

1. 6:30 P.M. RCC 02/16/2015 Agenda

Documents: [RCC\\_20150216\\_AG.PDF](#)

2. 6:30 P.M. RCC 02/16/2015 Packet

Documents: [RCC\\_20150216\\_PK.PDF](#)



City of Fitchburg  
5520 Lacy Road  
Fitchburg, WI 53711-5318  
Phone: (608) 270-4260  
Fax: (608) 270-4275  
[www.fitchburgwi.gov](http://www.fitchburgwi.gov)

**AGENDA**  
**Resource Conservation Commission**  
**Monday, February 16, 2015**  
**6:30 P.M.**  
**Meeting Room**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Fitchburg Resource Conservation Commission will meet at **6:30 P.M. in the Meeting Room** at City Hall, 5520 Lacy Road to consider and act on the following:

(Note: Full coverage of this meeting is available through FACTv and Streaming Video, accessible on the city web site at <http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/677/Government-Channel>)

1. Call to Order
2. Appointment of Timekeeper
3. Public Appearances on Non-Agenda Items
4. Approval of Minutes from January 21, 2015 RCC Meeting (6:32 pm\*)
5. New Business
  - a. Strategic Planning Discussion with Sherrie Gruder (6:35 pm\*)
  - b. Volunteer Stream Monitoring/Sampling (8:40 pm\*)
6. Staff Update (8:55 pm\*)
  - a. Solid Waste Update
  - b. Stormwater Update
  - c. Sustainability Update
7. Announcements (9:00 pm\*)
  - a. Next Meeting – tentatively scheduled for March 16, 2015 at 6:30pm in the Meeting Room
8. Adjournment (9:02 pm\*)

\*Times Tentative

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*Note: It is possible that members of and possibly a quorum of members of other government bodies of the municipality may be in attendance at the above stated meeting to gather information. No action will be taken by any governmental body at the above stated meeting other than the governmental body specifically referred to above in this notice. Please note that, upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through appropriate aids and services. For additional information or to request this service, contact Fitchburg City Hall, 5520 Lacy Road, Fitchburg WI 53711, (608) 270-4200*



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## Staff Memo

City of Fitchburg  
 5520 Lacy Road  
 Fitchburg, WI 53711  
 608-270-4264  
[www.fitchburgwi.gov](http://www.fitchburgwi.gov)

<b>To:</b>	Resource Conservation Commission
<b>From:</b>	Rick Eilertson, Environmental Engineer Erika Kluetmeier, Sustainability Specialist
<b>Date:</b>	February 11, 2015
<b>Subject:</b>	Staff Memo for the February 16, 2015 RCC Meeting

This memo is being written to provide background on the following agenda items for the February 16, 2015 RCC Meeting:

### 2. Appointment of Timekeeper –

Below is the upcoming tentative schedule for Timekeeper:

Meeting Date	Timekeeper
February 16, 2015	Kia Stearn
March 16, 2015	Steve Arnold
May 18, 2015	Chris Jimieson
July 20, 2015	Jan Kucher
August 17, 2015	Tony Hartmann
September 21, 2015	Sam Cooke

### 4. Approval of Minutes from January 21, 2015 RCC Meeting –

Draft minutes are included in the packet.

### 5. New Business

**5.a. Strategic Planning Discussion with Sherrie Gruder –** Sherrie Gruder, Sustainability Design Specialist with UW-Extension, will join RCC to present information about options to create a comprehensive sustainability strategic plan, including an overview of the The Natural Step management system. RCC members are encouraged to watch Madison’s The Natural Step training video from 2007. The first segment on employee transportation planning is most useful and is about 13 minutes.

**5.b. Volunteer Stream Monitoring/Sampling –** The Rock River Coalition will host a training on Saturday, Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015 from 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Fitchburg’s Community Center. Steve Arnold has indicated that he will not be continuing with volunteer stream monitoring, so Diane placed this on the agenda to see if RCC members had additional volunteers in mind to continue the stream monitoring for Nine Springs Creek and/or other area creeks.

## **6. Staff Update**

### **6.a. Solid Waste Update –**

- i. The **Electronics Recycling** (901 Watson Ave), **Shred Day** (5951 McKee Rd), and **Clean Sweep** (2377 S. Fish Hatchery Rd) **Events** are currently all scheduled for Sat., May 9, 2015 for 8am to 11am.

### **6.b. Stormwater Update –**

- i. **Harlan Hills East Pond and Ashbourne Pond Dredging** – Badgerland Excavating has mobilized equipment and installed erosion control practices and anticipated to begin in February 2015 and be completed by the end of Spring 2015.

### **6.c. Sustainability Update –**

- i. **Dunn’s Marsh Social Marketing Project** – Erika and Tony recruited a group of 6 UW students from Nelson Institute’s Community Environmental Scholars Program to develop and carry out a community-based social marketing plan. Erika will meet with the Dunn’s Marsh Neighborhood Association on Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> to formalize a partnership with neighborhood leaders to collaborate with UW students to engage neighbors in both the neighborhood association and the marsh.
- ii. **Green Team Initiatives** – Erika is working with Green Team members on planning for a 2015 commuter challenge, an awareness/engagement campaign for staff (every little bit counts), and an evaluation of switching from paper towels to hand dryers. Cory is evaluating ways to reduce and recycle more water at the McKee Farms Park Splash Pad.
- iii. **Water Conservation** – Erika is working with Tracy on a follow-up to the 2014 water conservation campaign.
- iv. **Space Heater Study** – Erika had completed the energy use analysis of a small sample of space heater users. As a next step, Kevin Richmond will reach out to employees to improve office temperature comfort to reduce space heater use.

## **7. Announcements**

### **7.a. Next Meeting – March 16, 2015 at 6:30 pm in the Meeting Room**

## **8. Adjournment**

# DRAFT MINUTES

Resource Conservation Commission  
Monday, January 21, 2015

**RCC and Staff Members Present:** Kia Stearn, Diane Streck, Chris Jimieson, Jan Kucher, Tony Hartmann, Samuel Cooke, Rick Eilertson, Erika Kluetmeier

**Others Present:** DPW/City Engineer Cory Horton and Dane County Clean Sweep Hazardous Waste Coordinator Dave Radisewitz

**Absent:** Steve Arnold, excused

## 1. Call to Order

- Diane called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm when a quorum of commissioners was reached.

## 2. Appointment of Timekeeper

- Samuel Cooke was appointed timekeeper.

## 3. Public Appearances on Non-Agenda Items

- Cory Horton, Fitchburg Director of Public Works/City Engineer

## 4. Approval of Minutes from November 17, 2014, RCC Meeting

- *Chris moved to approve the minutes, Kia seconded. The minutes were approved.*

## 5. New Business

### 5.a. Discuss 2015 Clean Sweep Grant Acceptance and Clean & Green Event

- Dave Radisewitz provided an overview of the process for working with Dane County on a local Clean Sweep collection event.
  - Residents will need to pay \$10 fee for the service, but they will have the convenience of a dropping off materials closer to home.
  - One volunteer is typically needed to count cars and direct traffic.
  - The quoted price does not include collection of latex paint. If latex paint is collected, 3-4 volunteers are ideal since a separate staging area is needed. As an alternative, Dane County would accept a voucher indicating proof of payment of the \$10 fee at the Fitchburg event if residents wanted to drop off Latex paint at the County site at no additional fee.
- Cory suggested options that are less staff intensive; e.g., full or partial reimbursement to Fitchburg residents who drop off materials at the Dane County Clean Sweep site, or an arrangement where Dane County bills Fitchburg directly for drop-offs by residents. Rick mentioned he thought a 2015 Budget amendment would be necessary to for either arrangement.
- RCC members discussed pros and cons of the event. Holding an event in Fitchburg could raise awareness of the proper disposal of hazardous waste and decrease illegal dumping.
- The original idea was to include a local Clean Sweep event with a city-wide Clean & Green event, promoting environmentally-friendly disposal of many household items, including electronics, eye glasses, batteries and sensitive documents (paper shredding).
- Diane explained that the grant funds awarded would only cover one event and suggested that RCC members voting for a local Clean Sweep be prepared to help staff

# DRAFT MINUTES

the Clean & Green event to offset cost of staff time. Fitchburg's grant cost-share is roughly \$1,250 and volunteer time can be count toward the cost-share requirement.

- **Tony motioned to accept the grant for one event; Chris seconded. Motion passed.**

## **5.b. Recap of "1 Thing" meeting with Todd Kunze, Entercom Communications**

Rick and Diane provided a brief summary of the Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> meeting with Entercom Communications, which owns three radio stations in the South Central Wisconsin region. They are recruiting 1-2 sponsors to fund green community service events and associated education on their airwaves and via e-mail/social media over a seven-month period in 2015. Fitchburg could support the effort through promotion, providing ideas (e.g., idling reduction behavior change) or service project opportunities. Fitchburg has asked to participate in the post-project roundtable.

