

THE CITY OF CROOKSTON

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SUMMER 2025

THE CITY OF CROOKSTON

Crookston City Hall:

124 N Broadway, Crookston, MN 56716
Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 4:30pm
Phone: (218) 281-1232
www.Crookston.mn.us

Elected Officials:

Mayor

Dale Stainbrook: (218) 275-3684

City Council:

Kristie Jerde: 1st Ward / (218) 280-7578
Henry Fischer: 2nd Ward / (218) 280-4093
Clayton Briggs: 3rd Ward / (218) 289-4408
Donald Cavalier: 4th Ward / (218) 289-1776
Derek Brekken: 5th Ward / (218) 289-1805
Dylane Klatt: 6th Ward / (701) 740-7009
Morgan Hibma: At Large / (763) 913-1036

City Administrator

Jeff Shoobridge: (218) 281-1232

Important Phone Numbers

Building Inspections Department: (218) 281-5713
City Clerk's Office: (218) 281-4503
Charter Commission: (218) 281-1232
Crookston Municipal Airport: (218) 281-2625
Fire Department: (218) 281-4584
Finance Department: (218) 281-4503
Parks & Recreation: (218) 281-1242
Police Department: (218) 281-3111
Polk County Museum: (218) 281-2950
Public Works: (218) 281-1232
Water Department: (218) 281-5711



City Board & Commissions Meetings:

Monthly meetings unless noted.

Dates and times are subject to change.

City Council:

- 1st & 3rd Monday of each month
- 5:30pm – Crookston City Hall Council Chambers

Ways & Means Committee Meeting:

- 1st & 3rd Monday of each month
- Following City Council meetings unless stated otherwise – Crookston City Hall Council Chambers

Park Board:

- 2nd Monday of each month
- 4:45pm – Crookston City Hall Meeting Room

Planning Commission Meeting:

- 3rd Tuesday of each month
- 7:00pm - Crookston City Hall Council Chambers

Economic Development Association Meeting:

- Last Tuesday of each month
- 7:00am – Valley Technology Park

Charter Commission:

- Annually – Crookston City Hall Council Chambers

City Council Meeting Viewing:

All City Council meetings are available for viewing on Channel 3 as well as livestreamed on the City of Crookston YouTube page. The City of Crookston YouTube page will also post the full recording of all City Council Meetings. All meetings are open to the public.

Summer Hours (Memorial Day – Labor Day)



THE CITY OF CROOKSTON

SUMMER Hours

MONDAY: 7AM-4:30PM
TUESDAY: 7AM-4:30PM
WEDNESDAY: 7AM-4:30PM
THURSDAY: 7AM-4:30PM
FRIDAY: 7AM-11AM

Memorial Day - Labor Day

Crookston City Council Highlights



March 2025

Mayor Stainbrook Proclaims March 16th – March 22nd National Child and Adult Food Program Week

- Debra Cooper from Tri-Valley Opportunity Council was on hand to get the declaration signed by Mayor Stainbrook

Council approval of re-zoning parcels in the southernmost block of the central business district from Commercial to Residential

- South of Loring Street, everything in the block is already residential. The downtown development plan identifies that block as being residential in the future. The re-zoning is looking to get ahead of the Hwy 2 project coming up and all the confusion that may come from that.

Council approval of the Crookston Water Supply Aquifer modeling

- This study will help identify how much capacity the city aquifer has and our anticipated ability to withdraw from the aquifer without damaging it. Funds had been set aside for this study two years ago, and the city is just getting around to spending them on groundwater modeling in the amount of \$53,000.

Crookston Building Department is now live on GoGov

- GoGov is an online permitting process. Instead of having to print them out, bring them in, and hand them in to Greg, residents can go online. There they will be able to upload the documents and send them straight to the building officials desk.



Resignation of Utilities Director Brandon Carlson

- Brandon has resigned from the city, and Crookston wishes him well. His dedication to the City has been incredible over the past 20+ years. He is working with the City to move forward, and we wish him well in any endeavors he pursues. Many residents may know that Carlson is a partner out at Minakwa Golf Club and that he isn't leaving our community. HR is working with the Public Works Director to fill the Utilities Supervisor position.

Approval of the purchase of a Zamboni battery in the amount of \$11,750.00 from the Parks and Rec reserve fund

- The previous Parks & Rec Director started putting money away every year to build this fund up because we do operate our Zambonis electrically. Now, Parks & Rec need a couple of cell blocks to replace the ones we have due to the age of these batteries.

Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc. (SEH) performing Levee System Inspections for the City of Crookston

- Levee inspections should be carried out yearly and every five years, with the five-year inspection being much more comprehensive and detailed.
- This contract is to complete the five-year levee inspection. It is the more in-depth, thorough inspection where they are going to be bringing some professionals in, walking the levee, taking notes, photos, measurements, and much more.





Approval of Crookston EDA's application for the Greater Minnesota Cities (Tier II) Housing Aid Program

- Funds from this program can be used much like the Local Housing Trust Fund, which helps fund new housing developments, housing rehabilitation, down payment assistance, and other eligible projects.

April 2025



Approval of the Crookston Blue Line Club lease and memorandum of the 2025-2027 seasons

- The agreement includes annual increases in weekly ice rental fees and a few minor changes, such as cleaning of specified areas.

Approval of the updated Crookston Sports Center (CSC) Concessions and Advertising Lease and Agreement with the Crookston Blue Line Club (BLC) for the years 2025-2030

- This agreement includes the BLC making the most recent audit of the organization available to the City upon request. The big change is how the City's portion of revenue will be held by BLC and utilized by the City for CSC expenses with the BLC keeping 50% of the advertising revenue for projects around the rink such as glass and new uniforms. Having the funds stay in the BLC account will alleviate some accounting and invoicing requirements while making sure that the City's 50% of revenues are used to support the CSC.



Tri-Cities Meeting Discussion

- City Council discussed topics for regional impact that were discussed at the Tri-Cities meeting held on April 29th, 2025 in Thief River Falls. Topics included a water co-op looking to provide water for the much smaller cities, housing, childcare, various MnDOT projects and how cities are addressing the city share and the increased cost associated with that as well as workforce shortages.

Approval of Waste Management Contract

- The City has achieved over 200+ household service signups for the voluntary bin service. The bin service went out for bid, and Crookston's Public Works Director received three bids, with Waste Management being the lowest responsible bidder. The new service began in May and more information on the service can be found on the Public Works page of the City of Crookston website.

