

City of Sun Prairie

Stormwater Newsletter

Working to improve water quality



Storm Damage Update

Regarding last fall's 140-year storm deluge that left many areas of the city under water and hundreds of residents with soaked basements: The good news is that improvements can be made to reduce the damage done by torrential downpours. The bad news is that the price is hefty.

Engineering experts who have been studying the problem estimate it will cost roughly \$5 to 7 million to fix the city's worst stormwater problems.

The hardest hit areas include:

- South Bird Street at Linnerud Drive
- Prairie Run/Olympic Village
- Buena Vista at Garnet Drive
- The Gateway Basin
- Walker Way/Andaman Street/Castle Drive
- Main Street at Thompson Road
- Wallinford Court
- Broadway Drive, south of Steven Street
- Windsor Street at Batz Pond
- Chase/Blankenheim/Thomas Drive



That's why it's in your best interest to have a sump pump, direct downspouts away from foundations, create rain gardens and keep debris like leaves out of the storm sewers.

Some of these projects will be undertaken this year, and others as funds become available.

You should have received an insert in a recent utility bill notifying you of the \$1 increase in your monthly stormwater fee to help pay for these projects.

To find out what the recommendations are for these neighborhoods, visit the city's website and go to the engineering section. (It's also available at City Hall.)

www.cityofsunprairie.com

The experts recommend floodproofing, improving stormwater drainage and reducing the water flowing into the sanitary sewers.

Keep in mind though, if your basement is below the groundwater table, you may face flooding during large downpours because it's not possible to decrease the groundwater table.

On a related note, please don't use stormwater purifiers as dumping grounds!

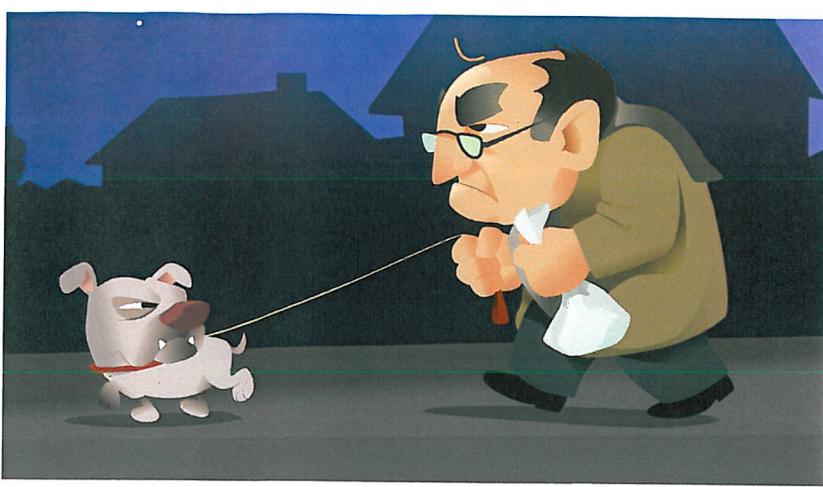
The flowers and vegetation around stormwater areas help clean water, replenish the ground water table (for future re-use) and slow water down to prevent erosion.

Help protect these areas from being dumping grounds or from being mowed.

If you see this happening, contact us at 837-3050 or

publicworks@cityofsunprairie.com





Mailing Label

PLEASE PICK UP MY POOP.

**Make my #2 business
your #1 business.**



The several thousand dogs inhabiting our community are producing several thousand pounds of poop daily (about 600 tons a year!). Studies show about half of all dog owners walk their pooches in public places, and up to 40 percent of them don't pick up after their pets. Yuck.



Dog and cat waste left on the ground can be washed into storm sewers, most of which drain directly into rivers, lakes and streams. There the waste contributes to all sorts of problems - from sick kids to foul algae that suffocates fish and can be poisonous to humans.



So what should you do with poop?



Bury it or flush it.



Compost it (do not use on food crops).



Put small quantities in sealed plastic bags and toss them in your garbage.