

SPRING 2023

508 SOUTH STATE STREET • WASECA, MINNESOTA 56093

2023 SPRING BRUSH CLEANUP

Starting Monday, May 1st the City of Waseca will provide free pickup of brush. All materials must be on the curb by 7:00 a.m., May 1st to be included in the pick-up. There are several regulations that must be met for the material to be picked up.

- Brush must be piled on the curb - crews will not enter on private property to pick up the brush.
- No material other than brush shall be placed in the brush pile.
- Animal waste, garbage, demolition material, lumber, etc. will not be accepted. Any inclusion of any excluded materials will result in the whole pile being left. Crews will not sort piles.
- A limit of one dump truck load per address will be in effect. Any more than one dump truck load will be left on the curb.
- No tree branches over 8" in diameter or material over 8' in length will be taken.
- All limbs and branches must be placed parallel to the curb.



The City of Waseca will not be responsible for turf damage caused by this service.

Because this is a costly service in terms of manpower and equipment, it will be a one-time only service. As a result, if the material is not on the curb by 7:00 a.m., May 1st we cannot guarantee that it will be picked up. The crews will make only one pass on each street to pick up the material. There are many other jobs that the crews will be involved with and as a result, we will not be able to return to make special pick-ups.

This is an opportunity for residents to clean up their trees and bushes and have the material hauled away for them. Let's all take advantage of this opportunity to clean up our yards and our community!

Keep in mind there will be an expanded FALL pick-up of leaves scheduled at a later date and advertised in the City Newsletter & Website.

WASECA UTILITIES RECOGNIZED FOR RELIABLE ELECTRIC SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

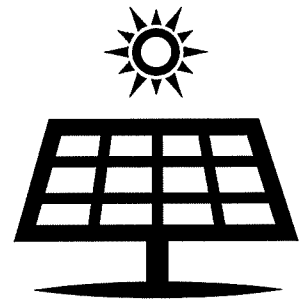
Waseca Utilities has received national recognition for achieving exceptional electric reliability in 2022. The recognition comes from the American Public Power Association (APPA), a trade group that represents more than 2,000 not-for-profit, community-owned electric utilities.

APPA helps electric utilities track power outage and restoration data through its subscription-based eReliability Tracker service. Once per year, APPA's Reliability Team compares this data to national statistics tracked by the U.S. Energy Information Administration for all types of electric utilities.

We are proud of this recognition and our outstanding Electric Utility staff that is committed to providing safe, reliable electric service to our customers.

PROPOSED SOLAR POWER PROJECTS

In compliance with State of Minnesota mandates, customers of Waseca Electric must comply with the City of Waseca's Solar and Small Power Generation Policy relating to electric power production. All proposed solar installations require pre-approval from Waseca Electric prior to proceeding with any proposed project or be subject to immediate disconnection of the solar connection to Waseca Electric. The City of Waseca must provide information regarding rates and installation requirements free of charge to all interested customers upon request. All installations require a pre-approved application through the Utilities Office at City Hall, non-refundable application fee, engineering review fees, building permit, meter costs, and final approval from the City. Interested customers should contact Waseca Utilities at (507) 835-9718.



EMERALD ASH BORER IN WASECA COUNTY

In March 2022 Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was detected in Waseca County. EAB is a destructive exotic beetle native to Asia that was discovered in Michigan in 2002. The adult beetles feed on ash foliage while larva feed on the inner bark. This inner damage to the tree disrupts the tree's natural ability to take on water and nutrients, eventually killing the tree within 3 to 6 years. Because there are several insects that can be incorrectly identified as EAB, assistance with proper identification can be found at <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eab>

The City has been taking proactive steps over the past few years in anticipation of the arrival of EAB. In 2019, the City did an inventory of all known public (City owned) ash trees. The ash trees were given a condition rating, 1 being low quality and 3 being high quality. This inventory has assisted the City with identifying and targeting desirable and non-desirable ash trees. This means that there are trees that we will try to protect, but there are trees that we will not be able to save. In 2021, the City received a \$78,000 grant from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for removal and replacement of trees damaged by emerald ash borer. This grant will assist the City with increasing tree diversity through new plantings and by removal of problem trees in public

areas and road right of ways throughout the community over a multi-year period (2022-2025). After this initial grant period, there will still be approximately 400+ ash trees in our inventory that we will be dealing with for years to come. **This ash tree inventory does not include trees located on private property.**

