

# Eyota City News

SEPTEMBER 2009

FALL ISSUE

## New Comprehensive Plan: Workshop III completed

*Process for master planning continues—*

A third workshop for developing a new comprehensive plan for Eyota was held August 24 at the Eyota Legion. Planner, Kristi Clarke of McGhie & Betts Inc., presented a draft plan, which she is developing with Eyota's Planning Commission. A public hearing will be held before Council will consider approval.

A comprehensive plan is an estimation of how the city will grow. It takes into account existing uses, projects growth rate, and makes decisions based on existing physical conditions. Add to this the ideas and wishes of current residents and nearby landowners, who will be affected by changes in the city's future land use.

During this process, a number of physical land constraints, which influence planning for future

uses of undeveloped land, have been discovered. Many maps were shown, including a new topography map. Gravity flow will determine the most feasible extension of sewer and water lines.

Cummingsville Bedrock underlies much of the current city, except for NW (Stone Ridge) or SW (Bush Ct to 7th St). This is limestone and shale with a water table 4 to 5 feet below the surface. An existing floodplain through town, along with hydric soils and wetlands, provide further difficulties in developing sites. Land development with these constraints requires more engineering; tiling is needed for basements.

Percentages of current uses are the basis for projections. Current industrial or commercial



use has a low percentage, but a goal for increasing this could be an area of development. An increase could lower the tax base for homeowners.

One suggested possible use is creation of an airpark—where homes have their own airplane hanger and are built near a runway.

Maps showing physical constraints and lists of planning goals are on the city website.

More citizen input is needed—please contact the City Hall with ideas.

## Volunteer playground painters needed Sept. 12

The Eyota Park Board is sponsoring a painting day at West Side Park. Volunteers are needed to help.

The faded equipment, purchased in 1993, will be getting fresh new blue and red paint to cover areas, now a faded orange and green.

If interested in helping, please email Tyrel Clark,

the park board chairman, [tyrel\\_clark@hotmail.com](mailto:tyrel_clark@hotmail.com), or call Eyota City Hall.



The city will be purchasing the paint and equipment needed to complete the project. All that is needed is your willingness to donate your time and expertise on Saturday, September 12.

Volunteers can make things happen in our city parks!

### UPCOMING DATES

#### Council Meetings at Eyota City Hall

Sept. 10 & 24  
October 8 & 22  
November 12 & 30  
View on Channel 19

#### Fire Prevention

**Week: October 4—10**  
**Open House Eyota Fire Hall:** Oct. 7, Wed., 6 pm

**Annual F.D. Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser**  
Eyota Legion Oct. 11, Sun., 7 am to Noon

#### Fundraiser for WWII Veterans Honor Flight

Sept. 19, 10 am - 4 pm  
at Eyota Market

For Vets visiting the DC WWII Memorial  
October 10, 2009

#### Chester Woods Trails Meeting:

September 16, 7 pm  
Eyota City Hall

#### CONTACTING CITY HALL:

- Phone: 507-545-2135
- Fax: 507-545-2235
- Email: [eyota@cityofeyota.com](mailto:eyota@cityofeyota.com)
- Website: [eyota.govoffice.com](http://eyota.govoffice.com)
- Marlis, Nancy, Iris, Brad, Joe

## Survey—City Lines Bus Riders & Commuters

*Riders to downtown Rochester have 3 bus stops—leaving & returning twice daily*

85 percent of Eyota riders responded to a recent survey completed by Eyota EDA and Rochester City Lines.

75 percent would use a bus shelter if available; 63 percent do not feel a shelter is necessary. 39 percent indicated a shelter, at some sites, is needed.

### Central park & ride site:

Half responding wanted a central pick-up point, but the other 50 percent did not. Those against said they liked walking and did not want to start a car. The bus company feels if a car is started, it diminishes the likelihood of riding the bus versus driving to work. However, when parking is

an issue, a central spot is a plus. Rural commuters coming into town could cause congestion, but this is not an issue in Eyota.

**Summary:** 74 percent walk to a bus stop and 82 percent indicated no additional parking is needed.

A few new young riders used the bus this summer for transportation to higher education and services in Rochester.

### Comments made on surveys:

—Not enough riders to need a shelter at this time. —Grateful for bus service, would adjust if there is only one pick up site. —The system works for me, what a blessing to have a bus service. —Use public funds for things that are necessary.

**EDA Director, Cathy Ener-son, recommended:** Continue offering riders flexibility until significant parking or rider issues occur. A larger percentage feels no need for a shelter, but would use one, if available. The City could consider adding shelters when need increases, in phases beginning with the most demanded site: South Front Street & Center Avenue. Consider durable low maintenance products with a possible train theme for protecting riders from the elements.

City website has bus route info under *Notices to Citizens*.

## City projects being completed during 2009

**Street Overlays:** 11 blocks including—2nd St. SE from Center Ave. to Pine Ave.; Pine Ave.; Washington & South Avenues from S Front to 3rd St.; 3rd Street from South Ave. to Center Ave.; and Co Rd 142 to Knowledge Road.

**Seal Coating:** Lafayette Ave. SW from 2nd to 6th Streets; Franklin Ave. from 2nd to 4th

Streets; 4th St. from Center to Lafayette Avenues; 3rd St. from Center to Madison; Washington Ave. between 3rd & 4th Streets; & the pathway in West Side Park.

