



ESSENTIAL DATES

Recycling Pickup Dates

December 1, 15, 29
January 12, 26
February 9, 23
March 9, 23

December 12, 7 p.m.

Council Meeting

*Truth in Taxation Hearing
Final 2023 Budget Approval*

City Hall Closed

December 26 and January 2

January 9, 7 p.m.

Council Meeting

Fireworks Ordinance

City Hall Closed January 16

September 23

Absentee Voting begins

February 13, 7 p.m.

Council Meeting

Audit Presentation

City Hall Closed February 20

March 13, 7 p.m.

Council Meeting

Check website for agenda

April 10, 7 p.m.

Council Meeting

Board of Appeal-Equalization

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"What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness." John Steinbeck

Woodland News

December - February | Winter 2022

2022 Municipal Election Results

Thank you to the fabulous Woodland Election Judges for their excellent service on November 8th, General Election Day. When you see them, please tell them how much they are appreciated!

Mary Adriaens | Mark Anderson | Alice Berlin | Peggy Borstad | Chuck Hollenhorst | Tracy Severson

The City of Woodland boasts an impressive 80% voter turnout!

- 193 voters at the Polling Place
- 90 voting early either in-person at City Hall or by mail

There were two Council Member openings to serve through December 2024 on the municipal ballot. Congratulations to Council Member Dave Daniels on his re-election and newly-elected Council Member Hank Zucker. Both will take the oath of office on January 9, 2023.

Recycling Invoices

After multiple meetings and a public hearing, the City Council approved an amendment to the Municipal Management Agreement with Republic Services to invoice Woodland residents directly for recycling services.

Residents have always paid for recycling, but indirectly through taxes. The City will continue to hold the contract with Republic Services, negotiating the best possible collection rate (shown below), but has shifted invoicing directly to residents.

Republic Recycling Collection Fees (Monthly)

2023	2024	2025
\$7.83	\$8.11	\$8.40

In mid-December, you will receive a quarterly invoice from Republic Services for recycling collection in January, February and March. Invoices will be issued quarterly (December, April, July, and October) for three times the monthly fee above. Payment is due within 30 days and may be made by check, ACH, online or by phone. Any unpaid balances will be assessed, with additional fines and penalties, by the City to the resident's property taxes in the following year.

Email woodlandCS@republicservices.com for all recycling customer service needs, including billing questions and bin upgrades or replacements. This email goes directly to a **local team** that knows our community and will give you the fastest and most accurate response!

If you have any questions about the invoice change, please call Sara at 952-358-9936.

CITY DIRECTORY

City Hall (*Deephaven & Woodland*)
20225 Cottagewood Road
Deephaven, MN 55331

City Hall Hours

Regular hours until Memorial Day
8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Fridays

www.woodlandmn.org

City Clerk

Sara Skalle
952-358-9936
sara@woodlandmn.org
Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., M-Th

Mayor

Vince Suerth (2024)

Council Members

Dave Daniels (2026)
Tom Newberry (2024)
Juan Vazquez (2024)
Hank Zucker (2026)

City Council Meetings

2nd Mondays, 7 p.m.

Residents always welcome!
Agendas & minutes on website

Deephaven Police Department

952-258-5321 Non-emergency
763-525-6210 After Hours
952-474-7555 Office (Libby)

Wayzata Fire Department

952-404-5337 Non-emergency

Republic Recycling Services

Email for local Customer Service:
woodlandCS@republicservices.com

Planning Director

Pat Smith
952-358-9938

Building Permits

Teresa Pendleton
952-358-9935

Lk Mtka Conservation District (LMCD)

Denny Newell, Board Member

Lake Minnetonka Communications Commission (LMCC)

Mike Jilek, Representative

Living with Wildlife: Foxes

Foxes are all around us, but since they're rarely seen their remarkable attributes remain mostly a mystery.

Did you know that fox can *see* the Earth's magnetic field? While other animals (birds, turtles, and sharks) have this ability, *only* foxes use it to hunt. It's been observed by *National Geographic* that foxes pounce in a north-easterly direction, 20-degrees from magnetic north, most of the time regardless of season, time of day, or weather. When they don't, their catch success falls from 73 percent to 18 percent. Theory has it that foxes use the magnetic field to estimate distance to its prey.

Here's the formula. The Earth's magnetic field tilts downward in the northern hemisphere, an angle of negative 60-70 degrees. The fox creeps forward listening for the mouse below the snow. When the angle of that sound matches the slope of the magnetic field, the fox knows precisely how far to jump to catch the mouse.

