



2026 State of the City Address

By: Mayor Sue Denkinger

Hello, I'm Shoreview Mayor Sue Denkinger. Thank you for taking the time to join me in this 2026 state of the city address. Over the next several minutes, I'll be sharing some of the great work the city has accomplished on your behalf over the last year, as well as some future projects we're looking forward to.

I'm honored to have this opportunity as mayor to help guide our continued success and extremely high quality of life. Of course, doing this job would not be possible without a dedicated, caring, and hardworking city council, which includes Cory Springhorn, John Doan, Shelly Myrland, and Paul Gardner. Thank you for all you do for the Shoreview community.

This important work also couldn't be possible without the many passionate community volunteers and our driven staff who make our goals and plans a reality.

Our vision is "To be a welcoming community that provides quality services, safe and beautiful neighborhoods, a vibrant economy, and exceptional recreation opportunities." Our mission is simple: "To foster community pride and create a high quality of life by providing exceptional services and amenities." We accomplish both of these by focusing on what matters most to you, as well as on ways to improve and long-range planning.

Before I get into our recent accomplishments, I do want to take a moment to acknowledge the impact Operation Metro Surge had on the city and our region. This created uncertainty and fear across our community and also impacted our businesses and schools. We know this will have long-lasting impacts to our community and continue to engage in efforts to provide support. We greatly appreciate those of you who helped to care for others, especially our businesses and school districts. Thank you for everything you did and continue to do. Shoreview continues to be committed to being a community where everyone feels safe and welcomed, regardless of their immigration status.

Now, let's look at some of our many accomplishments from the past year.

Community survey

Our latest community survey results, completed last fall, continue a long-standing trend of high satisfaction rates that date back to the late 1980's. The city outperformed national and local benchmarks in several areas. Some highlights include:

- Our quality of life received high marks with 96% of residents rating it as excellent or good. This places us as the top city in 20 of our local peer cities.
- Parks and recreation continue to be a strong asset for our residents with 97% rating our parks as excellent or good and 96% rating our parks and rec opportunities as excellent or good.
- Residents continue to feel safe in Shoreview with high ratings for our public safety partners.



Community engagement

Connecting with our community continues to be a priority.

- Last year, 19 residents participated in our sixth leadership academy, learning all about how local government works and helping build our next generation of leaders. This academy, offered every other year, is open to all residents 18 and older.
- Our team also connected with 67 neighborhoods and almost 2,500 residents during Night to Unite.
- The city partnered with students in two courses through the University of Minnesota's Resilient Communities Project to enhance engagement efforts with residents in multi-family dwellings.
- Online engagement continues to improve with a newly designed website and strong social media presence. These tools allow us to engage our residents, wherever they may be.

Economic and community development

Redevelopment is thriving across the city:

- The Aloma apartment opened along Lexington Avenue. This completes a major redevelopment that now includes over 600 apartments, 44 of which are affordable units.
- A new project at Gramsie and Hodgson Roads is well underway and includes 53 apartments and 21 townhomes.
- The Seven Lakes development, located on the former Deluxe campus also wrapped in 2025. It includes three new buildings, totaling almost 450,000 square feet and hundreds of jobs to the community. Fairview Health Services, Binks, and PAR Systems who started in Shoreview in 1961 all held grand openings celebrating this new investment.
- In addition to the redevelopment work, we continue to find ways to further support our local businesses through a redesigned ThinkShoreview website, updates to our business retention and expansion program, improved marketing efforts, and outreach to understand their needs.

These important economic and community development efforts ensure Shoreview continues to be a vibrant community into the future.

Parks and recreation

Our parks and recreation system continue to be one of the community's greatest assets.

- We celebrated the community center's 35th anniversary in 2025. It continues to be a premiere facility for our residents and the region.
- Last year, we wrapped up two major projects:



- Bobby Theisen Park underwent a major redevelopment with a new park building, playground, and improved courts and fields. We celebrated with a grand opening this spring.
- We added a new restroom building at Shoreview Commons Park, which also includes outdoor rental space.
- We also renovated baseball fields at Bucher and McCullough parks and installed a new playground at Shamrock Park.
- These investments are part of a long-term plan to enhance all 11 city parks over time.

Public works

Maintaining strong infrastructure remains a core city responsibility.