## **5.c. Discuss goals for February's strategic planning meeting**

- Sherrie Gruder, UWEX Sustainable Design Specialist and Fitchburg resident, is confirmed to facilitate a discussion on The Natural Step planning process at RCC's February meeting.
- Meeting objectives would be to learn about The Natural Step process, recent case studies, how it's been a benefit and how to tailor it for Fitchburg.
- Erika distributed flash drives containing a video produced from a 2007 City of Madison meeting for RCC members to watch before the February meeting. The first segment on employee transportation options is 13 minutes long and a very thorough example of The Natural Step process.
- **Action items:**
  - **Diane and Erika will discuss objectives with Sherrie before the February meeting.**
  - **RCC members will view Natural Step video before the February meeting**

## **6. Unfinished Business**

### **6.a. Finalize 2015 RCC Calendar and Workplan**

- Diane asked if there were any additional changes to the updated calendar.
- **Action item:** Diane will arrange to distribute copies of the 2014 Annual Report and 2015 Calendar and Workplan to the Council.

### **6.b. 2015 Fitchburg Star Article(s)**

- Authors need to send final versions of *Fitchburg Star* articles to Diane no later than the first Wednesday of each month.
- Jan's article on road salt reduction is on the docket for February. Since this article is time-sensitive, ideally it would be sent to the Star as part of the page Fitchburg purchases. To be included in the City's purchased page in the Star, the article should be to Erika and Rick by 1/28.
  - Cory recommended including the following messages based on frequent questions he receives: 1) the efficacy of salt in cold temps, so people know the reason salt is not applied on colder days; 2) the need to slow down based on road conditions; 3) the environmental impacts of salt/chlorides; and 4) efforts Fitchburg is making to reduce road salt (pre-treating, pre-wetting, organics).
- **Action items:**
  - **Erika will check with Lisa Sanford to see if there is space in the Fitchburg one-page ad and report back to Cory and Jan.**
  - **Tony will send updated battery recycling article to Diane**

# DRAFT MINUTES

## 6.c. Green Thursdays - Chris

### i. February 5<sup>th</sup> Green Thursday event – Urban Gardening

- The COS last met on Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss two green Thursday events. The Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> urban and community gardening awareness event will feature Shelly Strom from Community GroundWorks/Troy Gardens and Amanda Hall from Fitchburg Fields. Other invitations have been extended to Growing Power and school garden organizers.
- The Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> program will cover the benefits of urban and community gardening and local organic food source.
- Diane encouraged Chris to let RCC members know if COS needs help with this event.
- **Action items:**
  - **COS will meet next week to finalize the focus of this event and start promotion.**
  - **Erika will check with Wade Thompson to see if he has a map of community gardens in Fitchburg.**
  - **Erika will check with FACTv about recording the gardening event.**

### ii. Continue planning April 9th Green Complete Streets event

- Bernie Lenz, from City of La Crosse, is the confirmed speaker for the event. Additional marketing is planned for the Madison Area Sustainability Network and other municipal and professional staff in addition to Fitchburg residents.
- Samuel mentioned inviting the East Fitchburg Neighborhood Association since timing of Lacy Rd. project may allow for incorporating some elements of Complete Streets into its design.
- **Action items: COS will coordinate and market the event**

## 6.d. Discuss next steps for Business Sustainability Pledge – Erika, Chris

- Erika and Rick met with Joyce Frey and Mike Zimmerman from the Economic Development Department to get input on the Business Sustainability Pledge. Erika will meet with Monona and Fitchburg Chambers of Commerce and research models from other communities to get ideas on structuring the Pledge.
- **Action item: Erika will meet with Chris and Diane in late April to evaluate next steps.**

## 6.e. Update on Municipal Construction Guidelines – Samuel

- Samuel and Diane briefly recapped the history of this project. Samuel mentioned the draft Municipal Construction Guidelines are based on LEED 2009 version. He explained that LEED version 4 is now available and will be required effective October 2016.
- The goal is to have Guidelines incorporated into Fitchburg municipal construction – new and remodeled buildings.
- Samuel explained that certified wood is going to be changed to a preference to encourage use but provide flexibility depending on the building's design.
- **Action item: Diane and Samuel will meet with Cory to discuss next steps.**

## 7. Council Update

- Diane provided an update on the upcoming Alder elections– three alders, including RCC Council Representative Steve Arnold, are not running for re-election, and RCC member Tony Hartmann is running for Alder.

## 8. Staff Update

### 8.a Solid Waste Update



# DRAFT MINUTES

- Rick provided updates on: 1) Purple Cow contract; 2) Updated signage at the Recycling Drop Off Site; 3) Combined recycling bin in the City Hall Lobby; and 4) Agreement with Pellitteri to pick up excess recyclables in labeled, reusable containers to reduce use of plastic bags.

## 8.b. Stormwater Update –

- Rick provided updates on 2015 stormwater facility improvement projects. He explained the grant application to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for native vegetation and habitat improvement at McKee Farms Park's Northwest Pond and asked for RCC's support.
- **Tony motioned to support the NFWF grant; Sam seconded the motion. Motion to support the NFWF grant passed.**
- Rick is working with a UW class on a stormwater design project to evaluate new designs that will meet DNR permit requirements. He is also evaluating potential for DNR nonpoint grants.

## 8.c. Sustainability Update –

- Rick provided an update on the Green Tier Legacy Community 2014 Annual Report and asked members to email comments to Erika and him.
- Erika provided updates on a project to partner with Dunn's Marsh Neighborhood Council and UW Community Environmental Scholars Program to engage residents in the neighborhood association and in the protection of Dunn's Marsh.
- Erika is also working with Cory Horton and Kevin Richmond, Facilities Supervisor, to reduce use of space heaters among City Hall employees.

## 9. Announcements

- Diane explained that Steve Arnold has two donated bat houses he's been working since July to have erected in city parks. He is looking for a volunteer to shepherd the rest of the project, ideally completed before April and the arrival of migratory bats.
- **Cory said he will check with Jöhren Frydenlund, Parks/Forestry Maintenance Supervisor, to confirm the status of the installation.**
- Diane also mentioned that Steve Arnold would like to discuss, at a future meeting, the possibility of the city providing barrels of sand for residents' use to reduce salt use.

## 9.c. Next Meeting

- Monday, February 16, 2015 from 6:30-9:00 p.m. in The Meeting Room.

## 10. Adjournment – 9:07 pm

**Resource Conservation Commission**

Project List per 11/2013 & 1/2014 Strategy Sessions, updated 11/2014

The Resource Conservation Commission (RCC) recommends policy, enforcement and information programs that will implement and carry out the findings and provisions Chapter 41-Solid Waste and Recycling, Chapter 30, Erosion Control and Stormwater Management and Chapter 40 - Stormwater Utility. The RCC also recommends policy, enforcement and information programs that serve to promote the general preservation and improvement of the environment, including but not limited to groundwater, stormwater, waste material, energy efficiency, and climate protection. (Sec. 6-352 of Chapter 6)

	3 =high Value ★	Parties Involved	Ideas	Tool	Year	RCC Contact/ Lead	Staff Contact	Measure of Success
<b>Energy Efficiency</b> Establish Municipal Construction Guidelines Retrocommissioning Projects - Follow up	3	RCC, City Staff, CC			2015	Sam C & Diane S	DPW, SS	
<b>Climate Protection, Energy Efficiency, Solid Waste &amp; Recycling</b> Establish & Promote Sustainability Business Pledge:						Diane S & Chris J	SS	
Idling Reduction Campaign	2	SS, COS, RCC			2015		SS	
Reduce Plastic Bag Use	2	SS, COS, RCC	pending report from Kristofer		2014(?)		SS	
<b>Climate Protection, Energy Efficiency</b> Reduce VMT - Community & Municipal						Steve A		
Ride Share	3	SS, MPO		www.RideShareEtc.org	?			
Promote buses	3	MPO, TTC, RCC		Commuter Solutions manual	?			
\$ for not needing/using a parking space	3	MPO			?			
Commuter Challenge	3	SS			2015		SS	
<b>Stormwater</b> Green Complete Streets								
Green Streets		RCC, PW, BPW, CC			2015	Steve A	Rick E	
Green Complete Streets	2	City Staff, BPW, CC	LaCrosse, WI		?		Ahna B	
<b>Stormwater</b> Reduce Salt Use (Roads)	2	RCC, PW, CC	inform of Fitchburg's methods, explain MMSD project, possible Green Thursday		2015	Jan K	Mark H	
Reduce Salt Use (Water Softeners)	2	RCC	expand on Kristofer's article		2015	Tony/Kia		
<b>Energy Efficiency, Climate Protection</b> Sustainability Coaching			Natural Step video/training, Sustainability Action Map					
RCC	?	RCC			2014	Diane S	Rick E	
City staff	3	RCC, SS, Green Team, City Admin			2015			
<b>Energy Efficiency</b> Promote Energy Efficiency - Community	3	RCC, SS, O/S	Dubuque, IA	-Outreach to Schools -Recommend Sustainability Speakers to Chamber -Promote sustainable bus.	?			
<b>Climate Protection</b> Promote Renewable Energy - Library solar panels Municipal	3	RCC, City Staff, CC		25 x 25 commitment 25 x 25 commitment	study 2015 ?			
<b>Climate Protection</b> Promote Renewable Energy - Community	2	RCC, O/S	Monona, Middleton	Sierra Club buying club	?		SS	
<b>Solid Waste</b> Implement Source Separated Organics - Municipal & Community Compost Facility	2	Madison, PW, RCC			2016 (?)	Jan K Tony H	Rick E Rick E	
Clean & Green - expand E-cycle/Shred Day					2015	Diane S		
Battery Recycling					2015	Tony H		