Public Hearing – Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) or Drone Program

- Chief Selzler received several comments via email. Per Minnesota statute, similar to body camera wearing programs, part of the statute was to have a public forum at a regularly scheduled council meeting for public comment, which was completed but there were no additional comments. Chief Selzler and Fire Chief Shane Heldstab have been working together to get the drone program underway as a tool to help enhance public safety.

New City Hall Summer Hours

- Monday through Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Fridays from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Introduction of Ordinance "Regulation of Cannabis Business"

- Crookston is going to be required to have at least one license once they get the rules and start issuing licenses. Crookston needs to make sure we have our ordinances in place to regulate that when the state is ready to issue licenses. If there is no ordinance, someone can set up anywhere they want to. Just as bars and liquor stores are only allowed in certain zoning districts, there will be buffer zones; schools, parks and places where children congregate. So, council is in the very beginning stages and this is just an introduction. It will most likely be amended to some extent as the Council moves forward. There is the opportunity for a municipal cannabis store. The Council wants to look at what the potential for that might be, and in what ways it could alleviate some stress on the taxpayers. The City Administrator will be contacting consultants to identify the pros and cons of a municipal store versus the state override on the taxes for the retail cannabis.

Crookston City Council Highlights - continued from page 4

May 2025

Proclamation declaring May 2025 Mental Health Awareness Month

- Mayor Stainbrook made a proclamation declaring May 2025 Mental Health Awareness Month. Cindy Strom, RN, and Program Director at Riverview Health, Senior Life Solutions, attended to hear the proclamation and receive a signed copy.

Non-Commercial Hangar Lot Lease

- City Council approved the non-commercial hangar lot lease template for Crookston Municipal Airport. The updated template will allow a private entity to build a hangar at the Crookston Airport.

Council Vacancy Approved

- The council approved a resolution declaring a vacancy for the City Council Member Tim Menard, who had held one of the two at-large positions but recently resigned for health reasons.

Mayor Stainbrook declares May 2025 Community Action Month

- Dale Stainbrook gave a Mayoral Proclamation declaring May 2025 Community Action Month in recognition of the hard work and dedication of the Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc., as well as all Minnesota Community Action agencies.

Presentation regarding 102 North Broadway Reuse Analysis, Three Rivers Housing

- Three Rivers Housing gave a presentation regarding the old Tri-Valley building at 102 North Broadway. The reuse analysis looked at ways to reuse the site in the future. Some options presented were for a daycare (pod) facility, a restaurant, or for housing. There was some good information given in the presentation, and all options talked about were with the building demolished, not retrofitted. The council seemed responsive to some of the ideas, but most of the plans were leaving the building in place until all funding was in hand. The schedule to get the funding meant the building would stay in place for a couple more years.

Public hearing on “Regulations of Cannabis Businesses”

- There was a public hearing on “Regulations of Cannabis Businesses” in the City of Crookston. Residents had an opportunity to express any opinions or concerns they may have on the subject. There was one gentleman who came up to speak against having cannabis. However, due to a mandate by the state legislature to have at least one retail location, the city will be following the state statute

Approval of Total Lawn Care and Landscaping as an independent contractor for Crookston nuisance mowing

- Total Lawn Care and Landscaping will be taking care of the nuisance mowing for the City. It provides the city with a little bit more flexibility in operations and frees up our parks people to make sure that our facilities are maintained.

Discussion regarding pool repairs at the Crookston Community Pool

- Lunseth was recently in to fix the heat exchanger, and it was discovered that the control box and circuit board for the heating system were no longer functioning. With this news, the council needed to discuss how to go forward. The council did give consensus to move forward to get the parts available to get through. The accumulation of the repairs to the equipment has exceeded the line item budget for the equipment, so the City needed council approval to move some of the money, and move forward because we are approaching our annual budget limits for maintenance, both in the building and for the equipment.





Crookston Police Department

Community Outreach Upcoming Events:

- Safety Town (June 3rd – June 6th)
 - The purpose of Safety Town is to introduce the importance and methods of safety to preschool children.
 - Some of the safety topics are:
 - 911 awareness
 - Pedestrian safety
 - Firearms safety
 - Passenger safety
 - Internet safety
- **Night to Unite (August 5th)**
 - The purpose of Night to Unite is to promote police-community partnerships, neighborhood camaraderie, and enhance the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement.
 - This will be the 22nd year the Crookston Police Department has hosted Night to Unite.
 - Night to Unite is the largest community outreach program that the Crookston Police Department hosts with on average approximately 2500 people in attendance.
 - The success of Night to Unite is only made possible by the community support from local business and service groups.
 - Night to Unite will be held at the beautiful University of Minnesota Crookston campus.
- **Crookston Ox Cart Days (August 11th – 17th)**
 - Ox Cart Day is a weeklong event pack full of events that provides the residents of Crookston and area residents the opportunity to meet, greet, and have fun.
 - The Crookston Police Department oversees safety/security during the many events throughout the week, such as, walk/run marathons, concerts, street dances, street vendors, parades, and much more.



Summer Safety Awareness:

- Here is a breakdown of key summer safety tips:
 - Use sunscreen (SPF 30 or higher)
 - Wear light colored protective clothing
 - Stay Hydrated
 - Know the signs of heat related illness (dizziness, headache, nausea, and confusion)
 - Do not leave children or pets in vehicles
 - Use insect repellent containing DEET
- **Fireworks Safety**
 - What fireworks are illegal in Minnesota?
 - The easiest way to understand what fireworks are illegal in Minnesota is to remember if the fireworks are explosive (go bang) or are aerial, they are illegal! See Minnesota Statute 624.20 for further details.
 - When using legal fireworks like sparklers, fountains, ground spinners and snappers:
 - Point fireworks away from people and animals.
 - Use fireworks in an open area away from trees and houses.
 - Extinguish and dispose of spent fireworks in a bucket of water.
 - Do not try to relight a dud.
 - Always use caution around fireworks and make sure children are supervised.

We invite the residents to contact the Crookston Police Department at 218-281-3111 with any comments or concerns they may have. Like us on Facebook!





Parks & Recreation

Updates on the Crookston Sports Center

- New activities are being installed above the gold arena, things such as a maze board, a tic tac toe board, and other fun activities for kids. These activities are being made possible by donations from both the Crookston Community Fund and Rydell of Grand Forks. The two donated \$7,500 each with the intent that the \$15,000 be used to bring more activities to the CSC for the younger kids while they are there with their families for games and events.
- New artificial turf is being installed in the CSC gold rink as well as new flooring in the entire arena, upstairs, and top level with installation in Spring 2025. The Legacy Fund makes both projects possible.



