

508 SOUTH STATE STREET
WASECA, MINNESOTA 56093

CENSUS 2020

Census Day, April 1, 2020, is rapidly approaching. About \$675,000,000 from the Federal government is distributed each year based on population – that's more than \$2,000 per person per year for ten years! We don't want to miss counting anyone who is a Waseca resident.

The big dollar numbers easily catch attention, but there are many other uses for the information collected by the Census.

- Businesses use the information to select or eliminate places for new factories, offices, and retail stores. Usually more is better. They want to know if there are enough people in the right age ranges, income levels, and educational and skill levels to justify a major investment.
- Developers need a solid basis to predict future growth. This is especially important for housing projects of many kinds.
- Infrastructure improvements and expansions depend on accurate data. From local water, sewer, and street projects to the construction of new highways and electrical transmission lines that serve large regions, Census data helps determine where investments are made and the size of the investments.

Your personal information given to the Census is safe. Your privacy is protected. It is not shared with any other government agency.



As a State, Minnesota is at risk of losing a seat in the US House of Representatives. The 435 seats are allocated by population. After the 2020 Census, some states will gain seats while other states lose them. We want Minnesota to hold onto all of its current representation.

In a few weeks, every residence will receive a postcard that contains instructions how to complete the Census survey online. Let's make sure that everyone is counted in Waseca.

Helping ensure that everyone in Waseca is counted is the reason a Complete Count Committee was appointed. Committee action will begin soon, and people are still invited to participate. The Complete Count Committee will only help get accurate information out and help make sure the public is informed about the Census. It won't be knocking on doors to get Census information. Only documented Census employees will do that. Please contact City Hall at 833-9281 if you want to be part of the Complete Count Committee or apply online at 2020census.gov/en/jobs. Since the Census collects personal information, applicants for Census jobs must pass a complete background check.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGE STATION COMING TO WASECA EV CHARGER

In partnership with the City's wholesale power provider, SMMPA, the City of Waseca Electric Utility is planning to install an EV Charge Station near the High School this year. The exact location is planned to be at City Well #5, which is directly across the street from Burger King on 19th Ave NW, and kitty-corner to the High School. The equipment to be installed is manufactured by ZEF Energy. The plan is to install one DC Fast Charger and one dual port Level 2 charger. More details to come! If you have specific questions, please contact Carl Sonnenberg, Utilities & Public Works Director at carls@ci.waseca.mn.us



REMINDER!

As a courtesy to your City workers, and to streamline the work they need to do to keep the City looking beautiful, please keep these things in mind:

Try to keep your garbage cans out of the street – this will allow the snow plow to clean the entire street.

Please remember to keep your cars off the street so that the snowplow can pass freely in front of your home.

THANK YOU!



INFLOW & INFILTRATION (I & I) UPDATE • “CLEAN WATER IN DIRTY PIPES” INFLOW AND INFILTRATION COSTS EVERYONE!!

No citizen or utility rate payer in Waseca should be willing to accept excessive clean water getting into sanitary sewer pipes, or dirty pipes. The City Council takes this matter very seriously. Clean water is meant to stay in the ground or to flow in storm water pipes to a natural resource outlet. There are 3 simple reasons to keep clean water out of sanitary sewer (dirty) pipes: 1) it's too costly to treat, 2) on occasion this “excessive clean water” (now polluted water) is pumped to Clear Lake, and 3) on occasion this water backs up into basements.

“Excessive clean water” overloads City sanitary sewer pipes and the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). This water gets into City sanitary sewer pipes from sump pumps (not legal by City Code), building footing drains & downspouts (also not legal), broken private sanitary sewer pipes, broken City sewer pipe systems, and any connection to a sanitary sewer not authorized by the City.

By State law, any clean water that mixes with wastewater or sewage (dirty water) immediately becomes polluted sewage water subject to all State pollution decrees. In order to keep the State from fining the City last year, the State negotiated a Schedule of Compliance (SOC) with the City as a result of Waseca's excessive I&I as described above. The bottom line of the SOC requires the City to minimize and eliminate sources of I&I from the sanitary sewer pipe system.