**Annual projects:**  
Waterway Cleanup  
Stream Sampling  
Electronics Recycling - Shred Day  
Compost Bin Sale

**Key:**

Cost: 1 low; 3 high	BPW: Board of Public Works	O/S: Outside partner
Doability: 1 easy; 3 difficult	CC: Common Council	PW: Public Works
Value: 1 low value; 3 high value	COS: Community Outreach Subcommittee	SS: Sustainability Staff
	MPO: Metropolitan Planning Organization	TTC: Transportation & Transit
	DPW: Director of Public Works	

**Green Team / Staff Projects**

<b>Energy Efficiency</b>								
Promote Energy Efficiency - Municipal Operations								
Re-energize Green Team	2	SS				2015	SS	
Establish Energy Management Teams	3	City Staff	(ratings per Sam's email)	25 x 25 commitment				
Implement Real-time Monitoring	2	City Staff		25 x 25 commitment				
Replace lights/fixtures w/ more efficient options	2	City Staff		25 x 25 commitment				
<b>Energy Efficiency, Climate Protection</b>								
Idling Reduction - municipal vehicles & municipal employees								
<b>Preservation of Environment, Solid Waste, Energy Efficiency</b>								
Sustainability Coaching - City Staff	3							

**Emphasis Postponed**

<b>Energy Efficiency, Preservation of Environment</b>								
Explain and remphasize Life Cycle Municipal Purchasing Decisions	2	SS, Green Team, CC(?)				2014	Steve A	Tony R?
<b>Stormwater</b>								
Reduce Surface Water Pollution	3	City Staff, PW, CC				?		

**Removed from list**

<b>Preservation of Environment</b>								
Water Conservation - National Mayors' Challenge	2	SS, COS, RCC	xeriscaping; irrigation	Smart meters/Advanced metering infrastructure		2014	Steve A	SS

Bike lane on Lacy Rd. (s/b via TTC)

Jan K Ahna B

Paved shoulder on Whalen Rd. (s/b via TTC)

Tony H Ahna B



## Staff Memo

City of Fitchburg  
5520 Lacy Road  
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[www.fitchburgwi.gov](http://www.fitchburgwi.gov)

<b>To:</b>	Cory Horton, P.E., Director of Public Works/City Engineer, Resource Conservation Commission & Board of Public Works
<b>Cc:</b>	Felipe Avila, GIS Engineering Specialist; Mark Hodel, Streets Supervisor; Ian Hansen, Stormwater/Utilities Intern
<b>From:</b>	Rick Eilertson, Environmental Engineer
<b>Date:</b>	February 11, 2015
<b>Subject:</b>	Fitchburg's 2013-2014 Biennial Report on Stormwater Activities

Attached for your review is a copy of the 2013 – 2014 Biennial Report that Felipe Avila, Mark Hodel, Ian Hansen, and I have prepared to meet Fitchburg's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) requirements as part of our participation in the Madison Area Municipal Stormwater Partnership (MAMSWaP) Group Permit (Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit WI-S058416-3).

The final signed version of this report will need to be sent to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources by March 31, 2015 and posted on Fitchburg's Stormwater web page ([www.fitchburgwi.gov/stormwater](http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/stormwater)).

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, comments, and/or suggestions related to this report.

Thank you!

**2013-2014 (Due by March 31, 2015)**

**For the Cities of Fitchburg, Madison, Middleton, Monona, Sun Prairie, and Verona; the Villages of DeForest, Maple Bluff, McFarland, Shorewood Hills, and Waunakee; the Towns of Blooming Grove, Burke, Madison, Middleton, Westport, and Windsor; Dane County; and the University of Wisconsin – Madison**

This document is for the purpose of biennial reporting on activities undertaken pursuant to WPDES Permit No. WI-S058416-3 for the above listed municipalities. An owner or operator of a municipal separate storm sewer system covered by a municipal storm water discharge permit under Chapter NR 216, Wis. Adm. Code, is required to submit a biennial report to the Department of Natural Resources by March 31 of every odd numbered year to report on activities for the previous two (2) calendar year. Information in the biennial report will be used by the Department of Natural Resources to assist with assessing permit compliance. Use of this specific form is optional. The Department of Natural Resources has created this form for the user's convenience and believes that the information requested on this form meets the reporting requirements for an owner or operator of a municipal separate storm sewer system covered by WPDES Permit No. WI-S058416-3. However, an owner or operator of a municipal separate storm sewer system that uses and completes this form will not automatically be deemed to be in compliance with other requirements of WPDES Permit No. WI-S058416-3.

**Complete and submit the biennial report by March 31, 2015, to the following address: Storm Water Management Specialist, Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources, South Central Region, 3911 Fish Hatchery Rd., Fitchburg, WI 53711**

**I. MUNICIPAL INFORMATION**

Name of municipality City of Fitchburg	Contact person and title Rick Eilertson, Environmental Engineer
Mailing Address 5520 Lacy Road Fitchburg, WI 53711	Telephone no. (608) 270-4264
	Fax no. (608) 270-4275
	E-mail address <a href="mailto:rick.eilertson@fitchburgwi.gov">rick.eilertson@fitchburgwi.gov</a>

Does the municipality have an internet website?     Yes     No  
 If yes, provide internet address:  
<http://www.fitchburgwi.gov>

If the municipality has an internet website, is there current information posted about or links provided to the municipal storm water discharge permit and the municipality's storm water management program?     Yes     No  
 If yes, provide internet address:  
<http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/stormwater>

**II. CERTIFICATION**

*I certify that the information contained in this document and all attachments were gathered and prepared under my direction or supervision. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons under my direction or supervision involved in the preparation of this document, to the best of my knowledge, the information is true, accurate, and complete. I further certify that the municipality's governing body or delegated representatives have reviewed or been apprised of the contents of the biennial report.*

Authorized representative printed name Cory Horton, P.E.	Authorized representative title City Engineer / Director of Public Works
Authorized representative signature	Date signed

**III. GENERAL INFORMATION**

a. Has the municipality made any changes under its legal authority that affects implementation of the requirements of the municipal storm water discharge permit (e.g., changes to ordinances)?  Yes  No  
 If yes, describe the changes in **Appendix A**.

b. List the people who attended quarterly meetings on behalf of the municipality and indicate the quarterly meetings in which the municipality was represented for the reporting year.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
<u>Rick Eilertson</u>	<u>Environmental Engineer</u>	<u>City of Fitchburg</u>
<u>Felipe Avila</u>	<u>GIS Engineering Specialist</u>	<u>City of Fitchburg</u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

c. Quarterly meetings represented:  February 2013  May 2013  August 2013  November 2013  
 February 2014  August 2014

d. Describe in **Appendix A** how the municipality internally coordinates implementation of the requirements of the municipal storm water discharge permit between the municipality's agencies, departments, and programs. Provide any documentation on how this was accomplished, such as meeting agendas, minutes, memos, etc.

e. Describe in **Appendix A** how elected and municipal officials and appropriate staff are kept apprised of the municipal storm water discharge permit. Provide any documentation on how this was accomplished, such as meeting agendas, minutes, memos, etc.

f. Has the municipality prepared its own municipal-wide storm water management plan?  Yes  No

If yes, date of storm water management plan:

g. Describe in **Appendix A** how the requirements of the municipal storm water discharge permit are incorporated into master planning activities, neighborhood plans, development plans, or other comprehensive planning activities.