Crookston Pool Updates

The heat exchanger at the Crookston Pool was not working properly, leading to cold and uncomfortable temperatures for swimmers in addition to the control box and circuit board for the heating system no longer functioning. The pool has temporarily shut down in April while the fix occurs.

As of June 2nd, 2024, the City of Crookston has accepted donations from Fin and Fit as well as from community members to move forward with the necessary mechanical repairs for the pool. Please stay up to date on an opening date announcement.

Pickleball Tournament at University of Minnesota Crookston

- UMC hosted a Pickleball Tournament on April 11th with 32 teams from all over the state and North Dakota. The tournament was a success raising \$1,600 for the Pickleball Clubs and Men's Volleyball Club Team at UMC.

CENTRAL PARK CAMPGROUND

Availability is first come first serve.
Questions? 218-281-1242

Rangers on duty 6pm-10pm daily
Camp Site 1-9 & 15-19: \$35/night
Camp Site 10-14: \$40/night
Tent:\$20/night

Pay Cash or Check with Ranger

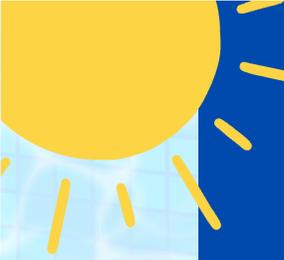
- Full Hook Ups(sewer & water)
- 20, 30, & 50 amps for electrical hookups
- Bathhouses
- Picnic tables & fire ring
- Can stay up to 7 days



Updated Trails & Natural Amenities Page

To view interactive maps of our natural walking trails as well as other amenities such as boat / canoe / kayak launches, be sure to visit the *Trails and Natural Amenities* page at www.crookston.mn.us

The screenshot shows the City of Crookston website's navigation bar with links for Government, Community, Services, and How Do I... A search bar is on the right. The main content area is titled "Trails & Nature Amenities" and includes a list of amenities such as Trails, Boat / Canoe / Kayak Launches, Bike Racks, Benches, Pet Waste Disposal Stations, Drinking Water Access, Public Restrooms, and Snowmobile Trails. Each item has a "View Map" link. Below the list is a photo of people with kayaks and an interactive map of Crookston showing various trails and amenities.



Crookston Community Summer Schedule June 1st-August 30th

MONDAY-FRIDAY

6-9am: Lap Swim
9-10am: Aqua Aerobics
1-4pm (Mon, Wed, Fri)
6-8pm: Open Swim

SATURDAY

1-4pm: Open Swim
5:30-8pm: Family Swim

SUNDAY

Available for private rentals

Birthday Party Rentals

Private rentals are available upon request.
Call Crookston Parks & Recreation at 218-281-1242
\$65/hour for 20 & under swimmers
\$80/hour for 21 & over swimmers
Tables included!



Resident Cost
Individual Admission
Ages 4 & Under: \$2
Ages 5-18: \$5
Ages 19 & Older \$6

Family Swim Admission
Family of 5: \$20-additional
family members \$2

One person Membership
Month: \$40
3 Months: \$110
6 Months: \$200
Year: \$360

Family up to 5 Membership
Month: \$75
3 Month: \$200
6 Month: \$360
Year: \$650

Non-Resident Cost
Individual Admission
Ages 4 & Under: \$4
Ages 5-18: \$7
Ages 19 & Older \$8

Family Swim Admission
Family of 5: \$25-additional
family members \$2

One person Membership
Month: \$45
3 Months: \$120
6 Months: \$220
Year: \$400

Family up to 5 Membership
Month: \$80
3 Month: \$220
6 Month: \$400
Year: \$720

Swim Lessons

Crookston Community Pool will be offering group swimming lessons throughout the summer. Lessons are for ages 3 and older. Child must be potty-trained. Lessons run Monday-Thursday for two weeks.

New this summer is an option for Monday & Wednesday for 3 weeks.

Cost : \$80

REGISTER ONLINE [HERE!](#)

MONDAY-THURSDAY SESSIONS:

June 16th-26th

- Session 5a: 4:15-4:45pm
- Session 5b: 4:45-5:15pm

July 7th-17th

- Session 6a: 11-11:30am
- Session 6b: 11:30-12pm

August 4th-14th

- Session 7a: 4:15-4:45pm
- Session 7b: 4:45-5:15pm
- Session 7c: 5:15-5:45pm

MONDAY & WEDNESDAY SESSIONS:

June 16-July 2nd

- Session 5c: 5:15-5:55pm

July 7-July 23rd

- Session 6c: 12-12:40pm

Parent & Child Class:

Hop in the pool with your little one and help them learn! This class is for parent & children 6 months-36 months.

- Session 1: June 16th-27th Monday & Friday 10:15-10:45am
- Session 2: July 7th-18th Monday & Friday 10:15-10:45am

Cost:\$50

Private Swim Lessons:

Instruction for children and adult. Lessons will be available by appointment. Email aabrahamson@crookston.mn.us or call Crookston Parks & Rec office for more information at 218-281-1242 to schedule.

Adult Swim Lesson:

It is never to late to learn! This class is for those who would like to learn how to swim and feel safe and secure in the water as well as refine techniques and strokes. We will meet where you are at!

Dates will be released at a later date!





Crookston Housing & Economic Development Authority Exciting Developments in Crookston!

Childcare: Building a Brighter Future for Families

In March, a powerhouse Core Team—including childcare and early education professionals, community leaders, City Council members, and EDA board members—launched nine months of focused work to create a strategic plan for increasing childcare capacity in Crookston.

This plan isn't just about solving today's challenges but building a stronger future for our community! We are so grateful for the incredible work of the Early Childhood Initiative, the Early Childhood Family Education group, and all our dedicated partners who make Crookston a great place to raise a family. We're committed to supporting their efforts however we can!

Active Transportation Plan: A Healthier, More Connected Crookston

MnDOT consultants will kick-off a meeting in May, with community engagement opportunities to follow throughout the summer, fall, and winter. The consultant will work alongside our Active Transportation Team to engage the community and develop a vision for improving walkability, accessibility, and safety. This plan will also be a valuable tool for securing future grants to make these improvements happen.