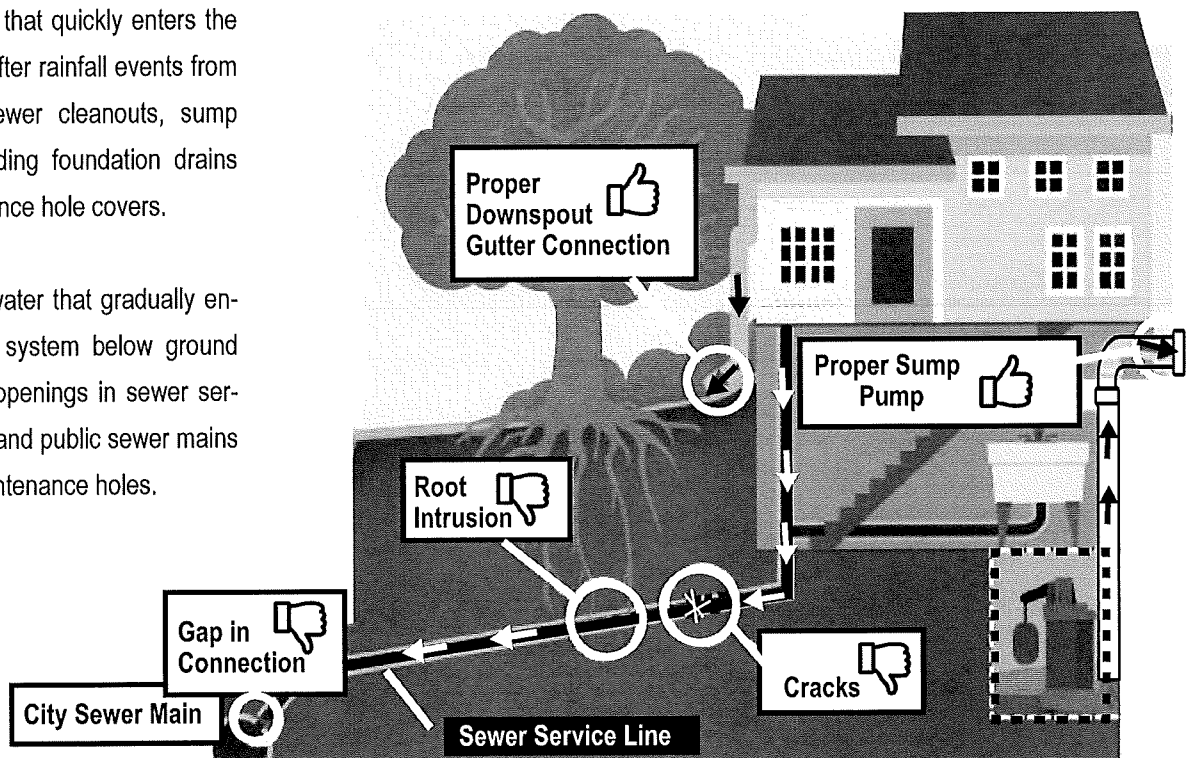
The Waseca City Council continues to approve sanitary sewer projects which remove clean water from sanitary sewer pipes. Moving forward in 2020, the City is also reviewing ordinances and creating a five-year plan to tighten up the public and private sewers. Private sewers are those pipes that connect every building to the City sewers. For example, the sewer lateral pipe from all houses and commercial buildings to the City sewer are owned by the property owner. Public sewers are those pipes owned by the City of Waseca.

Inflow and Infiltration (I & I) is clear water that enters the wastewater system. It overloads the system and can cause costly sewer backups into homes and buildings.

This illustration shows how clean water, I&I, gets into City sewers, typically located under City streets.

Inflow is clear water that quickly enters the wastewater system after rainfall events from sources such as sewer cleanouts, sump pumps, gutters, building foundation drains and broken maintenance hole covers.

Infiltration is clear water that gradually enters the wastewater system below ground through cracks and openings in sewer service lines and joints, and public sewer mains and deteriorated maintenance holes.



WATER SERVICE CONNECTION FEE

The Minnesota Legislature has approved an increase in the drinking water service connection fee from \$6.36 to \$9.72, effective January 1, 2020.

If you have a water service connection to your property, your utility bill due March 15, 2020, will reflect this state mandated water service connection fee in the amount of \$9.72. Legislation that became effective July 1st, 1992, requires all public water systems in Minnesota to collect this money on an annual basis as established per Minnesota Statute 144.3831.

Revenue from this fee is forwarded to the state and used to fund activities of the Minnesota Department of Health's Drinking Water Protection Program related to maintaining compliance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and protecting the health of all Minnesotans. These activities include sanitary surveys, sample collection and analysis, compliance determination, source water protection, enforcement, and various technical assistance services.



AUTOMATIC BANK PAY PROGRAM



Let Waseca Utilities take the work out of paying your utility bill each month! Sign up today for the Automatic Bank Pay program. Your monthly utility payment will automatically be withdrawn on the 15th of each month from either your checking or savings account through a secured bank site and posted to your utility account. You will still receive a monthly paper utility bill. No more forgetting to make your payment by the 15th of the month, and no more late fees! Contact the Utility Billing office at 835-9718 to sign up today.

SCHEDULE YOUR PARK RESERVATIONS EARLY!

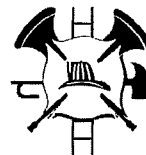
The City of Waseca will begin taking park reservations on March 1st. With the high demand for the park shelters, please don't wait to reserve your date! A paid park reservation is your guarantee of a shelter for your planned event. Pavilions/shelters are available from May through October and reservations are available on a four-hour or daily time frame. We have a variety of park shelters to rent for your planned events. For more information, or to make a reservation, please contact City Hall at 835-9700 or stop in Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



EMERGENCY SIREN SYSTEM

On the first Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m., the emergency siren system is activated for testing. On Thursday, April 16, 2020, during Severe Weather Awareness week (April 13th to April 17th), the sirens will be activated twice during the day at 1:45 p.m. and at 6:45 p.m.

In the event of severe weather, activation of the emergency siren system means that Waseca County is in a TORNADO WARNING and a tornado has been observed by Law Enforcement, Skywarn Watchers and/or the National Weather Service.



