



Pipeline Express

To provide high-quality water and exceptional services to the people and communities we support

May 15, 2026

SPRWS works with city, private firms Several private developments underway

by Rich Hibbard

Saint Paul continues to experience steady redevelopment and reinvestment in private properties across the city. From new housing and mixed-use developments to institutional expansions and commercial projects, these investments strengthen neighborhoods, support economic growth, and improve the community for residents and businesses alike. Behind many of these projects is a coordinated effort between developers, city departments, and Saint Paul Regional Water Services (SPRWS) to ensure reliable water service infrastructure is properly designed and constructed.

SPRWS facilitates this work through the Engineering Service Desk and the city's established site plan review process using the Paulie permitting system. Paulie provides a centralized platform where development projects are submitted, reviewed, tracked, and coordinated among city departments. Through this process, SPRWS reviews proposed water service connections, water main impacts, and plumbing plans associated with private development projects.

Our water utility technicians and plumbing inspectors play a key role in reviewing and approving plans to verify compliance with SPRWS standards and the Minnesota Plumbing Code. This review process helps ensure new services are properly sized, installed safely, and designed to protect water quality and system integrity.

Once construction begins, multiple SPRWS groups become involved in field inspection and coordination activities.

An artist's rendering of the United Village development. mspmag.com/arts-and-culture/united-village-development-updates/



Plumbing inspectors oversee work occurring on private property, while Damage Prevention Unit (DPU) Inspectors review and inspect the portions of new water services installed within the public right-of-way. In some cases, distribution staff also assist with specialized water main tapping operations, particularly when connections involve water mains larger than 12 inches in diameter or high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe.

This work represents a significant amount of coordination, technical review, inspection, and field support across several SPRWS teams. These services are billable to development projects, helping offset the costs associated with supporting private development. SPRWS is currently conducting a study to evaluate the fees collected for these services to ensure they appropriately recover the actual costs of plan review, permitting, inspection, and construction support activities.

Recent examples of projects supported through this process include the expansion of Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities men's campus and new development activity at United Village, including planned restaurant and hotel space. As well as larger, longer-term projects like the Ford Bridge Development. These projects highlight how coordinated infrastructure review and permitting efforts help bring important community investments to reality.

New utility trainees start work



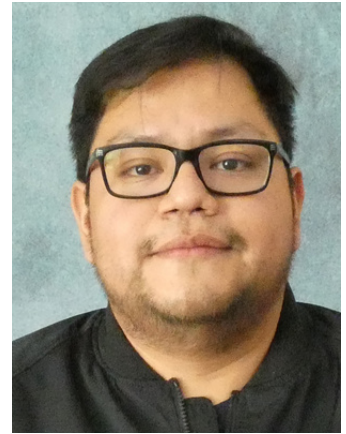
Andre Cangundo Jose



Francis Junior



Ben Leurquin



Gustavo Luis Luis



Saivon Parker



Ishmael Rinehart



Randy Schotz

New water utility trainees started working at the utility on May 4. These new staff members work out of Vadnais station. From top left are Andre Cangundo Jose, Francis Junior, Ben Leurquin, Gustavo Luis Luis, Savion Parker, Ishmael Rinhart and Randy Schotz. This is the fourth year for the program.

Temp help starts in customer service



Leslie Blanchard started work in the call center of the customer service section on May 4. She will be working as a temp to backfill positions left by the upcoming maternity leave of Nadya Johnson. While Nadya is out of the office Jordyn Amundson will be working the customer service area in the lobby. Leslie will be answering phones in the call center where Jordyn had been working.

Leslie Blanchard

Safety picnic kicks off construction season



Staff gather for a meal during the spring safety picnic to kick off the construction season,



Teams compete in a friendly game of bags during the safety picnic.

Sign up for biometric testing, earn 1,000 pts

Free onsite biometric screenings will be available in the Administration Building lunchroom from 7:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. on June 4th and June 12th. Scheduling your appointment is quick and easy through the Personify Health portal: Log in to Personify Health Select the “Benefits” tab, then click “View All” Scroll down and select “Labcorp – Biometric Screenings”

Click “Start Now”
Select “Continue” under the Onsite Screening option
Choose “Water” from the location dropdown
Select your preferred appointment time
Employees who complete a biometric screening will earn 1,000 reward points through the Healthy Saint Paul program.

SPRWS golf day set for June 22



Looking for a way to get to know your co-workers, get outside, and enjoy some friendly competition in a recreational game of golf?

The SPRWS golf day has been set this summer for 3 p.m. on June 22 at the Phalen Golf Course. The event has attracted upwards of 50 employees in past years and is looking to do the same or better for this year.

If you are interested, the cost for the game and the cart rental is \$45 per person, with side games extra. Payments need to be made by June 1.

For more information or to make payments, contact Derek Olson, George Moy, or Dennis Rosemark by the June 1 deadline.

Job openings at the water utility

The utility is seeking a water pumping operator to perform responsible work monitoring, operating, and conducting preventive maintenance of the pumping system and equipment.

This position is open to all qualified applicants. It closes at midnight on May 18, 2026.

Applications must be made online at stpaul.gov/jobs by the deadline.

The utility is seeking two GIS specialist II's. The successful candidates will work on the SPRWS GIS team supporting overall operations and utility-wide projects including the Lead Free SPRWS program. These are promotional positions open only to current city employees.

The positions close at midnight on May 26, 2026. Applications must be made online at stpaul.gov/jobs by the deadline.

Lead replacements underway for 2026

SPRWS staff start work on a lead replacement at 300 Dayton on May 11. Lead replacements by SPRWS crews and the five contractors working for SPRWS are set to reach nearly 2,300 this year. We are on pace to have replaced 5,000 lead service lines since the inception of the pilot program for Lead Free SPRWS in 2022 by this summer and with the goal of replacing all lead service lines in our system by the end of 2033.

