

# green talk



## Water Conservation Rebate Program

The City once again was awarded a Metropolitan Council Grant as part of the Council's 2019-2022 Water Efficiency Grant Program. The amount of the grant is \$6,300.

Mahtomedi is one of forty cities in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area that applied for and was accepted into this grant program.

Grant funds will be used for the City's ongoing water conservation program. The City is offering \$50 rebates to Mahtomedi Water Utility Households replacing washing machines or toilets. Residents can bring in their original purchase receipts and documentation of applicable required certifications (i.e. user manual) and get a \$50 check. Toilets must be labeled Water Sense Certified and use 1.28 gallons per flush.

Washing machines must be Energy Star-Qualified High Efficiency Certified. Rebates are available on a first come first serve basis. One rebate check per household.

Forms are available on the City's website at [www.ci.mahtomedi.mn.us](http://www.ci.mahtomedi.mn.us). For more information, contact City Hall at 651-426-3344.



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

The City would like to send a special thank you to the **Felton Family on 72nd St.** and the **Murphy Family on Summit 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. Each quarter we will pick two families to acknowledge.

## Northern Yard Waste Site

### REMINDER:

### Northern Yard Waste Disposal Site Is Open

Bring leaves, grass clippings, brush, and other plant materials to the Northern Yard Waste Collection Site, 5527 170th St. N., Hugo, MN 55038, 651-275-7475.

**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>.

## ATTENTION MAHTOMEDI UTILITY CUSTOMERS

### FREE Payment and Billing Services

To view or pay utility bills, go to [www.ci.mahtomedi.mn.us](http://www.ci.mahtomedi.mn.us) or call 877-885-7968. Pay now, schedule a payment or set up Auto-Pay. An email will be sent to you when your bill is ready. You may pay by credit card (MasterCard, Visa or Discover) or eCheck (payment from your checking or savings account). Please opt out of paper bills to help save money and be **GREEN**.



## 2020 ENVIRONMENTAL EVENTS

### Fall One-Day Collection Events

One-day collection events for household hazardous waste and electronics are offered during the spring and fall. Paper shredding is offered at these events as well.

No more than 4 boxes per customer will be accepted. Shredding capacity is limited by the size of the truck and may be reached before the end of the event.

**These events are free and open to residents.** No recyclables or business waste.

#### Forest Lake

Forest Lake Transit Center  
19987 Fitzgerald Trail N  
(enter at Headwaters Pkwy)  
8 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Saturday, Sept. 12 &  
Saturday, Sept. 19

#### Hugo

Public Works Building  
6900 137th St. N  
8 a.m. - Noon  
Saturday, Oct. 3

### Shredding Events at the Environmental Center

Bring your personal and confidential papers to the Environmental Center during a scheduled event. Documents will be shredded on-site by Shred Right and recycled. CDs, floppy disks, and other media will be accepted for off-site destruction.

**Limit:** 6 boxes weighing no more than 30 lbs. each.

**These events are free and open to residents and businesses.**

#### Woodbury

Environmental Center  
4039 Cottage Grove Dr.  
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, Sept. 23 &  
Wednesday, Nov. 4

For more information, visit  
<https://www.co.washington.mn.us/604/Environmental-Center>

## FALL LAWN CARE:

### 3 Steps to Take Right Now

Did you know that fall is the best time for lawn care? With its cooler temperatures and occasional rainfall, fall is the ideal time to prepare your lawn for next spring.

**Keep on Mowing.** Continue to water and mow your lawn, as needed. As the season draws to a close, drop the mower's blade to the lowest setting for the last two cuttings of the year. This allows sunlight to reach the crown of the grass and will encourage faster growth once spring returns.

**Aerate the Soil.** Aerating your lawn has many benefits. It helps to reduce compaction so that oxygen, water, and fertilizer can reach your lawn's roots. This is especially important to help your lawn soak in rainwater and nutrients while deepening turfgrass roots.

**Rake the Leaves.** It's important to remove fallen leaves from your lawn as soon as possible. Leaves left on the lawn can suffocate the grass and encourage fungal growth. Also, take a moment to sweep or rake leaves and grass clippings out of the street in front of your house. Left in the street, they can clog storm drains and become a major source of algae food in our local lakes and wetlands. Dispose of leaves and grass clippings by composting them in your yard or bring them to a designated drop-off site in Washington County.

## What's the Deal with Oak Wilt and Dutch Elm Disease?

Dutch Elm Disease and Oak Wilt are both wilt diseases that affect their prospective tree species. They are both deadly and both can be found in Mahtomedi. Trees that have these diseases are classified as infectious trees and are regulated by ordinance in the City of Mahtomedi. During the peak summer months June thru August a City tree inspector is looking at public and private trees within the city. Elm trees that are exhibiting the symptoms of Dutch Elm Disease are marked and notices are sent to the landowner detailing the necessary steps to be taken. When oaks are being inspected, care is taken to identify what species of oak the trees are and what family (white oak or red oak family) they belong to.

Red oaks exhibiting the symptoms of oak wilt are marked and notices are mailed to the property owners. White oaks that are showing the symptoms are not marked as they develop no oak wilt fruiting bodies, so they are not contagious and are not regulated by ordinance.

Dutch Elm Disease and Oak Wilt are fungal in nature and are classified as wilts due to their mode of action in trees. Wilt diseases typically start in a portion of the tree (in the roots or in the canopy of the tree) then spread over time thru the vascular system of the tree. An infected tree will begin wilting at the top of the tree and spread downward as the effects of the disease become wide spread. This wilting is due to the tree's own efforts to stop the spread of the disease within the vascular system. The "plumbing" of the tree becomes plugged by the tree's production of defensive compounds. Oak Wilt in red oaks and Dutch Elm Disease in elms causes a very rapid decline in the tree usually causing death of the trees in a matter of weeks. Both diseases can be spread overland by insect vectors and by root grafting by trees of the same species. These diseases can be spread fairly quickly over large areas and threaten all of the oaks and elms within our forest community.

Infected elms that are marked are required to be removed within 20 days' notice, while marked red oaks are to be removed October thru March with a deadline of February 1st of the following year. Diseased wood from the removals of either type of tree may not be stored in Mahtomedi unless specific measures are taken to prevent the spread of the disease. These measures are outlined in the article "**Disposal and Storage of Wood from Diseased Elms and Red/Pin Oaks.**" This document is available at City Hall and on the City's website. Also available on the website is the USDA pamphlet "**How to Identify, Prevent and Control Oak Wilt.**"

Property owners that are concerned about protecting their oaks and elms are encouraged to engage professional help from an arborist to discuss options for injecting, root severing by vibratory plowing and targeted removals of trees. Please contact the City Forester at **651-747-3736** with any other questions.