Want to contribute to shaping Crookston's future? We'd love your input!

Contact Taylor Wyum, Project Coordinator, at twyum@crookston.mn.us or 218-280-6368 to get involved.



University of Minnesota Crookston: Connecting the Community Through Trails Project

Let's give a huge round of applause to the incredible students from Dr. Al Fattal's Marketing 4800 and Dr. Eric Castle's Natural Resources 3344 classes at the University of Minnesota Crookston!

This spring, these talented students took on a real-world project to help connect Crookston through trails—and they



knocked it out of the park! They surveyed the community, inventoried our local trails, and developed creative strategies focused on connectivity, safety, and marketing.

On April 30th, they wrapped up the semester with a fantastic presentation to City of Crookston staff, UMC faculty and staff, and community members. Their hard work didn't stop there—they also produced a 90+ page report packed with valuable insights and recommendations to make Crookston's trail system even better.

We are beyond impressed with the students' dedication, energy, and fresh ideas. This project is a shining example of how UMC and the City of Crookston can team up to make great things happen for our community.

If you are interested in watching the presentation or reading the students' paper, reach out to Taylor Wyum at twyum@crookston.mn.us or 218-280-6368.

Join the Conversation at Jolt & Jive

Want to be in the know about all things Crookston? Join us every Thursday from 8 to 9 AM at The Cove Youth Center for Jolt & Jive. Bring your coffee and share your thoughts on Crookston's assets, upcoming events, and what YOU want to see in our city's future. This is a fantastic way to connect, brainstorm, and participate in exciting changes in our community.

Get Ready for Wednesday Night Fun

Prepare for even more community fun as the weather warms up and the days get longer. Keep an eye out for the return of Wednesday on the Water, a summer hit that brought people together for evenings of outdoor fun and connection. We can't wait to see you out and about enjoying all Crookston offers.

Follow Empower Crookston on Facebook to keep up with summer events.

There's so much happening in Crookston, and we're just getting started! Stay tuned for more updates, and thank you for being part of this amazing community.

Empower Crookston

Formed in October 2023, Empower Crookston is a partnership between five organizations that aims to improve Crookston's quality of life, economy, and affordability by taking advantage of federal and state funding. These dollars will be spent on improving existing homes through energy efficiency projects, revitalizing the historic downtown district, and supporting the local economy.



Geothermal Planning Grant

Crookston was awarded a Geothermal Planning Grant from the Minnesota Department of Commerce in April. These funds will be used to conduct a geothermal feasibility study in the Woods Addition.

The study will determine if a geothermal system is possible in the area. A geothermal system can provide residents with consistent, reliable, and affordable heating and cooling. This no-match grant will only determine if a geothermal system is possible.

If the system is possible, Crookston will have a completed study that can be used to strengthen future grant applications if the city chooses to pursue a geothermal system.

Stay tuned for more information.

CERTs Solar for Schools

Schools are increasingly going solar nationally and across Minnesota. Established by the State Legislature in 2021, the Solar for Schools Grant Program is designed to stimulate the installation of solar energy systems on Minnesota schools, while using the opportunity to incorporate renewable energy use into school curriculum.

As of May 2023, K-12 schools (Independent, Special, and Cooperative Districts), Tribal Contract Schools, as well as MN State Colleges and Universities are eligible to apply for grants through the program.

Local Climate Action Planning Grant

Crookston Housing & EDA was awarded a Local Climate Action Grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. These funds will support a temporary position that will work on updating Crookston's Green Step Cities data, meeting with residents and businesses to discuss energy efficiency and electrification rebates and tax incentives and conducting community engagement sessions to create a community resilience plan.

Stay tuned for more information.

Tree work - city canopy inventories, emerald ash borer mitigation/management

There are numerous benefits a tree canopy provides to a community:

- Economic Benefits:
 - Property Value Enhancement - Trees can increase property values, making neighborhoods more desirable and attractive to residents and potential buyers
 - Energy Savings - Trees provide shade, reducing the need for air conditioning and lowering energy costs
 - Tourism and Business Attraction - A well-maintained tree canopy can attract businesses and tourists, boosting the local economy
- Environmental Benefits:
 - Cooling - Trees provide shade, reducing the urban heat island effect and lowering temperatures
 - Air Purification - Trees absorb pollutants from the air, improving air quality and reducing respiratory health issues
 - Water Management - Tree canopies intercept rainfall, reducing stormwater runoff and mitigating flooding
 - Carbon Sequestration - Trees absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, helping to mitigate climate change
- Social and Community Benefits:

- Mental Health - Green spaces and trees have been linked to reduced stress levels and improved mental health
- Social Interaction - Trees and green spaces can encourage social interaction and a sense of community
- Reduced Crime - Some studies have linked trees in a neighborhood with lower crime rates
- Community Engagement - Tree planting and care initiatives can foster community involvement and a sense of stewardship

Free tree calculator online that can tell you the community benefits of trees – www.itreetools.org

HOMES Energy Rebate Program

This program, from the Minnesota Department of Commerce, has not yet launched, but it is worth noting. Minnesota received \$74,000,000 from the US Department of Energy to implement rebates for whole-home energy-saving improvements. The rebate amount will vary based on the amount of energy savings achieved and a household's income. It can range from \$2,000 to \$8,000 or more per home.

Existing single-family homes and multifamily buildings will be eligible. New construction buildings are not eligible for the HOMES rebate.

For more information and to stay up to date on the program visit: <https://mn.gov/commerce/energy/consumer/energy-programs/homes.jsp>

DISCLAIMER: Be wary of unsolicited contact about this program via phone, email, text, ads, or door-to-door sales. These offers are likely scams. Wait for official announcements from the Minnesota Department of Commerce before considering offers or applying. The UofM Extension office has a Clean Energy Regional Director for the NW that can help field any questions. Contact Anna Peterson at (218) 281-8697 or annap@umn.edu.

Renew Hwy 2 Tour

SAVE THE DATE! Thursday, October 23, 2025, from 9 to 3:30 at UMC for the Renew Highway 2 Conference sponsored by Empower Crookston, the University of Minnesota Crookston, Fresh Energy, Clean Energy Economy Minnesota, and the Northwest Regional Sustainable Development Program.

The main purposes are to promote the community and economic development benefits of renewable energy along with uniting communities along the Highway 2 corridor to support each other's success. There will be similar conferences in Grand Rapids and Bemidji. Attendance is free. Lunch will be provided. Registration will begin in late June along with specific details, so stay tuned to the City of Crookston web site and mark that day down.