**IV. Permit Conditions**

**a. Public Education and Outreach**

Dane County only:

1. Has any municipality failed to submit its financial contribution in accordance with the *Intergovernmental Agreement to Create and Fund a Position Responsible for Storm Water Management Education and Outreach*?  Yes  No

If yes, list municipalities:

2. Describe in **Appendix B** the Information and Education plan implementation and activities for the reporting year(s), including any materials produced and their distribution. Provide examples. Include an assessment of the effectiveness of reaching targeted audiences and delivery of intended messages.

All municipalities:

3. Describe in **Appendix B** how any materials produced by Dane County on behalf of the municipality have been used and/or distributed. Provide examples.

4. Describe in **Appendix B** any individual information and education activities undertaken for the reporting year, including any materials produced and their distribution. Provide examples. Include an assessment of the effectiveness of reaching targeted audiences and delivery of intended messages.

**b. Public Involvement and Participation**

1. The group permit requires that the information in this biennial report be an agenda item for discussion before the appropriate governing board(s) or council(s) contemporaneous with the submittal of the biennial report to the Department of Natural Resources. Accordingly, please provide the following information:

2. Name of board(s)/council(s):

**Fitchburg's Resource Conservation Commission (RCC)**

3. Date(s) of meeting(s) to discuss the biennial report:

**RCC: February 16, 2015. Electronic copies were also sent to the Board of Public Works and Council in February 2015.**

4. Describe in **Appendix B** the opportunities and types of forums for public involvement and participation in permit related activities that occurred during the reporting year. Include an assessment of the effectiveness of efforts to involve the public and the level of participation.

**c. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination**

1. Describe in **Appendix B** the illicit discharge detection and elimination program developed to comply with the permit. Include information on the municipality's strategy to prevent, detect, and eliminate all types of illicit discharges; how priorities are established for field screening and the methodologies to be used for field screening; and procedures for responding to and rectifying illicit discharges to the MS4, including spills, improper disposal of waste or dumping. Also include an assessment of the effectiveness of detection and elimination of illicit discharges, prevention of improper disposal of waste and dumping, the handling of spills, and any enforcement efforts involving these activities.

2. Has the municipality performed any field screening for the reporting year?  Yes  No  
If yes, please provide documentation in **Appendix B** the results of the field screening.

3. Has the municipality investigated any instances of spills, improper disposal of waste or dumping?  Yes  No  
If yes, please provide documentation in **Appendix B** the results of the investigations.

4. Describe in **Appendix B** how the municipality facilitates public reporting of illicit discharges.

**d. Construction Site Pollution Control**

1. Does the municipality notify landowners who apply for local construction or land disturbing permits of the possible applicability of Subchapter III of Chapter NR 216, Wis. Adm. Code, *Construction Site Storm Water Discharge Permits*, to the landowners' construction projects?  Yes  No  
If yes, please explain the process for providing this notification. If no, please explain why this notification is not provided.

**This notification is incorporated into the Erosion Control & Stormwater Management Permit Application checklist and discussed with the applicant during the permit review process.**

2. Describe in **Appendix B** the procedures the municipality employs to incorporate timely consideration of potential water quality impacts from construction sites and that ensure implementation of the standards of ss. NR 151.11 and 151.23, Wis. Adm. Code, or equivalent local standards. Be specific of when in the review and approval process this is done, and how the municipality ensures compliance with the standards.

3. Describe in **Appendix B** the procedures the municipality employs for the inspection of construction sites and enforcing erosion control standards. Provided documentation of any enforcement actions taken that resulted in the issuance of a stop work order, citation, or summons for a construction site where one or more acre of land is disturbed. Include the name and address of the landowner, the site name and location, date(s) of violation(s), type of violation(s), and the status of resolution of the enforcement action.

4. List the name, title, address, telephone number, e-mail address, and duties of all persons designated with the responsibility to ensure implementation of the standards of ss. NR 151.11 and 151.23, Wis. Adm. Code, or equivalent local standards.

**Rick Eilertson, P.E., Environmental Engineer**

5520 Lacy Road, Fitchburg, WI 53711, 608 270-4264, [rick.eilertson@fitchburgwi.gov](mailto:rick.eilertson@fitchburgwi.gov)  
-Plan review, Site inspections

**Felipe Avila, Engineering/GIS Specialist**

5520 Lacy Road, Fitchburg, WI 53711 608 270-4277, [felipe.avila@fitchburgwi.gov](mailto:felipe.avila@fitchburgwi.gov)  
-Plan review, Site inspections

5. Include in **Appendix B** an assessment of the municipality's construction site pollution control program effectiveness in meeting the standards of ss. NR 151.11 and 151.23, Wis. Adm. Code, including enforcement efforts.

**e. Post-Construction Site Storm Water Management**

1. Describe in **Appendix B** the procedures the municipality employs to incorporate timely consideration of potential water quality impacts from construction sites and that ensure implementation of the standards of ss. NR 151.12 and 151.24, Wis. Adm. Code, or equivalent local standards. Be specific of when in the review and approval process this is done, and how the municipality ensures compliance with the standards.

2. Describe in **Appendix B** the procedures the municipality employs for inspecting the construction and installation of storm water best management practices and enforcement actions to ensure compliance with post-construction storm water management standards. Provided documentation of any enforcement actions taken that resulted in the issuance of a stop work order, citation, or summons for non-compliance with post-construction storm water management standards for sites where one or more acre of land is disturbed. Include the name and address of the landowner, the site name and location, date(s) of violation(s), type of violation(s), and the status of resolution of the enforcement action.



3. List the name, title, address, telephone number, e-mail address, and duties of all persons designated with the responsibility to ensure implementation of the standards of ss. NR 151.12 and 151.24, Wis. Adm. Code, or equivalent local standards, and the requirements of Subchapter III of Chapter NR 216, Wis. Adm. Code, *Construction Site Storm Water Discharge Permits*, where applicable.

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-Plan review, Site inspections

4. Include in **Appendix B** an assessment of the municipality's post-construction site storm water management program effectiveness in meeting the standards of ss. NR 151.12 and 151.24, Wis. Adm. Code, including enforcement efforts.

**f. Municipal Pollution Prevention**

1. List in **Appendix B** an inventory of long-term storm water best management practices owned, operated, managed, or maintained by the municipality. Include storm water basins, infiltration practices, treatment structures, and other practices for long-term water quality treatment. For each best management practice, provide the name, location, type of practice, and any maintenance activities undertaken for the practice during the reporting year. Also in **Appendix B**, provide a description of the maintenance procedures used and schedules for each long-term storm water best management practice and the approximate amount of solids collected (tons or cubic yards) from any structural control receiving maintenance.

2. Does the municipality perform catch basin cleaning?  Yes  No

If yes, approximate amount of solids collected (tons or cubic yards): ~10 cy in 2013 and ~8 cy in 2014. Describe in **Appendix B** the procedures used and schedules for catch basin cleaning. If no, explain:

3. Does the municipality perform street sweeping?  Yes  No

If yes, approximate number of street miles swept: ~4,000 miles in 2013 and ~3,500 miles in 2014 approximate amount of solids collected (tons or cubic yards): ~500 cy in 2013 and ~450 cy in 2014. Describe in **Appendix B** the procedures used and schedules for street sweeping. If no street sweeping is performed, explain:

4. Describe in **Appendix B** the municipality's procedures for roadway snow removal and de-icing. Provide information on what practice and procedures the municipality has implemented in consideration of water quality impacts from snow removal and de-icing. Include an estimate of the annual amount of salt and/or sand used for roadway de-icing.

5. Does the municipality haul snow to off-site disposal locations?  Yes  No

If yes, provide in **Appendix B** the location of all off-site snow disposal locations and describe what practices and procedures are used to protect water quality from snow and ice melt from the disposal site.

6. Does the municipality own or operate salt storage facilities?  Yes  No

If yes, provide in **Appendix B** the locations of all salt storage facilities. Are all salt storage facilities managed in accordance with Chapter TRANS 277, Wis. Adm. Code?  Yes  No

7. Does the municipality provide curbside pickup service for leaves, yard waste, and grass clippings?  Yes  No  
If yes, approximate amount of material collected (tons or cubic yards): ~120 tons in 2013, ~100 tons in 2014

8. Describe in **Appendix B** the municipality's procedures for the collection of leaves, yard waste, and grass clippings, and/or instruction to citizens for on-site management of these items. Provide the location of sites used by the municipality or citizens for the disposal of leaves, yard waste, and grass clippings.

9. Describe in **Appendix B** the municipality's policies and procedures for the use and application of lawn and garden fertilizers on municipally controlled properties. Include information on how these policies and procedures address pollution prevention efforts.

10. Describe in **Appendix B** any local program the municipality employs to regulate the private use of lawn and garden fertilizers.

