

City of Monticello MS4 Calendar

Introduction

When it rains or when snow melts in our communities, the water travels on impervious surfaces. Impervious surfaces are surfaces that don't allow water to soak into it. Examples of these surfaces include roads, sidewalks/trails, driveways, rooftops, and more.

Water travels on these surfaces into storm drains which directly discharge into lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands. As the water travels, it can pick up pollutants with it such as oils, metals, road salt, trash, and more.

The system of storm drains that you see in your community is a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4). It consists of roads with drainage systems, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, channels, etc.

These systems are owned or operated by a public entity. This can include cities, counties, military bases, universities, and more. In Minnesota, these systems must satisfy the MS4 permit if they are at least one of the following:

- Located in an urbanized area and used by a population of 1,000 or more
- Owned by a municipality with a population of 10,000 or more
- Have a population of at least 5,000 and the system discharges to specially classified bodies of water.

The MS4 permit is designed to reduce the amount of pollutants entering state waters from stormwater systems. Public entities that own or operate a MS4 permit are required to implement a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP) to reduce the amount of pollutants to the system. An effective SWPPP has six components called Minimum Control Measures (MCMs).

Contacts responsible for plan implementation

Name	Title	Department	Phone	Email
Matthew Leonard	Public Works Director/City Engineer	Public Works	763-271-3271	matt.leonard@MonticelloMN.gov
Ryan Melhouse	Assistant City Engineer	Public Works	763-271-3227	ryan.melhouse@MonticelloMN.gov
Mario Frucci	Engineering Technician	Public Works	763-271-3213	mario.frucci@MonticelloMN.gov

Schedule of activities of Residential BMPs and Yard waste education topics-

The overall calendar will be posted on the city website for all residents to see, the calendar will also be provided in Spanish.

Month	Topic	Month	Topic
<i>January</i>	Salt Use	<i>July</i>	Smart Irrigation
<i>February</i>	Pet Waste	<i>August</i>	Invasive Species
<i>March</i>	Illicit Discharge	<i>September</i>	Pet Waste
<i>April</i>	Adopt a Drain	<i>October</i>	Leaves
<i>May</i>	Landscaping	<i>November</i>	Salt Use
<i>June</i>	Fertilizers	<i>December</i>	Trash



January – Salt Use

To help melt snow and ice during the winter months, salt is applied to the roads. As the snow and ice melts, it travels into stormwater systems. Because of salt, the concentration of Chloride has increased in surface and ground water. Chloride does not degrade in soil and water, and it can create toxic conditions for fish and other animals that live in our lakes and streams.

Tips for residents:

- Support local and state winter maintenance crews in their efforts to reduce their salt use.
- Work together with local government, businesses, schools, churches and non-profits to find ways to reduce salt use in your community.
- **Shovel.** The more snow and ice you remove manually, the less salt you will have to use and the more effective it will be.
- **15 degrees F is too cold** for salt. Most salts stop working at this temperature. Use sand instead for traction, but remember that sand does not melt ice.
- **Slow down.** Drive for the conditions and make sure to give plow drivers plenty of space to do their work. Consider purchasing winter (snow) tires.
- **Be patient.** Just because you don't see salt on the road doesn't mean it hasn't been applied. These products take time to work.
- **Apply less.** More salt does not mean more melting. Use less than 4 pounds of salt per 1,000 square feet. One pound of salt is approximately a heaping 12-ounce coffee mug. Leave about a

3-inch space between granules. Consider purchasing a hand-held spreader to help you apply a consistent amount.

- **Sweep up extra.** If salt or sand is visible on dry pavement it is no longer doing any work and will be washed away. Use this salt or sand somewhere else or throw it away.
- **Hire a certified Smart Salting contractor,** visit the MPCA website for a [list of certified contractors](#).
- **Watch a video.** This video, produced by the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, provides tips to homeowners about more environmentally friendly snow and ice removal — [Improved Winter Maintenance: Good Choices for Clean Water](#)



February – Pet Waste

When pet waste is left uncollected, it gets washed into the stormwater systems and into our lakes and rivers. It then decays in the water, releasing ammonia and depleting oxygen levels. This is harmful to fish and other animals. These nutrients also promote weed and algae growth, as well as elevated bacteria levels (E. Coli) that can cause unsafe conditions for recreational activities.

Tips for residents:

- Don't forget a plastic bag during your walk
- Picking up your pet's waste and depositing it in a trash can keeps it from washing into our local waterways
- Utilize pet waste stations if available or use your trash bin at home and remember to “Scoop the Poop”



March – Illicit Discharge

Storm sewer systems carry water directly into our lakes, rivers, and wetlands. If anything other than stormwater enters the system, it is an illicit discharge. Substances can include oil, chemicals, sediment, and more.

Tips for residents:

- Take used oil to a recycle center or a fast Oil-Change business
- Wash your car on the grass
- Revegetate bare or eroding areas
- Return old paint to the store where you purchased it
- Secure your trash when placed on the street
- Take all old chemicals, including paints and automobile fluids, contact the [Wright County Household Hazardous Waste Division](#) at 763-682-7338.