If you would like any more information between now and then, please call Crookston EDA Project Coordinator Taylor Wyum at 218-280-6368.

Be sure to follow Empower Crookston on Facebook for updates on these and more projects as they develop.





Public Works

Twig and Branch Collection - Second and fourth Mondays of each month running May through October.

City of Crookston Garbage and Recycling Bin Service

Service Details: Waste Management began garbage & recycling bin services on May 7th, 2025.

- **Garbage collection** through Waste Management will be once per week on **Wednesdays**.
- **Recycling pickup** is once per month on the **first Wednesday of the first full week** of the month, pickup calendar can be found at the City of Crookston website under Public Works.
- Information on where to place the bins as well as additional information about this service can be found at www.crookston.mn.us under Public Works.
- The **colored bag service** will continue on the currently assigned garbage day for each area **until July 11th**.
- **After July 11th**, city colored bag pickup will be **discontinued** along with the **blue bin recycling service**.
- Residents are still able to bring trash and recycle to the **transfer station** at your convenience.
- If you have any questions, please reach out to Chuck Getsman at Public Works.
 - o (218) 281-1232
 - o cgetsman@crookston.mn.us



Each household that signs up will receive:

- One 96-gallon garbage bin
- One 96-gallon recycling bin
 - o Additional bins are available (question below)

Service Overview

- Trash Collection: Weekly
- Recycling Collection: Monthly
- Bin Type: 96-gallon carts for both trash and recycling

Cost Breakdown

- Base Fee: \$20.90/month (includes one trash & recycling bin - breakdown below)
 - o Trash: \$14.95 per cart
 - o Recycling: \$5.95 per cart
- Residents will not be charged for services until bins are delivered and service has begun.
- Residents can cancel bin services at any time. Please reach out to Crookston Public Works to discontinue service at any time with no cancellation charge.

Extra Bins (Optional)

- Trash: \$8.97 per additional cart
- Recycling: \$3.57 per additional cart
 - o Base price does not include current \$6/month utility charge (drive by fee for Spring/Fall clean-up and brush pick-up services)

Crookston Trails

- City website: www.Crookston.mn.us

Building and Zoning Department

The City of Crookston has launched a new online permit and licensing solution powered by GOGov that started in March of 2025. This innovative platform is designed to simplify the process for citizens and businesses to apply for and receive permits and licenses from the convenience of their own homes.

Property owners, business owners, contractors and other interested parties can now submit building permit applications online via the GoGov application process. This application process ensures compliance with city ordinances and state of Minnesota Building Codes wherein reviews are completed in a more efficient and user-friendly way. Residential Building Permits (new or existing), Commercial Building Permits (new or existing), Plumbing Permits and Mechanical Permits will be typical form application requests, but Sign, Curbcut, Moving and other options are available via selections within the type of permit selected when filling out the application, as well as Rental Permits offered by the Crookston Fire Department. By offering this online permit application option, we aim to make it easier for permit applicants to manage their responsibilities while contributing to the safety, quality, legal compliance, increased property value, insurance claims and/or resale processes of construction built within the City of Crookston. . It also helps protect homeowners and the community by ensuring qualified inspections and reducing the risk of costly future corrections.

The link is here- [//app.govoutreach.com/crookstoncitymn/public/permits](https://app.govoutreach.com/crookstoncitymn/public/permits)

Tips for Deck Construction in Summer of 2025

1. 4x4 deck posts limited to 6'9" height maximum, but up to 14' for 6x6 or 8x8 posts.
2. A 30" in height (to top of deck) unattached to house does NOT require a permit.
3. Greater than 30" in height or attached to house **REQUIRES** a Building Permit.
4. Decks above 30" in height require railings for fall protection.
5. Deck footings, beams, posts, joists, railings and other items need to be reviewed for correct sizing per MN Code R507 when Permit application is submitted.
6. Submit Building Permit prior to Construction for all new construction.

Should you have any questions or need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our city office.



Crookston Public Library / A Branch of Lake Agassiz Regional Library

Go WILD about reading this summer at your local library! The Crookston Public Library is hosting a jungle-themed Summer Reading Program for youth and teens. Beginning June 1, participants can read to win awesome prizes, as well as attend fun events.

To get started, stop by a Lake Agassiz Regional Library location near you to pick up a reading log. The program will be offered from June 1-July 31 at Lake Agassiz Regional Library locations across the region, including libraries in Crookston, Fertile, Climax, McIntosh, Fosston and more. The Crookston Public Library will offer weekly events for youth throughout June and July, which will be held on Wednesdays at 2 p.m. Find a full schedule at larl.org/explore.

As youth explore the jungle (and their own backyards!), librarians recommend a few related books to get young readers started on their jungle journey, including:

Fourteen Monkeys: A Rain Forest Rhyme by Melissa Stewart. Set in Peru's Manú National Park, this lyrical, rhyming picture book highlights fourteen different species of monkeys which live together in harmony.

In *Just Wild Enough* by Marta Magellan, primatologist Mireya Mayor convinces the prime minister of Madagascar to make the mouse lemur's rain forest a protected national park.

Elephants Living Large is a part of the Science Comics series by Jason Viola. With massive size, floppy ears, twisting trunks and more, this book celebrates all there is to love about elephants.

Looking for a laugh? The tongue-twister *Toucan Can* by Juliette MacIver features a ludicrous rhyme full of off-the-wall characters.

There's lots to explore at your local library! Information about the program and event lists are available at larl.org/explore. Learn more about your library at larl.org.



Crookston Community Gardens



Allen & Freda Pedersen Community Garden

- The Allen and Freda Pedersen Community Garden, located outside Valley Technology Park, celebrates the legacy of the Pedersens in growing flowers, fruits, and vegetables to share with others. This garden is a first for the Crookston campus and the result of the generosity of the late Allen & Freda Pedersen. This project has had many collaborators: City of Crookston (landowner), Sodexo Dining Services, Valley Technology Park, and the U of M Crookston Center for Sustainability, Student Affairs, Academic Affairs, and Agriculture and Natural Resources Department have helped make the garden a reality over the years. Produce from the garden is used in the campus dining hall and students are hired to assist with the garden's maintenance.
- While last year this garden was made available to the community, the gardens are shifting focus back planting various fruit and vegetable plants and welcoming students to take them. If there are any leftover produce at the end of each week during the harvesting season, they will be donated to the local food shelf. The main goal and focus this year is to address food insecurity surrounding the accessibility of fresh and healthy produce.
- Questions? Contact Marina Wiley at (218) 281-8101 or umcagnatr@crk.umn.edu.