11. Include in **Appendix B** an assessment of the effectiveness of the municipality's pollution prevention efforts through the municipal pollution prevention program.

**g. Developed Urban Area Standard**

1. Has the municipality completed a pollutant-loading analysis to assess compliance with the TSS reduction developed urban area performance standard?  Yes  No

Model used: SLAMM

Version: 9.3

Reduction %: ~42% as of Sep 2012

In **Appendix B**, please list or reference all practices that are currently in place that will be used to meet the TSS reduction percentage reported above. Additionally, please describe any maintenance activities that have occurred for these practices in 2013-2014.

2. Has the municipality completed an evaluation of all municipal owned or operated structural flood control facilities to determine the feasibility of retrofitting to increase TSS removal?  Yes  No If yes, describe in **Appendix B**.

**V. STORM SEWER SYSTEM MAP**

City of Madison only:

a. Has any municipality failed to submit its hard copy changes for the storm sewer system map by January 31, 2013?  
 Yes  No If yes, list municipalities:

b. Attach in **Appendix C** a copy of the updated storm sewer system map.

All municipalities:

c. Has the municipality updated and maintained documentation of all storm sewer outfalls from its MS4 to waters of the state?  
 Yes  No

**VI. Water Quality Concerns**

a. Does any part of the MS4 discharge to an outstanding resource water (ORW) or exceptional resource water (ERW) listed under s. NR 102.10 or 102.11, Wis. Adm. Code? (A list of ORWs and ERWs may be found on the Department's Internet site at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/wqs/orwers/>)  Yes  No If yes, list:

b. Does any part of the MS4 discharge to an impaired waterbody listed in accordance with section 303(d)(1) of the federal Clean Water Act, 22 USC § 1313(d)(1)(C)? (A list of the most current Wisconsin impaired waterbodies may be found on the Department's Internet site at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/wqs/303d/303d.html>).  Yes  No

If yes, identify the following information in **Appendix D**:

- Impaired Waterbody to which the MS4 discharges.
  - Description of actions municipality has taken to comply with section A(13) of the MS4 permit for discharges of pollutant(s) of concern to an impaired waterbody.
- c. In **Appendix D**, identify any known water quality improvements in the receiving water to which the MS4 discharges during the reporting period.
- d. In **Appendix D**, identify any known water quality degradation in the receiving water to which the MS4 discharges during the reporting period and what actions are being taken to improve the water quality in the receiving water:

#### **VII. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- a. Provide in **Appendix E** a description of any revisions or proposed revisions to any element of the municipality's storm water management program.
- b. Provide in **Appendix E** an updated listing and contact information for any new industrial facilities that may be regulated under Subchapter II of NR 216, Wis. Adm. Code, and that have commenced operation during the reporting period.
- c. Provide in **Appendix E** a summary of any other activities undertaken to comply with the conditions of this permit or other information you feel the Department of Natural Resources should be aware of.

d. Complete the fiscal analysis table provided below.

Program Element	2013 Annual Expenditure	2014 Annual Expenditure	2015 Budget	2016 Budget	Source of Funds
<b>Public Education and Outreach</b>	\$25,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	Stormwater Utility, DNR Planning Grants
<b>Public Involvement and Participation</b>	\$10,000	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	Stormwater Utility, DNR Planning Grants
<b>Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination</b>	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	Stormwater Utility
<b>Construction Site Pollution Control</b>	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000	Stormwater Utility
<b>Post-Construction Site Storm Water Management</b>	\$4,000	\$6,000	\$7,000	\$8,000	Stormwater Utility
<b>Municipal Pollution Prevention</b>	\$110,000	\$185,000	\$260,000	\$375,000	Stormwater Utility, DNR, Dane County, & Yahara WINs Planning & Const. Grants

e. What is the overall estimated annual cost to the municipality for compliance with the permit in 2013? \$161,000 2014? \$210,500

f. Has the municipality implemented a storm water utility?  Yes  No, but considering  No, and not considering  
 If yes, provide a description of the storm water utility in **Appendix E** and any additional information that will assist the Department of Natural Resources in understanding how the utility works in your municipality.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **General Information**

**III.a.** Fitchburg's most recent revision to its Erosion Control and Stormwater Management Ordinance (ECSWM - Chapter 30, Article II) was adopted by the Common Council at their March 25, 2014 meeting and went into effect on April 9, 2014. Draft copies of this ordinance were sent to Eric Rortvedt (WisDNR) and Jeremy Balousek (Dane County Land & Water Resources Department) for review prior to adoption. WisDNR and Dane County agreed that this ordinance met the requirements of NR 151, NR 216, and Dane County Chapter 14. Fitchburg's ECSWM ordinance can be viewed on Fitchburg's web site at: <http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7796>.

**III.d.** The "Information on Applicability and Filing" flyer for the Erosion Control and Stormwater Management Permit Process available at: <http://www.city.fitchburg.wi.us/231/ECSWM-Requirements> describes Fitchburg's erosion control and stormwater permit requirements and the process followed for obtaining the applicable permits. The Public Works Department coordinates permit reviews and construction inspections for these permits. Erosion control inspections for single family residential dwellings are handled by the Building Inspection Department via Uniform Dwelling Code (UDC) guidelines.

**III.e.** Key Fitchburg staff members (City Engineer, Environmental Engineer, and GIS Engineering Specialist) are all included in the e-mail correspondence related to the Madison Area Municipal Stormwater Partnership (MAMSWaP) quarterly meetings. Fitchburg's Environmental Engineer is the primary Fitchburg contact attending the quarterly meetings; however the GIS Engineering Specialist also attends occasionally depending on the meeting agenda topics. Copies of the past Annual Reports (2006 to 2008) and Biennial Reports (2009-10, 2011-2012) have been submitted to Fitchburg's Resource Conservation Commission (RCC), Board of Public Works (BPW), and Common Council. A draft of the 2013-2014 Biennial Report was included in the packet for RCC's February 16, 2015 meeting. This report will also be sent to BPW and Common Council in February or March 2015. Copies of the 2006, 2007, and 2008, 2009-10, 2011-12, and 2013-2014 Biennial Reports are posted on the City of Fitchburg's web site at: <http://www.city.fitchburg.wi.us/233/Stormwater-Discharge-Permit>

**III.g.** Developers are notified of construction stormwater performance standards by Public Works in preliminary meetings and plan reviews. The Planning Department works closely with Public Works to incorporate storm water management plans in planning studies, plat development, and land use planning.

**APPENDIX B**  
**Storm Water Management Program**

**IV.a.1 (Dane County only)**

**IV.a.2 (Dane County only)**

**IV.a.3 & 4.** The following articles created in house were incorporated into Fitchburg’s monthly newspaper, *The Fitchburg Star*:

- “Planning for 2013 Earth Day, Arbor Day, & Migratory Bird Day” – Jan 2013
- “Plant Dane! Cost-Share Program” – Mar 2013
- “Spring 2013 Waterway Cleanup” – Mar 2013
- “2013 Stormwater and Sidewalk Projects” – Mar 2013
- “Brush Collection Begins” – Mar 2013
- “Home Compost Bin and Rain Barrel Sale” – Mar 2013
- “Natural Lawn Care in Fitchburg” – Mar 2013
- “Springtime Brings More Than Flowers With Those Showers” – Mar 2013
- “Garlic Mustard and Other Invasive Plant Disposal” – Mar 2013
- “Outdoor Lawn Water Conservation” – May 2013
- “Spring 2013 Waterway Cleanup Thank you” – May 2013
- “Nine Springs Creek Watershed Master Plan Update” – Jul 2013
- “Water, Water Everywhere” – Jul 2013
- “Fall Leaf and Lawn Cleanup” – Sep 2013
- “Nine Springs Creek Watershed Master Plan Update” – Sep 2013
- “Nine Springs Creek Watershed Master Plan Public Involvement Workshop” – Nov 2013
- “Construction Site Erosion Control Reporting Process Update – PermiTrack” – Nov 2013
- “Save Money - Use Less Salt This Winter” – Nov 2013
- “Planning for 2014 Earth Day, Arbor Day, and Migratory Bird Day Events” – Jan 2014
- “Nine Springs Creek Watershed Master Plan Nearly Completed” - Jan 2014
- “Web-based Erosion Control Inspection Process: PermiTrackESC” – Jan 2014
- “Spring 2014 Waterway Cleanup” – Mar 2014
- “Brush Collection Begins” – Mar 2014
- “Fitchburg Kicks Off Water Conservation Campaign” – Mar 2014
- “Spring 2014 Waterway Cleanup Events” – May 2014
- “Springtime Storm Showers Bring More Than Just Flowers” – May 2014
- “Give Your Lawn a Checkup Before You Fertilize” – May 2014
- “Algae in Stormwater Ponds” – Jun 2014
- “Thank You Fitchburg Waterway Cleanup Volunteers!” – Jun 2014
- “Fall Leaf and Lawn Clean Up” – Sep 2014
- “WI Recycling Leader Looks to Water” – Nov 2014
- “Save Money - Use Less Salt This Winter” – Nov 2014

These articles are attached at end of Appendix B.

