

Spring Greening, Spring Cleaning



Spring rains will soon be greening up our community again, but they also pose unique challenges to water quality and stormwater management. Learn what you can do to manage water on your property and improve your lawn and garden in the process.



2012 Spring Neighborhood Cleanup Events

April 21st City Wide Cleanup

8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Waterloo Wastewater Treatment Plant
3505 Easton Ave.

Walnut Neighborhood Cleanup

8 a.m.-12 p.m.
Location: Alley by Lily Furgerson Head Start

Chautauqua Park Neighborhood Cleanup

8 a.m.-11 a.m.
Corner of Riverside and Riehl

Church Row Neighborhood Cleanup

8 a.m.-1 p.m.
United Methodist Parking Lot

Southdale Neighborhood Cleanup

8 a.m.-11 a.m.
Corner of Marigold and Dahlia

Common Grounds & Roosevelt Neighborhood Cleanup

8 a.m.-12 a.m.
Chamberlain Plant Site

NFL Neighborhood Cleanup

8 a.m.-1 p.m.
Across from old Lafayette School

For more information contact City of
Waterloo Waste Management at (319) 291-4553

Electronic and Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Event

Saturday, April 14th 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Waterloo Wastewater Treatment Plant
3505 Easton Ave.

- All Black Hawk County Residents are welcome to bring approved materials
- No appliances, paint, used oil, tires or antifreeze please
- Certain fees apply for electronics
- No business waste of any kind will be accepted
- ALL LOADS must be covered/tarped while being transported to the drop-off site (City of Waterloo Ordinance 4-3-5 (J))

Rain Barrels and Backyard Compost Bins for Sale: Rain Barrels will be for sale for \$52, and compost bins for \$42 (both prices include tax). Normally priced at \$120 and \$100 respectively, this is a significant savings opportunity and is open to all Iowans!

For more information contact Waste Trac at:
Phone: 319-266-TRAC (8722)
www.wastetrac.org

(Waste Trac is the Education Team for the Black Hawk County Solid Waste Management Commission)

Brought to you by the City of Waterloo and the Black Hawk County Solid Waste Management Commission.

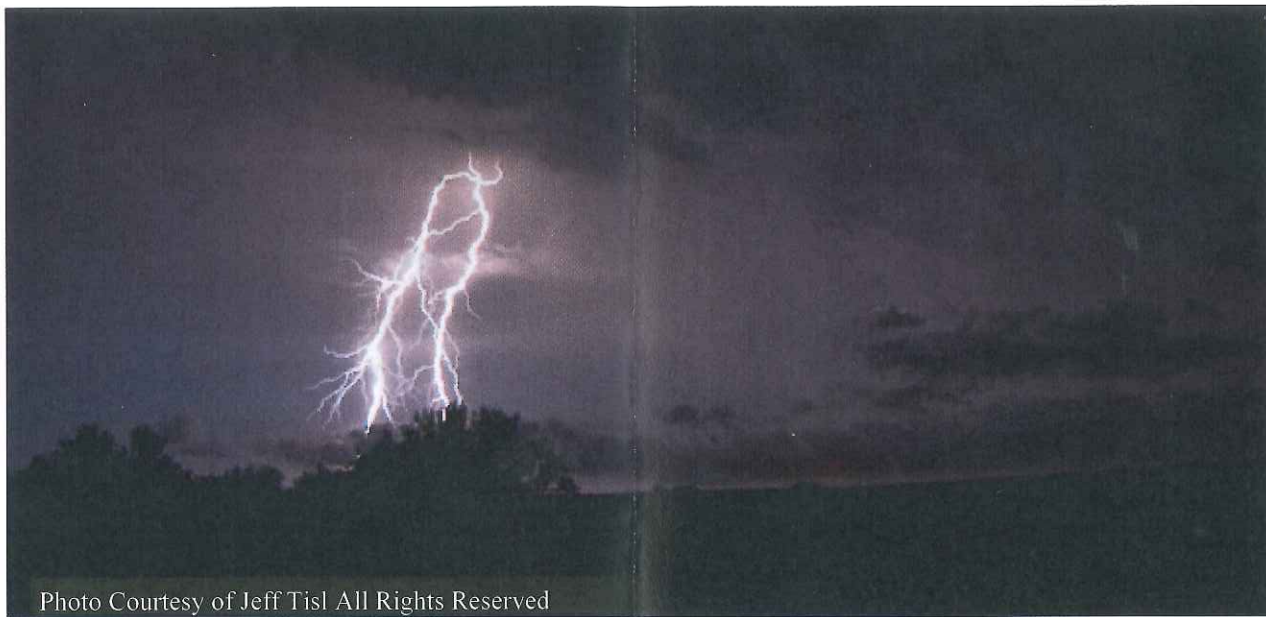


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Spring rains help to bring the green back to the Cedar Valley, however, this is also the time of year for severe weather. Short, intense rains can put strain on stormwater infrastructure and in some cases may result in stormwater backups into streets and lawns.

To keep our sewers flowing properly, it is important that only stormwater go down the storm drains. You can help by removing trash built up on your streets, sidewalks and driveways, and by regularly cleaning your gutters. When mowing, make sure that any grass clippings are being blown back into the lawn area and not into the street. When clippings do reach the street, blow them back over the curb with a leaf blower, or sweep them up with a push broom. Grass clippings, trash, and leaf litter contribute to blockages in sewer lines which may cause back-ups.



Storm outlet clogged by debris



Spring Lawn Care Tips

- Remove debris and yard trimmings from your lawn, and prepare for garbage or yard trimming collection.
- Control soil erosion around your home. When left exposed bare soil washes away easily with rain and carries pollutants with it. Soil erosion can be prevented by keeping soil covered with vegetation or mulch.
- Don't apply lawn care products to frozen ground—wait until the grass starts growing.
- Sweep up and reuse any granular lawn care products that fall on the streets, driveways or sidewalks.
- Always read and follow label directions when using lawn care products or disposing of their containers.

Composting and Soil Quality Restoration



Composting is a great way to restore organic matter in the soils of your lawn and garden. This organic matter provides nitrogen, carbon, and other nutrients plants need. In addition, incorporating organic matter into your soils helps restore pore space allowing for better air and water supplies to the roots of the plants. Organic matter also helps to reduce the need for watering and chemical applications. Well aerated soils amended with compost also infiltrate water more effectively thus reducing stormwater runoff.



Compost Topdressing

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Composting Quick Tips

- Locate compost bin on level ground where soils are well drained
- Strive for a mix of browns, such as paper and leaves, and greens, such as grass clippings, fruits and vegetables. Browns supply carbon and greens supply nitrogen.
- Turn pile frequently to ensure proper aeration



What to do with Compost

- Apply a 1-2" layer of compost as a top dressing for tree and shrub plantings, apply as is or prior to mulching
- Place 4-6 cups mulch in a mesh bag (such as old nylons or laundry bags) and steep in 5 gallon bucket of water for 24 hours, then dilute with chlorine free water to 1:5 to 1:15 ratio and apply as soil drench or foliar spray
- Apply 1/4-1/2" of compost over lawn area to improve soil organic matter content. For best results, do this following aeration and combine with reseeding to have a lawn that's good as new!



Rainbarrels

Composting is dependent on microorganisms which break down and decompose organic matter and reduce it to a form that can be reused by plants. To keep these decomposers working at their peak, it is strongly recommended that only non-chlorinated water be used to moisten the pile. Using rainbarrels to capture this roof runoff is an excellent source of non-chlorinated water.

For more information on soil quality restoration and rainbarrels visit www.rainscapingiowa.org