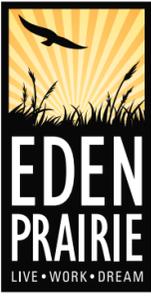


LIVING GREEN



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!

ENERGY AND WASTE CONSERVATION

Green Disposal Guide

Some stuff just needs to go, but the cleanup can be frustrating unless you know how to get rid of your unwanted stuff. From Christmas tree disposal to leftover paint to used furniture, find out what to do with it with Hennepin County's online **Green Disposal Guide**.

The Green Disposal Guide offers a range of reuse, recycling and disposal options for items such as batteries, furniture, carpet and more. It also offers tips on shopping smarter, living greener and creating less waste.

With a computer or smartphone, the Green Disposal Guide provides an easy-to-use, mobile-friendly guide on how to recycle, reuse or dispose items from your home.

Visit hennepin.us/greendisposalguide for more information.



Holiday Lights Recycling

Don't know what to do with those old or non-working strings of holiday lights? Making the switch to energy-efficient LED holiday lights? Either way, you can help the environment by recycling your old lights!

Recycle Your Holidays™ is a one-of-a-kind statewide holiday light recycling program in Minnesota. Residents can drop off unwanted light strands at participating locations throughout the holiday season through the month of January.

Once again this year, all three **Eden Prairie Liquor** locations are participating in the program – so stop by Eden Prairie Liquor to recycle your lights today! Visit edenprairie.org/EPLiquor for store locations.

For more information about the Recycle Your Holidays™ program, visit recycleminnesota.org.



Recycling Grants Available for Businesses and Organizations

The commercial sector generates more than half of the total waste in Hennepin County, and nearly two-thirds of the waste created at businesses and non-profits is recyclable. Owners with commercial buildings in the seven-county metro area – that also generate four cubic yards or more of trash per week – must be recycling at least three materials by 2016.

A strong recycling program conserves natural resources and reduces greenhouse gas emissions, can help your bottom line, and demonstrates your organization's commitment to sustainability and the community.

Hennepin County offers grants, signage, technical assistance and case studies to help businesses and organizations start or improve recycling programs.

Visit hennepin.us/businessrecycling or call **612-543-1316** to discuss business recycling grant project ideas and funding opportunities.



Reducing Food Waste

It is estimated that 25 to 40 percent of all food that is grown, processed and transported in the United States will never be consumed. Many people do not realize how much food they throw away every day – from uneaten leftovers to spoiled produce. Once in landfills, food breaks down to produce methane, a greenhouse gas which can contribute to climate change.



Ways to Reduce Wasted Food

- Plan your menu before you go shopping and buy only those things on your menu
- Buy in bulk only when it makes sense, you won't save money if you are unable to use the food before it spoils
- Learn how to store fruits and vegetables so they stay fresh longer
- Freeze, preserve or can surplus fruits and vegetables, especially abundant seasonal produce
- Compost food scraps rather than throwing them away
- Help those in need by donating nutritious, safe and untouched food to food banks
- Take home restaurant leftovers and keep them for your next meal
- Choose only what you can eat at all-you-can-eat buffets

Benefits of Reducing Wasted Food

- **Saves money** from buying less food
- **Reduces methane emissions** from landfills and lowers your carbon footprint
- **Conserves energy and resources**, reduces pollution involved in the growing, manufacturing, transporting, and selling of food and food waste
- **Supports your community** by providing donated untouched food that would have otherwise gone to waste

For more ideas and tips on reducing food waste, visit foodwastealliance.org or epa.gov/recycle/reducing-wasted-food-basics.

Recycle Everywhere

Do you recycle everywhere you can at home? It might be time to refresh your laundry room, revamp your bathroom or rethink your home office by adding a bin, bag or basket to collect recycling. About half of home recyclables never make it to the recycling bin. You can rethink your recycling habit by using convenient recycling bins and signage and mixing in a little fun.

Recycle everywhere in your home with these tips and tricks

Make recycling easy

Start by putting a recycling bin, bag or box next to every garbage can in your house. Label your bins with signs so that everyone knows how to sort their recycling and trash. If you have limited space, get creative. Hang a bag on the doorknob for recyclables. Put a divider in your wastebasket to keep trash on one side and recycling on the other.

