



Stormwater Utility Newsletter

Spring 2006

Working together to improve water quality and protect your property

Don't Be Bug Bait

Nothing is more annoying (Swat!) than having a horde of mosquitoes (Swat!) ruin your summer dinner on the deck (Swat!) because they have decided to make you theirs.

The last few years have been relatively calm for the little bloodsuckers, but officials are expecting a bumper crop because of the abundant spring rains.



Mosquitoes don't just suck, they can carry the deadly disease West

Nile Virus, which started appearing in Wisconsin in 2002 (only 2 deaths here since then).

A few simple precautions can prevent weeks of suffering from fever, chills, even meningitis.

- Avoid being outside early mornings and evenings when chances are greatest you'll be bug bait. Wear long-sleeved shirts and pants.
- Wear bug spray with DEET, considered the last line of defense.



Don't be a breeder

Crews have been inspecting and treating water sources when they find certain larva.

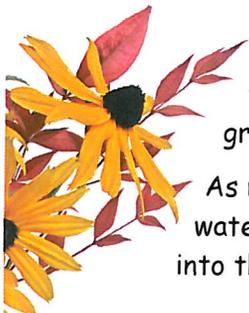
You can help by:

- Draining your property of any standing water (in plants, buckets, children's pools and tires). Drill holes in the bottom of containers left outdoors.
- Changing birdbath water at least once a week.

Use Native Plants to Help Curb Pollution

Have you ever heard of flowers such as Blue Flag Iris, Purple Coneflower, Cardinal Flower and Black Eyed Susan? Have you ever planted legumes such as Little Bluestem, Leadplant or Prairie Clover?

We've recently started using native plants to help control erosion, filter out pollutants and cause more water to penetrate the ground.



As much as 30% more water will creep back into the ground with

native plantings verses regular lawn grass! This is because the native plant roots grow up to 15 feet below the soil surface creating openings for water to penetrate.

This is important when you see water from a rainstorm flushing debris (including pollutants) from parking lots, rooftops and roadways into our creeks and nearby lakes.

Please consider using these plants in your own yard. See them in action at Blooming Meadows, Hickory Grove, Kings Forest Court, Meadow Crossing and West Prairie Village.

GET HELP



Find out more about how to use native plants in your rain garden by visiting

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/nps/rg/index.htm>



How Can You Help?

Help protect our lakes and streams by preventing pollutants from entering the groundwater.

- Leave grass clippings on the lawn and out of the street and street gutters.
- Sweep, do not wash, paved areas to keep waste and debris out of storm sewers.
- Reduce fertilizer and pesticide use.
- Wash cars on lawns or at a car wash, not the driveway.
- Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces to lawns or gardens.
- Compost yard waste, fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, and egg shells.
- Clean up pet waste.
- Keep cars tuned up and in good operating condition.
- Recycle used oil.

Want more ideas? Visit www.cityofsunprairie.com (Engineering Section)



Wash cars on the lawn or at the carwash!

Improving Our City

Projects undertaken in 2006 to minimize stormwater damage:

Coral Drive: Extend the storm sewer from Emerald Terrace to Pearl Lane to reduce the water ponding and ice hazards in the street.

Westside: Construct a greenway along the existing channel west of Hwy. C and south of Hwy. 19 to manage stormwater from existing and future developments.

Southside Koshkonong Creek: Construct a stormwater facility west of S. Bird Street and north of Bailey Road to serve much of the city.

The Stormwater Utility will fund roughly \$1 million in local projects during 2006.



CITY OF SUN PRAIRIE
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