If that doesn't impress you, how about the fact that foxes don't shiver until it gets to -94°F?

More pedestrian – but still fun – fox attributes include:

Foxes are related to dogs but behave more like cats

Foxes are related to wolves, jackals, and dogs in the Canidae family. Yet, unlike their relatives, they are not pack animals. With vertical pupils like cats, they see well in dim light and are most active at night. Foxes also have semi-retractable claws and the grey fox is able to climb trees, often sleeping up in the branches.

Foxes have a long history of relationships with humans

In 2011, researchers opened a grave in a 16,500-year-old cemetery in Jordan and discovered remains of a man with his pet fox. The first documented grave of a human and pet dog dates to 40 centuries later.

Foxes are great athletes

Foxes have been clocked at 42 mph. Impressive considering their size (just 15-16 inches at the shoulder) and compared to greyhounds (45 mph), horses (55 mph), and cheetahs (50-80 mph). Foxes can climb and jump up to 3 feet. They also have great endurance. It's documented that an arctic fox walked from Norway to Canada in three months — that's an average of 30 miles per day.



Grey Fox



Red Fox

The red fox is most common, but its cousin the grey fox lives here, too. They're similar in size, so identification must be done by color. The red fox is mostly red but also can be more black or silver-black, so look for black legs and white-tipped tail. The grey fox has grayish fur with a visible black stripe down the tail. The grey has lighter legs and buff colored underbelly.

Foxes are not dangerous to humans unless they are rabid, which is exceedingly rare. If you see a fox, it is most likely passing through from one hunting area to another. They'll typically stay away from your home, unless there is an accessible food source. They are easily scared away with noise, a garden hose, or tossing a ball in its general direction.

Enjoy the sight of a fox when you can! They are such beautiful creatures.

Mange is an extremely debilitating wildlife affliction that is caused by microscopic parasites.

If you see a fox or other animal with mange or an injury, please contact the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center at 651-486-9453 or Wildlife Management Services at 763-424-9111.

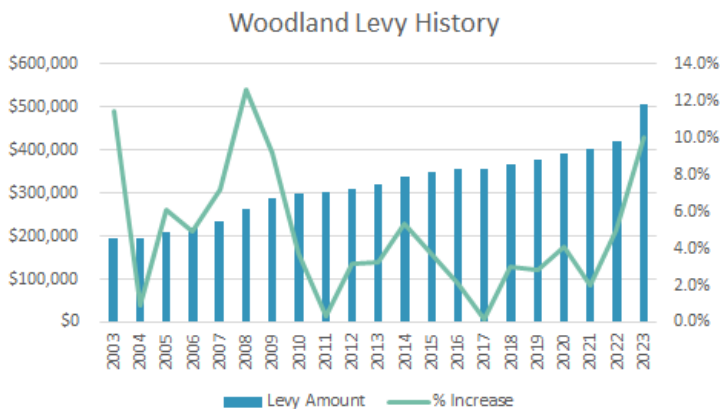
2023 Woodland General Fund Budget

The 2023 General Fund Budget was approved at the December 12th City Council meeting. Woodland remains conservative in government spending. After a decade of holding levy increases to 5 percent or less, the world has changed and the prices of goods and services have increased across the board. Our little City is not exempt from its effect.

The 2023 General Fund Budget includes a 10 percent levy increase, or \$42,167, from \$421,665 in 2022 to \$463,832 in 2023. Factors influencing this increase include:

- A decline in construction and building permit revenue.
- Staff salaries which have been adjusted to market standards.

Exhibit A: The graph below illustrates the 20-year history of Woodland's levy, shown by total dollars and percent change over time.



2022 City Accomplishments

Following is a summary of City accomplishments realized in the past year:

- Completing the 2021 Street Improvement Project that resurfaced or rebuilt all streets in the City, except Breezy Point Road which had just recently been done.
- Installing additional 25 m.p.h. speed limit signs as recommended by the police.
- Transitioning three of four large mailbox stands off the main roads for safety.
- Contracting Manuel Jordán as City Arborist, a resource to the City and residents to protect and maintain Woodland's lush tree canopy.
- Updating the City's parking zones, reinforcing them with gravel, and installing location signs.
- Installing a retaining wall on Maplewood Road to increase sightlines and pedestrian safety.
- Purchasing a radar speed sign that tracks data to help police enforce speed limits for everyone's safety. It was recently installed and is gathering baseline data.
- Posting pedestrian safety reminder signs (**Walk on left facing traffic**).
- Initiating a citywide tree management program to remove dead and diseased trees and prune dead branches in the right-of-way that would otherwise be a hazard.

