

# Woodbury GreenTimes

A special environmental edition

July 2019



## City practices water efficiency through stormwater reuse

The ponds that are scattered around the community serve an important purpose: to collect, hold and treat stormwater. One innovative way to treat stormwater is to reuse it for watering lawns and landscapes so it can eventually infiltrate back into the ground. This is a great way to reduce the amount of clean drinking water needed from the underground aquifer.

The City of Woodbury owns five ponds that it uses to irrigate golf courses and athletic fields, serving Eagle Valley Golf Course, Prestwick Golf Course (a private course), HealthEast Sports Center, Summit Pointe Park and Windwood Passage Park.

Private development has also found stormwater reuse to be effective. Bielenberg Gardens, St. Therese, Harvest Commons and Ascend at Woodbury (south of Bailey Road and west of Radio Drive) all use stormwater ponds to irrigate their landscapes. In this one section of the city, 800 residential units and more than 10 businesses are using stormwater for irrigation. But that's not all, City Place (at I-94 and Radio Drive) and the Legends at Woodbury (near Settlers Ridge

Parkway and Hudson Road) are also using this technology to treat surface water and conserve valuable drinking water. The city expects to see more stormwater reuse systems installed in new development areas in future years.



*Water from this stormwater pond in the Bielenberg Gardens development is reused for irrigation.*

### Do your part to protect water resources:

1. Keep grass clippings, leaves and branches on your property and off hard surfaces or dispose of them through yard waste pick-up or at compost sites. Grass and leaves carry phosphorus into our waterways which can lead to algae and undesirable plant growth.
2. Reduce water use by investing in irrigation efficiency technology, such as a smart irrigation controller available now from the city at a discounted rate of \$35.
3. Don't cut your lawn too short; mow at 3.5 inches.
4. Replace toilets installed before 1995.
5. Report spills and leaks, and call Public Works at 651-714-3792 with questions.
6. Adopt a storm drain near you by going to [adopt-a-drain.org](http://adopt-a-drain.org).

## Improve comfort and save money with discounted home energy assessment

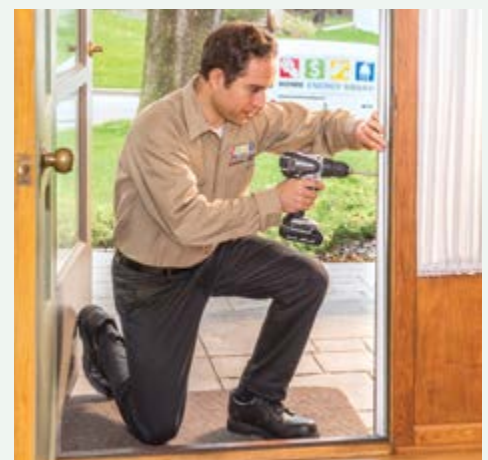
Here in Minnesota, due to weather extremes, residents place a high premium on comfort. What might not be so obvious is that taking steps to improve a home's efficiency can prevent energy loss and increase comfort. And, it's probably not surprising that a more comfortable home is also more affordable.

If you aren't sure where to start on the path toward a more efficient home, a good first step is to schedule an energy assessment. Xcel Energy customers can take advantage of the Home Energy Squad Enhanced visit, which includes the installation of energy saving products, such as LED bulbs, door weather stripping, a water heater blanket and programmable thermostat. The visit also features an energy assessment involving a blower door test, insulation inspection and combustion safety test. Whether you are a recent homeowner or have been in a home for decades, the Home Energy Squad

will help evaluate your home for energy efficiency opportunities.

Jeremy had recently moved to Woodbury from Texas, and he wanted to know, from an energy efficiency standpoint, how his new home would perform during the weather extremes in Minnesota. He had read about Xcel Energy's Home Energy Squad program in the city's newsletter and decided to make an appointment for a home visit.