Recycle in every room

Did you know there are more than 20 items in the bathroom alone that are recyclable? Find more items to recycle by reviewing this list:

Bathroom

- Shampoo, soap, lotion, mouthwash and contact lens cleaner bottles. Keep caps on plastic bottles, but remove and toss pumps and spray nozzles
- Boxes from toothpaste, medication and other toiletries
- Plastic containers from baby wipes and cleaning wipes

Laundry Room

- Laundry detergent and fabric softener bottles. Keep caps on plastic bottles.
- Stain remover and other cleaner bottles. Remove and toss spray pumps
- Cat litter jugs and boxes
- Dryer sheet and laundry detergent boxes

Office

- Mail, including catalogs, magazines and newspaper
- Office supply boxes
- Paper file folders
- Soft cover books

Make it fun

Involve the entire family in recycling by making it fun. Have kids make a "please recycle" sign that shows what items can go in the recycling bin. Place a basketball rim above the recycling bin so your family can slam dunk their recyclables. Make it a challenge: try to generate only one bag of trash a week.

Learn more tips and get free resources at hennepin.us/recycleeverywhere.

Hennepin County Fix-It Clinics

Get household items fixed for free and learn valuable repair skills at an upcoming Fix-It Clinic.

At Fix-It Clinics, residents bring in small household appliances, clothing, electronics, mobile devices and more, and receive free guided assistance from volunteers with repair skills to disassemble, troubleshoot and fix their items.

Fix-It Clinics teach valuable troubleshooting and basic repair skills, build community connections and reduce the number of repairable objects that are thrown in the trash.

Events are held monthly, visit hennepin.us/fixitclinic for dates and locations.

If you can troubleshoot repairs for broken items, consider volunteering at a Fix-It Clinic. Volunteer fixers who have skills in soldering, electronics repair, sewing, wood working and general tinkering are essential to make clinics successful. Please email nancy.lo@hennepin.us or call **612-348-9195** for more details.



WATER QUALITY AND CONSERVATION



Managing Our Water Resources

The City of Eden Prairie is home to a wide variety of natural resources, including 15 lakes, 528 wetlands, 251 stormwater ponds, three creek systems, 14 conservation areas and 35 parks. Stewardship of these resources is important for the good of our community.

The City provides information and services covering a wide array of water quality topics and issues, including:

Local Water Management	Stormwater Management	Groundwater Protection
Lawn Watering	Water Conservation	Lake Studies

For more information, visit edenprairie.org/waterresources.

Water Conservation Rebates

The City of Eden Prairie water conservation rebate program provides numerous incentives for converting your home to a more resource-conscious household. The program includes rebates for **Energy Star** washing machines, and **Water Sense** toilets, faucets, showerheads and irrigation systems.



But rebates aren't the only way you'll save! By replacing your old washer with an Energy Star-qualified model, a family of four can save enough water to fill three backyard swimming pools. In addition, if your old washer is more than 10 years old, replacing it could save your family up to \$135 in energy costs per year.



The program currently provides rebates for up to 50 percent of the cost of a qualified item, up to a maximum of \$100 for Energy Star washers; \$50 for WaterSense toilets, faucets and showerheads; and \$150 for irrigation controllers.

Rebates are also available for planning and construction of rain gardens, permeable pavement systems and pond, creek or lake shore buffers. The maximum rebate for any single project is 50 percent of the direct project costs, up to a maximum of \$1,500, and is subject to the participant's commitment to complete and maintain the project.

To learn more about City of Eden Prairie water conservation rebate programs, visit edenprairie.org/waterrebates.

Chimney Pines Homeowner Association Shore Restoration Project

The **Chimney Pines Homeowners Association** recently gathered a group of volunteers who wanted to help improve water quality, mitigate erosion and minimize the rate of runoff from their common property that flows into a stormwater pond. Seven households gathered together to volunteer their time on the project – and they completed a total of more than 100 volunteer hours!



The project began in 2016 by working with a consultant to divide the area into four manageable sections. They started by treating and removing invasive plant species within the first section and purchased a number of native plants for a shoreland buffer. Plants removed included buckthorn, garlic mustard, burning nettle and creeping Charlie. Native plants such as Jacob's ladder, Virginia bluebells, marsh milkweed, bergamot, wild columbine, goldenrods, lobelia and others were then incorporated into the landscape. The native plants will provide habitat for birds and pollinators such as butterflies, moths and bees.

The Association received a cost-share grant from the **Lower Minnesota River Watershed District** and a **Landscaping for Water Quality Rebate** from the City of Eden Prairie to help cover the project cost. In January, the volunteers will meet with the City and Watershed District to begin planning for the next phase, which will start in spring 2017.

Aquatic Invasive Species

In 2016, the City of Eden Prairie completed its fifth year of implementing an **Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)** inspection program. The program monitored watercraft traffic coming in and out of **Mitchell, Red Rock, Riley, Round and Staring** lakes.

Invasive species are plants or animals – such as zebra mussels, flowering rush or starry stonewort – that are not native to Minnesota and can potentially cause economic or environmental harm to lakes. Once AIS are established they're very difficult to eliminate, so preventing the spread is critical.

