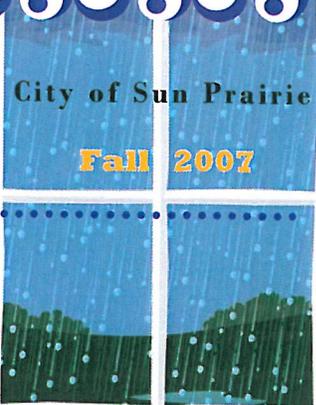




Stormwater Utility Newsletter



Working together to improve water quality

When Mother Nature Strikes



This summer's weather was delightful, if you were a duck. The dramatic shift in conditions read like something out of a movie about global warming: "Blistering drought becomes record-breaking torrential rain-fall! Thousands forced to flee...."

Though we were lucky compared to some nearby communities, many of our residents endured flooded basements which ruined carpets and furniture. Some even lost their automobiles when an underground garage flooded.

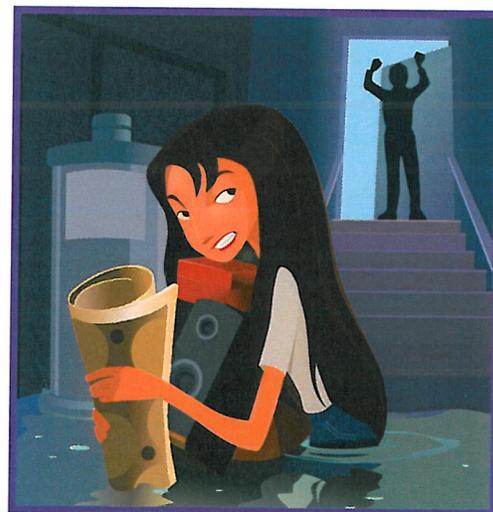
An overloaded storm sewer system (most are not equipped to handle 100-year rains) caused some of the damage and we're looking at ways to address

problems in impacted neighborhoods. But much of the havoc resulted when stormwater entered basements through sump pits, window wells, doorways or cracks in the foundation.

What can you do to reduce the chances you will fall victim to flooding?

- **Direct downspouts** as far away from your home as you can.
- **Make sure landscaping** is sloped away from your home.
- **Install protective plumbing** devices such as back flow valves or sump pumps. Have a backup battery pack for the pump in case of a power outage. Call our staff with any questions at 825-1184.

- **Create a rain garden.** Rain gardens increase the amount of water that filters into the ground and help prevent flooding. More below.
- **Keep leaves, grass clippings,** and other debris out of streets, ditches, and sewers.



Sun Prairie Goes Native

Throughout our community we've created attractive native plant areas which are low-maintenance, less expensive than a lawn, and wonderful for the environment.



Wildlife like birds and butterflies love them and you don't need fertilizers or pesticides. (The Library is a good example of a beautiful garden.)

Homeowners and nonprofit groups can apply for a grant (of plants or seeds) to establish gardens or prairies. The deadline to apply is Friday, November 16. Download the application at www.myfairlakes.com or call 224-3746.



Rake 'em and Move 'em Out

Leaves, the inspiration of song-writers and poets, are also the cause of air, water and noise pollution.

Leaves contain various nutrients that can pollute our lakes, rivers and streams by providing food for weeds and algae. And as fall kicks into high gear, so do gas-powered leaf blowers, ruining the quiet and spewing nasty things into the air that are best left on the ground.

Fall Yard Care Tips

Rake 'em, don't blow 'em. Or at least use an electric blower. While not as powerful as gas blowers, they aren't as loud and don't kick up as much particulate matter, stench and fumes.

Mulch 'em! Leaves make great compost. Composting solves many soil problems and plant diseases and is better than anything you can buy, and without the chemicals. If

you use a mulching mower you can grind them up and leave them on your lawn as lawn food.

For a rich, complex compost, experts say to use four parts of leaves for every one part kitchen scraps (fruits and vegetables, coffee grounds, egg shells, etc.).

Whatever you do, keep them out of the street and gutters. Leaves can block drains and rot and damage our precious waterways.

City to Attack Leaves

Curbside Collections

November 5 & 19 for residents with a Wednesday or Friday garbage schedule

October 29 and November 12 for residents on the Monday, Tuesday or Thursday route

Set leaves in untied bags or containers with the lids removed by 7 a.m. Questions? 837-3050.



Did You Know?

- Gas-powered leaf blowers generate a remarkable amount of pollution considering their size. One hour of use is the pollution equivalent of a car driving 350 miles. But all concentrated in your yard!
- Worse yet, leaf blowers make nasty things airborne like pesticides, mold, pollen, and tiny particles of dog feces.
- People with breathing problems are warned to stay indoors when a blower is in use.



CITY OF SUN PRAIRIE
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Visit the City's website: www.cityofsunprairie.com

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