

Woodbury GreenTimes

A special environmental edition

July 2020



Private yard waste site closes

City working with county to identify options for site

The privately-operated compost site in Woodbury has decided to close their business.

While the city would like to see convenient access to yard waste services continue for its residents, it is not in a position purchase or lease the property to operate a yard waste facility.

City staff has had conversations with Washington County and has identified that Washington County is best suited to take the lead on evaluating the yard waste needs of county and city residents. The county is considering options for the on-going operation of the facility.

Meantime, residents may choose to dispose of yard waste at one of the other private or public facilities in Washington County. Learn more on the county's website at www.co.washington.mn.us/628/yard-waste. Washington County residents can also drop off yard waste free of charge at four Ramsey County collection sites: Arden Hills, Battle Creek (leaves and grass only; no brush or tree waste), Frank & Sims and White Bear Township. Photo ID is required.

In addition, some trash haulers offer curbside pickup of yard waste for a fee. Residents should contact their trash hauler to learn more.



Woodbury recognized as a Step 4 and 5 Minnesota GreenStep City

The City of Woodbury has achieved Steps 4 and 5 in the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program for the second year in a row. To earn Step 5 in the program, a city must improve in at least three metrics showing progress in sustainability. Woodbury is among 18 Minnesota cities recognized for achieving Step 5 based on 2019 data.

Woodbury showed improvement in 10 metrics, including: renewable energy purchases by the city, solar purchases and installations by commercial and residential properties, park and trail expansion, tree planting, and carbon emissions from the city's fleet, city buildings and lighting.

Minnesota GreenStep Cities is a challenge, assistance and recognition program. As one of 141 participating cities and tribal nations, the City of Woodbury is helping lead the way in sustainability across Minnesota. Learn more about Woodbury's efforts at mngreenstep.org.

Yard waste drop-off sites

Open to all county residents

Washington County Site

- Northern Yard Waste site**
5527 170th Street North, Hugo
651-275-7475

Privately-owned sites

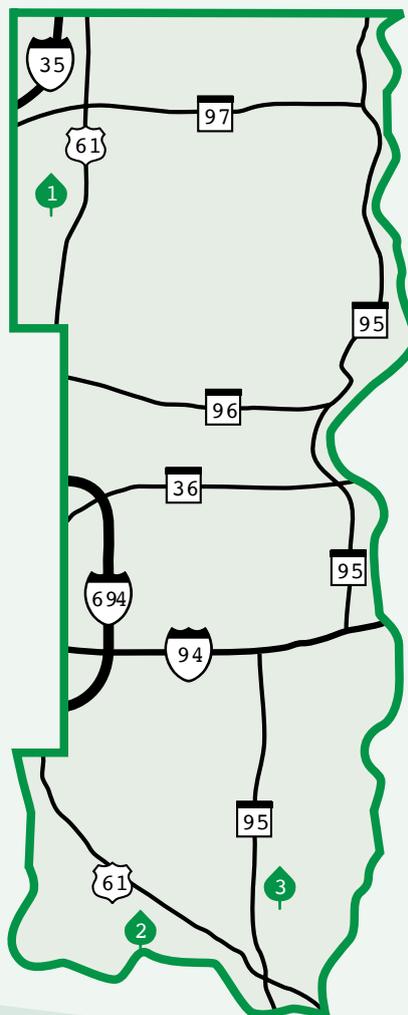
- Rumpca Companies Inc.**
9600 Glendenning Road, Cottage Grove
651-459-1556
- Denmark Township: Gertens RES**
12119 70th Street South, Cottage Grove
651-458-4412

Ramsey County sites

(not shown on map)

Washington County residents can also drop off yard waste free of charge at four Ramsey County collection sites. Photo ID is required.