Ash trees can be treated with insecticide chemicals to protect them from EAB. These treatments are effective when applied properly and then repeated as prescribed, every 2 years. In 2022, the City treated approximately 130 Ash trees in public areas. The treatment process will not only protect the tree from EAB, but it has been shown to slow the spread of EAB, allowing the City and residents more time to remove and properly manage ash trees in the community.

Trees are one of the few assets that can increase in value over time. Mature trees are worth significantly more to a community than newly planted, small trees in terms of air quality, storm water retention, shade, and other benefits. Private trees represent a significant portion of ash trees found in the community. The City encourages residents to monitor their private ash trees and develop a plan. Whether it be removal, EAB protection, and re-planting efforts.

More information can be found at: www.mda.state.mn.us/eab

SPRING FLOODS

With spring right around the corner, flooding may not be far behind. Floods are the most frequent and costly natural disaster which can occur from thawing snow or from significant rainfall which could result in water coming into the lower level of your home. Simple steps can be taken prior to flooding such as, keeping your home in good repair and/or creating good drainage around your home. Here are a few tips to help you prepare and possibly reduce potential flood damage to your home and keep yourself safe too.

GUTTERS and DRAINS

Clear gutters and drains around your home. Keeping gutters and drainage systems clean will help carry water away from your home.

SUMP PUMPS

Sump pumps let you pump water out of your

home and can be an excellent defense against flooding if maintained. Consider a back-up battery-powered sump pump or a generator should you lose power to your home.

SEWER BACKUP

Install (or have a plumber install) sewer or septic line check valves, which allow waste to flow only one way to prevent a sewer back-up in your home.

LEAKS and CRACKS

Leaky roofs and foundation cracks allow water to get into your home. When you see wet spots on the ceiling or cracks in the foundation, fix them as soon as it's safe and dry to do so. Close foundation cracks with mortar and masonry caulk or hydraulic cement, which expands and fills the gaps for a very low cost. Don't patch solely with mortar or cement, which may crack again.

SANDBAGGING

If you have experienced flooding in areas around your home previously, you may want to consider placing sandbags in those locations around your home. Sandbagging will not stop the water completely, but can reduce the amount of water entering your property.

TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN

If you come into an area that is covered with water, you will likely not know the depth of the water or the condition of the ground under it – especially at night. The best rule, whether you're driving or walking, if you come to a flooded area simply turn around, don't drown.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

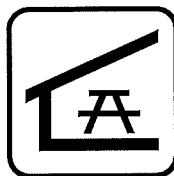
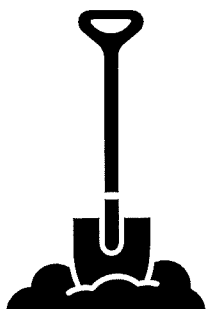
For additional information on floods and how to prepare you and your family, go to:

<https://www.floodsmart.gov> or <https://www.ready.gov> or contact Emergency Management

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!

Protect yourselves and your property against underground utility damage. **Gopher State One Call** is Minnesota's one-call center for the excavating community. Homeowners, excavators and

contractors must contact Gopher State One Call 48 business hours prior to any excavation. They will, in turn, contact participating utility operators who will then locate and mark where the underground utilities might be buried. This is a free service. You may reach Gopher State One Call by phone (800)252-1166 or online at gopherstateonecall.org.



ONLINE PARK SHELTER RESERVATIONS

New for the 2023 season, the City of Waseca will be taking online park reservations and payment. ONLY on the City website at www.ci.waseca.mn.us. For more information on how to reserve a park shelter through our online system, please visit the Parks Department website at <https://www.ci.waseca.mn.us/parks> and click on the 'Park Shelter Reservation Information' tab.