2021 GENERAL FUND EXPENSES

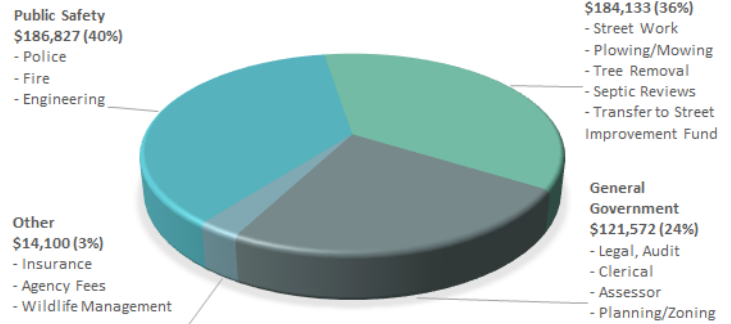


Exhibit B: The chart above illustrates how the City budget breaks down into four main cost categories.

Looking at the categories of City expenses above, public safety and public works continue to be the priority in budgeting.

- **Public Safety** includes the total costs for fire protection, law enforcement, and engineering services and in 2023 will comprise 40 percent of the budget, same as last year.
- **Public Works** includes street repairs, snowplowing, mowing, tree trimming, property reviews for septic failure, and funds allocated for the Street Improvement Fund for future maintenance. It has increased two points to 36 percent of the total budget due to rising costs.

Together, these priorities of Public Safety and Public Works make up more than three-quarters of the total City budget, as illustrated in the pie chart above.

General Government includes the costs of day-to-day operations and is 24 percent of the annual budget. It includes the services of Council, Staff, City Attorneys, Assessor, Auditors, Minnetonka Building Inspections, and tools such as the website, computers, supplies, and postage.

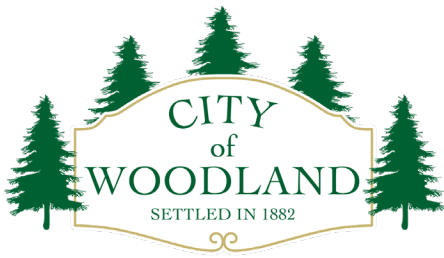
The last category, **Other**, has decreased by more than 50 percent for next year, from \$33,484 in 2022 to \$14,100 for 2023. This is due to the shift of recycling costs more directly to residents and a decrease in the annual levy from the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD). If the City continued paying recycling costs, the 2023 levy increase would be 5 percentage points, or more than \$20,000, greater.

The salaries of Council Members are less than 0.05 percent of the total budget.

The Future

In addition to the accomplishments listed to the left, and thanks to the foresight of former Mayor Doak, the City maintains reserve funds for future expected and unexpected street repairs and improvements.

And thanks to Mayor Suerth and the 2021-22 Council, the City now has a turnkey, 20-year-plus street maintenance budget and schedule that ensures sound and good-looking Woodland streets well into the future.



Woodland City Hall
20225 Cottagewood Road
Deephaven, MN 55331

INSIDE: Election Results | Recycling Invoices | Recycling Calendar | Foxes | 2023 City Budget

Lighting Ordinance in Effect
Please remember that all
exterior decorative, seasonal,
and landscape lighting
must be off at 11 p.m.



Pedestrian Safety Update

The Woodland City Council has completed three of four projects to improve pedestrian safety:

1. Installed a boulder wall to flatten the sharp curve on Maplewood Road to improve sightlines and create a shoulder for pedestrians to use.
2. Added six signs throughout the City to remind pedestrians to **Walk on Left Facing Traffic**.
3. Purchased of a moveable radar speed sign that measures and tracks speeds 24/7. The tracking software is collecting baseline data right now and it will be deployed soon to help enforce the 25 m.p.h. speed limit.
4. In 2023, fog lines will be painted on Breezy Point Road and Maplewood Road to narrow lanes and help decrease speeding.

Mail theft is the #1 crime in Woodland

Two simple steps will eliminate it.

1. **Get a locking mailbox.** Deakyne's has them in stock.
2. **Always put outgoing mail in a blue USPS mailbox.**

If you don't yet have a locking mailbox, you're a target, or you may already have been targeted. Most victims of mail and identity theft don't realize that their mail has been stolen.

What are you waiting for?

Walking is a favorite recreation in our lovely City and these important improvements for pedestrian safety were made possible by American Rescue Plan federal funding.