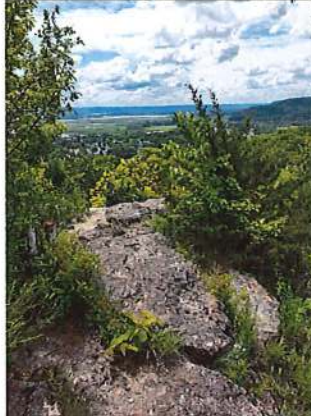


# LA CRESCENT CITY NEWS

Visit our Website [www.cityoflacrescent-mn.gov](http://www.cityoflacrescent-mn.gov)

Summer 2020



Pictures  
taken at  
Stoney  
Point.  
Courtesy of  
Jason  
Ludwigson

On behalf of the City staff we hope this finds all La Crescent residents healthy. The Spring has been a hard time for all residents in regards to COVID-19. Many changes have been made throughout the City during this peacetime emergency. Your patience is appreciated as City businesses adapt to the new "normal". As for City Hall, we have made the following changes:

- New hours—City Hall hours are now Monday—Thursday 7:30 am to 6:00 pm and Closed on Friday. As always the Police Department is available 24/7. Please call the non-emergency number 507-895-4414 for assistance. **In case of an emergency please call 911.**
- For the time being, the City Hall building will remain closed to the public. If you need to meet with a City staff person please call them directly, or call 507-895-2595 to be directed to that person and he/she will make arrangements to meet with you.
- The Motor Vehicle Department is offering full services via 'Walk-up' window 7:30 am—6:00 pm Monday—Thursday. **Drivers License renewals and State I.D.'s require an appointment. Please call 507-895-4627 to schedule.** Title work and DL renewal will not be done after 5:30 pm. At this time the State is not offering any written or behind-the-wheel testing in La Crescent. Please visit [dvs.dps.mn.gov](http://dvs.dps.mn.gov) for more information on testing sites.
- Parks are open with signage stating that park equipment is not sanitized and to play/use at your own risk
- The Aquatic Center is currently open to residents that reside in or attend the IDS300 school district. More information is available on our website [www.cityoflacrescent-mn.gov](http://www.cityoflacrescent-mn.gov) 'Parks and Recreation' tab

## ABSENTEE VOTING

In these uncertain times, some residents may feel more comfortable voting absentee instead of in-person. Absentee voting for the Primary (August 11th) election begins on June 26th. If this is something you would be interested in, you can obtain an absentee application by:

- Visiting the MN Secretary of State website at [sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/](http://sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/) and request an absentee ballot online.
- Stopping at the La Crescent City Hall Main Office, 315 Main Street, La Crescent (Monday-Thursday 7:30am—6:00pm)
- Contacting the Houston County Auditor-Treasurer's Office at 507-725-5803

Precautions will be put into place at the in-person La Crescent Polling Stations to keep our election judges and voters as protected as possible.



## WHATS NEW

### La Crescent Recognized for Environmental Sustainability Efforts



The City of La Crescent received an award for advancing to become a Step 3 city in the Minnesota GreenStep program. La Crescent is one of 140 participating cities and tribal nations in the 10-year-old challenge, assistance, and recognition program.

The City of La Crescent has worked hard to implement best practices in order to meet their own sustainability goals with support from the GreenStep program and their peers. Actions taken within the program focus on cost savings, energy use reduction, resource conservation, climate change, and the encouragement of civic innovation.

For more information visit: <https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/city-detail/12177> and

<https://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/2020-06/2020%20Step%20Advances.pdf>

### La Crescent Solar PV Update

In 2019 the City of La Crescent installed 3 additional ground mounted solar PV systems. Those three systems provide power to the city radium plant, animal shelter, and maintenance building. Since installation in October of 2019 these three systems have produced 80,300 kWh of electricity. These systems are tied to the regional power grid (MISO) supplying power to the local buildings and excess power back onto the power grid. These three systems help provide power during peak grid demand, save money with reduced energy costs, and reduce carbon emissions from electricity generation.



