

Community

The City of Chaska lies in the scenic Minnesota River Valley at the southwest edge of the Twin Cities Metropolitan area.

Chaska's 22,500 residents live in a variety of neighborhoods, including a full range of housing opportunities from affordable to upper-scale rental and owner-occupied dwellings. The historic downtown, in the southern portion of the City, is home to a variety of residential and commercial uses, with many buildings featuring distinctive



City Square Park
Gazebo

"Chaska brick." The western portion of the City, outside of the Municipal Urban Service Area, is dotted with farms and larger homesteads. Industrial parks in the north provide thousands of jobs. City facilities include a beautiful City Hall and Police Station, a Fire Station, a Municipal Services Building, a water treatment facility, an executive par 30 golf course, the championship 18-hole Chaska Town Course and the award-winning Community Center. An extensive trails system connects the entire City and provides access to open space.

Chaska is committed to five core strategies:

- *Planned orderly development.*
- *Enhancing the quality of life.*
- *Maintaining a sense of community and small-town values.*
- *Ensuring taxpayers quality, cost effective service.*
- *Commitment to excellence.*

Through these core strategies, Chaska strives to be the best small town in Minnesota.

History

The name "Chaska" is a Dakota word meaning, "first born male child." In 1851, speculator Thomas Holmes founded the City. Originally, the settlers were mainly farmers, but a thriving industry, including the famed Chaska brickyards, grew around the railroad and the river in the late 1800's. Population doubled from 4,350 to 8,350 in the seventies with the creation of Jonathan, a Federally assisted planned community within Chaska. Significant industrial expansion due to City incentives kept the growth going in the eighties and nineties. By focusing on a thriving, vital downtown area, Chaska has maintained its small town character while continuing to grow as a part of the metropolitan area.

Growth and Transportation

Over \$200 million in industrial and commercial development has occurred since the early 1980s. Along with industry and business, the number of households in Chaska has also been growing at a rate of 500 units per year. Today, there are approximately 7,800 households in the City. Chaska is anticipated to peak at 35,000 people and 12,000 households in 2025.

There are many options for transportation available in or near the City. State Highways 212 and 41 are located within the City; with the Interstate 494

loop only 10 miles away. Flying Cloud airport is only 7 miles away from Chaska and the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport is located within 25 miles. Southwest Metro Transit



Highway 41 through downtown
Chaska

Service provides also provides regional bus service and express links to downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Community Resources

School District 112 serves the cities of Chaska, Chanhassen, Carver, and Victoria. Enrollment is approximately 6,500 students and growing. The District has one senior high school, one middle school, and four elementary schools. All, except three of the elementary schools, are located in Chaska. A new elementary school is currently under construction in western Chaska. There are also two parochial elementary schools.

There are three medical clinics in the City, with skilled physicians and dentists ready to serve the community. The St. Francis Medical Center is only seven miles away.

Opportunities for recreation are diverse and plentiful in Chaska. The City's parks and trails system includes over a thousand acres of open space, 544 acres of developed parkland, and approximately 25 miles of developed trails. The Minnesota River Trail (DNR), Hennepin County rail trails, and the Chaska Lake Federal Refuge complement the City-owned trail system.

Golfers can play the executive Par 30 course owned and operated by the City, or the championship Chaska Town Course, an 18 hole, 6,800 yard course situated on 250 acres of beautiful woods, fields, wetlands and Lake Bavaria. Designed by prominent architect Arthur Hills, the Town Course is one of the finest public courses in the state, and gives the community a chance to play an exquisitely designed and



Chaska Town Course

maintained golf facility for very reasonable public course rates. Hazeltine National Golf Club, site of the 1991 U.S. Open and the 2002 PGA, is also located in Chaska.

The Chaska Community Center, with 120,000 square feet of creative space offers many fun activities for all family members. Building components include an ice arena with two sheets of ice, a gym, a pool, an indoor playground, a 240-seat theater, The Lodge senior facility, community rooms, a City Center Cafe, virtual golf, racquetball, batting cages, and small meeting and craft rooms.



Chaska Community Center

The Organization

The City of Chaska operates under the City Manager form of government. The City Council includes a mayor who is elected at-large every two years and four council members elected from separate wards to four-year revolving terms. There are 120 regular, full-time employees in the City. Departments include Administration, Administrative Services, Community Development, Police, Fire, Public Utilities, Public Works, Engineering and Parks, Recreation, and Arts. The general fund budget is about \$7 million.

MISSION STATEMENT

The primary mission of the City of Chaska is to enhance and maintain the high quality of life of its "share holders", the citizens of Chaska, which has been nurtured in the community since its incorporation in 1852. Consistent with its mission the City will strive to maintain its unique, historical, small town image and sense of community while supporting will planned, orderly growth. The mechanism for obtaining these objectives is through the use of proper community planning, enforcement of local ordinances and State statutes, economic development and provision of quality municipal services.

Community growth is to be emphasized in the area of quality industrial and commercial development. Quality, balanced residential development is also encouraged consistent with local demands.

Orderly growth should promote expansion of the City's tax base, supply employment opportunities and provide for reasonable diverse shopping opportunities.

The City will strive to provide quality, basic municipal services in the areas of Police, Fire, Public Works, Utilities and Parks & Recreation while maintaining an average to below average property tax level. Although the City will generally not look to provide "luxury municipal services" it will seek to provide all services in the most cost effective mode and administer these services to the citizens of Chaska fairly and equitably. The City will attempt to structure service delivery in order to allow that those benefiting from various services also assume the financial responsibility. When economically feasible the City will support innovative and creative service concepts.

In obtaining these goals the City Council will attempt to be proactive and strive to initiate policy consistent with these objectives. Citizens will be viewed as customers of City services and a priority will be given to obtaining feedback and in communication with our customers. Quality professional staff will be encouraged to implement on a day to day basis the overall mission and goals established by the City Council.



Chaska City Hall

City of Chaska



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