Riverside Community Gardens

- Community gardens are located at 411 Riverside Street
- They are available for community members that would like to plant a garden
- Call Parks & Recreation at (218) 281-1242 to reserve your plot



One Vegetable, One Community

One Vegetable One Community (OVOC) is a program aimed at uniting communities by encouraging gardeners to plant, grow, cook and/or share a single vegetable. The goal is to see the vegetables of the year growing in:

- Home gardens
- Community and school gardens
- Containers on front porches or balconies
- In front of businesses
- A faith-based organization
- Government buildings and grounds.

“
One Vegetable, One Community enhances Polk, Norman & Mahnomon counties by increasing access to healthy foods, building relationships, & growing excitement about gardening for mental health, well-being, and social connection.
 ”

ONE VEGETABLE ONE COMMUNITY

Encourages gardeners of all levels to plant, grow, cook, and/or share a featured vegetable of the year. It can start conversations about food and how communities support healthy lives! For more information, visit facebook.com/polkcountypublichealth or facebook.com/normancountypublichealth

SHIP statewide health improvement partnership

POLK NORMAN MAHNOMEN community health services

Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION

Be Well ESTABLISH. MOVE FORWARD.

Scan the QR code to learn more about growing lettuce in your garden this season!

Lettuce get connected!

Kim Myers, Norman-Mahnomon Public Health @ kimberly.myers@normanmn.gov
 Amanda Lien - Polk County Public Health @ amanda.lien@co.polk.mn.us

OVOC starts a conversation in the community about food, nutrition and how a community can support healthier choices.

Vegetables of the year

Beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, corn, cucumbers, green beans, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, onion, peas, peppers, spinach, squash, swiss chard, tomato

2025 Vegetable – Lettuce

Contact - amanda.lien@co.polk.mn.us

Community partners

- Statewide Health Improvement Partnerships (SHIP)
- Master Gardeners
- Local Chamber of Commerce
- Local city government
- Schools
- Community gardens

Lettuce begin!

One Vegetable, One Community

POLK NORMAN MAHNOMEN community health services

Be Well ESTABLISH. MOVE FORWARD.

SHIP statewide health improvement partnership

Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION



Polk County Historical Museum

The purpose of the corporation shall be the discovery, preservation, and dissemination of knowledge about the history of Polk County. To collect and display any material that may help establish or illustrate the past or present life, conditions, events, and activities. To disseminate historical information to interested people and institutions and arouse interest in the history of Polk Country.

- Location: On US Highway 2 on the east side of Crookston
- Hours of operation. 12:00 noon to 4:00 pm, Tuesday through Sunday (closed Mondays) from the Tuesday after Memorial Day to the second weekend of September.
- Tours and special appointments can be arranged.
- Free will donations are appreciated.



Community Voice Mobile App

Community Voice is an innovative mobile app that serves as a communication tool for communities. It has recently launched in Crookston and is paid for by the Crookston Visitor's Bureau so there is no cost to the end-users or businesses. It did not come out of City tax dollars. The City of Crookston will be using the app in a variety of ways including using the text feature to text residents regarding essential communication for the community.

App users can set their preferences to see what events are happening up to 100 miles around the community and set preferences for types of events shown. End-users can search for services, businesses, facilities, events, and resources for Crookston to find what they need, and they can 'opt in for notifications' from area businesses and organizations.

Community Voice also provides a user-friendly web application for community administrators and business owners to edit content, photos, and more. Business owners should download the app, use the search feature to find their business and verify the content is listed and accurate. They are also encouraged to 'claim their business' in the app to be able to control their listing. Businesses can add their events into the app by 'claiming their business'.

If you want to know what is going on in Crookston and neighboring communities, download the Community Voice mobile app on iOS and Android. Search "Community Voice" in your phone's app store. It is completely free to download, and they don't ask for any payment information.

Download today on iOS and Android

JOLT & JIVE
CROOKSTON'S WEEKLY
POWER-UP

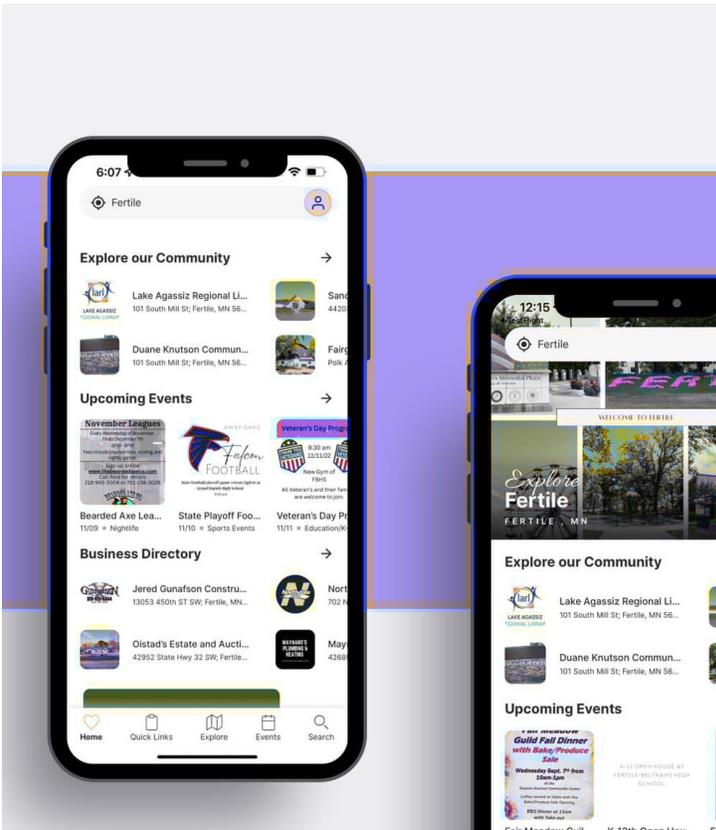
Jolt & Jive

Crookston's Weekly Power-Up Coffee Conversations

What? Informal coffee conversations!

Why? To continue the momentum our community started at the library during the "I Love Crookston" event where over 100 folks came to tell their story and express what they wanted in Crookston's future.

