



City of Windsor Heights

January 2010

Newsletter

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1133 66th Street, Windsor Heights, IA 50324
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The Storm Drain to Stream Connection

What happens to the rainfall that runs off driveways, parking lots, rooftops, and streets, and goes into the storm drains? A common misperception is that it is conveyed to a wastewater treatment plant, where it is then treated and released to a local stream, river or lake. The fact is, in almost all cases it is discharged untreated, directly into local streams and lakes. The major concern with this is excess fertilizers and pesticides, motor vehicle fluids and sediment that accumulate on driveways, parking lots and streets. These pollutants are then carried along with the rainfall runoff and move as storm water through underground pipes directly to streams. These contaminants can severely pollute and impair our local waterways.

What can you do to change this situation? There are a number of key things that you can do with your own property. The starting point is to soak up as much of the rainfall on your property as you can, so that it doesn't runoff into the street.

Here are a few suggestions:

- Install a rain garden to capture rooftop rain, rain barrels will do the trick too.
- Restore the health of your lawn by aerating and then apply a thin (1/4-1/2") layer of compost and seed
- Use fertilizers containing "0" phosphorus (the middle number on the fertilizer bag indicates the quantity of phosphorus). Sweep up any fertilizer that is spread onto side walks, driveways or streets and spread it back on the lawn.
- Use native landscaping and native turf in your yard.



We all need to protect and improve the water quality in our streams and lakes. Please think about doing your part!

Visit www.iowastormwater.org to learn more about storm water.

What is stormwater runoff?

Stormwater runoff is rainfall or snowmelt that runs off impervious surfaces like roads, buildings, and compacted soils. Stormwater runoff is collected and conveyed through storm sewers directly into streams, rivers, and lakes without being treated.

The Problem

Pollutants accumulate on impervious surfaces between rainfall events. Frequent, small rains wash pollutants into streams, rivers, and lakes. These pollutants negatively impact water quality.

As communities grow, impervious areas increase. Larger amounts of impervious surfaces cause the volume and rate of stormwater runoff to increase. This can result in flooding, stream channel degradation, and increased water pollution in our surface waters.

Stormwater Pollutants

- Sediment from construction sites
- Pesticides and nutrients from lawns, parks, and roadsides
- Bacteria from pet waste
- Oil and grease from car leaks, gas stations, and industrial areas
- Trash such as cigarette butts, paper wrappers, and plastic bottles
- Illegally dumped pollutants
- Thermal impacts from sun-heated impervious surfaces
- Salt and sand from snow and ice control applications
- Illicit connections to storm sewers



Stormwater Management

The traditional approach to stormwater management focuses primarily on flood control. Today, our city is required to manage for both water quality and quantity by using practices that infiltrate more rainfall and reduce the volume of stormwater runoff.

Stormwater Regulations in Our City

To comply with federal regulations, our city is required to implement and maintain a stormwater management program. Some requirements include:

1. Managing stormwater runoff for water quality protection,
2. Reducing sediment loss from construction sites,
3. Developing ordinances to meet program goals,
4. Inspecting storm drain outlets for unwanted discharges, and
5. Providing public education and involvement.

Awareness and Responsibility

Daily activities can impact water quality. Most rainfall drains untreated to streams and lakes through storm drains in neighborhoods. There are many ways you can prevent stormwater pollution:

1. Wash your car at a carwash or on the lawn, not the driveway,
2. Re-direct roof drains to gardens or other vegetated areas,
3. Properly dispose of all hazardous household waste,
4. Minimize use of fertilizers, and
5. Clean up after your pets.

Emergency Services Access in the Winter

When recovering from a major snowfall, it's easy to forget emergency responders not only need access to your front door, but to the equipment that will help save your home in the event of an emergency.

The Windsor Heights Fire Department is recommending citizens clear a three foot perimeter around fire hydrants that are covered with snow. It's also smart to shovel an access path to the road, so fire fighters can easily thread a water hose to the hydrant from the street.

In general, for every minute a home fire goes unsuppressed or undetected, it doubles in size. Every second counts. If a fire occurs in your home or in your neighborhood, you don't want firefighters wasting those seconds shoveling snow to gain access to the fire hydrant.

Congratulations to the Winners of the Windsor Heights Foundation Holiday Lighting Contest!

Best of the Best: 1233 70th St. Fred and Peggy Frye

District #1 winner: 7609 Marilyn Drive, Jim and Carol Langeness

District #2 winner: 7204 Franklin, Thomas and Patricia Nockels

District #3 winner: 2214 68th St., David and Carmen Ramirez

District #4 winner: 6718 Elmcrest, Joseph and Kristen Mahoney

District #5 winner: 1233 70th St. Fred and Peggy Frye

District #6 winner: 133 68th, Shawn Ostlund residence

The Foundation Board would also like to commend for special mention the several residents on Elmcrest Drive between 66th and 68th St. who decorated their homes beautifully. And to commend Mike and Linda Faber, 7004 Del Matro, for annually decorating their large evergreen tree on the corner of 70th and Del Matro for the enjoyment of hundreds of passers-by.



Citizen Satisfaction Survey

To improve City services, the City Council has to fully understand the needs of the community and measure citizen satisfaction with City services. To achieve this goal, City leaders have approved a plan to conduct a Citizen Satisfaction Survey this January and February. Citizens will be randomly selected to participate by the Institute of Social and Behavioral Research (ISBR) at Iowa State University in a phone survey which will take approximately 10 minutes. Approximately 350-400 citizens will be selected to participate. Utilizing statistical sampling will allow the City to more precisely measure public perception of City services. After phone surveys are completed, all citizens will have the opportunity to fill out and return a written version of the survey to City Hall. If you or anyone in your household is randomly selected, please participate in the survey. Written copies of the survey will be available for all citizens to fill out after the phone survey has been completed. Results of written survey will also be compiled and made available to the public. Questions about the survey can be directed to City Hall at 279-3662.

Windsor Heights Neighborhood Association Quarterly Meeting

The Windsor Heights Neighborhood Association (WHNA) will hold its quarterly meeting Sunday, January 31st, at the 3E building, 953 73rd Street in Windsor Heights (just north of interstate 235) from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Dr. Jennifer Rahe-Thompson, president of the WH Chamber of Commerce, and Barb Niccum, Executive Director, will serve as guest speakers. All residents of Windsor Heights are welcome and encouraged to attend. If transportation assistance is needed please contact David Lange at 274-0655.

Windsor Heights Neighborhood Watch

Upcoming Quarterly Meeting

The Windsor Heights Neighborhood Watch will be holding its Quarterly Meeting On Saturday, February 13, 2010 from 10:30am to 12:00pm at the 3E building north of the Freeway at 953 73rd Street meeting held in the Large Conference room.

All residents of Windsor Heights are more than welcome to attend.

Remember there's no cost or obligation what so ever to attend or to join the Neighborhood Watch.

Agenda:

1. Introduction
2. Update you all with Watch's member ship:
3. Point of interest:
4. Terry Anderson Treasurer Report
5. "Presentation on Bullying" Question/and answer session after his presentation.
6. Closing

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Bill Shepherd at 515-650-3100 or whneighborhoodwatch@gmail.com.