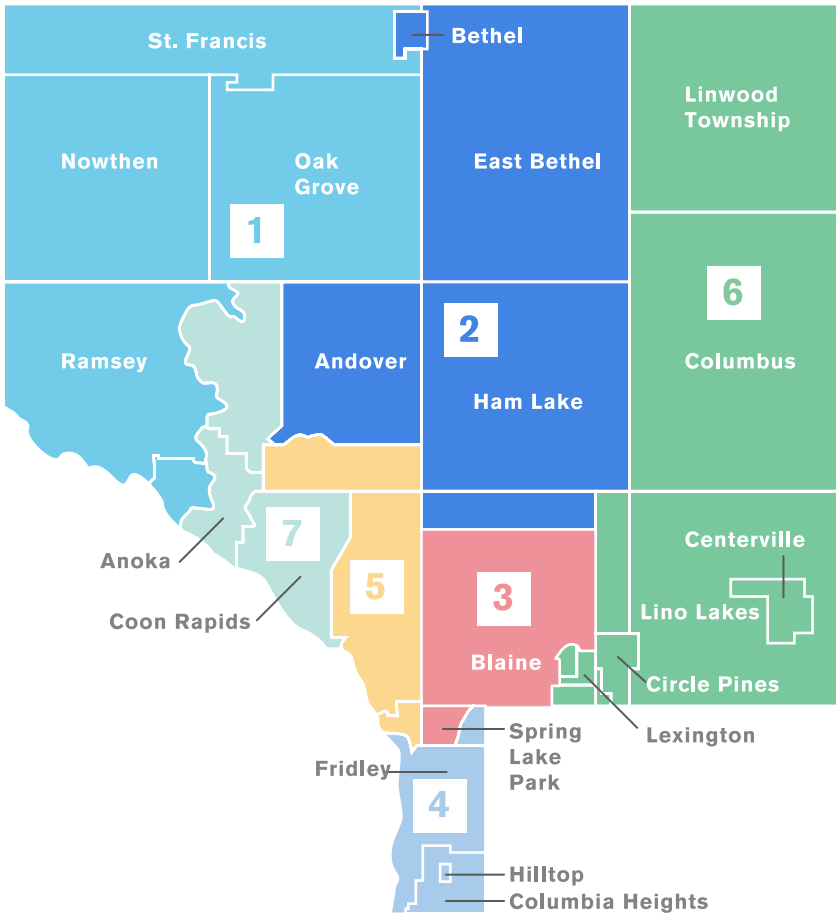
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 Mandy Meisner DISTRICT 4 COMMISSIONER	 Mike Gamache DISTRICT 5 COMMISSIONER	 Jeff Reinert DISTRICT 6 COMMISSIONER
 Scott Schulte DISTRICT 7 COMMISSIONER	 James Stuart COUNTY SHERIFF	 Tony Palumbo COUNTY ATTORNEY

County board meetings are generally held the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 9:30 a.m. in Room 705 of the Anoka County Government Center in Anoka. Watch board meetings live at anokacounty.us. "Anoka County News" is produced by Anoka County Communications, Erik Thorson, Director, 763-324-4612 publicinfo@co.anoka.mn.us • anokacounty.us/newsletter
Printed on 30 percent post-consumer recycled paper.