Every Thursday at 8am at The Cove Youth Center.





Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc

Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc. to be Featured on
"Viewpoint" with Dennis Quaid

(Crookston, Minn.)- Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc. is excited to announce the agency was selected to be featured on "Viewpoint" with Dennis Quaid. The educational program collaborated with Tri-Valley for an upcoming episode that emphasizes the critical role of Community Action. The segment will highlight the amazing staff and the impactful work the agency does.

"Viewpoint" with Dennis Quaid featuring Tri-Valley and highlighting the power of Community Action can be viewed at <https://www.viewpointproject.com/features-tri-valley-opportunity-council/>.



Tri-Valley CEO, Jason Carlson shared, "We couldn't be more pleased to have the opportunity to showcase the amazing work of our dedicated staff and volunteers."

About Viewpoint: "Viewpoint" is an educational television series hosted by Dennis Quaid, dedicated to exploring a wide range of topics that impact our world. Through compelling storytelling and expert insights, the program aims to educate and inspire audiences by delving into important issues and innovative solutions.

Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc. is a non-profit community action agency headquartered in Crookston, Minn. In existence since 1965, Tri-Valley provides services in 74 counties in Minnesota and Eastern North Dakota. The mission of Tri-Valley is to provide opportunities to improve the quality of life for people and communities. For more information on services offered and job opportunities at Tri-Valley visit the website at www.tvoc.org, follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TVOCInc or on Twitter at @TriValley_TVOC.



Adopt a Basket 2025. The goal of the program is to help bring color and beauty to the Crookston community, downtown, and beyond. Your participation can honor a loved one or simply show your community pride. Cost for 2025 is \$65 for one basket or \$125 for two baskets, which includes flowers, materials, and maintenance. Please adopt preferably before June 6th, email downtowncrookston@gmail.com or call (218) 280-2854

Downtown corner planters now available for adoption! Help beautify downtown Crookston by filling and decorating a corner planter. It's a perfect way to advertise your group or business as well. E-mail downtowncrookston@gmail.com or call 701-610-6454 to find out what's available.

Fiesta de Crookston is coming back in 2025! Music, food, and fun is planned for downtown Crookston July 31 at the old Wayne Hotel parking lot at 2nd and Main. Watch the Downtown Crookston Development Partnership Facebook page for more details.

Downtown Crookston Tunes Featuring:
Bad Bad Hats • June 26, 2025, 4:00-8:00 pm • 2nd St. & Main St., Admission: Free with live music, food, vendors, and more.
[Facebook.com/crookstondowntownpartnership](https://www.facebook.com/crookstondowntownpartnership)

Keep an eye on the Downtown Crookston Development Partnership Facebook page for upcoming Downtown Crookston Tunes events





Care and Share Crookston

A Season of Growth, Access, and Community Growth, Access & Healing: A New Season at Care and Share of Crookston, Inc.

We are proud to share a powerful moment in our evolution: this summer, following a unanimous vote by our board, we are moving forward with the creation of an ADA-accessible shelter, an essential step in ensuring our space reflects the dignity and inclusivity everyone deserves.

With dedicated funding from the Department of Human Services (DHS), we are moving quickly to begin this transformative work. An elevator installation updated electrical system, and a new steam boiler are all on the way. These critical infrastructure upgrades will allow us to serve more people, more effectively, especially individuals living with disabilities, for whom access has too often been an obstacle.

These changes are more than structural, symbolic of our mission: to open more doors and remove barriers to safety, healing, and housing. With greater accessibility comes greater opportunity for connection, and we're honored to move into this next phase of growth with intention.

Culture of Care: A Foundation for Healing

Alongside these physical changes, our internal work has been just as important. Over the past year, our team has undergone deep training in trauma-informed care, de-escalation techniques, and harm reduction strategies. These skills are not just tools, they are now core to how we show up for one another, and for those we serve.

We've grounded this transformation in three key cultural pillars:

- Independence
- Safety
- Structure

These pillars are helping us reimagine what shelter can feel

like. We're no longer simply a place to rest, we are a space where guests can breathe, reset, and begin to put themselves first, not from a place of survival, but from a place of security. Here, guests can quiet the outside noise, reestablish personal boundaries, and begin to rebuild.

Onsite Programming: A Space to Grow

Our shelter's programming continues to be one-of-a-kind. From peer-led groups to mindfulness activities and skill-building workshops, we aim to create daily rhythms that support wellness, personal growth, and healing. We know that when people feel safe and supported, they can begin to dream again, plan again, and believe in something better.

With the warmer weather, we're especially excited to re-open our community garden—a space where hands in the soil become a path to restoration. Gardening is a holistic act of healing: it grounds us, gives us purpose, and offers a tangible way to witness growth and change. For many of our guests, it's a chance to experience peace, connection, and pride.

Art, Inspiration & Collective Healing

We are also honored to announce a new partnership with the Northwest Institute for Art, who will be funding another mural project, led again by renowned artist Trey Everett. Trey's work invites reflection, joy, and unity. Murals have become a special tradition at our shelter, reminding us all of the power of beauty and shared stories in places of healing.

As we look back on the challenges we've faced and forward to what's ahead, we are filled with humility. The journey through grief, through uncertainty, and through transformation has taught us that resilience is a collective act. We continue to show up every day for those in need, and we do so as a unified, deeply committed team.

We are grateful for every person who walks this path with us, from supporters and staff to guests and volunteers. Thank you for helping us build a community where everyone has a place to land, and the chance to rise.

*With gratitude and hope,
Carolina Diaz/Executive Director*



Prairie Skyline Foundation



Next Up for Prairie Skyline Foundation is huge bubble making at Nite to Unite! We will do that on OxCart Days on the grounds of the Old Cathedral as well. And wait for it: Coming Soon Booklets showing all the lost stained glass for sale on Prairieskyline.org.

We want to thank all those who donated nice things to our Rummage Sale! Please keep on donating for a King of Trails Rummage Sale (call 218-289-1246 for pick-up,) and in the meantime, keep on filling out the survey on prairieskyline.org.

Next Board meeting is June 17th, 6 pm at the Library. All you geocachers out there, please come help us set up caches!





Get Kids Outdoors

Discover the wonders of nature by getting kids outdoors.

Building on Adam Parnow's passion for outdoor recreation, we create his legacy, through opportunities for children of all ages to experience and enjoy outdoor activities.