A total of 32 Fitchburg newsletter articles related to water quality were published in the 2013 and 2014 *Fitchburg Star* newspapers. The *Fitchburg Star* newspapers are distributed to all

**2013 - 2014 Biennial Report**  
Group Municipal Storm Water Discharge Permit  
WPDES Permit No. WI S058416-3  
**Appendix B – Stormwater Management Program**

Fitchburg residents and are also placed on Fitchburg's web site. The Fitchburg web site averages ~300,000 hits per month. The Fitchburg Star newspaper is mailed to all homes, apartments and businesses in Fitchburg, which includes ~11,000 addresses.

**IV.b.4.** The Fitchburg Resource Conservation Commission (RCC) meets monthly and the meeting agenda includes public appearances which are open to discussion on stormwater or water quality issues. There are occasional public appearances on water quality issues.

Spring waterway clean ups were held on April 20, 2013 and April 19 and 27, 2014. In 2013, over 70 volunteers, including four different clubs, helped Fitchburg staff clean Apache Pond, Dunn's Marsh North Complex, Wildwood Kettle, Syene Road, and waterways along the north portion of the Swan Creek of Nine Springs Neighborhood. Volunteers removed over 25 large garbage bags of trash, 8 bags of recyclables, and approximately 10,000 cubic feet of brush from these areas. In 2014, community members, City of Fitchburg staff, RCC members, elected officials, Brownie Troop 2747, and Girl Scout Daisy Troop 2157 helped collect trash and recyclables at Dunn's Marsh and Yarmouth Greenway. In total, volunteers removed 27 large garbage bags of refuse and 13 bags of recycling from these areas, helping clean up our waterways and improve ecosystem health. Some of the more interesting items collected from these areas include an unopened bottle of champagne, a fire extinguisher, a dog kennel, a bike, carpet and scrap metal.

On May 5, 2013, the City of Fitchburg held a home compost bin and rain barrel sale. Education about the benefits of composting and using rain barrels were included.

On April 3, 2014 the City of Fitchburg launched their water conservation campaign at Fitchburg Public Library. The Mayor and City of Fitchburg Staff made water conservation a top priority for 2014. The event covered existing groundwater supplies in Dane County, how to fix your toilet, outdoor water wise landscaping, and featured speakers from the Wisconsin Geologic and Natural History Survey, Benjamin Plumbing, and the City of Fitchburg Department of Public Works.

**IV.c.1.** Stormwater outfalls, release structures, and culverts were inspected for illicit discharges during dry weather periods, May to August. The inspections involved commercial, industrial, and environmentally sensitive areas. Throughout the year the outfall and basin inspections involved a thorough look for evidence of illicit discharge. A computer database holds inspection forms for all outfalls and pond release structures inspected by the City. The form evaluates any discharge observations, outlet conditions, outlet area, and a picture of the structure. A reported illicit discharge will be processed as a work order and attended to by the Public Works Department in a timely manner. Overall, the illicit discharge detection and elimination program has had consistent results in the detection, elimination, prevention, and enforcement of illicit discharges and improper dumping in 2013-2014.

**IV.c.2.** In 2013, a total of 367 stormwater outfalls and 45 pond release structures were inspected for flow and maintenance problems. In 2014, 370 stormwater outfalls and 45 pond release structures were inspected. Inspectors looked for flow from outfalls and release structures and compared flow to recent precipitation events. Flow was observed in 3 outfalls and 4 release structures, but was attributable to recent precipitation events. Oil sheen was

minimal in all cases and likely the result of street runoff. The largest source of required maintenance was due to excessive vegetation and associated debris buildup.

**IV.c.3.** In the event of general public calls or e-mails reporting improper disposal of waste or dumping, City staff makes follow-up inspections and/or makes contact with the property owner to verify the issue and identify the appropriate action to be taken. No instances of potential illicit discharge concerns were reported or known to occur in 2013. In 2014, the city investigated and assisted in addressing 4 instances related to potential illicit discharge concerns:

- *Waste Oil, Storm Drains, and Trash in the Roads* - On March 14, 2014 a Fitchburg resident contacted Rick Eilertson via email about multiple complaints of illicit discharges. The resident mentioned concern of potential oil dumping near Crescent Road from a group of people changing their car oil on the road. The resident inquired who to contact if this were to happen again in the future and if oil dumping was a citable offense. Rick Eilertson provided the resident with multiple courses of action and contacts including other Fitchburg staff as well as the DNR Spills Hotline phone number and website. The resident also mentioned trash build up in the streets and storm drains near Red Arrow Trail. The resident cleaned up the debris. Rick Eilertson followed up with a thank you and additional information about providing plastic bags and refuse tags to individuals who clean up public properties.
- *Tabby Jack's Mobile Grooming Van Possible Tank Dumping near Hatchery Hill Shopping Center* - On April 3, 2014, a Fitchburg resident contacted City of Fitchburg's Rick Eilertson in regards to bubbles forming in a downstream puddle originating near a parked pet grooming van. Rick Eilertson contacted the business about the potential illicit discharge. Tabby Jack's Mobile Grooming responded by stating they don't groom dogs in the Fitchburg parking lot. They also provided photo evidence of the ingredients labeled on the type of shampoo they use in the van. The company said they also saw the suds forming in puddles. It was determined that the suds did not come from the van, but may have come from a certain product the snow plow company used to remove snow and ice.
- *Waste Oil Containers near Jenewein Street* – On May 27, 2014, a Fitchburg resident spotted two large containers of waste oil on a curb near the 4500 block of Jenewein Street. The resident placed the containers above the curb to prevent cars from hitting them. Rick Eilertson followed up by taking the oil containers to the City of Fitchburg's recycling drop off site. He also knocked on doors in the area to inform them of Fitchburg's recycling drop of site.
- *Oil Leaking from Dumpster at 5636 Longford Terrace* – On August 28, 2014, a Fitchburg resident contacted a City of Fitchburg staff member about oil spilling from a dumpster onto a nearby sidewalk and driveway. Felipe Avila drove out to the site and took photos of the incident. It was confirmed that the rust residue and oily sheen met the illicit discharge criteria. Rick Eilertson contacted Pellitteri Waste Systems, the owner of the dumpsters, and asked that they initiate removal of the dumpster(s) and clean-up activities with the person/organization that contracted for the dumpsters.

**IV.c.4.** The city website, newsletter, and cable access channels all have contact information for residents to report spills or illicit discharges.



**IV.d.2.** For all developments, the City requires an erosion control plan submittal, review, and approval before a Building Permit or Erosion Control & Stormwater Management (ECSWM) Permit is issued. The review process includes a check for compliance with NR 151 standards.

**IV.d.3.** The City inspects construction sites weekly to monthly depending on scope and disturbance schedule of each project. Developments not in compliance with erosion control measures are contacted by the City with a Notice of Non-compliance of the Erosion Control Permit via e-mail or direct phone call to the contractor on site. The contractor is notified that, if the non-compliance is not corrected within three days, a stop work notice will be issued.

**IV.d.5.** In 2013 and 2014, the City issued approximately 15 notices of non-compliance for insufficient erosion control practices and/or incomplete weekly construction inspection forms. No Stop work orders were issued during 2013 and 2014.

**IV.e.1.** For all construction projects adding over 20,000 sf of new impervious area, the City requires a stormwater management plan submittal, review, and approval before construction may commence. The review process includes a check for compliance with NR 151 standards.

**IV.e.2.** Stormwater maintenance agreements are prepared and reviewed prior to construction. The agreements are recorded with the Dane County Register of Deeds and copies are maintained by the Public Works Department. In the event that maintenance or repair complaints are raised or if staff notices that stormwater facilities aren't being maintained properly, the PW Department has the authority to order the property owner to maintain or repair the facility(ies).

**IV.e.4.** If developments do meet post-construction stormwater management standards per the approved plans, a work list with due date is issued to the developer.

