



THE COMMUNITY

The City of Woodbury is 36 square miles in size, situated just southeast of St. Paul, the state's capital, at the intersections of I-94, I-494 and I-694. The City is in close proximity to the Twin Cities' major employment centers, as well as the St. Croix River Valley, providing a beautiful natural setting and year-round recreational opportunities. Woodbury is one of the Twin Cities' fastest growing suburban communities. It is known for its attractive residential neighborhoods, which are connected by more than 100 miles of multi-use trails. The City contains approximately 3,000 acres of dedicated or purchased park and open space land, and eight small lakes, most with public parks and pathways, are situated throughout the City.

In the past decade, Woodbury's population has more than doubled, growing from 20,075 residents in 1990 to 46,463 as measured by the 2000 Census. Currently, the City's population is estimated to be 60,000. It is projected to be 73,500 by the year 2020 and 84,000 in 2030 at full development. Approximately two-thirds of the City has been developed, and Woodbury's 2030 Comprehensive Plan anticipates continued urban development. Woodbury is recognized as a well-educated, stable and professional community with a significant workforce experienced in the medical and high-tech fields. The median household income of \$92,492¹ with 82% of the residents having completed some college is significantly higher than the national average.

Considerable commercial and industrial activity may be found within the City's three industrial parks, which include the 10-acre Wooddale Center Industrial Park developed by OPUS Northwest, L.L.C.; the 70-acre Carver Lake Office Industrial Park; and the Woodbury Commerce Center located on 100 acres in the northeast quadrant of the City. The City has begun working with property owners to develop a new business park in northeast Woodbury at Hudson Road and Settler's Ridge Parkway; development activities are expected to begin in 2010. Woodbury is home to numerous major employers, such as The Hartford, Assurant, Target.com, eFunds, EcoWater Systems, and Dean Foods/Land O' Lakes, plus many smaller businesses and retail shopping enterprises. Woodbury is also home to Woodwinds Health Campus, which is anchored by a full-service acute care hospital. Medical office and other patient-care facilities are developing near the hospital, fulfilling the City's vision of a Medical Campus District for the area. Woodbury remains a retail shopping hub for the east metro region with major shopping areas including Woodbury Village, Tamarack Village, Woodbury Lakes, Woodbury Marketplace and Woodbury Commons.

Woodbury's park system consists of approximately 3,000 acres of park and open space land, 50 park and open space sites and a swimming beach. A \$9 million Park & Open Space Referendum was approved by the voters in the fall of 2005 which is allowing the city to add to their substantial park properties as well as add athletic fields to the Bielenberg Sports Center. Neighborhood parks feature playground equipment, athletic fields and courts, picnic areas, multi-use trails and skating rinks. In addition, these parks serve as neighborhood centers and natural gathering places for the community. Community scale facilities include the Tamarack Nature Preserve, Carver Lake Park, Ojibway Park, and Bielenberg Sports Center. The sports center houses two indoor ice rinks and a field house covering a soccer/football field and a walk/run track. The development of the new East Ridge High School adjacent to the Bielenberg Sports Center has resulted in the growth of the outdoor athletic complex to four 90-foot baseball fields, 14 multi-use baseball / softball fields, 14 soccer / football fields, three practice football fields and eight tennis courts. Eagle Valley Golf Course is a city-owned 18-hole course on 225 acres of rolling terrain. In addition, there is the Prestwick Golf Course, a privately owned championship course open to the public. Woodbury is proud of Central Park, an indoor city park connected to a new Washington County Library, YMCA and senior citizens' residence. Central Park contains a major play area, meeting rooms, amphitheater and coffee shop, as well as the central offices of the Washington County Library system and facilities for the South Washington County School District's Early Childhood Family Education Program.

Woodbury is served by three school districts: South Washington County Independent School District (ISD 833) with an enrollment of 15,000 students; Stillwater Area Schools (ISD 834); and North St. Paul- Maplewood-Oakdale School District

¹ 2005 – 2007 American Communities Survey

(ISD 622). District 833 operates six elementary schools, two middle schools and two senior high schools in Woodbury including the new East Ridge High School which opened in fall 2009. A collaborative elementary school, Valley Crossing, serves students from all three school districts and Crosswinds, a collaborative middle school, serves students from St. Paul and nine suburban school districts. The community offers three private schools and three charter schools, which provide additional education options. Minnesota is nationally recognized for its excellent public schools and the high percentage of students who graduate from high school.

Residents and visitors alike can take advantage of the numerous cultural and recreational amenities of the Twin Cities' area. Museums, galleries, world-class zoos, wildlife and nature conservatories are abundant in the region. Numerous historic sites, professional sports (St. Paul Saints Baseball, NFL Vikings, MLB Twins, NBA Timberwolves, and NHL Minnesota Wild) and world-class dining/entertainment are available nearby. Among the numerous professional theater groups in the Twin Cities are the renowned Guthrie Theater and the Children's Theatre Company. Minneapolis and St. Paul also are home to two major orchestras. The Twin Cities region, with 2.9 million residents currently, is projected to grow to 3.57 million by the year 2030.