We have a variety of park shelters to rent for your planned events. A paid park reservation is your guarantee of a shelter for your planned event. Pavilions/shelters are available from May through October and reservations are available on a four-hour or daily time frame. For more information, you can visit us on our website, contact City Hall at 835-9700, or stop in Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

CLEAR LAKE PARK



In 2022 the City of Waseca determined a need and desire for renovations of the Johnson Pavilion and Beach House at Clear Lake Park. The renovations of the two facilities include, but are not limited to: restroom repairs, structural improvements,

and exterior preservation. The facility improvements were completed at the Beach House in the fall of 2022. However, the completion of the Johnson Pavilion was delayed due to unforeseen circumstances. The Johnson Pavilion renovations will resume this spring and are planned to be completed in the summer of 2023.

We thank you for your understanding and believe Clear Lake Park Beach House, Bandshell, and the other park shelters within the Waseca Parks system can provide appropriate space for your gatherings in 2023. Park shelter reservations are currently being accepted; reservations can be made online at <https://www.ci.waseca.mn.us/>

The City of Waseca was also selected to receive grant funding through the MN DNR Outdoor Recreation Grant Program in 2022. The grant projects included replacing the Clear Lake Park playground equipment and installation of a new fishing pier on Clear Lake. The playground replacement project was completed in 2022. The



fishing pier was constructed in the fall of 2022 and will be installed on Clear Lake this spring.



There is a rich history within Clear Lake Park and the City of Waseca recognizes the importance of keeping those traditions alive for years to come. If you have any

questions regarding the projects at Clear Lake Park, please contact the Parks Superintendent 507-835-9727. Thank you!

PREVENTING STORMWATER POLLUTION

If you enjoy our scenic local lakes and waterways, take a few minutes to learn about the City's stormwater system and how each of us can help reduce stormwater pollution:

Waseca's stormwater system consists of ditches, curbs, gutters, pipes, tile, manholes, and catch basins. Primarily located along City streets, the purpose of the system is to capture and transport surface runoff to area wetlands, ponds, lakes, and streams.



Contrary to popular belief, water that enters the stormwater system does **NOT** flow to the wastewater treatment facility. Ultimately it flows **untreated** into local wetlands, ponds, lakes, and streams. In other words, anything other than water that makes it into the system has the potential to pollute our water resources. Examples of pollutants include leaves, grass clippings, pet waste, fertilizers, oil, and salt (deicers).

The City has programs in place, such as street sweeping and fall leaf clean-up, to help keep the gutters and drains clean, but the practice of pollution prevention by residents will always be more effective than any clean-up effort. As a user of the stormwater system, you can make a big difference in keeping Waseca's water resources healthy and beautiful.

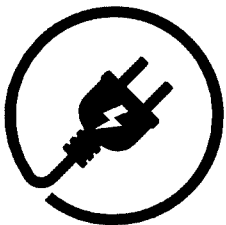
Listed below are some steps that everyone can take to help keep our waterways clean:

- Keep grass clippings, leaves, and trash out of the street, curb and gutter, and storm drains (can block/plug drains and pipes, depletes oxygen, and promotes weed and algae growth)
- Pick up and properly dispose of pet waste (contains bacteria and parasites, depletes oxygen, releases ammonia, and promotes weed and algae growth)
- During the winter months, do not over-apply salt or deicing chemicals (kills plants and can create a saline dead zone at the bottom of lakes and ponds)
- Use ZERO-Phosphorus fertilizers on your lawn (phosphorus encourages weed and algae growth)
- Use a commercial car wash to minimize the amount of dirty, soapy water flowing into the stormwater system
- Recycle paint, oil, and other industrial liquids at participating service centers – **DO NOT DUMP DOWN THE STORM DRAIN!!**

Additional information about the City's stormwater system and program is available on the City website at: <https://www.ci.waseca.mn.us/engineering/pages/stormwater-management>

If you have any stormwater related questions or concerns, please call the Stormwater Hotline – (507) 835-9730.

ELECTRIC PEAK ALERT



You have the power to help keep electricity costs down. A Peak Alert means Waseca Utilities is nearing our peak electrical demand for the year. This peak usually occurs on very hot days during the months of June

through September between 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on

weekdays. Waseca Utilities will announce a Peak Alert by radio announcements, social media posts, and via the City's website.