- Last year, we replaced aging street lights, painted traffic signals, cleaned stormwater ponds, and prepared for this year's projects.
- Behind the scenes, our team continues critical utility maintenance. They cleaned over 100 miles of sewer lines, inspected around 1,300 manholes, flushed 1,300 hydrants, and distributed 830 million gallons of water.
- We also worked with Ramsey County on major projects in the city such as a mill and overlay on County Road I and finishing the Hodgson Road project. This project received the 2025 Public Safety Project of the Year from the Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers.

Sustainability

Shoreview remains a leader in sustainability, maintaining the highest designation in the GreenStep Cities program.

- In 2025, we installed a new solar array at the maintenance facility and implemented actions from our energy action plan to reduce energy use.
- We also continue work to protect our natural environment through stormwater management, smart salting practices, rain gardens, and tree replacements.
- We're installing a variety of tree species to address emerald ash borer and ensure we have a healthy tree canopy for the future.

Our focus on sustainability continues to grow as we adapt to the changing climate and work to limit our impact on the environment.

Public safety

Public safety is extremely important to our community. Our partners at the Lake Johanna Fire Department and Ramsey County Sheriff's Office continue to provide elite service at an affordable cost.

- Last year, we broke ground on a new headquarters fire station in partnership with the cities of Arden Hills and North Oaks. Thanks to \$6 million in state funding, we are able to



limit the financial impact of the station on our residents. The new station will provide much needed training space, as well as further improve response times. Currently, we are maintaining an incredible response time of 4 minutes and 42 seconds.

- The Ramsey County Sheriff's Office continues to provide high quality services to our community. They are also establishing strong relationships through a variety of community events and partnerships with the city.

We thank our public safety partners for the work they do every day to keep us safe and to respond when we need them most.

Finance

The city takes great pride in its strong financial management through long-term planning. This important work helps the city council make wise financial decisions to limit the impact on our residents and businesses as much as possible.

- Our AAA credit rating was reaffirmed, a status we've held since 2010.
- The city also received a certificate achievement for excellence in financial reporting for the 40th year in a row. This award is issued by the Government Finance Officers Association.
- I'm proud to share that Shoreview has the fifth-lowest city taxes among 28 similar metro communities. In Shoreview, residents in an average-value home are paying about \$122 per month. This is an incredible value for police and fire services, street maintenance, parks and public spaces, high quality customer service, and much, much more.

Looking ahead

While I'm proud of what we've accomplished, I'm excited about our future.

- We are turning the former Ramsey County Public Works site at Rice Street and 694 into a mixed-use development with housing and retail.
- We are exploring how to repurpose the fire station next to Island Lake Park. This city-owned station will be empty once the new headquarters opens up this summer.
- We are kicking off our 2050 comp plan. This plan, which won't be finished for a few years, will guide development in our community for decades to come. It will cover a wide variety of areas including housing, parks, and transportation. Planning will kick off later this summer.
- We are finishing a large development code update. This update ensures our land use decisions reflect current and future needs of the city. Be on the lookout for engagement opportunities!
- We are developing our first climate action plan. This will provide a roadmap in a variety of areas including transportation, land management, infrastructure, and energy use.
- We will be improving four miles of streets in northern Shoreview. We are also finishing up a major trail project along County Road I.



- We continue to focus on ways to increase engagement with our residents. Several events are being planned for city staff and elected officials to get out into the community. Watch for these events to be announced or better yet, go to our website and sign up for our city e-newsletters.

As I complete my second term as mayor, I am focused on working with the city council, residents, businesses, community leaders, and staff to build on Shoreview's strong foundation.

Shoreview is a special place – one shaped by decades of thoughtful leadership, strong civic pride, and engaged residents. By continuing to work together, we will ensure Shoreview remains one of the premier communities in Minnesota.

On behalf of the city council, I want to thank our numerous volunteers across advisory boards, community groups, and park clean-up crews, as well as our local faith communities. Together, you build the civic pride that makes Shoreview strong.

I also want to acknowledge our pride in our Mounds View and Roseville School Districts for their partnership and educational excellence.

Finally, thank you to our professional staff for their dedicated and quality service.

It is an honor and privilege to serve as the mayor of our great city. I look forward to our continued progress. Thank you for being part of the Shoreview community. I wish you a happy and healthy year ahead.