



# City of Maple Grove

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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 has 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