



City of Sun Prairie

Spring 2007

Stormwater Utility Newsletter

Working together to improve water quality



Are You Contributing to the Stormwater Superhighway?

Contrary to belief, you don't need a downpour to send pollutants racing towards our lakes, streams and groundwater (you know, where our DRINKING WATER comes from). A garden hose alone does the trick just nicely.

The next time it rains, put on your galoshes and watch where the water goes. Water that isn't quickly seeping into the ground because of pavement or bare lawn is making a bee-line for the nearest lake or stream. (Contrary to belief, it's *not* going to the wastewater treatment plant.)

And it takes with it some pretty nasty stuff. Things like pet waste, pesticides, insecticides,

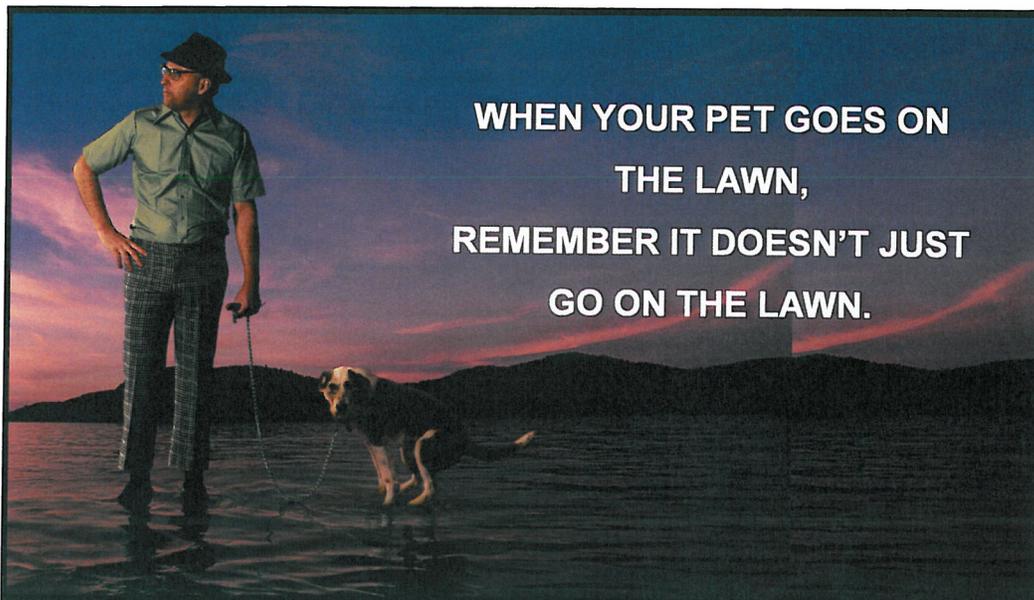
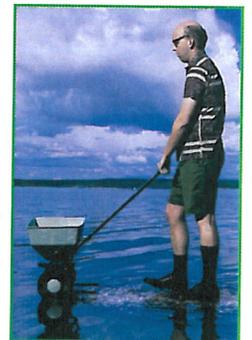
pool chemicals, auto fluids, and much more.

It's not just gross, it's extremely damaging to people and the environment. Once noxious wastes enter our waterways or homes (through flooding), it's nearly impossible to get them out.

What are some simple, cheap, and quick things we could all be doing to fight the growing problem made worse by development and the paving of America?

- **Leave grass clippings** on the lawn and out of the street and street gutters.
- **Wash cars on lawns** or at a car wash, not on the driveway.

- **Sweep, do not wash**, paved areas to keep waste and debris out of storm sewers.
- **Direct downspouts away** from paved surfaces to lawns or gardens.
- **Compost yard waste**, fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, and egg shells.
- **Reduce fertilizer** and pesticide use.
- **Keep cars** tuned up and in good operating condition.
- **Recycle** used oil.
- **Construct** a rain garden.



Visit the city's website for more tips to help protect our precious natural resources, and your family.

cityofsunprairie.com
(Engineering Section)

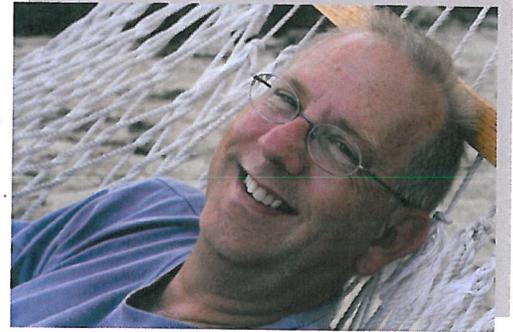


Less Work, Less Pollution

Can you believe that spending less time on your lawn might be better for it?! Sounds too good to be true— but it is.



Loosing your stranglehold on your lawn can result in a healthier and more environmentally friendly lawn, not to mention more free time for you!



Don't give your lawn a crew-cut. Mowing it to within an inch of its life stresses grass and makes it more susceptible to problems. Let it grow to at least 3 to 4 inches tall.

The benefits of taller grass:

Less watering because of deeper roots
Problem spots look less obvious
Lawn looks greener overall

Thicker roots helps crowd out weeds
Deeper roots have more access to nutrients
Less mowing—frequently cut lawn grows faster



Improving Our City

The city's Stormwater Utility has spent roughly \$1 million annually the past 4 years. Here are some of the projects planned for this year:

Renstone Park/Batz Pond Facility

Begin construction of a stormwater facility in the greenway north of Batz Pond and east of Renstone Park to comply with DNR standards.

Storm Sewer Extensions

Extend storm sewer on Lincoln Drive from

Woodland Drive to Paul Street and on Derby Drive from the south end to north of Surrey Drive to reduce the water and ice hazards.

Southside Koshkonong Creek Facility

Construct phase one of a stormwater facility west of S. Bird Street and north of Bailey Road to manage stormwater from approximately two-thirds of the existing city and to comply with DNR standards.



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