Maintenance Building (2 panels) Animal Shelter (1 Panel)

Pictures courtesy of Drew Koch



Radium Plant Solar Panels

### Veterans Park Playground

In November of 2019 the City Council approved the purchase of new playground equipment for Veterans Park. The City would like to thank the La Crescent Lions Club, La Crescent Rotary Club, Mayo Health System and Minnesota Energy Resources for funding the project. The project will be completed this summer.



Pictures courtesy of Tyler Benish

### *Pay your water bill with Online Pay*

The City of La Crescent partners with PSN which is a national payment service that residents can use to pay their water and sewer bill online. Visit our website [www.cityoflacrescent-mn.gov](http://www.cityoflacrescent-mn.gov), menu item 'Pay My Bill.' You can also call 877-885-7968 for assistance.

*Pay now, schedule a payment or set up Auto-Pay. Please opt out of paper bills to help save money and be GREEN. An email is sent when your bill is ready. If you choose to use this service we recommend setting your payment date no later than the 10th or 12th of the month.*



### **City Compost Site and Recycling Center**

The City Compost Site (Located on Main St. just past Classic Rock) is open Mondays from 2:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. for the deposit of your trees, leaves and grass.

The Recycling Center - operated by Houston County (Located behind the Flea Market Building) is open Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. and Saturdays 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



Would you be willing to help the City in our continued effort of going "Green?" Please consider receiving the Fall/Winter issue of the Newsletter via email. Simply send your email address to [aboettcher@cityoflacrescent-mn.gov](mailto:aboettcher@cityoflacrescent-mn.gov).



## WATERSHED PROJECT

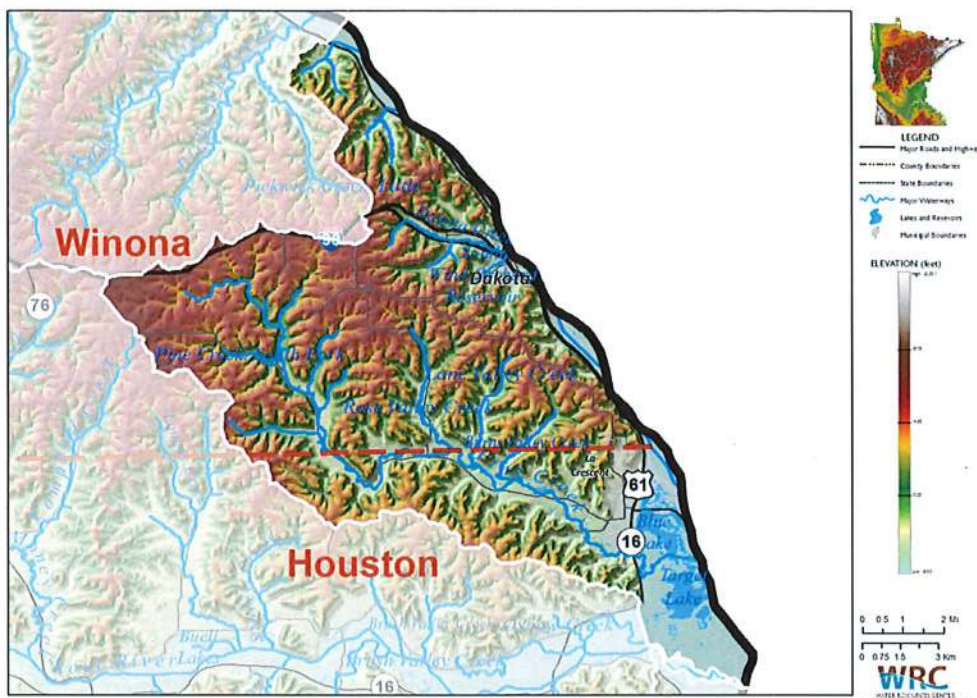
### **Care for What We Share: The Watershed Approach**

Some tasks can't be done alone. Minnesota's Watershed Restoration & Protection Strategies are helping Minnesotans work smarter and better for water quality.