- Do not pour fats, oils, and grease into your sink or sewer
- Do not over fertilize your lawn
- Pump your septic tank every 4 years
- Report any hazardous spills immediately



April – Adopt a Drain

Adopt-a-Drain is a program where residents can adopt a storm drain in their neighborhood. They are responsible to keep it clear of leaves, trash, and other debris to reduce water pollution. Residents volunteer fifteen minutes, twice a month, for cleaner waterways and healthier communities. Sign up online to Adopt a Drain in your neighborhood! [Adopt-a-Drain - Minnesota](#)



May – Landscaping

Many studies indicate that you and your neighbors believe having a lawn that is safe for the environment is very important. Unfortunately, some lawn care practices can create water quality problems. Many chemicals (nitrogen and phosphorus) found in fertilizers run off our properties into local waterbodies and create algal blooms that make for cloudy water and remove oxygen. Some simple things you can do to maintain your lawn and be safe for the environment are:

- **Choose the right grass seed.** Consider limiting lawn area and choose grass varieties that require less maintenance.
- **Don't overwater.** 1" of water per week is typically enough. Overwatering can lead to runoff and contaminants making it into our groundwater
- **Test your soil.** The U of M Extension will test your soil and will provide you with recommendations on your fertilizer needs. [Test your soil and take the guesswork out of fertilizer recommendations | UMN Extension](#)
- **Mow Smart.** Mow grass 3" or higher. Cut no more than 1/3 of the blade to encourage longer, stronger turf grass roots. Leave the clippings after mowing to provide a source of slow-release nutrients. Remove grass clippings from streets, sidewalks, and driveways. NEVER dispose of clippings in drainage areas, storm drains, wetlands or water bodies!



June – Fertilizers

It is important to schedule your lawn care maintenance during times that match the life cycle of the turfgrass.

1. Do not add fertilizer too early in the spring. This may encourage the grass to grow during a time when it should be slow or dormant.
2. Do not spray to control weeds when temperatures are warm. This increases the likelihood of damaging the lawn.

3. Do not fertilize in hot mid-summer months. This can cause irreversible damage to your lawn.
4. Crabgrass doesn't develop until late spring or early summer, so don't apply herbicide used to prevent pre-emerging crabgrass in the fall.
5. For more information visit: [Lawn care calendar | UMN Extension](#)



July – Smart Irrigation

July is Smart Irrigation Month. Due to the peak water use because of warm temperatures, little rainfall, and water restrictions, during the month of July it is important for the public to be aware of the value of water-use efficiency.

Tips for Residents

- Install a smart sprinkler system
- Collect & save rainwater for smaller gardens
- Water at the right time according to your location
- Replace turf with native plants
- Adhere to city's watering restrictions



August – Invasive Species

Did you know that invasive species cause \$120 billion annually in damage nationwide? Invasive species are species that are not native to Minnesota and cause economic and environmental harm by causing the decline and extinction of native species; threaten fisheries, forestry and recreation; and reduce our property values. Some of the invasive species include zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, common buckthorn, and emerald ash borer. Invasive species are found on land and in the water.

Tips for residents:

- Use only local or certified hay and firewood
- Clean recreational equipment thoroughly
- Treat infestations on your property; methods vary by species
- Report new infestations to “Arrest the Pest” hotline - [Arrest the Pest Flyer \(state.mn.us\)](#)



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October - Leaves

Leaf litter and grass clippings left on street and sidewalk are one of the contributors to algal blooms in our lakes. When algae dies it decomposes at the bottom of our waterbodies and uses up oxygen that fish and native plants need.

Tips for residents:

- Rake the leaves that have accumulated along your curb, sidewalk, alley, etc. Consider organizing a community clean up for water quality to help others.
- Don't put your leaves in the trash (it's illegal) and don't burn them. Burning leaves releases lots of air pollution.
- Put your leaves in a backyard compost pile or bring them to a compost facility.
- Use leaves to mulch your garden and lawn. This helps your soil and reduces weeds.
- If available, consider curbside pickup by your garbage hauler.



November – Salt Use

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December – Trash

Trash on land frequently makes its way into our waterbodies. Trash such as cigarette butts, paper, fast food containers, plastic grocery bags, cans and bottles, used diapers, construction site debris, old tires, appliances, and more are significant pollutants to our Minnesota waterbodies.

Tips for residents:

- Throughout the year, pick up trash if you see it in your neighborhood.
- Make sure the lid on your garbage container is closed.
- Coordinate a neighborhood clean up
- Adopt a highway

Schedule of activities for other outreach-

-Educational materials for IDDE recognition and reporting will be placed in the spring newsletter each year, which is mailed to each resident and posted online on the cities website to target residents, businesses, commercial facilities, and institutions.

-Educational materials for Pet Waste will be placed in the spring newsletter each year, which is mailed to each resident and posted online on the cities website to target residents, businesses, commercial facilities, and institutions.

-Educational materials for Salt usage and storage will be placed in the fall newsletter each year, which is mailed to each resident and posted online on the cities website to target residents, businesses, commercial facilities, and institutions.

-Educational materials will be handed out at a stormwater booth at the cities annual Walk-and-roll event each year, which brings businesses and residents together for a walk and bike event along a city street or pathway.