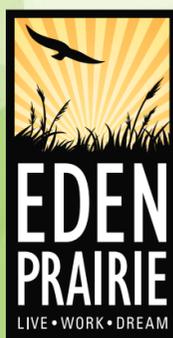


LIVING GREEN



The City of Eden Prairie has always been mindful of the **environment and natural resources** the community enjoys.

The City's efforts to reduce its environmental footprint began in earnest after the inaugural **Sundance Summit's Mayors' Gathering on Climate Protection** in 2005. Mayor **Nancy Tyra-Lukens** participated in the summit and signed the **Mayor's Commitment to Action**, which led to the formation of the City's **Conservation Commission** and the launch of the **20-40-15 initiative**.

In 2011, Mayor Tyra-Lukens was awarded an **honorable mention** for **The U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Awards**, and in 2012, **Eden Prairie won the mywaterpledge.com**-sponsored **"Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation"** for the Midwest region, versus other cities in the 30,001–100,000 population category.

Since then, the City met and even exceeded its 20-40-15 goals – energy efficiency in City facilities increased by 21.8 percent and the fuel efficiency in the City's vehicle fleet increased by 44.4 percent by year-end 2015. Eden Prairie has also achieved Step 4 in the **Minnesota GreenStep Cities** program.

Learn more about what you can do to Live Green in Eden Prairie by checking out the useful information and resources in this publication, then visit edenprairie.org/livinggreen for more!

WATER GUIDE

Aquatic Invasive Species

Protecting our Lakes

You can help prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). AIS include plants or animals that are non-native to Minnesota, which significantly threaten aquatic ecosystems by competing with native species. Some examples of AIS include zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, brittle naiad and curly leaf pondweed.



The **Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)** recommends the following process to prevent AIS from spreading to more lakes:

Clean — Ensure the boat, trailer, equipment and vehicle are free from aquatic plants, animals and mud

Drain — Remove any water from the boat including live wells, bilges, ballast tanks and bait containers

Dispose — Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash, it is illegal to release live bait into a body of water

Dry — Wait at least five days before launching the boat or other equipment into a new lake

If you suspect you have found AIS, please take a photo of it, note the location and contact **environmental services** staff at **952-949-8330** immediately. **Do not transport AIS!**

Watercraft Inspections

In 2015, the City of Eden Prairie received a grant from the Riley – Purgatory – Bluff Creek Watershed District to inspect watercraft entering and leaving Eden Prairie lakes, resulting in the following statistics:

- More than 3,780 watercraft were inspected
- 655 boats were flagged for potentially carrying invasive species before entering lakes
- Two of the boats flagged had zebra mussels attached

Store-Bought Carriers of Invasive Species

Because aquatic invasive species (AIS) are a major concern to Minnesota waters today, it is important for us to identify ways we may be inadvertently introducing AIS into our waters. When you stop by your local pet store or nurseries you may not realize the plants, invertebrates and fish likely originate from places all around the world. If you release a store-bought plant or fish into local waters, you run the risk of introducing AIS into that body of water.

Pet stores and nurseries are a large source of invasive species. While it is legal in Minnesota for a store or nursery to buy and possess these species, it is illegal and ecologically harmful to release them into local waters. Another potential source for AIS are plants you buy for your aquatic tank which may contain other plants or snails that are invasive and may not be noticeable.

Fish such as koi and goldfish, and plants such as Brazilian waterweed, green or purple fanwort, water lilies, water lettuce, parrotfeather, yellow floating heart and yellow iris, frequently carry and spread AIS and should be disposed of with caution.

Options for disposing of store-bought fish that could carry AIS include:

- Contacting a retailer for proper handling advice or returns
- Giving away or trading with another aquarist, pond owner or water gardener
- Donating to a local aquarium society, school or aquatic business
- Sealing aquatic plants in plastic bags and disposing of them in the trash

For more recommendations about preventing the spread of AIS and to learn which lakes in Minnesota are infested, visit mndnr.gov/invasives.

2015 Drinking Water Report

Each year, the City of Eden Prairie issues the results of drinking water monitoring to advance consumers' understanding of drinking water and heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water resources.

In summary, drinking water monitoring from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2015, revealed no contaminants were detected at levels that violated federal drinking water standards.

To view detailed results visit edenprairie.org/drinkingwater.

You Can Help Improve Minnesota's Lakes, Rivers and Streams

When it rains, the stormwater that runs off driveways, lawns, houses and parking lots can carry pollutants – such as oil, paint and chemicals – down storm sewers and into nearby lakes, streams and rivers. By taking the following easy, no-cost or low-cost steps, you can make a big impact on reducing runoff and protecting our water resources and wildlife habitat.

Use your runoff

Keep water in your yard and reduce runoff by directing downspouts onto your lawn or garden, or into a rain barrel. Rainwater is free and naturally "soft," so it is ideal to use for watering your lawn or garden.