In Woodbury, an active and engaged citizenry partakes of local events, such as Woodbury Days and the citywide 4th of July celebration. Residents take tremendous pride in their neighborhoods and are active in local neighborhood groups, as well as civic organizations, such as the Fine Arts Council, Friends of Woodbury, the Rotary Club, Kiwanis and Lions Club, Woodbury Athletic Association, and the Woodbury Area Hockey Club.

CITY GOVERNMENT

The City Council consists of the Mayor and four Council Members; all are elected at-large and serve four-year, staggered terms. The City Council provides legislative guidance for the City and sets administrative policy. The Council appoints the City Administrator who serves as the City's Chief Operating Officer responsible for the day-to-day management of the City, its operations and overall financial administration/condition. The City Council and City Administrator enjoy a strong, positive working relationship. Since its incorporation in 1967, Woodbury has had just three Administrators, and most department heads are similarly long-tenured. The City employs approximately 274 full-time equivalent regular full- and part-time employees, 73 paid-on-call firefighters, and 200-300 seasonal or temporary employees. The City has a strong and stable relationship with other local governments, and a collaborative and consensus-building culture exists.

The City Council has identified seven components that are essential to the success of the community. These are the guiding principles that govern the council's strategic planning for Woodbury's future. The seven components, together with the result the city wishes to achieve, are:

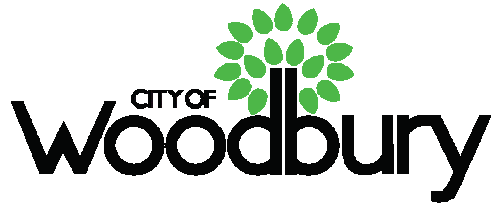
- **Safety** - Woodbury residents feel safe in their person and their property. The city provides high quality, visible, protective services and works with other agencies to provide similarly high quality services.
- **Quality of Life** - Woodbury maintains a high quality living environment characterized by open space, quality parks, and attractive neighborhoods with:
 - a variety of life cycle housing options
 - convenient access to a wide range of private sector services (e.g., health care), and
 - convenient access to high quality discretionary public services (e.g., recreation)
- **Positive Economy** - Woodbury has a progressive, customer-oriented business community and a range of employment opportunities. The city monitors this area and provides leadership to promote achievement and bring together other parties as necessary to continue success.
- **Education** - Schools serving Woodbury residents achieve, and are perceived as achieving, outstanding results. The city supports school districts with their building needs and with the maintenance of a safe, positive environment for learning in the school buildings within Woodbury.
- **Community** - All people in Woodbury feel a sense of ownership in the community as shown by participation in many active organizations meeting the social and spiritual needs of the people living within Woodbury's boundaries. The city is one means for citizens to meet the community's needs but the city's role is to be a partner with other organizations, promoting and supporting their efforts, not being the primary builder of community.

- **City Services** - The city emphasizes the use of appropriate technology, equipment and infrastructure to provide services at a high level relative to other communities and at a cost perceived by residents as giving excellent value for taxes paid. The city not only implements those systems for which it has responsibility but promotes maintenance of an adequate level of service by other governmental and private entities serving our population.
- **Sustainability** - Woodbury strives to be a sustainable community that promotes community health and wellness through the protection of the environment. The city assesses and improves its development practices, city and community energy use, and use of its natural resources in order to not use resources at the expense of future generations. The city's role is to establish and implement policies, guidelines, goals and strategic actions to protect air and water quality, preserve natural areas, conserve energy, and reduce waste

In 2009, the City completed its 2030 Comprehensive Plan. This plan is part of an on-going process of community planning in Woodbury, beginning with the first comprehensive plan in 1971 with major updates in 1980 and 2000. The 2030 Comprehensive Plan provides a blueprint for the future of the community through carefully managed growth resulting in vibrant residential neighborhoods, a thriving business community, diverse employment opportunities and exceptional municipal services. The 2030 Plan includes a special emphasis on providing a sustainable quality of life by making careful and effective use of available resources to ensure that resources exist to maintain and enhance the quality of life for future residents.

The City strives for strong working relationships with state, regional, county, and other municipal governmental entities, as well as with local school districts. It has established joint-powers agreements with several government agencies and maintains a positive leadership position in the region.

The City has a customer service philosophy called *The Woodbury Way: We H.E.L.P.*, where key values are identified for Woodbury employees to attain. H.E.L.P. is an acronym representing the basic values of being: Helpful, Effective, Looking Ahead, and Professional. An emphasis on internal and external customer service will continue to be important in the future.



Organization Chart

