



12800 Arbor Lakes Parkway, P.O. Box 1180, Maple Grove, MN 55311-6180 763-494-6000

June 20, 2016

Mr. Will Phillips
AARP Minnesota State Director
30 E 7th Street, Suite 1200
St. Paul, MN 55101

Dear Mr. Phillips:


On behalf of the City of Maple Grove, we are excited to begin our work towards the designation as an Age Friendly City. We look forward in joining with the World Health Organization (WHO) and AARP Minnesota along with our local partners to assess, learn, evaluate and promote the policies and ideals that elevate Maple Grove to the Age Friendly designation. The City of Maple Grove understands the importance of creating a community committed to being a great place for people of all ages. We recognize and support the importance of encouraging and promoting age-friendly planning and policies that will help us to serve our changing demographic and enhance the community for all residents.

The City of Maple Grove is a growing suburban community, located NW of Minneapolis. Our current estimated population is over 66,000. Although we are a relatively "young" community, with 12.7% above the age of 60 (according to 2010 census) we have another 16% of our 2010 population in the 50 – 60 year old category, so we anticipate a steady growth of those choosing to age in our community. For many years, the city been thoughtful in its planning and has added a variety of senior living choices including some with services, housing options such as single level living and association living, and city wide dial-a-ride transit services. The city has also been supporting the Senior Coordinator and programming for older adults offered through Parks and Recreation for 20 years.

Maple Grove has already taken steps to start the process of creating an Age Friendly Community. We have a task force that includes representation from local health care providers, churches, the city and citizens, who have been researching the current offerings within the city, as well as where we need to learn and understand new opportunities. Their work includes using the framework of WHO and the eight domains of livability that help influence the quality of life for older people. It is the City's intention to continue to support this work and to foster and implement plans and policies which serve the many and varied needs of our older residents.

Thank you for considering the membership of the City of Maple Grove to AARP's and the World Health Organizations network of Age-Friendly Communities. We look forward to working with AARP Minnesota and the entire network in our strategies to become a community for a lifetime, and to be one of the first suburbs in Minnesota to reach that Age Friendly designation.

Sincerely,



Mayor Mark Steffenson
City of Maple Grove

"Serving Today, Shaping Tomorrow"
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



City of
Maple Grove
Parks & Recreation Board

12951 Weaver Lake Rd. • Maple Grove, MN 55369-9409
Phone: (763) 494-6500 FAX: (763) 494-6454

June 16, 2016

Mr. Will Phillips
AARP Minnesota State Director
30 E 7th Street, Suite 1200
St. Paul, MN 55101

Dear Mr. Phillips:

As Chair of the Maple Grove Parks and Recreation Board I am pleased to share the support of the City of Maple Grove in the endeavor to become designated an Age Friendly Community. The Parks and Recreation Board has been supportive of programs and services that allow people of our community to remain active, engaged, and part of their community no matter their age.

Kris Orluck, Senior Coordinator has given us regular updates on the work of the task force that is now taking on the framework and timeline of the World Health Organization's eight domains of livability. We believe her 20 years of experience working for the Maple Grove Parks and Recreation Board bring a strong commitment to actively engage older adults in this process. Her work in program planning and networking will be an asset as the task force strives for dynamic involvement from many sectors of the population, especially under-represented groups of our community.

As a Park Board we have watched the participation levels increase over the years and anticipate continued growth for many years to come. We hope that the assessment and understandings that are gained by the WHO framework will give us information to address the current and future needs of our community. It is our intension to support Kris as she takes the actions needed to work with; the task force, the Age Friendly Network, the WHO, and AARP Minnesota to bring the Age Friendly designation to the City of Maple Grove.

Thank you for your consideration of our work to make Maple Grove a great place to live out a lifetime.

Sincerely,



Bill Lewis

Chair, Maple Grove Parks and Recreation Board

CC: Mayor Mark Steffenson
City Administrator Heidi Nelson

“Serving Today, Shaping Tomorrow”



June 21, 2016

Will Phillips
AARP Minnesota State Director
30 East 7th Street, Suite 1200
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Dear Mr. Phillips:

On behalf of Maple Grove Hospital, we are pleased to support the City of Maple Grove in its application to AARP Minnesota and the World Health Organization (WHO) to be designated as an Age Friendly City. Maple Grove Hospital is committed to fostering partnerships that support the city of Maple Grove as an Age Friendly City.

Maple Grove Hospital recently celebrated its 6th year of being a local health care resource and has grown from 90 to 130 private rooms and is committed to helping the residents of Maple Grove live longer and healthier lives.

Maple Grove Hospital conducted its first Community Health Needs Assessment in 2013 which led us to join the City of Maple Grove's Age Friendly task force. The top priorities identified in the 2013 Community Health Needs Assessment include Mental Health, Safety, Prevention/Education/Wellness and Asthma. We are currently in the process of conducting our 2016 health needs assessment which has involved input from community members.

Maple Grove Hospital will continue to identify community needs, gaps, opportunities and best practices to improve the health of the communities we serve. We look forward to collaborating with the City of Maple Grove as well as AARP Minnesota in support of a community designated as an Age Friendly city.

Sincerely,

Andrew S. Cochrane
Chief Executive Officer