When exposed to the thrill and excitement of these outdoor recreational activity events, kids will be inspired and share these lifelong learning experiences with others. Outdoor experiences play a crucial role in a child's development, offering opportunities for exploration, creativity, and connection with nature that many may not otherwise have. Our programs facilitate access to outdoor activities—such as fishing, snowshoeing, golfing, skiing, or environmental education—allowing children from diverse backgrounds to engage with their surroundings meaningfully. These experiences foster teamwork, resilience, and a sense of adventure while promoting physical health and emotional wellbeing. Providing these unique opportunities empowers children to discover their interests, build lasting memories, and develop a lifelong appreciation for the outdoors.

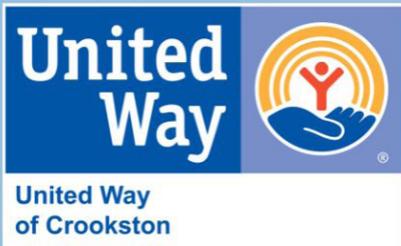
2nd Annual Get Kids Out Summer Fishing

Date: July 9th ~ Follow on Facebook and website for up-to-date information

Calling all youth ages 10-15! Join us for the 2nd Annual Get Kids Outdoors Fishing Event — a fun, FREE day of fishing, learning, and outdoor adventure! Whether you're a first-time angler or already love to fish, this is the perfect chance to enjoy nature and meet new friends. Gear and instruction will be provided, so just bring your enthusiasm and get ready to cast a line. Don't miss out — let's make some great memories on the water!



www.getkidsoutdoorsmn.org



HOME RUN DERBY

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16TH

JIM KARN FIELD, CROOKSTON MN

HOW MANY CAN YOU HIT IN THREE MINUTES?

5-10 YEAR OLD BOYS AND GIRLS - 11:00AM - 12:30PM - FREE OF CHARGE

11-15 YEAR OLD BOYS AND GIRLS - 1:00PM - 2:30PM - \$5.00

16-99 YEAR OLD MEN'S AND WOMEN'S - 3:00PM - 4:30PM - \$10.00

REGISTRATION OPEN 30 MINUTES BEFORE EACH DIVISION STARTS

Prizes
for all
levels!



ALL PROCEEDS
BENEFIT PROGRAMS
AND AGENCIES THAT
SERVE THE
CROOKSTON
COMMUNITY

CROOKSTON EVENTS

This is just a small overview of events coming up, be sure to use the Community Voice mobile app to learn more about daily events in Crookston!



Downtown Crookston Development Partnership Summer Events

Fiesta de Crookston

- Fiesta de Crookston is coming back in 2025!
- Music, food, and fun is planned for downtown Crookston July 31 at the old Wayne Hotel parking lot at 2nd and Main.
- Watch the Downtown Crookston Development Partnership Facebook page for more details.



Downtown Crookston Tunes featuring Bad Bad Hats

- Downtown Crookston Development Partnership is bringing the Bad Bad Hats to northwest Minnesota! Bad Bad Hats tour nationally and have four albums. Come and have a great night of outdoor fun!
- 6/26/25 from 4pm-8pm (Live Music Starts At 5pm)
- Drink and Food Vendors
- Free Admission

Keep an eye out for more Downtown Crookston Tunes event!



Crookston Farmers Market

- Thursdays starting May 29th, 2025, through September
- 4:00pm-6:30pm
- Downtown Square and North Ash Street and Third Street
- Local farmers offer produce bread for taste & freshness. The market provides consumers with natural & organic vegetables, produce, meat, flowers, herbs, jams, jellies, fruit, grains, homemade artisan breads, baked goods, home processed products & homemade crafts.



2nd Annual Get Kids Outdoors Summer Fishing

- Date: July 9th ~ Follow Facebook and website for up-to-date information
- Calling all youth ages 10-15! Join us for the 2nd Annual Get Kids Outdoors Fishing Event — a fun, FREE day of fishing, learning, and outdoor adventure! Whether you're a first-time angler or already love to fish, this is the perfect chance to enjoy nature and meet new friends. Gear and instruction will be provided, so just bring your enthusiasm and get ready to cast a line. Don't miss out on it, let's make some great memories on the water!
- Location – Maple Lake, Mn
- Visit the Get Kids Outdoor Facebook page or website to learn more & register



Polk County Fair

- July 9th-13th, 2025 / Fertile, MN
- Five Big Days of Family Fun
- The Polk County Fair has been entertaining families for over 115 years. There have been many famous and interesting people and animals at the fair.
- We plan to provide you with the best experience that you can have at the fair and make your visit a pleasant experience.



Ox Cart Days

- Thrive in '25
- August 11th – 17th 2025
- The biggest small town festival in Minnesota!
- Your Ticket to Enjoyable Activities for the Whole Family
- Clear your calendars, book your Crookston hotels and get ready for Minnesota's biggest festival in a small town! Get your \$5 buttons starting in June 2025.
- Need to contact us? Send a note to crookstonoxcartdays@gmail.com, call 701-215-1943, or find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

King of Trails City Wide Garage Sale

- Saturday, September 6th
- Community Wide Garage Sale
- Interactive map will be available the Thursday prior to the event
- Email kdevier@crookston.mn.us if you are interested in participating

20th Annual Sugarbeet Museum Harvest Festival

- Sunday, September 14th (estimated)
- RRV Sugarbeet Museum
- Food Truck Available for Lunch
- Harvesting sugarbeets with vintage machines
- Many other items on display including steam thrasher and AgriMAX drone demonstration
- Free bus runs between Sugarbeet Museum & Polk County Historical Museum
- Learn more on the Sugarbeet Museum Facebook page

Polk County Museum Pioneer Day

- Sunday, September 14th (estimated)
- Event opens with lunch being served
- Exhibits, Tours, & Demonstrations throughout the day.
- Learn more on the Polk County MN Historical Society Facebook page



Night to Unite

- Tuesday, August 5th (First Tuesday in August Every Year)
- University of MN Crookston
- 42nd Annual Night to Unite celebration nationwide and Crookston's 22nd annual celebration
- Crookston Night to Unite is a crime and drug prevention event that involves citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations, and local officials in the U.S., Canada, and military bases worldwide.
- Bingo usually runs from 2:30pm-4:00pm inside of the UMC Student Union with the main event starting at 4:30pm at the main gazebo in the circular yard in the middle of UMC.
- Stay up to date on the updates by following Crookston Night to Unite on Facebook.