Don't rake grass clippings and leaves into the street

Leave them on your lawn, use them for compost or bag them up. Grass clippings and leaves left in the street end up in the storm sewer, where they are carried to nearby lakes and streams. Clippings and leaves contain phosphorus and other nutrients that feed algae and other aquatic plants. This can cause excess algae growth and negatively impact other plants and wildlife, and can be unsafe for pets.

Scoop the poop

Grab a bag when you grab the leash and pick up after your pets. Pet waste left on the ground can be washed into lakes and rivers with rainwater and runoff. Pet waste contains bacteria that can cause illness in humans and animals.

Use chemicals wisely

Read and follow the label instructions when using lawn chemicals. Use the minimum amount needed to control the problem. If you can, consider using alternative or natural remedies to control weeds and pests, or remove the problem by hand.

Plant a rain garden

Rain gardens are depressions planted with a diverse mix of native wildflowers and grasses designed to collect rainwater and allow it to soak into the soil. This reduces the water running off your property into storm sewers.

Reduce your footprint

Replace some pavement – such as a walk, patio or driveway – with pavers or pervious pavement. The porous surface allows water to seep through.



Adopt a storm drain

Storm drain stenciling is a way for members of the community to work together to protect our waterways! Messages such as "Dump no waste, drains to lake" can be stenciled onto storm drains in your neighborhood to remind residents that anything dumped into the storm sewer drains to lakes, streams and wetlands. To borrow a storm drain stenciling kit from the City, contact **Leslie Stovring**, environmental coordinator, at **952-949-9327** or lstovring@edenprairie.org.



For more information on how to protect water quality, visit hennepin.us/residents/environment/protecting-land-water.

Watershed Assessment Program

The City of Eden Prairie is continuing work on a study of the ponds, wetlands, lakes and creeks that collect public drainage and stormwater runoff. These water bodies help prevent flooding and act as filters for pollutants that are present in fertilizers, pet waste and grass clippings. Pollutants are picked up by water runoff from hard surfaces like driveways, parking lots and streets after rain or snowmelt events, and washed into local water bodies. Due to this collection of debris and dirt, many ponds and wetlands require maintenance over time.

With the help of **Wenck Associates, Inc.**, the City is conducting a multiyear project to survey ponds and wetlands that capture stormwater. In 2016 and 2017, the City will complete assessments for the Riley and Rice Marsh Lake watersheds and develop a plan to address future maintenance needs based on the findings. For more information, contact **Leslie Stovring**, environmental coordinator, at **952-949-9327** or lstovring@edenprairie.org.

EP SEE CLICK FIX

EP SEE CLICK FIX is a mobile application for reporting and resolving nonemergency issues in our community. Residents can also use their mobile devices to report environmental issues – such as stormwater drains clogged with debris or pollutants being washed into a stormwater drain – and submit the geographic location automatically (using GPS technology), along with a photo, directly to the appropriate City staff member(s) who can resolve the issue. Visit your app store or edenprairie.org/EPSECLICKFIX to download EP SEE CLICK FIX today!



Water Conservation Rebate Programs

Since 2000, the City of Eden Prairie has offered rebates for residents to promote water conservation. The current program includes rebates for **Energy Star** washing machines, **WaterSense** toilets, faucets and showerheads as well as irrigation controllers and the replacement or repair of an irrigation system.

In 2016, the City expanded its rebate program to include new options for laundry rooms and irrigation system upgrades. This was made possible by a water efficiency grant from the **Metropolitan Council** through the **Clean Water Legacy Act**. This includes additional rebates for stormwater reuse systems and irrigation system audits.

In addition, water quality rebates are available for the construction of infiltration areas such as rain gardens and restoration of shoreland areas.



Visit edenprairie.org/waterrebates for more information about water rebate programs available to residents.

EDEN PRAIRIE RECYCLING GUIDE

RECYCLING AT HOME



In Eden Prairie, all trash haulers are required to provide recycling services to single and multiunit households, through which the following items can be recycled:

- Boxes (cardboard, cereal, cracker, shoe, gift, electronic, toothpaste, medication, toiletry and other boxes)
- Cartons (milk, juice, soup, broth, wine)
- Glass bottles and jars
- Metal cans
- Paper (catalogs, inserts, magazines, mail, newspaper, office, phone books, school, shredded paper in closed paper bags)
- Plastic bottles and jugs (water, soda, juice, milk, ketchup and salad dressing, dishwashing liquid, laundry detergent, shampoo, soap and lotion)
- Plastic cups and containers (yogurt, pudding, fruit, disposable cups and bowls, margarine, cottage cheese, produce, deli and take-out)
- Plastic packaging from toys and electronics

Remember to rinse all containers. For cartons, plastic bottles, jugs and containers, leave caps and lids on. For glass bottles and jars, remove caps and lids.

Items that cannot be recycled include:

- Aerosol cans
- Aluminum foil
- Containers that held hazardous products
- Dishes
- Drinking glasses
- Empty paint cans*
- Giftwrap
- Microwaveable food trays
- Paper cups, plates, napkins and towels
- Paper soiled with food
- Plastic bags
- Plastic wrap
- Scrap metal
- Styrofoam™
- Vases
- Window glass and mirrors

*Most trash haulers accept paint cans if empty and/or paint is dry.

