

Mahtomedi News

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2015

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MAHTOMEDI CITY HALL
600 Stillwater Road
Mahtomedi, MN 55115
8 a.m. — 4:30 p.m. (M-F)
EDITORS: CITY STAFF

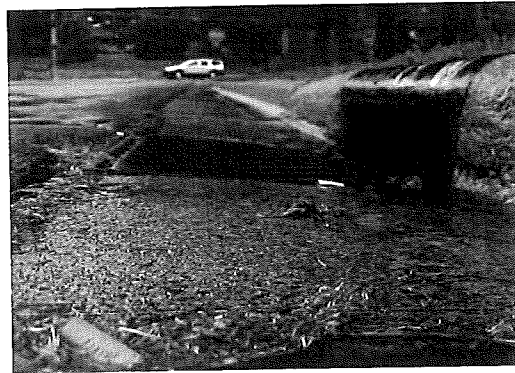
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WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF
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From City Streets to Lakes and Streams Rice Creek Watershed District

Our storm sewer systems were designed to move water quickly and efficiently from city streets to lakes and streams. The rain water or snow melt collects harmful pollutants from driveways, roads, rooftops, and other hard surfaces before flowing into storm drains, which may lead to your favorite swimming spot or fishing hole. Unfortunately, runoff entering storm drains does not receive any treatment so minimizing and keeping hard surfaces clean on your property can make a big difference.



In Minnesota, the majority of storms result in about one inch of rain. The storm water runoff generated during the first 0.5-1.5 inches of rain collects most pollutants from roads, sidewalks, and other surfaces before washing them clean. As rainfall continues, the benefits of treating storm water runoff diminish — making additional treatment less cost-effective.

Rice Creek Watershed District's mission is to conserve and restore water resources of the District for current and future generations. RCWD rules require that the city and developers treat the first 1.1 inches of rainfall on new hard surfaces (for a typical project) to ensure that nearby waterbodies and communities downstream are not negatively affected by these projects during and after construction. The District's goal for construction projects is for them to collect and treat enough runoff so that the amount of runoff leaving the property and the rate at which it is leaving the property does not increase after a project is completed.

How can you help? RCWD is pleased to offer financial assistance for residents who are interested in installing practices to collect and treat runoff on their property. Rain gardens have been constructed throughout the District to capture runoff from streets, rooftops, and other hard surfaces. Native plants in the gardens make use of the excess water and nutrients as it soaks into the ground instead of washing into a storm drain and out to a nearby lake or stream.

Small changes in how you manage your property can also help prevent pollutants from entering our waterways. Compost, mulch, or dispose of leaves and grass clippings to prevent excess nutrients from causing algae blooms in nearby waterbodies. Clean up oil and grease spills immediately when they happen. Minimize salt use by shoveling, follow guidelines on packaging, and only apply salt when its 15 degrees Fahrenheit or more. And most importantly, share this information with your friends and neighbors! For more information, please visit www.ricecreek.org.