In 2016 more than 3,140 watercraft inspections were completed. AIS-certified inspectors stopped a total of 28 boats from entering the lakes with potential invasive species attached; however, no zebra mussels or other invasive species were found.

To learn more about AIS, visit the **Minnesota Department of Natural Resources** website at dnr.state.mn.us/invasives.



Green Cleaning

According to the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**, only a fraction of registered chemicals have gone through complete testing for human health concerns. Some chemicals have immediate toxic effects. Others are toxic to our bodies only after repeated, long-term exposure. Many household chemicals require special disposal at drop-off sites to protect our air, land and water.

You can protect your health and the health of your family, pets and the environment by purchasing or making your own cleaning products with simple, less-toxic ingredients. Many common household products, such as baking soda, lemon juice, vinegar and liquid castile soap, can make effective and inexpensive cleaners.



Tips and tricks

- Mix your homemade cleaners in small batches
- Label all containers with ingredients, intended use and date made
- Keep all containers out of reach of children and pets
- Keep all containers closed when not in use
- Never use food or beverage containers for cleaning chemicals
- Never mix bleach and ammonia together or with any other product
- Avoid using bleach, ammonia or chemical pesticides
- Read and follow all label directions on purchased products
- Check product on a small area to test for colorfastness

For more information about the safe disposal of hazardous household cleaners and recipes for green cleaning products, visit hennepin.us/green-disposal-guide.

EP SEE CLICK FIX

EP SEE CLICK FIX is a mobile application for reporting and resolving nonemergency issues in our community. Residents can use their mobile devices to take a picture of something that needs to be fixed – 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 the photo, directly to the appropriate City staff member(s) who can resolve the issue. Visit your app store or edenprairie.org/epseeclickfix to download EP SEE CLICK FIX today!



Fix a Leak!

Waste prevention is vital to conservation of our most precious natural resource, water. One major source of water waste is leaking fixtures and appliances. Unfixed faucets, showerheads and toilets can lead to hundreds, even thousands, of gallons of wasted clean water and higher utility bills.



An intermittent drip from a hole as small as 1/16 of an inch can lead to 74,000 gallons of lost water over a three-month period. Even a drip at the rate of one drop per second can waste 3,000 gallons of water or more per year. Letting the drip continue also wastes energy – a dripping faucet can use as much energy as a 60-watt bulb that is left on for 22 hours.



Common types of leaks are dripping faucets, leaking valves or loose toilet flappers. While faucet and showerhead leaks can be easy to detect, toilet leaks can be unnoticed as they are often silent and can result in a loss of up to 1,000 gallons a day. That amount of water loss over a couple of months can add up to hundreds of dollars.

If you suspect your toilet is leaking, put a dye tablet or food coloring in the toilet tank, then wait about 15 minutes without flushing and check your toilet bowl. If the water in the bowl is dyed, you have a leak. Another way to find leaks is to check your meter before and after a period of time when no water is used.

For more information about fixing water leaks, visit epa.gov/watersense.

Managing Snow and Ice at Home

Winter in Minnesota means sledding and snowmen, but it also means managing snow and ice on our driveways and sidewalks. Have you ever wondered what happens to the salt we put down to melt ice? It doesn't go away! It washes into storm drains and flows through pipes to local lakes, streams and wetlands where it negatively impacts water quality. Just one teaspoon of salt is enough to pollute five gallons of water. Excess salt can harm plants and animals, and has the potential to migrate into groundwater and contaminate our drinking water.

Decreasing salt use is a powerful way to protect Minnesota's water bodies. The **Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek** and **Nine Mile Creek Watershed** districts are partnering with the **City of Eden Prairie** and other organizations to provide training on best practices available to balance winter safety with the protection of our water resources.



You can help too! Use the tips below to help decrease salt use around your home and be a part of the clean water solution.

Shovel – Clear walkways of snow accumulation before it turns to ice. The more snow you can remove manually, the less salt you will need to use, and the more effective it will be.

Scatter – If you need to apply salt to pavement, scatter the salt widely, leaving space between grains of salt. A coffee mug of salt is enough for 60 to 70 feet of sidewalk, or two parking spots. A hand or push spreader helps too!

Switch – When the pavement temperature is below 15 degrees, salt doesn't work. When cold temperatures are in the forecast, try to shovel and remove ice before the cold hits. Use a little sand for traction if needed.

Sweep – Salt only works once it is dissolved, so if you can see salt on your driveway, it isn't doing its job. Sweep it up and use it again next time.

For more tips and information visit the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek or Nine Mile Creek Watershed district websites at rpbcd.org and ninemilecreek.org.