When you hear the outdoor warning system sirens, you should immediately go inside. Once indoors, go to the lowest level, most interior space in your home or office.

Outdoor warning sirens are located throughout the City of Waseca and by Lakeside Golf Course (north side of Clear Lake). People often have the misconception that the sirens are meant to be heard indoors. However, the system is intended to be heard outdoors. You may not hear it if you are inside or in noisy areas.

Residents need to pay attention to the weather, watch the television reports, or listen to the radio for weather updates. A wise investment would be a National Weather Radio which can be purchased at local retailers.

If you are interested in some ideas of how you can participate in Severe Weather Awareness Week, search Severe Weather Awareness Week to access the Minnesota Department of Public Safety website.

NEW WEBSITE FOR CITY OF WASECA!

The City of Waseca launched their new website www.ci.waseca.mn.us on January 1, 2020. This is a NEW interactive site that will bring information right to your fingertips. Residents can sign up for alerts regarding information they seek. Any time a page is updated or something is uploaded, you can receive a text or email with that information. If you are still seeing the old website page, all you need to do is refresh your web browser to see the new site. The City is excited about this new technology and we hope you enjoy it as well!



BULLETIN BOARD

ADOPT A FIRE HYDRANT

The City of Waseca is asking customers to assist in keeping snow cleared away from fire hydrants. Please take a moment to locate the fire hydrant nearest your home and/or business and ensure that it is totally clear of snow. This will allow the Fire Department quick access in case of a fire. It also assists snowplow drivers in identifying where hydrants are located. If you are not able to clear snow away from your neighborhood hydrant, please call Waseca Utilities at 835-9718 or the Fire Dept. at 835-3210 and city personnel will clear the hydrant. We greatly appreciate your help in identifying and clearing away snow from the hydrants.



COLD WEATHER PROTECTION PERIOD ENDS APRIL 15TH

April 15th marks 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 the Utility Billing office 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.

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 120 square feet or greater, it will require a building permit and shall have exterior color and roof compatible with the principle building (house). Additional guidelines include; size, height, setbacks, and number of structures allowed.

Any questions or inquiries regarding these regulations may be directed to Planning & Zoning Coordinator, Bill Green at 507-835-9738 or billg@ci.waseca.mn.us



WASECA PEG CHANNEL 8

The City of Waseca operates the local PEG (public, education, government) access channel. This channel can be viewed locally by all Mediacom and Consolidated Communication subscribers on Channel 8 (or digitally at 107.1 if you are a Mediacom subscriber). This channel is a community-based resource that can be used by both individuals and organizations to display announcement slides and video programming. The City also plays back all City Council meetings on this channel. If you would like more information on Waseca Peg Channel 8, stop by City Hall or call 835-9700

HOUSE NUMBER REMINDER!

Address numbers for your residential home, must be at least four (4) inches in height, contrasting in color, placed in front, visible from street. This will also help any emergency personnel that may need to reach you!

PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE

If you are having difficulty paying your utility bill, we urge you to contact the Utility Billing office and discuss the option of setting up a payment plan. Utility Billing staff will review your account balance and billing history to work out a payment plan that fits your payroll dates and will bring your account current. All payment plans must be in writing, signed by the account holder, and mutually agreed upon by the Utility and the customer. We encourage you to be proactive with your account; don't wait until you are facing the possibility of disconnection of your utilities. Contact the Utility Billing office at 835-9718 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday.



OVERHANGING TREE BRANCHES COULD YOUR TREE BE A POTENTIAL HAZARD?

Did you know that low overhanging tree branches can be a serious hazard? They can damage tall vehicles (school buses, street sweepers, snow plow and fire trucks) and make it hard to travel along the sidewalk for pedestrians and obscure a driver's ability to see around corners.

City Ordinance states tree branches overhanging any sidewalk or street shall have a clear space of eight (8) feet above a sidewalk and fourteen (14) feet above any street.

Please check your trees for ordinance violations and remove those branches accordingly. If you are unable to remove those obstructing branches yourself, please contact a local insured tree contractor.

For more information, please contact Brad Dushaw at 835-9727.

SNOW PLOWING AND YOUR MAILBOX

Each year the City of Waseca Public Works Snowplow operators attempt to clean the streets as close to the curb as possible without damaging mailboxes. Occasionally mailboxes get damaged. The City Snow and Ice Control Policy states how the City will handle any damage that may occur. When mailboxes are placed adjacent to the street it shall be the policy of the City that snow shall be plowed as close to the curb to allow for passage of traffic and mail delivery. It shall be the responsibility of the property owner to keep piled snow away from mailboxes so mail can be delivered.

Mailboxes should be constructed sturdily enough to withstand snow rolling off the plow or wing. When damage to the mailbox occurs, such damage shall be investigated by the Street Superintendent. If it is determined that that weight of the snow caused the damage, the City will not assume responsibility for repair of the mailbox. When evidence indicated that physical contact between the plow and the mailbox occurred, the City will assume responsibility for repair or replacement at a cost not to exceed \$30.00.

Please check your mailbox and replace or reinforce the post and bracing if needed.