**New culverts:** Second Street near West Side Park; At intersection of S Front SW & Lafayette Ave. SW.

**Handicap accessibility:** West Side Park: New parking spot. Sunrise Park: Handicap swing with ramps to

equipment, handicap parking with pathways & handicap bathroom.



## November 1st—Time to license your pet for 2010

City Hall begins selling 2010 pet licenses for cats & dogs on November 2, 2009. Licenses purchased before December 31 are \$5 each for neutered or spayed pets and \$10 for non-neutered/spayed.

Purchase license at City Hall between 8 am and 4:30 pm Monday

through Friday. Forms are also available on the city website.

Bring proof of current rabies immunization. If licensing through the mail, be sure to send photocopy proof of up-to-date rabies shot.

### Online:

eyota.govoffice.com/  
Fees and Licenses. Click

on Animal Licenses, the form is attached at bottom of page. Print, then mail it with fee amount and rabies info to City Hall.

Registration after January 1, 2010 includes added \$10 late fee. Having your pet wear the license tag is important for your its safety.



# Mesic Prairie Restoration in West Side Park

Process started in 2006—Prairie seed planted in 2008—Periodic burns will occur

Restoration of a wet prairie in West Side Park is a joint project between Chester Woods, the Olmsted Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) & the City of Eyota.

The affected area is located on the north end of West Side Park, near Second Street. The process of creating a planting of prairie plants, which tolerate both dry and wet conditions, began in 2006. In the early stages, when Roundup was repeatedly applied to kill existing weeds, the area didn't look anything like a mesic prairie.

However, after two years of weed control, a seed mix was spread in the early winter of 2008 on frozen ground.

**Mesic Prairie: Type of wetlands at West Side Park**  
*Mesic means "neither wet nor dry, in-between"*



During the first season after the planting, the area has been mowed to cut weeds and expose soil so the prairie seed can germinate. Next summer the regular mowing will cease. If there are excessive weeds, spot mowing may occur, but only once or twice.

In successive years, the area will be burned instead of mowed.

As time passes, drivers by or walkers through the area should notice a mixture of different colored flowers and native grasses. Signage will inform the public.



## City Announcements:

**WANTED:** New member for Planning Commission. Group meets monthly on the third Thursday of the month. Call City Hall or email if interested.

**CITY BRUSH DUMP: Closed Saturday, September 5 (Labor Day weekend);** Open Wednesdays and Saturdays through September; Open Saturdays only in October.

**Hours:** Wednesdays—5 to 8 pm, Saturdays—8 am to noon.

**Location:** Take Highway 14 to Dover, turn left on Co Rd 10, left on first gravel road. Site is just west of cemetery on the right side of road.

Accepts vegetative matter, branches 4 inches in diameter or less.

**INTERESTED IN BECOMING A VOLUNTEER EYOTA FIREFIGHTER?**  
 Applications are available at City Hall.

**EYOTA MURAL RESTORATION:** Comfortable with a Paint Brush? The Eyota Mural restoration will begin the week of September 8th for approximately 7 to 14 days. Contact city hall if you would like to assist. A large time commitment is not needed, just a love of painting! Cash donations also accepted.

**Donations to city parks are appreciated!**

**Thanks goes to:**

**Vince McConnell**—Chicago NorthWestern RR signs for the antique caboose

**2009 Women's Expo**—\$313 for park play equipment

**Eyota Classic Softball Tournney:** \$362 for ballfield equipment (Kevin Kullot & friends)

**Anonymous donors**—Funds for painting caboose

**Johnson Memorial**—Park bench and oak tree

## Take the Tree Walk in West Side Park—Find a guide at [eyota.govoffice.com](http://eyota.govoffice.com)

The pathway in West Side Park is a place for walking and where a rich variety of trees are growing nearby.

Most are found as clusters of trees of the same species. Many are deciduous, but some are evergreens, also known as conifers.

Did you know there are several species of oaks, basswood, black walnut, two types of birches, hackberry, honey locust, and even elms growing here?

Go to Eyota's website to find a guide and a map to follow as you walk and find the trees. One

will find photos of distinguishing features for the trees on the website. At website click on *City Departments*, then *West Side Tree Walk*.

Guides & maps are also available at Eyota City Hall.





City of Eyota  
 38 South Front St. SW  
 P.O. Box 328  
 Eyota, MN 55934

Permit No. 12  
 Eyota, MN 55934  
 Presort Standard

Postal Patron  
 Eyota, MN 55934

**NEW HOME &  
 COMMERCIAL  
 BUILDING**

**PERMIT Special**

**EXTENDED**

until **DECEMBER 2009**

**Less \$2,250 in permit fees.**

*Fees waived for sewer connection, sewer inspection, water improvement fund, water connection and zoning certification.*

**Fire Prevention Week October 4 to 10**

***Stay Fire Smart! Don't get Burned***



**F. D. Open House:**

**Eyota Fire Hall**

**October 7, Wed., at 6 pm**

**Pancake Breakfast**

**October 11, Sunday**

**7 am to noon**

**At Eyota American Legion**

**Annual F.D. Fundraiser**



**2009**

**Build in Eyota  
 Special!**



**Volunteers needed to help with Eyota Mural Restoration (Higgins Bldg.)—Work begins September 8, lasting 7 to 14 days. See page 3 for details.**