

SPRING 2024

508 SOUTH STATE STREET • WASECA, MINNESOTA 56093

## 2024 SPRING BRUSH CLEANUP

Starting Monday, May 6th the City of Waseca will provide free pickup of brush. All materials must be on the curb by 7:00 a.m., May 6th 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 6th 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.

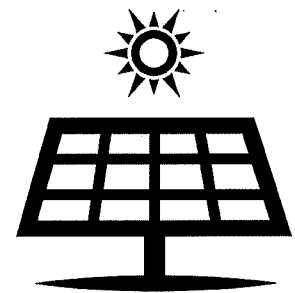
### DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT



All community water systems must make available a drinking water quality report known as a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) to their customers by July 1st of each year. This report contains information about the City of Waseca water quality, testing, and other water related issues. Our report will be available after June 1st this year. An insert with a link to the report and additional information will be included with your utility bill due June 15th, which will be mailed at the end of May. If you would like a copy of this report, please contact the Utilities Office at 835-9718. Business hours are 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The report will also be available on the City's website at [www.ci.waseca.mn.us](http://www.ci.waseca.mn.us) under the Water Department.

### 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.



## UPCOMING 2024 CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Below is a list of major street projects to be constructed in 2024:

### 8th Avenue NE Reconstruction:

This joint City/County project will consist of the complete concrete reconstruction of 8th Avenue NE from 3rd Street NE to Clear Lake Drive and will include sanitary sewer, water main, storm sewer, and ADA sidewalk and trail improvements.

- ◆ Wencil Construction Inc. has been awarded this project and plans to begin the week of April 15th.
- ◆ Construction will take place in three (3) major phases:
  - **Phase 1:** Underground work and aggregate road base at, and east of, 7th Street NE is to be completed before July 3rd.
  - **Phase 2:** Underground work and aggregate road base west of 7th Street NE to begin July 15th (after Lakefest and the Waseca County Free Fair).
  - **Phase 3:** Substantial completion of the project (all paving, rough grading, and soil stabilization) by November 1st.
- ◆ Final restoration and seeding to be completed the following spring by May 30th, 2025.
- ◆ During Phase 1, 8th Avenue NE west of 7th Street NE will remain open to traffic. During Phase 2 and Phase 3, the entire project will be closed to traffic. Resident access will be maintained whenever feasible.

### 11th Avenue NW Rehabilitation:

This project will involve the asphalt mill and overlay of 11th Avenue NW from State Hwy 13 to 10th Street NW and will include ADA sidewalk and trail ramp upgrades, replacement of deficient/poorly draining curb and gutter, and utility fixture adjustments (an approximately 460-foot section of 11th Ave NW pavement between 7th Street NW and 10th Street NW that is still in very good condition will not be improved with this project).

- ◆ The bid opening for this project will be April 19th and it is expected to be awarded on May 7th.
- ◆ It is anticipated that construction will begin in June or July and last approximately 4-6 weeks depending on the weather (a total of 20 working days has been allotted for the substantial completion of this project). Final restoration is expected to be completed in September.
- ◆ During construction all, or portions of, the street will be closed to traffic.

### 2024 Sidewalk Improvements:

This project consists of downtown brick paver replacement (east side of State Hwy 13 between Elm Ave and the RR tracks), ADA sidewalk ramp upgrades along 5th Street SW (ahead of planned street enhancements) and other various sidewalk and curb and gutter repairs throughout town.

- ◆ The bid opening for this project was April 11th. If awarded, construction is expected to take place between May and August.
- ◆ The work on 5th Street SW is to be substantially completed by July 12th with the rest of the project to be substantially completed by August 30th. Final restoration and seeding are to be completed by September 13th.
- ◆ During construction, the on-street parking lane adjacent to the downtown brick paver work will be closed. The other project locations may be reduced to one lane, but the streets are expected to remain open to traffic.

Additional project information, including maps and estimated costs, can be found on the City website at: <https://www.ci.waseca.mn.us/engineering/pages/capital-improvement-projects>

### WASECA WATERPARK ANNOUNCEMENT

- Opening date: June 1st, 2024, 12 PM -7 PM!
- Daily Events: Water Aerobics, Lap Swim, and Itty-Bitty Beach Party. See our website for additional information!
- Purchase your 2024 Season Pass, Punch Cards, and Pool Reservations online this year!
- Go to the City of Waseca Water park Website.
- On the left side of the page click on "Seasonal Purchases"
- If you have questions, please email [waterpark@ci.waseca.mn.us](mailto:waterpark@ci.waseca.mn.us)



### SIGN UP TO BE AN ELECTION JUDGE !



Applications are available at Waseca City Hall

508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093

Or online at:

[www.ci.waseca.mn.us/home/pages/become-election-judge](https://www.ci.waseca.mn.us/home/pages/become-election-judge)

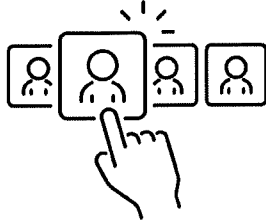
*Completed applications need to be returned to City Hall*

## CITY OF WASECA BOARD/COMMISSION VACANCIES

Openings exist on the following City Advisory Boards.

