



CITY INSIGHTS

Winter 2023-24

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Community Center Library Excitement Builds

Soaring spaces that build community. Active areas that encourage play and learning. Creative places that stimulate business ideas.

Welcome to Moorhead’s new Community Center Library.

This transformational downtown space – envisioned as a cultural anchor for a revitalized and renewed downtown Moorhead – is quickly moving from a dream in the minds of residents and City leaders to becoming reality.

“A new Community Center Library will serve as the cornerstone of Downtown Moorhead’s redevelopment and give residents a gathering place and information space for generations to come.”

Moorhead Mayor Shelly Carlson

Several key elements are planned to be included in the building, which will be located at the northwest corner of Center Ave and 5 St N:



Community Center: Moorhead residents have asked for places to gather, especially in the colder months. The new center will offer bright, airy spaces for people of all ages.



Public Library: Modern libraries are public spaces designed to foster connections while keeping pace with technology and the needs of the community.



Center for Entrepreneurship: Funded by a \$1 million federal grant, this space will be an incubator of ideas for aspiring businesses.



Activity area: Children of all ages will enjoy a space where they can play and have fun year-round.



Multifunctional community “living room” space: From meetings to presentations to movies, this space is where the community can gather.

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PROJECT TIMELINE



Pre-Design
Completed



Schematic Design
Completed



Design Development
Current Phase



Construction Documents
Spring 2024*

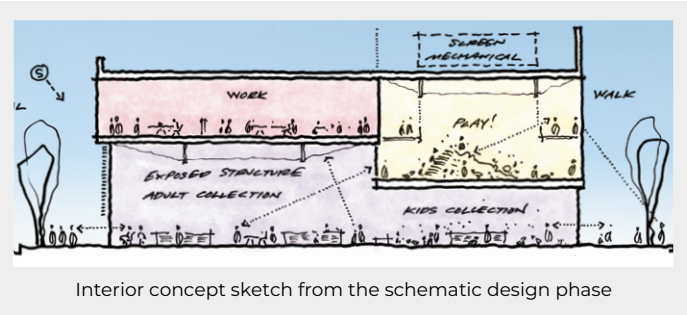


Ground Breaking
Late Spring 2024*



Public Opening
Early 2026*

*expected completion time

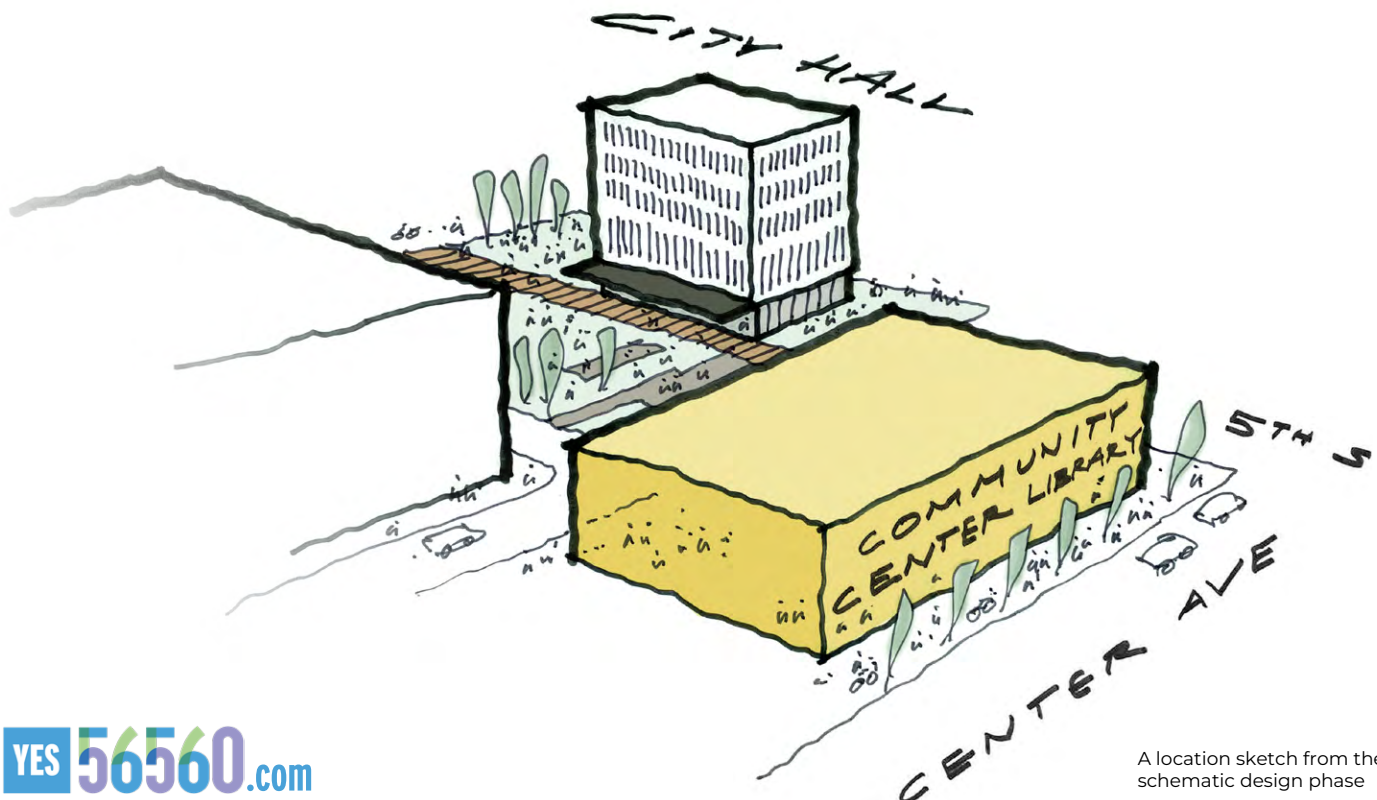


This fall, the estimated 48,000-square-foot project transitions from a “schematic design” phase – putting ideas into rough designs that highlight the “how” and “where” spaces will be included – to design development. In this phase, architects from JLG and Miller Hull will take the ideas that have been shared by residents to create a plan that will meet many of those wants, needs and dreams.

After final designs are created, they will be sent to McGough Construction, the project’s construction manager, for project bidding and construction. Once decisions on cost, materials and programming spaces are finished and fine-tuned, groundbreaking and construction will begin (late spring 2024) and progress to an early 2026 opening!