**IV.f.1.** In 2013, 367 stormwater outfalls and 45 pond release structures were inspected primarily during dry weather periods, May to August. In 2014, 370 stormwater outfalls and 45 pond release structures were inspected. The inspections involved commercial, industrial, and environmentally sensitive areas. Throughout the year the outfall and basin inspections involved a thorough look for evidence of illicit discharge. A computer database holds inspection forms for all outfalls and pond release structures inspected by the City. The form evaluates any discharge observations, outlet conditions, outlet area, and a picture of the structure. The Streets Division generally maintains all basins by mowing at least once a year. If erosion control or maintenance problems are found at the basins during mowing operations, the Streets Division will schedule and perform the repair work for the Stormwater Utility. Approximately 30 cubic yards of solids were collected per year from greenways and pond infalls and release structures cleaned out in 2013 and 2014.

**IV.f.2.** The City standard stormwater collection structures are inlets and are not built with a sump. If plugging or debris problems are found during sweeping operations, the Streets Division will collect the material with the sweeper vacuum or schedule and perform the maintenance work. The Streets Division also responds to resident calls on inlet maintenance problems. ~10 cubic yards (cy) of solids were collected in 2013 and ~8 cy of solids were collected in 2014 from approximately 15 storm sewer structures.

**IV.f.3.** The City sweeps ~165 inventory lane miles of streets, including county highways, with a Regenerative Air Street Sweeper (Schwarze A7000). ~500 cubic yards (cy) of solids were collected in 2013 and ~450 cy of solids were collected in 2014. The Streets Division operates the sweeper from approximately March through December. All urban streets (~80 miles of 2-lane streets and ~10 miles of 4-lane roadways) are swept a minimum of 2 times each in the Spring, and as needed through the Summer and Fall. The sweeper is also sent to urban and rural streets with debris problems as noticed by staff or called in by residents.

**IV.f.4.** The snow removal plan consists of pretreatment with a brine solution, and plowing with minimal use of salt. Sand for traction is only used on hills and intersections on an as needed basis when temperatures are too low for salt to be effective. Approximately 1,570 tons of salt and 12 tons of sand were used in 2013. Approximately 880 tons of salt and 7 tons of sand were used in 2014.

**IV.f.6.** The City salt storage facility is located at 2373 S. Fish Hatchery Road.

**IV.f.8.** In 2013 and 2014, the City of Fitchburg collected leaves, yard waste, brush and grass clippings curbside under contract with Pellitteri Waste Systems. Four yard waste collection weeks, two each in the Spring and Fall of 2013 and 2014. 14 brush collection weeks from April through November were provided in 2013. 14 brush collection weeks from April through November were provided in 2014. Residents may also dispose of yard waste at the Fitchburg Recycling Drop Off Site at 2373 S. Fish Hatchery Road. Residents are instructed on disposal, composting, or grass cycling methods annually by the City newsletters and the City website. Fitchburg collected 636 tons of yard waste and brush curbside and 696 tons of yard waste from the Recycling Drop-Off Site for a total of 1,332 tons of yard waste collected in 2013. In 2014, 499 tons of yard waste and brush curbside and 716 tons of yard waste from the Recycling Drop Off Site were collected, for a total of 1,215 tons of yard waste.

**IV.f.9.** Fitchburg staff crews only use fertilizer on newly restored areas. The crews minimize the use of fertilizer at medians, athletic fields, and municipal building grounds. Fertilizer is not used on general park land. The crews do not use pesticides. Occasionally, the crews use herbicide to treat buckthorn, honeysuckle, black locust, and/or box elder stumps following removal of these species in order to reduce the likelihood of regeneration of these invasive woody species. The crews minimize the use of herbicides at medians, athletic fields, and municipal building grounds. Herbicide is not used on general park land, but may occasionally be used to treat invasive plants and/or undesirable aggressive weeds.

**IV.f.10.** The City does not have local ordinances to regulate the private use of fertilizer, pesticides, and herbicides. Fitchburg's website and Fitchburg Update newsletter articles and both contain information for the responsible use of these items if necessary. The Public Works Department promotes the use of a soil test before applying fertilizer during the Erosion Control & Stormwater Management Permit review process. The City also provides a credit on stormwater utility fees for property owners who voluntarily limit or eliminate the use of lawn and garden fertilizers through the Fitchburg Creek Supporter Pledge Program.

**IV.f.11.** Fitchburg's website and Fitchburg Update newsletters appear to be doing a good job of keeping residents, businesses, and contractors informed of Fitchburg's pollution prevention

program. Participation in education and outreach activities is very good. Residents with questions are generally complimentary on staff's response to their questions and concerns.

**IV.g.1. Please list or reference all practices that are currently in place that will be used to meet the TSS reduction percentage reported above. Additionally, please describe any maintenance activities that have occurred for these practices in 2013-14.** Fitchburg public stormwater facilities include: Apache Pond, Arrowhead Park and Wet Ponds, Ashbourne Wet Pond and Greenway, Bosshard Pond, Business Park Ponds A (Market/Badger) & B (Market/Executive), Byrne Pond, Commerce Park Pond, Dunn's Marsh North Complex, Fitchburg Technology Campus Pond, Gunflint Pond, Harlan Hills East and West Ponds, Lacy Heights Pond, Longford Pond, McKee Farms South, North, and Northwest Ponds, Nesbitt-Bavaria Pond, Nesbitt Heights Pond and Infiltration Cells, Nesbitt – Limestone Pond, Northern Lights Pond, Oak Meadow Pond, Pine Ridge Pond, Quarry Hill Pond, Quarry Ridge Pond, Renaissance Pond, Seminole Hills Pond, Seminole Village Pond, Swan Creek Pond. Other Non-Fitchburg owned properties include: Aleo Court Dry Pond, Braeger Court Dry Pond, Casa Del Sol Wet Pond, Chapel Valley East Pond, Chapel Valley West Pond, Dunn's Marsh – South (City of Madison and Dane County), Nesbitt – Jung's Pond, Oak Bank Wet Pond, Savannah Oaks Rain Garden, Swan Pond, Syene D Wet Pond (Downtown Fitchburg II LLC), The Crossing Wet Ponds, Waterford Glen Temporary Dry Pond.

**IV.g.2.** The Stormwater Detention Basin Inventory and Analysis, dated December 1997, provided recommendations on various retrofits to existing facilities. Recommendations from this report (Longford Pond enlargement, Seminole Hills Pond conversion to wet pond, Bosshard Pond conversion to wet pond, WIBA dry pond conversion to wet pond (now referred to as Oak Meadow Pond), and McKee Farms West Pond enlargement) have all been completed. The only remaining dry ponds are: Aleo Court dry pond on private property, Lacy Heights dry pond, and Byrne Park dry pond. The city will continue evaluating these and other public properties for conversion or enlargement as it finalizes the Nine Springs Creek Watershed Master Plan in 2015.

**Stormwater Articles appearing in the 2013 *Fitchburg Update***

**Planning for 2013 Earth Day, Arbor Day, and Migratory Bird Day Events**

April 22, 2013, marks the 43<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of Earth Day and April 26, 2013, is the 141<sup>st</sup> year of celebrating Arbor Day. To commemorate these anniversaries, staff is beginning planning for the following events expected to be held between mid-April and early May 2013:

- 💧 Annual Waterway Cleanups of Fitchburg's stormwater facilities and creeks
- 💧 Biking, Walking, and/or Paddling Tours through the Nine Springs Creek Watershed
- ♻️ Electronics Recycling Event for computers, monitors, etc.
- ♻️ Shred Day Event for shredding and recycling confidential paper documents
- ♻️ Compost Bin & Rain Barrel Sale
- Spring Community Cleanup Day of Fitchburg Parks and City Hall
- Arbor Day / Earth Day / Migratory Bird Day Celebration - Tree Planting in Fitchburg Parks (Saturday, May 4, 2013), McKee Farms Park Tree Walk & Migratory Bird Day Celebration

If you have ideas on any of these activities that you or your neighborhood association can get involved in, please contact Rick Eilertson, Fitchburg Environmental Engineer, at 270-4264, [rick.eilertson@city.fitchburg.wi.us](mailto:rick.eilertson@city.fitchburg.wi.us) or Ed Bartell, Fitchburg Urban Forester/Naturalist, 270-4289, [ed.bartell@city.fitchburg.wi.us](mailto:ed.bartell@city.fitchburg.wi.us).

Further information on the 2013 Earth Day, Arbor Day, and Migratory Bird Day Events will be included in the March 2013 Fitchburg Update. Final details will be posted at [www.city.fitchburg.wi.us](http://www.city.fitchburg.wi.us) closer to the event.

**2013 Plant Dane! Cost-Share Program Helps Homeowners Purchase Native Plants for their Rain Gardens and Yards**

Now in its 9<sup>th</sup> year, the Plant Dane! cost-share program provides homeowners, schools and nonprofit organizations with native plants at reduced prices to establish rain gardens, native plantings and prairie restoration through a gift from the Graham-Martin Foundation. The Plant Dane! Program has provided tens of thousands of plants, resulting in hundreds of acres being planted with native species throughout Dane County.