- Arden Hills**
3530 Hudson Avenue
- Battle Creek (St. Paul)**
389 South Winthrop Street
Leaves and grass only; no brush or tree waste
- Frank & Sims (St. Paul)**
1150 Sims Avenue
- White Bear Township**
5900 Sherwood Road



Search the Disposal Directory at recyclesearch.com/wcdd.





A sign of the dog days of summer: unsightly stormwater ponds

While the origin of the phrase “dog days of summer” comes from ancient Greeks and Romans reference to the constellation Sirius, it is used today to reference the hot, muggy days of July and August. Hot and muggy weather also means unsightly conditions in ponds, lakes and wetlands across the city.

Stormwater ponds are designed and installed during development to collect dirty runoff from hard surfaces and allow the water to clean up before entering our lakes, wetlands and rivers. Unfortunately, that means they are the first ones to turn green and weedy. Stormwater ponds may become green and weedy in a few different ways, most commonly: algae growth, duckweed, or milfoil. There is no natural solution to remove any of these once they occur.

Algae

Algae grows rapidly in the presence of excess nutrients. These nutrients feed the stormwater

system by way of grass clippings, fallen leaves and fertilizer. Manage your property to minimize those inputs to help local water resources. If you live next to a pond, wetland or lake make sure you allow a healthy buffer of native, deep rooted plants to grow to help improve runoff before it gets to the water body.

Some species of algae can be harmful and produce toxins. If in doubt, keep people and pets from contact with the water. More information about harmful algal blooms is available on Minnesota Department of Health website at health.state.mn.us/diseases/hab/index.html.

Duckweed

Duckweed is native to Minnesota and commonly found in quiet or slow-moving water, most prevalent during the warmer months and dies back when temperatures drop. Duckweed is difficult to control because it is mobile, and is easily reintroduced by waterfowl.



These ponds are not for swimming, fishing or any recreational use. They are designed to let the extra nutrients and contaminants settle out so they do not reach the lakes and rivers that Minnesotans enjoy for recreational use throughout the year.

Water milfoil

Water milfoil can be either native or exotic, northern milfoil or Eurasian milfoil. From the surface, they look the same. Eurasian milfoil is rapidly growing and a controlled invasive species in the State of Minnesota. The University of Minnesota is currently researching techniques to stop the spread of Eurasian water milfoil.

Although the stormwater ponds may not look inviting during the heat of the summer, it means they are doing their job. These ponds are serving as a stopping point for extra nutrients that we do not want to end up in our wetlands, lakes and rivers.

What can residents do?

In order to decrease the amount of nutrients going into the stormwater ponds, it is important to clean up grass clippings from hard surfaces such as sidewalks and driveways to prevent them from going into the street. Residents should avoid over fertilizing their lawn, so that the extra nutrients do not end up in the ponds.

Washington County food scraps drop-off is now self-serve



Washington County’s food scraps drop-off at the Environmental Center in Woodbury and the Northern Yard Waste Site in Hugo are now self-serve during normal operating hours.

Dropping off food scraps is as easy as 1, 2, 3:

1. Remain in your vehicle while waiting.
2. Place your bagged food scraps in the marked

dumpster. Please use a BPI-certified compostable bag or paper bag. Plastic bags are not accepted.

3. Replace the number of compostable bags you dropped off with new ones from the dispenser.

Visit co.washington.mn.us/foodscraps for location, hours and a full list of accepted items.

Save the Date - Curbside Recycling Event!

The 10th annual Curbside Recycling Event was postponed in April due to the COVID-19 pandemic and has been rescheduled for Sept. 21-24. Once again, the city will partner with licensed trash haulers to provide curbside recycling of appliances, tires and scrap metal at a one-time reduced rate. A flyer will be mailed to all households in early August with cost, participation deadlines and contact information to schedule your pick-up. Additional information will be available at woodburymn.gov/sustainability. Questions should be directed to Jennifer McLoughlin, sustainability specialist, at engineering@woodburymn.gov or to the Engineering Division at 651-714-3593.

