



# Waconia Wavelength

A City of Waconia Newsletter Publication

May 2019



## Hydrant Flushing: Why is this Completed?

On April 15, our Public Services Staff started the important process of flushing out our water mains through the fire hydrants. There are 916 fire hydrants in the City of Waconia, and this process can take several weeks to complete. You may have seen City Staff flushing hydrants last fall or spring, and wondered why they were doing this.

The reason for flushing fire hydrants is two-fold. First, it is a routine maintenance program, required to clear the water mains of fine sediments, like iron or manganese, that settle in the water mains over time. Second, flushing hydrants allows staff to note repair needs for the individual fire hydrants around town, a major focus for fire protection for the City of Waconia. These processes allow Public Services to deliver the highest water quality possible to our residents.

As you notice Public Services in your neighborhood flushing hydrants, you may experience some discoloration of the water. Please note that while this water is safe for drinking, it may discolor laundry. It is best to avoid doing laundry until the discoloration has disappeared.

If you have questions regarding this maintenance process or experience extended discoloration of your water, please contact Waconia Public Services at 952-442-2615.



## InvoiceCloud Update



### UNDER CONSTRUCTION

#### NEW Bill Payment Service!

***Coming Soon: An easy, safe, and secure way to view and pay your City of Waconia utility bill, anytime, anywhere!***

In last month's newsletter, a new utility bill payment service was introduced. Implementation of InvoiceCloud is ongoing at this time. Once fully implemented, InvoiceCloud will include new options for viewing and paying your bill, as well as a new look for your utility bill. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available in early June!



## What's Happening on Highway 5?

You may have recently noticed a chain-length fence being installed on both sides of Highway 5, east of town, near Paradise Lane. This is a MnDOT project, designed to decrease the number of turtles and small animals that are getting hit by vehicles.

Road mortality is a key contributor to turtle declines throughout much of the United States, and is particularly suspected in declines of two turtle species in Minnesota—the wood turtle and Blanding's turtle. The intent of this fencing is to redirect turtles and other small animals to existing through road infrastructure, such as bridges and culverts.



This is a pilot test for MnDOT. In the situation that the fence proves ineffective, it will be removed.

## Now Hiring—Waconia Firefighters!

Interested in becoming a volunteer firefighter for the City of Waconia? The Waconia Fire Department is currently seeking motivated individuals to join the Waconia Fire Department. We will be accepting applications through May 27, 2019. To apply, please submit a City of Waconia application and resume to [careers@waconia.org](mailto:careers@waconia.org). You can view more details on the position via our website at [www.waconia.org](http://www.waconia.org).



## Community Gardens

The City of Waconia maintains six community garden locations for Waconia residents to provide gardeners the opportunity to grow their own fresh produce. Plots are available at **Bent Creek Park, Brook Peterson Park, Clearwater Mills Park, Ice Arena (raised beds), Interlaken Park, and Waterford Park.**

Standard plots are 150 square feet and cost \$25 and raised beds are 120 square feet and cost \$15. Applications are currently being accepted for returning gardeners. Remaining gardens will be available on May 19. For more information and to access an application, please visit [www.waconia.org](http://www.waconia.org), or contact Marnie Lucas, Public Services Office Assistant at [mlucas@waconia.org](mailto:mlucas@waconia.org) or 952-442-2615.



## 2040 Comprehensive Plan

The final draft of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan was approved by the Waconia City Council on March 18 and was sent to the Metropolitan Council for approval on March 30th. Until the plan is formally approved by the Metropolitan Council and adopted by the City of Waconia, which we anticipate to happen in the Fall of 2019, the City will continue to work under the 2030 Comprehensive Plan. The 2040 Plan can be viewed at [www.waconia.org](http://www.waconia.org).



## Water Conservation

**Summer sewer use pro-ration goes into effect May 1, 2019. April sewer use is based on actual water consumption.**

The City has implemented water conservation measures in Section 410 of the City Code. This is to help protect our water resources and comply with DNR Water Appropriation Permit limits. Following the restrictions and tips outlined below can help reduce your impact on the system, save water, and save you money!



### City Conservation Ordinances:

- **Odd-Even Watering Day Restrictions:** Residents and businesses with addresses ending in an odd number may water on odd numbered calendar days. Those with even-numbered addresses may water on even numbered calendar days. Odd-even watering will assist in maintaining appropriate water reserve levels and puts less “peak” demand on the water supply system.
- **Time of Day Restrictions:** Watering is not permitted between the hours of 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. This method limits water usage during dry periods and assists in maintaining appropriate water supply levels. Ideal watering is during the allowed hours to avoid evaporation.
- **Summer Maximum Outdoor Usage:** The City of Waconia allows the maximum outdoor usage of 30,000 gallons/month during the summer months (May – October). Usage outside of this restriction will be charged a higher rate.

Below are common inefficiencies in irrigation systems to be aware of so you can help keep your water bill down and reduce water waste:

- Rain sensors can become offset by dirt or bugs
- Irrigation Lines have been punctured by landscaping stakes or tree roots
- Interior valves can go bad and can drip, that leak can get worse over time
- Sprinklers with missing nozzles
- Water leaking from valves
- Overlapping spray resulting in areas that are too wet
- Runoff from overspray or excessive irrigation
- Runoff from watering driveways or other hard services
- Misting from overpressure, which causes water to just blow away