2024 is going to be an exciting year in Moorhead.

For more information, visit yes56560.com.



A location sketch from the schematic design phase

“ Bottom line, my work makes a difference in residents’ lives. When I accomplish something, our City is better because of it. It’s a great feeling.”

Make a Difference

Come Work for the City of Moorhead!

cityofmoorhead.com/jobs



Benefits

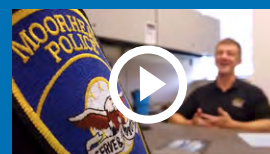
- Flexibility to support work-life balance
- Ongoing training and career development
- Competitive pay and salary increases
- Generous paid time off
- Positive, inclusive work environment
- Opportunity to do meaningful work in our community

Opportunities

- Engineering technicians
- IT professionals
- Truck drivers
- Police officers
- Firefighters
- Office support professionals
- Seasonal workers in Parks and Public Works
- and many, many more!

Interested in working for the City of Moorhead Police Department (MPD) or know someone in law enforcement looking for a change?

Scan the QR code below to watch the MPD recruitment video and apply today.





“Onward Moorhead: A Plan in Action!”

The City of Moorhead’s Comprehensive Plan is a roadmap that helps the City implement the community’s vision over the next 10 years. Community members, businesses and others worked with the City to create the Plan. Here is an update on recent projects and initiatives that advance the Five Big Ideas outlined in the Plan:

Midtown Trail

Connecting Woodlawn and Gooseberry parks and the larger River Corridor Trail, this recently constructed 0.8 mile segment is also within the U.S. Bicycle Route 20/Prairie Lakes Route that brings bicyclists from St. Cloud to Moorhead. To learn more about the River Corridor Trail, visit cityofmoorhead.com/river

Placemaking

2023 has been a great year for new experiences in Moorhead!

- The Forest Friends (Bun-Bun the rabbit, Georgie the hummingbird, and Buddyfly the butterfly) re-emerged to their home in Viking Ship Park
- Four utility boxes were wrapped with locally produced artwork
- The RiverArts event series was expanded
- Fargo-Moorhead Community Theater hosted the first Build-a-Ton-a-Thon to create artwork installations with involvement from the public

Community Garden Grants

Brookdale Baptist Church, Grateful Community Garden and Salem Evangelical Free Church received \$500 grants for community gardens. The grants helped these groups expand existing gardens or begin new ones. Local food production increases access to fresh foods, improves food security and is a great way to connect community.

