

THANK YOU WASECA!

Thank you, Waseca, for the patience you are displaying as we navigate these challenging times. The City is committed to providing services to our residents while protecting our employees and preserving their availability to continue to serve the public. So much uncertainty in the world has made it difficult for staff to predict next steps, and the City truly appreciates your understanding and forbearance. Waseca has risen to this challenge as it always does. We thank you for doing your part to fight the coronavirus and limit its spread.

2020 SPRING CLEANUP

Starting Monday, May 4th the City of Waseca will provide free pickup of brush. All materials must be on the curb by 7:00 a.m., May 4th 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 4th, 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.

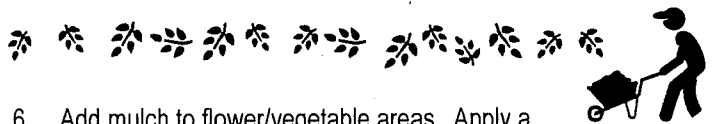
WATER-SAVING TIPS

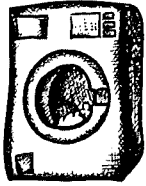
1. Use the dishwasher. Hand-washing your dishes can use up to 27 gallons of water, compared to just 3 gallons for a new Energy Star-rated dishwasher.
2. Water at the right time. Water early in the morning, when air is still and evaporation loss is minimal. Avoid watering on windy days and at midday when water frequently evaporates before it can soak into soil.
3. Monitor leaks. Check all hose connections for drips. Frequently inspect washers, replacing as needed. Repair leaky exterior spigots.
4. Collect rain. Create your own water supply by collecting rain runoff. Rain barrels offer fast and easy installation.
5. Sweep debris. Grab a broom instead of a hose to clean sidewalks, driveways, porches or decks.

6. Add mulch to flower/vegetable areas. Apply a 2-inch layer of mulch to planting beds to slow water evaporation from soil. Mulch also helps suppress weeds.

7. Mow correctly. The most important mowing rule is never to remove more than one-third of the leaf surface at any one mowing. It's best to maintain grass at its tallest recommended height, especially during drought conditions. Taller grass shades soil which helps to reduce water loss and prevent weeds.

8. Check for toilet leaks. Put a few drops of food coloring into your toilet tank. Wait approximately 15 minutes and if the color shows up in the bowl, your tank is leaking, silently wasting up to 100 gallons of water a day. An inexpensive rubber flapper may be all you need to fix it.





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. Our electrical peak is the amount of power we use during the time when our power supplier, Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA) experiences their annual peak. 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. – Monday – Friday. Waseca Utilities will announce a Peak Alert by radio and television announcements.

By helping to reduce our peak electrical demand, you can help keep electricity rates low. Some energy saving suggestions are: set air conditioner to 78 degrees, delay running the dishwasher and clothes washer 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.

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 customer. 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 or a total savings of \$32.00 for the year. Commercial participants will receive a \$20.00 monthly credit for the same months or a total savings of \$80.00 for the year.

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

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

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA MUNICIPAL POWER ASSOCIATION (SMMPA) 101

Where does my power come from? Ask most people and they will give the logical answer "from the outlet." That's true of course, but how power gets to that outlet is much more complicated. Electricity is manufactured at a variety of different types of electric generating facilities using coal, natural gas, wind, sun and nuclear fission as a fuel source. It is delivered in bulk on larger transmission power lines to local communities and then distributed on the smaller power lines, either above or below ground, in your community. Your local utility, Waseca Utilities, takes care of the distribution and customer service functions and partners with our wholesale energy provider – Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SMMPA) - for the generation and transmission.

SMMPA was formed over forty years ago to capture economies of scale in power generation for a group of eighteen municipal utilities, including Waseca Utilities. Initially the focus was on constructing a larger coal-fired power plant to meet the combined needs of these eighteen utilities. At that same time, Xcel Energy (then Northern States Power) was also looking to build a new power plant. SMMPA and Xcel joined forces to construct the 900-megawatt Sherco 3 unit in Becker, Minnesota. SMMPA members own 41% of Sherco 3.

Over time, SMMPA added natural gas-fired generation, wind and solar resources and incorporated 152 megawatts of gas and diesel generation that are owned and operated by SMMPA member utilities in their respective communities. In addition, SMMPA owns transmission lines, provides award-winning energy efficiency programs, advocacy and regulatory support and a host of other services that help SMMPA member utilities meet the growing needs of their retail electric customers.

In the last fifteen years, the nature of the electric power industry has changed dramatically as it moved from local power plants serving the community to large regional grids that create a wholesale energy market that captures even greater economies of scale and higher levels of reliability. With those benefits also comes increased complexity which SMMPA navigates on behalf of its member utilities.

SMMPA is a not-for-profit entity that is owned and governed by its eighteen municipal utility members. Each utility has a member representative that elects a majority of the seven-member board. Sixteen of the SMMPA members (including Waseca) have power supply contracts with SMMPA that run until 2050 with the remaining two members contracts expiring in 2030.