**Economic Development Authority**

**Planning Commission**



**Applications are accepted until filled.**

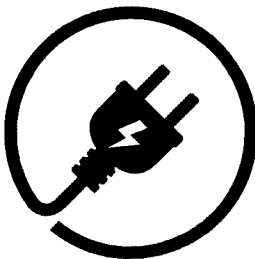
Boards meet on a monthly basis.

Anyone interested in serving on one of the boards may submit an application to City Hall, 508 South State Street.

Applications can be obtained at City Hall  
or online from the City's website [www.ci.waseca.mn.us](http://www.ci.waseca.mn.us)  
or call 507-835-9700

## 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.



### 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.

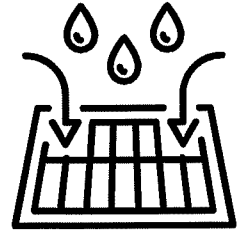
By helping to reduce our peak electrical demand, you can help keep electricity rates low.

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 lower your electrical usage by using major electrical appliances before 11:00 a.m. or after 7:00 p.m. on Peak Alert days.

## 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** (these can block/plug drains and pipes, depletes oxygen, releases ammonia, 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**.

## EMERALD ASH BORER

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) officially confirmed Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in Waseca County in March of 2022. There are now 50 counties in Minnesota with EAB.

**What is EAB and how does it spread?** EAB is an insect that attacks and kills ash trees. It is spread through short distance natural flight and infested firewood transported long distance. The adults are small, iridescent green beetles that live outside of trees during the summer months. The larvae are grub or worm-like and live underneath the bark of ash trees. Emerald ash borer larvae kill ash trees by tunneling under the bark and feeding on the part of the tree that moves nutrients up and down the trunk.

**Why should I be concerned about EAB?** The destructive beetle has killed millions of ash trees where it has been discovered. There are nearly one billion ash trees in Minnesota, one of the largest concentrations of ash in the country. Ash trees are abundant in Minnesota forests as well as in urban landscapes.

**EAB Active Season Information** Minnesota Department of Agriculture considers May 1 – September 30 to be the flight season for EAB. This means that EAB adult beetles are emerging from infested wood or trees and flying in search of new hosts during this time. EAB larvae complete their development by pupating into adult beetles in the spring and early summer.

### Things for you to consider:

- ◆ Do you have an ash tree on your property?
- ◆ Consider the health of your ash tree.
  - If it has lost half of its canopy or more, it is in poor health and treatment might not be effective.
- ◆ Is your ash tree showing signs of EAB?
  - Woodpecker holes, large bark cracks, loss of tree canopy.
- ◆ Consider the trees' importance to you.
  - Healthy, mature trees improve the attractiveness of a landscape, raise property values, help reduce energy costs, and decrease stormwater runoff.
- ◆ Should you treat your ash tree or remove it?
- ◆ What type of tree(s) should you replace your ash tree with?

More information can be found at:

<https://www.mda.state.mn.us/eab>

<https://extension.umn.edu/tree-and-shrub-insects/emerald-ash-borers>

## OVERLAY OF SOUTHERN MINNESOTA'S 507 AREA CODE BEGINS

On January 30, an "all services distributed overlay" of southern Minnesota's 507 area code began.

Customers who currently have the 507 prefix will not see any changes. An added 924 area code will be assigned to new customers in the current 507 area starting on August 30, 2024, hence the term "overlay".

With this change, all customers in the region will now need to dial the area code even when they call another customer in the 507 area code. That change will take effect on July 30, 2024.

The new area code is necessary because the 507 area code area was running out of numbers to assign. Without the addition of the 924 area code, southern Minnesota phone customers would have run out of number in early 2025.

## SAVE MONEY THIS SUMMER ON ENERGY COSTS

Volunteer your central air conditioner for the load management program. Waseca Utilities will have a licensed electrician install a controller unit on your central air conditioner, at no cost to you. The controller unit cycles your air conditioner compressor off for short periods of time during peak electrical usage. Residential participants in the load management program will receive an \$8.00 monthly credit on the June, July, August and September electric bills for a total savings of \$32.00 for the year. Commercial participants will receive a \$20.00 monthly credit for the same months for a total savings of \$80.00 for the year.

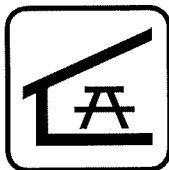
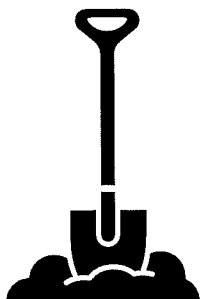
If you participated in the program last year, you do not need to contact us. You will automatically receive the credit each year unless otherwise notified.

For additional information, please contact Waseca Utilities at 835-9718. Business hours are Monday – Friday - 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

## 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](http://gopherstateonecall.org).



## ONLINE PARK SHELTER RESERVATIONS

The City of Waseca is now accepting online park reservations and payment. **ONLY** on the City

website at [www.ci.waseca.mn.us](http://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.

The City of Waseca has 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 or contact City Hall at 507-835-9700.**