New Online Permit Guide

The Camino Permit Guide makes project planning easier by helping identify required permits and standards in the Moorhead City Code and the 2020 Minnesota Residential Building Code. It assists residents and contractors when planning garages, sheds, decks, fences, and pools. Camino can help avoid surprises when it comes to proposed projects and make the process of obtaining a required permit seamless.



11 Street Underpass Construction Begins in Spring 2024

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and City of Moorhead have partnered to construct two underpasses at 11 Street in Moorhead. Construction is scheduled to begin in March/April 2024.

The project includes two grade separations of 11 St under the BNSF rail lines, along with paving, pedestrian accessibility improvements, utility replacements and signals. When completed, the 11 Street underpass project will:

- Improve safety and efficiency
- Remove crossing blockages caused by heavy rail traffic
- Increase connectivity through Moorhead for all modes of transportation

A Downtown Moorhead underpass has been a goal of the City since at least the 1970s. Two studies completed with the assistance of the Metropolitan Council of Governments (MetroCOG) identified 11 Street as the preferred location and enabled the City and MnDOT to initiate design and environmental review. The project is funded through a combination of local, state and federal resources.

The three rail lines now carry approximately 70 trains per day, blocking downtown crossings an estimated 22% of the time. By 2045, rail traffic is expected to increase to 90 trains per day, blocking the crossings nearly 30% of the time. This has severe impacts on pedestrian and vehicular traffic and reduces public safety response times.

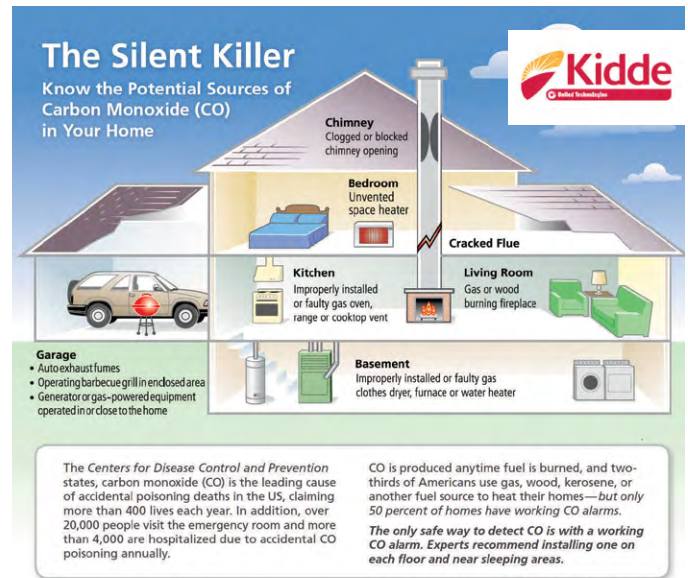
Construction is anticipated to be complete by fall 2026.

2024: First Ave N and the majority of new bridge construction

2025: Remaining bridge construction and Center Ave

2026: Main Ave and construction cleanup

To stay informed and sign up for email updates, visit mndot.gov/d4/projects/moorhead11stunderpass



Protect Your Home from Carbon Monoxide

Carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning causes up to 1,200 deaths and 50,000 emergency room visits in the US each year, according to the National Carbon Monoxide Association. Carbon monoxide is odorless and invisible. The most common symptoms of CO poisoning are headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion. People who are sleeping can die from CO poisoning before ever having symptoms.

Ensure your home has working CO detectors. Smoke detectors and CO detectors often look alike. Some can detect smoke and CO, while others detect only smoke. Install a CO detector near all sleeping areas and make sure you have one on every level of your home. Check or change the batteries in your CO detector every six months.

- Service your furnace, water heater and any other gas or oil burning devices annually.
- Keep your furnace exhaust and intake free from snow.
- Never run your car, generator or other gasoline powered device in the garage, even with the door open.
- Never use a charcoal grill, hibachi, lantern, or portable camping stove inside a home, tent, or camper.
- If you suspect CO poisoning, call 911 immediately.

