

Keep Fall Runoff Clean



Spring Lake and Upper Prior Lake are designated as "Impaired Waters" due to high phosphorus content, and Lower Prior Lake is also at risk of becoming impaired. Phosphorus is a nutrient that stimulates excess algae and plant growth. Some algae blooms (blue-green algae) may even be hazardous to pets and humans. Excess leaves, grass clippings, eroded soil, and other phosphorus-containing materials wash down storm drains in the streets and into our lakes.

We can all do our part to reduce the amount of phosphorus reaching our lakes. Please help to keep leaves and grass clippings off of streets, driveways, and other paved surfaces.



In addition to water quality treatment, stormwater ponds provide wildlife habitat. Much of our street and lawn runoff enters these ponds, which then drain to our natural water resources (lakes, streams, and wetlands).

Name that Truck

It's a City Street Sweeper! Prior Lake maintenance crews target critical areas and remove phosphorus-containing materials (such as dirt, leaves, and grass clippings) before they can enter our lakes and other water resources. Give the guys a wave when you see the sweeper!



Working Together to Protect Our Quality of Life

Clean Water Seasonal Series:



FALL

Timely Tips for Clean Water

Fall is here! Keeping our lakes, streams, and wetlands healthy is a year-round pursuit. Use these tips to do your part for our waters and improve your property at the same time!





Get the Phosphorus Out (it's the law!)

Zero-phosphorus fertilizer is the LAW in Minnesota. Most lawns in this area have adequate soil phosphorus and remain healthy without adding more. You may only use fertilizer with phosphorus on your lawn if:

- A soil test shows a need for phosphorus
- A new lawn is being established



Water Conservation

Your lawn needs only about **1 inch of water per week**, including rainfall, to remain green all season long. If you are using more than this you could be throwing money out the window (and onto the lawn). Here are some tips to save money and conserve water as you prepare your lawn for the winter:

- **Stop watering during October.** This depends on the temperatures, but generally you shouldn't have to water past late October.
- **Use a rain gauge:** Determine when you've reached 1 inch for the week.
- **Aerate & dethatch** to improve water and nutrient penetration into the lawn.

By reducing water use, you not only save money, you reduce the need for future costly infrastructure (and rate hikes).

SMSC Compost Facility Available to Prior Lake Residents

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) Organic Recycling Facility (ORF) is available for Prior Lake Residents to drop off yard waste.

All plant waste is accepted: leaves, grass clippings, sod, brush, branches, and logs less than 10 feet in length.

Free drop-off for Prior Lake, Savage, and Shakopee residents during April, May, September and October, Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Regular hours: Monday - Saturday, 7 AM - 7 PM for a minimum \$5 drop-off fee.

Located 1.4 miles north of Co. Rd. 42 on County Rd. 83, at 1905 Canterbury Rd. in Shakopee. Look for the "Organic Recycling Facility" sign on the east side of Co. Rd. 83.

More information:
(952) 403-7005
www.smscorf.com



MINNESOTA WATER
LET'S KEEP IT CLEAN

FALL Lawn Care

Seasonal Lawn Care Tips

- Mow grass to 2-2.5" in the fall. Shorter grass has trouble storing energy for spring growth, and taller grass forms a mat over the winter.
- September is the best time to treat common lawn weeds such as dandelions, plantain, clover, and creeping charley.
- Don't put yard debris in the regular trash—it's illegal! Contact your waste hauler for disposal options, or take it to the SMSC Organic Recycling Facility.

Reduce Lawn Area

Reducing your total area of lawn could result in cost savings and less work in the long run.

- Consider converting some lawn area to planting beds with attractive native vegetation. These areas require less water and no mowing. Areas that need to be reseeded each year are good candidates.
- Install a raingarden to capture excess runoff from impervious surfaces.
- Seed steeper areas with a low-grow grass mix that requires less mowing and helps to prevent erosion.