

# green talk



## Coming Soon! 2020 RITE of Spring

The 14th Annual RITE (Really into the Earth) of Spring will be held on **Saturday, April 25th, 2020** between **10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.** at the **Mahtomedi Middle School** located at 8100 75th Street North. This **FREE** family friendly event is sponsored by the City of Mahtomedi, Mahtomedi Community Education, and community volunteers.

Again this year, the Washington County Department of Public Health and Environment will be hosting a Household Hazardous Waste Event from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (Accepted free of charge from households only — no businesses). Proof of residency required.

Watch the next City newsletter for further information about this free family friendly event.

## New Northern Yard Waste Disposal Site is Now Open!

Bring leaves, grass clippings, brush, and other plant materials to the Northern Yard Waste Collection Site. The site is free and open to Washington County residents. State law prohibits the disposal of yard waste in the trash. Search the Disposal Directory to find more drop-off locations: <https://recyclesearch.com/profile/wcdd> or visit <https://www.co.washington.mn.us/yardwaste>



## A BIG Thank You for Extra Efforts in Recycling!

The City would like to send a special thank you to the **Xiong Family on Loretta Lane** and the **Sprattler Family on East Avenue** for their extra efforts in recycling. Keep up the good work! For their extra effort, these families may stop in at City Hall and pick up a free *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle* water bottle. Every two months we will pick two families to acknowledge.

## Recycle More

**Not everything can be conveniently recycled at home. Consider this option to recycle more.**

**DONATE** – Did you know that the average person throws away 70 pounds of clothing and other textiles each year? Donating reusable items to charitable organizations is a great way to reduce waste and help your community. You can donate clothing, toys, sporting goods, books, music and more.

Search by item to find a donation opportunity near you at [www.recyclesearch.com/wcdd](http://www.recyclesearch.com/wcdd)



## RETHINK RECYCLING

*Provided by the Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board*

### RECYCLING TIPS AND MYTHS

Here are a few of the common questions and comments we hear from residents.

#### ***Recycling is too much work.***

Actually, recycling is easier than it used to be. You don't have to remove labels on cans or bottles. Plus, more material is now recyclable. Another good tip is to place your recycling container next to your garbage container to make recycling convenient.

#### ***I don't generate enough recycling to make a difference.***

You may be surprised — even in a single person household the amount of material that could have been recycled can quickly add up. About 1/3 of what is thrown away could be recycled.

#### ***Why recycle? It just gets thrown away anyway.***

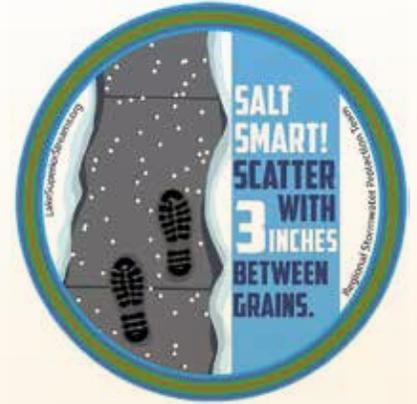
It is against state law for haulers to pick up recyclables and not recycle them. It is also against the law for a landfill or resource recovery facility to accept a load of recyclables. Recyclables are in demand.



## More Salt isn't Always the Answer

Using salt (chloride) during our icy winters is a necessity for safe roads, sidewalks, and driveways. However, recent studies have shown that excessive salt use can pollute our local lakes and rivers. In response, we need to become smart salters and reduce the use of salt when possible. Here are some tips you can use to make a difference:

- Shovel or sweep snow prior to putting salt down, you won't need as much salt this way.
- If it's below 15 degrees (F), your typical salt loses its effectiveness. Consider other options like sand or different de-icers.
- Only apply salt where needed and leave space between granules. Your average coffee cup holds enough salt for 10 sidewalk squares or a 20-foot driveway.
- Sweep up leftover salt to reuse later.



Remember, it only takes one teaspoon of salt to pollute five gallons of water! Help us protect our local waterways this winter by salting smart.

## Yard Waste and Organics Sign-up

As part of the new five-year recycling contract with Waste Management, the City is offering residents the opportunity to opt-in and sign up for curbside weekly yard waste and organics collection.

Food products, plant materials, compostable service ware and soiled paper goods will all be accepted. Paper products commonly placed in the trash, including coffee filters, tea bags, tissues, paper towels, napkins and take-out containers, can be recycled. Yard waste material like leaves, grass clippings, brush, twigs and small branches can also be placed in the same bin for composting.

Residents will receive a separate bin to recycle these materials and can choose between 32, 64 and 96 gallon bins. The cost to participate is \$14.15 per month and will be charged on the quarterly utility bill. **The City must have a minimum of 100 residents sign-up in order for the collection service to begin.**

Sign up by visiting [www.ci.mahtomedi.mn.us](http://www.ci.mahtomedi.mn.us), completing the form and submitting to the city in person or through email. This is an excellent opportunity for residents to easily reduce their household waste footprint and compost yard waste items without having to travel to a compost site.

**Questions can be directed to Mahtomedi City Hall at 651-426-3344.**