Insurance Sewer Riders Important; Contact City about Odors/Back-ups

Heavy rainfall, loose debris, tree roots, and pipe deterioration or damage can cause sewer systems to not function properly. The City of Moorhead provides a 24-hour, on-call service to provide guidance to homeowners with sewer problems. There are several very important things to remember when it comes to sewers:

There are two kinds of insurance riders for sewers: one for backup (and damage caused by backup) and one for physical damage to the pipe. The second type of insurance is relatively new. Here are some important things to know:


- Standard homeowners insurance coverage for sewer pipes is typically limited to physical damage from covered events, such as if plastic sewer pipes melt in a fire. This is often limited in scope.
- A water-backup endorsement includes coverage for damage caused by a variety of water backups, including sewer backups, but not floods.
- A service-line endorsement includes coverage to replace sewer pipes damaged by corrosion, tree roots and other underground threats. This often includes repairs and replacement of underground utility lines, including sewers, between your home and the main service line in the street.
- Both endorsements, or riders, are fairly inexpensive but offer property owners more peace of mind when it comes to sewer issues, which are often not apparent until they are a major issue.

If you experience slow drains or sewer back-up, there are some important steps to take:

- Contact the City at 218.299.5386 (prior to calling a plumber).
- City staff will inspect the sewer main and determine if the blockage is in the main line or your private service. The sewer from a building to the sewer main is owned and maintained by the property owner. The City is responsible for the sewer main, which is generally located in the middle of the street.
- If a plumber has made repairs before the City evaluates whether the problem may be a City responsibility, the City cannot pay the plumbing costs.

Sewer odors can occur when basement floor or other drain traps dry up and allow sewer gas to enter buildings. Other times, a blocked roof vent may prevent sewer gas from releasing outside. In order to prevent sewer odor:

- Periodically check seldom-used drains and refill with water.
- Add a tablespoon or two of vegetable oil or mineral oil to slow evaporation.
- Keep roof vents free from obstructions, such as leaves, snow and ice.
- If sewer odor persists, call the City at 218.299.5386.



Taking a long vacation or headed south for the winter?

The City of Moorhead Police Department offers free home checks while you are away. Police volunteers will conduct security checks at your home and ensure house and garage doors, windows, fence gates and vehicles parked in the driveway are secure. If the Police volunteer notes anything suspicious, an officer will be called to the scene to investigate and make sure the home is secure.

Make your request on-line using the QR code or call the Police Department at 218.299.5120 Monday-Friday 8 am-4:30 pm.



Homestead Exclusion Applications Due December 31

The due date for new Homestead Exclusion applications is Dec. 31, 2023. Applications submitted by this date and approved will be effective beginning with the 2023 assessment, taxes payable in 2024.

Homeowners who own and occupy their home as their primary residence may apply for the Homestead Exclusion, which discounts their property taxes every year. The median valued home of \$222,900 would receive a homestead discount of about \$230 on their property taxes annually. The exclusion decreases as market value increases, phasing out at a value of \$413,800.

In addition to the discount off the top of the property tax bill, the Homestead Exclusion is necessary to qualify for the Minnesota Property Tax Refund each year. More information can be found at www.revenue.state.mn.us/property-tax-refund.

If you have any questions or would like to verify the homestead status of your property, please call the City of Moorhead Assessor's Office at 218.299.5258 or visit moorheadproperty.org.

EVENTS

Skate with Santa

Sunday, Dec. 3, 2:15-4:15 pm | Moorhead Sports Center
Skate with Santa and Mrs. Claus! Free hot chocolate and cookies will be served. Skate rental will be available in limited sizes.

Sleigh Rides

Dec. 26 and 28-29, 1-4 pm; Dec. 27, 4-7 pm
M.B. Johnson Park

Take a scenic sleigh ride through beautiful M.B. Johnson Park! All rides include a complimentary cookie and hot chocolate.

- Cost is \$5 per person (children 2 and under are free).
- Reservations can be made by calling the Parks and Recreation office at 218.299.5340 after December 1. If space allows, tickets may also be available on-site.

Celtic Festival

Saturday, March 16, 9:30 am-4 pm | Hjemkomst Center

Take in the sights, sounds and tastes of Celtic heritage with dancing, music and authentic Celtic food. People of all ages can learn Celtic traditions through hands-on activities and table displays.

- Admission is \$5/person; ages 10 and under are free!
- Bus service will be available.

Moorhead Ice Show

March 22-23, 7 pm; March 24, 1 pm
Moorhead Sports Center

Save the dates for this popular annual event that's been running for more than 40 years. Learn to Skate and Advanced Skaters ages 3-adult will perform as well as a national/world-class guest skater. The themed ice show features a fantastic soundtrack, lights and costumes.