By helping to reduce our peak electrical demand, you can help keep electricity rates low. Energy saving suggestions include: set air conditioner to 78 degrees, delay running the dishwasher and clothes washer/dryer until after 7:00 p.m., turn off excess lights, and close curtains and drapes. Please conserve energy and keep your electrical usage to a minimum by using major electrical appliances before 11:00 a.m. or after 7:00 p.m. on Peak Alert days.

BULLETIN BOARD

PLANNING TO BUILD A SHED? BE SURE TO KNOW THE GUIDELINES!

To put up an accessory structure (shed) on your property, it will need to go through a zoning review, regardless of the size. If your shed is 200 square feet or greater it will require a building permit and shall have exterior color and roof pitch compatible with the principle building (house). Additional guidelines include; size, height, setbacks, and number of structures allowed.

Questions can be directed to Bill Green – 835-9738
or e-mail billg@ci.waseca.mn.us

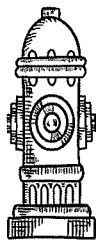
SUMP PUMP REMINDER

As we approach the spring rain season and the melt of the considerable snow cover, property owners are reminded that per Waseca City Code §52.02, it is unlawful to connect sump pump outlets or any other conductor of natural precipitation or ground water to the sanitary sewer system. The sanitary sewer system is not designed to carry this clear water, and sump pumps that are illegally connected to the sanitary sewer system contribute to sewer backups and overloading of the City Treatment Plant. Property owners should be aware that with the heavy snow fall and above normal temperatures this winter, sumps may be running earlier than normal. It is common after winter that many sump pump outlets are frozen or plugged. If this is the case, the sump pump outflow shall be piped to either the yard or City storm sewer if available. In no case should pipe cross property lines, be connected to an unauthorized sanitary sewer or storm water drainage system, or cause a nuisance to the public right-of-way including streets and sidewalks.

WATER HYDRANT FLUSHING

The City of Waseca's Water Utility will be flushing fire hydrants beginning Monday, May 8th.

Utility workers will be moving: Southwest to Southeast, then Northwest to Northeast. Rusty water may be evident during this time and shortly after.



COLD WEATHER PROTECTION PERIOD ENDS APRIL 30TH

April 30th will mark the end of the Cold Weather Protection period. If you are having difficulty paying your utility bill, we encourage you to be proactive and contact Waseca Utilities at 835-9718 to discuss your account or to set up a payment plan. Office hours are 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday.

RESIDENTIAL ENERGY STAR LED BULB REBATES



2023 is the last year we will be offering rebates for Energy-Star rated screw-in LED bulbs due to the new federal lighting standard that went into effect this year. We encourage you to invest in Energy-Star rated LED bulbs, which use 75% less energy and last up to 25 times longer than incandescent lighting. For more information on our rebate program, visit www.saveenergyinwaseca.com.

SUMMER IS COMING!

Waseca Utilities would like to answer two of the commonly-asked questions that we receive during this time of year regarding swimming pools.

How much does it cost to fill my pool?



At the current City of Waseca water rates, the cost of a gallon of water is .002 cents. (Yes, that is less than a penny!) If you have a pool that holds 12,000 gallons, the cost of the water to fill your pool would be less than \$30.00.

Do I need to notify Waseca Utilities if I fill a pool so that I don't have to pay sewer charges on my pool fill water?

No, this is not necessary. For the utility bills due June 15th through December 15th, the City of Waseca uses an average to determine your sewer billing. This average is determined by your water usage on your utility bills due January 15th through May 15th, which covers consumption from mid-November through mid-April. If you fill your pool after mid-April, you will pay for all of the fill water, but you will only pay sewer charges based on your average referenced above. **Still have questions? Please contact Waseca Utilities at (507)835-9718.**

ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Applications are still being accepted for the Energy Assistance Program. Request an application from the local service provider, Minnesota Valley Action Council (MVAC), by calling (507)835-8240 or obtain an application online at mnvac.org/programs/energy/

The program has been expanded to include assistance with water and sewer bills, in addition to the energy assistance provided in the past. Income eligibility has also been expanded to help more Minnesotans than ever before pay their utility bill