

# Woodbury CleanWater

A special edition about water in Woodbury

November/December 2019

## Low-salt diets also are great for driveways and sidewalks

The Woodbury Streets Division continues to focus efforts on using less salt on the city's roads without decreasing motorists ability to drive safely in winter weather. This effort includes using technology that calibrates application rates with road temperature information and using different chemical compounds when temperatures drop below the known level of effectiveness.

### Why does this matter?

Using less salt saves money and releases fewer pollutants into the local environment. Did you know that it only takes 1 tablespoon of salt to contaminate 5 gallons of water? Salt is a permanent pollutant. It cannot be removed from stormwater, but instead flows wherever the water goes. That means it washes off streets, driveways, walkways

and parking lots, enters our ponds and streams, moves into lakes and rivers, and eventually makes its way into the groundwater. Around the state, monitoring shows increasing levels of chloride contamination in surface water and groundwater resources – mostly due to salt applied to hard surfaces.

### What can you do?

As the Streets Division works to decrease salt use while keeping drivers safe on winter roads, residents and businesses can help protect lakes, rivers and drinking water from salt pollution. Follow these four steps:



**1. Shovel:** Clear walkways and parking lots before snow turns to ice and you apply salt. The more snow you clear manually, the less salt you'll need.



**2. Select:** Salt doesn't melt ice if the pavement is below 15 degrees, so use sand for traction when it's too cold.



**3. Scatter:** Use salt only where and when it's critical. When you apply salt to pavement, leave plenty of space between granules. A 12-ounce coffee cup of salt is enough to cover 10 sidewalk squares or a 20-foot driveway.



**4. Sweep:** Clean up leftover salt and sand to save in a separate container and reuse as needed.

## Watch for thin ice on Battle Creek and Colby Lakes

Thin ice and areas of open water may be found all winter on Battle Creek and Colby Lakes in Woodbury due to aeration systems operated by the city. The aeration systems circulate the water in the lakes to oxygenate them, keeping the fish alive through the winter.

The lakes were selected for aeration because their shallow depth results in low oxygen levels. All neighboring residents and recreational users of Battle Creek and Colby Lakes should note the location of the aeration systems and stay clear of the area posted for thin ice.

The aeration system in Colby Lake will be located in the southeast part of the lake near Edgewater Park. The aeration system in Battle Creek Lake will be operated adjacent to the fishing pier, north of the public access area in Shawnee Park. The perimeter of each aeration system will be posted with orange and white reflective signs that warn: "Danger - Thin Ice."



The aeration systems will be turned on in early January, weather permitting, and remain in operation until the ice is out. For more information, call the Parks Division at 651-714-3720.

## Master Water Stewards educate about clean water in the community

Woodbury has six certified Master Water Stewards who organize clean-up events, promote Adopt-A-Drain programs and create engaging educational opportunities about groundwater, surface water and habitat restoration.

The Master Water Steward Program began in 2013 in the West Metro and has now grown across the Twin Cities. The group's goal is to help prevent water pollution by educating community members about how to conserve water and protect waterways.

Water Steward candidates participate in a year-long online and in-person training program that

culminates with a capstone project that benefits Woodbury's water and educates local communities. Water Stewards graduate with the skills and knowledge to be a force for change in their communities. After graduation, Water Stewards receive support through continuing education and volunteer opportunities from Freshwater, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving freshwater resources and their surrounding watersheds, and their partnering organizations.

To learn more or to inquire about joining the Master Water Stewards Program, contact Angie Hong at [ahong@mnwcd.org](mailto:ahong@mnwcd.org).



Master Water Steward Stephanie Wang (right) leads a group of Royal Oaks Elementary School students on a tour of the Tamarack Nature Preserve in September.

## Woodbury's smart irrigation program is improving water efficiency

It was a successful year for water efficiency programs in Woodbury. Below are some of the highlights:

1. Another 680 homes participated in the Residential Irrigation Controller Program, bringing the total number of homes participating to 2,180 and resulting in a reduction of 65.4 million gallons of water each year (on average). If you're interested in participating in the 2020 Irrigation Controller Program, sign up to receive an email notification at [woodburymn.gov/waterwise](http://woodburymn.gov/waterwise).
2. Seventeen associations and commercial properties participated in the 2019 Water Efficiency Incentive Program. Through this program, the city offers 50 percent funding, up to \$8,000, to properties that pay the irrigation water rate for smart controllers, pressure regulated sprinkler heads and/or irrigation audits. This program is approved through 2021, so if your association has not participated yet, watch for information from the city in early 2020.
3. The City of Woodbury was recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense program for going above and beyond to promote water efficiency in the last year.

For tips on conserving water, visit [woodburymn.gov/waterwise](http://woodburymn.gov/waterwise) or email [water@woodburymn.gov](mailto:water@woodburymn.gov).

Thank you to the following Woodbury associations and properties that committed to water efficiency in 2019:

- Brookview Gardens
- Carver Lake Meadows
- Carver Lake Summit
- Cornerstone Medical Building
- Courtyard at Landsway
- Dancing Waters Association
- Data Recognition
- Heritage Glen
- North Shore at Powers Lake
- Pioneer Pointe Villas
- Preserve Twinhome
- Saint John's Bay
- Spinnaker Cove II
- Tall Trees Homeowners Association
- The Townes at Stonemill Farms
- Turnberry Townhomes
- Windom Ponds Patios A

## Want to learn more about water?

### Check out the new Water Conservation Advisor program

Water Conservation Advisor Training is a new opportunity to address water conservation through volunteerism. Freshwater, in collaboration with the Metropolitan Council, developed a continuing education and training program specifically focused on water conservation and drinking water protection.

This training builds a solid foundation for understanding water quantity issues in Minnesota and conservation solutions to protect the state's limited freshwater supplies. The course includes four online topics sessions and a three-hour workshop. The online course explores basic water science; availability and use of water in Minnesota; local water issues; and best practices around water conservation.

In addition to the online content, the workshop provides time and space to brainstorm ideas, design conservation projects and identify resources needed to accomplish them. These projects, designed to address a local water efficiency issue identified by the training program, generally fall into three categories: in-home water efficiency, irrigation system efficiency and landscaping for less water use.

For more information, contact Kristen Meyer at [kmeyer@freshwater.org](mailto:kmeyer@freshwater.org) or 651-313-5815.