The condition of streams, lakes and rivers depends primarily on the actions of people on the land draining to them.

To help Minnesotans work together to protect water in the places where they live, a new approach was adopted by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) in 2008. It's called the watershed approach.

The state's 80 major watersheds (view map at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/watershed-approach-restoring-and-protecting-water-quality>) are now managed in a cycle, with four activities done every 10 years, in every watershed:



**MISSISSIPPI RIVER - LA CRESCENT MAJOR WATERSHED**

1. **Monitoring** - The condition of watershed water bodies is monitored by MPCA over two years. Water chemistry and stream biology data collected by state, federal and local organizations is compiled. Land use, topography, soils and pollution sources are evaluated.
2. **Data Assessment** - Specialists evaluate data to determine which waters are impaired, which conditions are stressing water quality, and which factors are fostering healthy waters.
3. **Strategy** - Based on the assessment, strategies are developed to restore the water bodies. These are reported in a document called Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS)
4. **Implementation** - Local partners implement projects to restore and protect waters. These efforts are coordinated in local water plans or One Watershed-One Plan.

This work is funded by Minnesota's Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment, which was approved by voters on November 4, 2008 to protect drinking water sources; protect, enhance, and restore wetlands, prairies, forests, and fish, game, and wildlife habitat; preserve arts and cultural heritage; support parks and trails; and protect, enhance, and restore lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater.

### **Keeping our Storm Sewers Clean: What is an Illicit Discharge?**



Anything that goes into the storm sewer system that is not storm water is considered an illicit discharge including but not limited to: paint, grass clippings and leaves, pet waste, motor oils, lawn chemicals, sidewalk deicers, and runoff from washing a car at home.

#### ***How do I Report an illicit discharge?***

Step 1: Observe from a safe distance. DO NOT touch or smell the substance.

Step 2: Notify the Non-Emergency Police Dispatch 507-895-4414 (Days, Evenings, or Weekends). In case of an emergency call 911.

Step 3: Provide the following information: your name, phone number, discovery/incident time, date, and location, description of material, and source if known, estimate extent of the problem, take photographs of the scene and send them to [lacrescentwwtp@gmail.com](mailto:lacrescentwwtp@gmail.com)

For more information on Storm Water Pollution and what you can do to prevent it, please visit our website [www.cityoflacrescent-mn.gov](http://www.cityoflacrescent-mn.gov) and select the 'Administration' menu title and then from the drop-down menu select 'Storm Water & Erosion Control'

## Important Information

### Recycling Cart Collection

A few things to remember:

- Recycling pick up is every other Wednesday
- Please have the carts out by 7 a.m. on the designated collection day
- All recycling must fit inside the cart
- Carts need to sit on a level surface
- If your recycling was not picked up please contact Hilltopper Refuse and Recycling directly at 608-783-6727

For more information about the **recycling cart and calendar** view our website [www.cityoflacscent-mn.gov](http://www.cityoflacscent-mn.gov) 'Refuse & Recycling' tab and then directly under the Refuse & Recycling Pickup tab select the link for the 'Recycling Bin Information'.

### Building Permits

All permits for the City are now done online. Visit our website at [www.cityoflacscent-mn.gov](http://www.cityoflacscent-mn.gov) 'Administration' tab, 'Building & Zoning' sub-tab. If you are unsure if a permit is required please call 507-895-2595 and ask for the Zoning department.

### Keep Trees Trimmed

Please keep trees trimmed back to the edge of the road/back of the curb to a height of 13'-6" to allow emergency vehicles to access your property and your neighbors.

## City Council

The City Council meets at 5:30 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Mondays every month in the City Council Chamber. Meetings are open to the public.

Council Members:

Mayor - Mikel Poellinger

Ryan Hutchinson  
Cherryl Jostad  
Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner  
Dale Williams

Council Agenda and Council meeting minutes can be found on the City website:

[www.cityoflacscent-mn.gov](http://www.cityoflacscent-mn.gov) 'City Government' tab.

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