For more information visit hennepin.us/recycling.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL

Hennepin County residents can dispose of the following items at the **Hennepin County Drop-off Facilities** in Bloomington (1400 W. 96th Street) and Brooklyn Park (8100 Jefferson Highway):

Automotive Products

- Automotive fluids – antifreeze, brake fluid, transmission fluid and fuel
- Lead-acid batteries
- Oil and oil filters

Electronics (quantity limits apply)

- Computers keyboards, mice, printers, scanners and cords
- DVD players and VCRs
- Telephones, cell phones and cordless phones
- Rechargeable tools and electronic devices
- Stereos

Household, Lawn and Garden Products

- Adhesives – flammable or petroleum based
- Aerosols – pressurized or containing product
- Batteries – place tape over the positive terminal
- Cardboard (must flatten boxes)
- Household cleaners
- Fire extinguishers
- Grills and lawn mowers (remove non-metal parts and drain fluids)
- Needles and sharps (must be in rigid, puncture resistant, plastic container with a screw on lid and be labeled as household sharps)
- Organics (Brooklyn Park only Tuesday through Friday, must be in BPL-certified bags)
- Paint, stains and varnishes
- Pesticides
- Pool chemicals
- Propane/gas cylinders (1-pound, non-refillable containers only)

Mercury-Containing Items

- Fluorescent light bulbs (limit 25 per year)
- Thermometers
- Thermostats

Media

- Computer discs
- DVDs, CDs and Blu-ray discs
- Flash drives and Secure Digital (SD) memory cards
- Game cartridges
- Ink jet and laser printer toner cartridges
- Video and audio cassette tapes

Cords and Lights

- Electric cords
- Holiday lights

Items Accepted for a Fee (quantity limits apply)

- Appliances
- Air conditioners
- Appliance compressors
- Boiler gas valves
- Computers and laptops
- Computer monitors
- Dehumidifiers
- Furnaces
- Garbage disposals
- Mattresses and box springs (Brooklyn Park facility only)
- Pumps (bilge and sump)
- TVs
- Water coolers
- Water heaters
- Tires

For more information on the best way to recycle, reuse or dispose of items from your home, visit hennepin.us/green-disposal-guide.



Recycle Everywhere

You do a great job recycling at home, but do you take it with you when you leave? Did you know we only recycle about 47 percent of the more than 1-million tons of waste generated in Hennepin County every year? To help residents learn how to recycle in more places, Hennepin County created the Recycle Everywhere program.

Whether at work, school, a park, an event or on a camping trip, you can recycle everywhere. Before you leave, take these small steps to ensure you can recycle while away:

- Don't buy individually wrapped snacks, buy in bulk and separate into reusable containers
- Bring reusable water bottles for the whole family
- Look for recycling bins – if there aren't any, pack your recyclables for home
- Don't be discouraged – if you don't see recycling containers in your favorite spot, ask for them

Simple actions such as recycling your beverage containers can give them new life as jackets, baseball bats, patio furniture, bicycles and more, while helping to efficiently manage our natural resources.

To learn more, visit hennepin.us/recycleeverywhere.

Unwanted and Unused Medicine Disposal

Proper disposal of unused medication is important not only to prevent abuse, but to protect the environment as medications disposed of in the sink, toilet or trash are not treated and can leach into surface and ground water. Simple alternatives exist for disposal, including:

Eden Prairie Police Department Medicine Disposal Bags

The Police Department offers these bags for at-home disposal of small quantities of medication. The bags contain a substance that deactivates drugs, making them safe for disposal. These bags can be used to dispose of over-the-counter medications, pet medications, prescription medications and controlled substances, and vitamins. Bags can be picked up free of charge at the Police Department (8080 Mitchell Road), Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This program is generously sponsored by the Eden Prairie Crime Prevention Fund and Optum RX.

Hennepin County Medication Drop Boxes

Large quantities of unused medication can be disposed of at one of the Hennepin County drop-box locations. The County asks that medications be dropped off in their original containers or in quart-sized plastic bags. No identification is required for drop-off; however, medications are accepted from residents only, not businesses. Items not accepted at drop-off locations include needles, sharps, syringes, thermometers, bandages, medical tape and other medical supplies. For locations and more information, visit hennepin.us/medicine.



For more information and a list of upcoming clinics, visit hennepin.us/FixItClinic or [facebook.com/HennepinEnvironment](https://www.facebook.com/HennepinEnvironment).

Commercial Recycling

Did you know Minnesota law just expanded the recycling requirements to include commercial buildings? Businesses in the metro area, that fill a four cubic yard dumpster once a week, are now required to recycle up to three different materials.

The business may choose three of the following items:

- Paper: Office paper, cardboard, newspaper.
- Glass
- Plastic
- Metal: Aluminum, tin coated steel.
- Organics: Food waste, non-recyclable paper.

Other recyclables that may require specialized collection such as textiles.

This is another great step to make our community more environmentally friendly!