Being a part of SMMPA allows Waseca Utilities to provide the same level of service as much larger utilities while maintaining local control and competitive electric rates. There is a lot going on behind that electric outlet, but working with our partner SMMPA, our goal is to ensure that the electricity you need is delivered safely, reliably and economically to that outlet whenever you need it.

PLEASE HELP EMERGENCY RESPONSE FIND YOU!

Please check your house & commercial property to assure that it is correctly addressed and can be readily identified by Emergency Response personnel. Every principle residential building shall have address numbers that are a minimum of 4 inches in height. Commercial, industrial and multi-family dwellings (4 units or more) shall have address numbers that are a minimum of six inches in height. All address numbers shall be visible from the street and shall be in contrasting color from the principle structure, made of reflective material or illuminated.

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

BURNING RULES & REGULATIONS

The City of Waseca does allow recreational fires if you follow these rules:



1. Fire pit needs to be at least 18" deep and not exceed 3' in diameter.
2. The fire is for recreational purposes such as roasting hot dogs. Cannot be used for destroying rubbish.
3. No burning of rubber, plastic or painted/treated lumber.
4. Fire no larger than three foot in diameter and flames no higher than three foot.
5. Fire has to be a minimum of 25' from buildings and other combustible materials.
6. Extinguishing equipment needs to be near the recreational fire such as a hose or water filled bucket.
7. Competent person constantly attending the fire. Never leave fire unattended.
8. Be a good neighbor.
9. The Fire Department has final authority. If any of the rules are broken, or if the firefighters feel that the recreational fire is unsafe because of wind conditions or excess smoke, the firefighters will ask you to extinguish the fire.

If you have any questions about these rules, contact the Waseca Fire Department at (507) 835-3210

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.

CONSIDERING A HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECT? DON'T FORGET A BUILDING PERMIT!

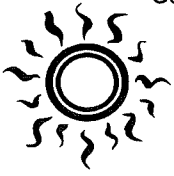


Your project may require a building permit. Permits are required for new additions and remodeling, finishing a basement, re-roofing, re-siding, window replacement, decks, porches, plumbing, heating, electrical work, garages and more. Getting a building permit helps you to ensure that your project meets safety and building code standards; there is a penalty for starting construction prior to the issuance of a building permit. In addition to permits, please contact the Planning Department for information on set-back requirements, lot coverage, fences, shoreland regulations and other useful information. We encourage you to call with any questions about construction projects being considered or already in progress, at 835-9700.

BULLETIN BOARD

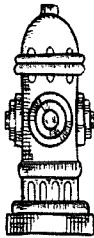
SOLAR POWER

In compliance with the City of Waseca's Solar and Small Power Generation Policy relating to electric power production, the City of Waseca is required to work with small electric power producers, such as a residential solar installation. The City of Waseca must provide information regarding rates and installation requirements free of charge to all interested customers upon request. All installations require an application, review, and approval from the City. Interested customers should contact Debbie Carlson at (507)835-9718 or debc@ci.waseca.mn.us or visit the City's website at www.ci.waseca.mn.us.



THANK YOU FOR CLEARING FIRE HYDRANTS!

We would like to send out a huge THANK YOU to those Waseca citizens that were kind and considerate in keeping our City fire hydrants free and clear of snow piles this winter. Your work and dedication was appreciated!



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 this summer:

- Try to keep your garbage cans out of the street – this will allow the street sweeper to clean the entire street.
- During City-wide brush and leaf pick up, please do not park your cars in front of the brush/leaf pile, or the City will be unable to pick up your brush/leaves.

THANK YOU!



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.

PREVENT STORM WATER POLLUTION

The storm sewer system consists of curbs, drain pipes, tile and catch basins in the streets which are intended to carry large amounts of surface runoff (rain or melting snow). Storm water flows untreated into regional wetlands, ponds, lakes and streams. Therefore, any debris (grass, leaves, fertilizer, pet waste, chemicals, etc.) that makes it into the storm drains ends up polluting our water resources. Phosphorus from these items promotes algae growth in our lakes. Do what you can to eliminate any of the above listed debris from street gutters and storm water grates. Pollution prevention by the general public can make a big difference in keeping Waseca's water resources clean and healthy.

WATER UTILITY ANNUAL CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

The Water Utility Annual Consumer Confidence Report, as mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), will be available by May 15th on the Waseca City website. If you wish to have a paper copy of the report, call 835-9718 to obtain. This report provides water quality information about the drinking water that the City Water Utility delivers to your home and business.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Utilities & Public Works Director at City Hall at 835-9718.

Fresh clean drinking water is yours to use whenever you need it, but not to waste. It's too valuable. Remember that a little effort and a little common sense will make a big difference!

UTILITIES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

If you need help paying your utility bills, you may qualify for assistance. Please contact any of the following agencies for more information:

Minnesota Valley Action Council

108 10th Ave NE, Waseca • (507)835-8240

Neighborhood Service Center

203 3rd Ave NW, Waseca • (507)833-4119

MN Prairie County Alliance

1000 Elm Ave W, Waseca • (507)837-6600

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

111 4th St NW • (507)201-7075

Salvation Army Heat Share

(800)842-7279

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 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