During the two-hour visit, Jeremy learned a lot from the Home Energy Squad team, which also installed door-weather stripping, LED bulbs, efficient aerators and wrapped the water heater with an insulated blanket. The team also checked the attic and wall insulation, and helped Jeremy program his thermostat to save energy when he wasn't at home and checked the temperature of the water heater.



The Home Energy Squad Enhanced visit is provided by Xcel Energy and delivered by the non-profit, Center for Energy and Environment. The City of Woodbury discounts the cost by 30 percent, which means that residents pay only \$70! It is also offered for no cost to income qualified households. To schedule an appointment with the Home Energy Squad, call 651-328-6220 or visit [homeenergysquad.net](http://homeenergysquad.net).





# City piloting tire-derived aggregate for stormwater management

The City of Woodbury is using a unique stormwater treatment technique as part of the Public Works and Parks Facility Expansion Project.

The city and its watershed districts require that all hard surfaces – such as parking lots – be treated to today’s stormwater standards as part

of the expansion project. To optimize the limited space of the existing Public Works campus, the city is using creativity with how it is treating and storing water runoff on-site.

Traditionally, stormwater is treated with wet and vegetated infiltration basins. These ponds

treat and store water to protect the lakes, wetlands and rivers downstream. When space is a constraint, engineers have found a way to store and treat water below parking lot surfaces.

To do this, the city has implemented two tire-derived aggregate (TDA) underground systems, one on each side of the Tower Drive campus. TDA is made of used tires that are shredded down to between 1- and 2-foot-long pieces. Within the two new underground basins at the Public Works campus, 210,000 tires were used, keeping them out of scrap tire yards. That is the equivalent of three years of tires from Woodbury residents’ vehicles! The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency encourages the use of TDA in construction projects like this one. These basins will be paved over with porous pavement to allow water to soak through slowly, infiltrating clean water back into the ground. Treating stormwater below parking lots is typically a costly practice, but the city is saving money by using the TDA material for this project (cost is about \$3 per yard). The alternative fill materials cost between \$25 and \$35 per yard.

This is the first time TDA has been used to treat stormwater in the community.



*Tire-derived aggregate (TDA) is a unique stormwater technique being installed under the parking lot of the new Fleet Services Building on the west side of Tower Drive, south of Valley Creek Road. This basin (above) will be paved over with porous pavement to allow water to soak through slowly back into the ground.*

## Award recognizes Woodbury’s water efficiency efforts

The City of Woodbury earned a Certificate of Appreciation from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for contributing to the success of the EPA’s WaterSense program.

The City of Woodbury created irrigation efficiency programs to help homeowners, associations and businesses reduce water use. Businesses and homeowner associations can receive a 50 percent cost share for water efficiency improvements, up to \$8,000 (per metered property). Residents can purchase a WaterSense-certified smart irrigation controller for \$35.

The programs reduced water use by more than 64 million gallons in 2018.



Details about the 2019 programs are available at [woodburymn.gov/waterwise](http://woodburymn.gov/waterwise).

## Organics are now being accepted at the Environmental Center

Washington County is offering county residents the opportunity to recycle organics through their new drop-off program. Organics, including food scraps and non-recyclable paper products such as napkins and paper towels, make up 25 to 35 percent of our waste. Instead of throwing them away, organics can be recycled into compost, which is a valuable resource that improves soil, reduces erosion, and decreases the need for fertilizers.

Residents can sign up for the organics drop-off program and pick up a supply of 10 compostable bags from the Environmental Center. Kitchen pails are currently out of stock but participants will be notified by email when they become available again in July.

Bagged organics can be brought to the Environmental Center during regular hours of operation (proceed through the drive-lane). An attendant will take their bags and give them the same number of new compostable bags in exchange.

To sign up for the free drop-off program, and to learn more about the acceptable organics,



and how they must be prepared, visit: [www.co.washington.mn.us/organics](http://www.co.washington.mn.us/organics).

The Washington County Environmental Center is located at 4039 Cottage Grove Drive, in Woodbury.