- Tickets: \$6 for ages 3-11; \$9 for ages 12 and older
- Purchase your tickets in advance at the Moorhead Parks and Recreation office during regular business hours (8 am-4:30 pm). Tickets will be available at the door beginning 1½ hours before the show.

FROSTIVAL EVENTS

Jan. 13-Feb. 24 | Moorhead, Fargo and West Fargo

Frostival is about celebrating the fun of winter with outdoor events and family-friendly activities across our North of Normal cities of Moorhead, Fargo, and West Fargo. Grab your friends, bring your spirit of adventure (and some mittens) and join us in celebrating how #coldiscool. For a complete list of events over the six-week period, visit frostival.com.

Fun at the Frozen Fortress

Saturday, Jan. 27, 11 am-3 pm | Viking Ship Park

Embrace the cool of winter with a day of outdoor activities and events featuring the Moorhead Business Association's Snow Sculpture Contest, free cross-country skiing and snowshoe rentals, outdoor games, a hot chocolate station, a marshmallow roast and much more frosty fun!

Candlelight Trail Walk

Tuesday, Feb. 6, 6-8 pm | Viking Ship Park

Take a scenic stroll and photos along a lighted path around Viking Ship Park. There will be games, bonfires, s'mores and hotdogs available to enjoy with free ski and snowshoe rentals and hot chocolate available inside the Hjemkomst Center.

Sleigh Rides

Saturdays, Feb. 3 and 17, 12-4 pm | M.B. Johnson Park

Take a scenic sleigh ride through beautiful M.B. Johnson Park! Cost is \$5 per person (children 2 and under are free). Reservations can be made by calling the Parks and Recreation office at 218.299.5340 after December 1. If space allows, tickets may also be available on-site. All rides include a complimentary cookie and hot chocolate.

To see more Frostival events, visit moorheadparks.com

Snow Removal Reminders

Sidewalks are required to be cleared of snow and ice by 9 pm after it stops snowing. Here are some other important tips:

- If you live on a corner, all sidewalks must be cleared, including the crosswalk approaches.
- Do not shovel or blow snow onto neighboring properties or into the street.
- Make arrangements with a neighbor or a snow removal service to care for your property if you are going to be on vacation or are otherwise unable to shovel your sidewalk.
- Consider helping your neighbors with snow removal when they are out of town or when health issues become obstacles.

To report a sidewalk that is not being shoveled, contact Neighborhood Services at 218.299.5434.



City Calendar

cityofmoorhead.com/calendar

NOVEMBER

- 10 Veterans Day (observed)
(City Offices closed | no garbage*)
- 23 Thanksgiving (City Offices closed | no garbage*)

DECEMBER

- 3 Skate with Santa
- 26-29 Sleigh Rides
- 22 Christmas Eve (observed)
(City Offices closed | no garbage*)
- 25 Christmas Day
(City Offices closed | no garbage*)

JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day
(City Offices closed | no garbage*)
- 2-12 Christmas Tree pick-up
- 13 Frostival begins (through February 24)
- 15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
(City Offices closed | no garbage*)

FEBRUARY

- 19 President's Day (City Offices closed | no garbage*)

MARCH

- 16 Celtic Festival

*Please check News at cityofmoorhead.com for holiday garbage collection changes.

City of Moorhead
500 Center Ave
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Moorhead City Council



Mayor
Shelly Carlson
218.299.5307

Ward 1



Matthew Gilbertson
218.299.5541



Ryan Nelson
218.299.5549

Ward 2



Laura Caroon
218.299.5543



Heather Nesemeier
218.299.5547

Ward 3



Larry Seljevold
218.299.5544



Deb White
218.299.5548

Ward 4



Chuck Hendrickson
218.299.5545



Sebastian McDougall
218.299.5542

City Council meetings are held the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 5:30 pm at the Hjemkomst Center. Visit our website for agendas and materials.

City Services

Administration (general information)	218.299.5166
Engineering	218.299.5390
Community Development	218.299.5434
Moorhead Public Library	218.233.7594
Police (non-emergency)	218.299.5120
Fire (non-emergency)	218.299.5298
Parks and Recreation	218.299.5340
Public Works	218.299.5422
Moorhead Public Service (MPS)	218.477.8000

Emergency 911