Many find replacing turf and ornamental plants with plant species native to Wisconsin a rewarding landscape alternative. Once established, natives do not require the maintenance and watering inputs that turf and ornamentals need. Native wildflowers bloom season round and provide great habitat value for beneficial insects and birds.

Plants are \$1.80 each. Each species must be ordered in multiples of four. Program details and order forms are available online at [www.myfairlakes.com/plantdane.aspx](http://www.myfairlakes.com/plantdane.aspx). Participants complete the order form online, then print out the completed form and mail it with a check. All payments with orders must be received no later than March 15, 2013. Plants will be delivered on May 18, 2013.

Fitchburg residents who install and maintain rain gardens are eligible for a reduction in their stormwater utility bill of \$4 to \$12 per year. For more details, visit [www.city.fitchburg.wi.us/stormwater](http://www.city.fitchburg.wi.us/stormwater).

### **Spring 2013 Waterway Cleanup**

Fitchburg's Spring Waterway Cleanups for 2013 are tentatively planned for Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> from 9am until noon, rain or shine.\*

This year's plan calls for cleanups on the north side of Dunn's Marsh along Crescent Road. In addition, there may be a cleanup group in your area, coordinated by your neighborhood association. Anyone interested in being a group leader may contact Rick Eilertson, Fitchburg Environmental Engineer, at (608) 270-4264 or [rick.eilertson@city.fitchburg.wi.us](mailto:rick.eilertson@city.fitchburg.wi.us) to coordinate a cleanup in your neighborhood.

Fitchburg will provide refreshments and a tote bag or T-shirt to participants. Volunteers are encouraged to wear boots and bring work gloves. Please be forewarned: Restroom facilities are often not convenient to the planned cleanup locations.

\*Further details on the Waterway Cleanups will be posted at [www.city.fitchburg.wi.us/stormwater](http://www.city.fitchburg.wi.us/stormwater) closer to the events.

For more information and/or to RSVP for the waterway cleanup events, please contact:  
Rick Eilertson, Fitchburg Environmental Engineer  
[Rick.eilertson@city.fitchburg.wi.us](mailto:Rick.eilertson@city.fitchburg.wi.us)  
608-270-4264

### **2013 Stormwater and Sidewalk Projects**

Tower Hill Greenway – This project includes regrading the greenway within the Tower Hill neighborhood from S. Fish Hatchery Road to McKee Farms Park South Pond. A low flow storm pipe is being installed parallel to the greenway to keep the bottom of the greenway channel drier and less susceptible to erosion. A short segment of storm sewer is also being designed from the greenway to the intersection of Lyman Lane and Jacqueline Drive to improve drainage and reduce ice build-up in the intersection during winter conditions.

Red Arrow Pond & Crescent Road Sidewalk – This project includes the rerouting of existing storm sewer from the intersection of Red Arrow Trail and Crescent Road, easterly ~150' to the east side of the Megan's Bay Condominiums and installation of a small stormwater pond. This project will help alleviate current flooding concerns as well as control water quantity and improve water quality prior to discharging stormwater into Dunn's Marsh. Honeysuckle, buckthorn, and box elder were removed from the project area in 2012. DNR has awarded up to \$60,000 in grant funding for this project. Sidewalk is also planned to connect from the sidewalk at Apache Pond westerly to the Megan's Bay Condominiums.

McKee Road Stormwater & Sidewalk – This project includes storm pipe installation and sidewalk construction on the north side of McKee Road from Chapel Valley Road easterly to Yarmouth Greenway Drive.

Anyone with questions or comments on any of these projects may contact Felipe Avila at [felipe.avila@city.fitchburg.wi.us](mailto:felipe.avila@city.fitchburg.wi.us) or 270-4277.

**Brush Collection Begins April 1<sup>st</sup>**

Residents of single family homes and apartments with up to four-units who receive City refuse & recycling collection from Pellitteri Waste Systems and apartment complexes who pay for City brush collection service will receive fourteen curbside brush collections between April and November.

Brush should be placed on your driveway or terrace but should not be placed in the street. You should not place brush at the curb until the weekend before the Monday of the collection week. Leaving brush at the curb for extended periods, or placing brush at the curb long before the collection can result in a \$177 fine.

Please have brush at the curb by 6:30 a.m. Monday on the week of collection, regardless of which day your refuse and recyclables are collected.

Pellitteri collects brush with a packer type truck. Twigs less than 1/4-inch diameter are considered yard waste and should be disposed of accordingly.

**Brush Collection Requirements**

- The maximum length for brush is 5 feet long. Longer branches will not be collected!
- The maximum branch size is 6 inches in diameter. Larger branches are considered firewood and will not be collected.
- Lay brush perpendicular to the street with the cut end toward the street. Pile brush neatly.
- Do not bring brush to the Recycling Drop Off Site. Violators will receive citations. Fitchburg residents may drop off brush at Purple Cow Organics (2159 Range Trail, Verona) at a reduced rate of \$22/ton. Call (608) 848-4400 for hours and brush preparation requirements.

Please contact Public Works at [publicworks@city.fitchburg.wi.us](mailto:publicworks@city.fitchburg.wi.us) or 270-4260 if you have any questions.

<b>2013 Brush Collection Schedule</b>	
<b>Week of:</b>	
April 1	August 5
April 15	August 26
April 29	September 16
May 13	September 30
June 10	October 14
June 24	October 28
July 15	November 11
*Actual collection date may depend on weather	

### **Home Compost Bin and Rain Barrel Sale - May 4, 2013**

Home composting is a simple process for reducing waste going into your refuse cart that requires only a little time and effort on your part. Contrary to popular belief, properly maintained compost bins do not smell bad. Rather, they have a pleasant, earthy odor similar to freshly plowed soil.

Most households that compost are able to significantly reduce the amount of waste they set out at the curb. For instance, in a survey of Fitchburg residents who use home compost bins, over 75% of survey respondents composted at least 3/4 of their kitchen wastes. Please click on the Home Composting link at the Organics website ([www.city.fitchburg.wi.us/Organics](http://www.city.fitchburg.wi.us/Organics)) for more information and ideas on composting your food scraps in your own yard.

Fitchburg will be hosting a Compost Bin & Rain Barrel Sale on Sat., May 4<sup>th</sup> from 9am-11am at the Fitchburg Recycling Drop Off Site (2373 S. Fish Hatchery Road). Earth Machine home compost bins (\$45 - normally \$100), System rain barrels (\$55 - normally \$110), Norseman compost turners (\$15), Norseman Kitchen scrap pails (\$7), and Dayton 50-gallon Yardwaste Polybags (\$2 - normally \$6) will be available for sale. The supplies will be sold on a first come, first served basis. Advance registration is recommended by contacting [rick.eilertson@city.fitchburg.wi.us](mailto:rick.eilertson@city.fitchburg.wi.us) or 270-4264 prior to April 10<sup>th</sup>. Up to 2 FREE Yardwaste Polybags will be available for residents participating in Fitchburg's curbside refuse and recycling program. Visit [www.city.fitchburg.wi.us](http://www.city.fitchburg.wi.us) for more information as the event approaches.

Staff will be on hand to describe proposed changes at Fitchburg's Recycling Drop Off Site and solicit feedback on any suggested improvements from attendees.

If you miss the April 10<sup>th</sup> advance registration deadline, you can stop by to see if there are still any remaining supplies or head to the Dane County Compost Bin & Rain Barrel Sale at the Alliant Energy Center's Olin Avenue parking lot from 9am-1pm. Visit: <http://www.cityofmadison.com/streets/compost/CompostBinSale.cfm> for further details. For information on other home composting bin options that you can build yourself, visit [www.city.fitchburg.wi.us/solidwaste](http://www.city.fitchburg.wi.us/solidwaste). For information on signing up for Fitchburg's Rain Barrel Rebate (\$5 / 55 gallon volume), visit [www.city.fitchburg.wi.us/stormwater](http://www.city.fitchburg.wi.us/stormwater).

### **Natural Lawn Care in Fitchburg**

By Ald. Steve Arnold, Resource Conservation Commission member

It's the time of year for lawn and garden planning in Wisconsin. The economy hasn't fully recovered, and news of climate change and the cost of oil fill the media. Perhaps this will be the year you try something more "sustainable".

There are many ways to think about sustainability, but my goals for the garden are to minimize all but natural inputs, sunlight and rainwater, and minimize outputs, including waste and storm water runoff. Another reason to avoid synthetic inputs, especially pesticides, is to reduce exposure to children, pets, and beneficial wildlife. To learn more about the dangers of lawn chemicals and safe alternatives, please attend *"Healthy Lawns - Reducing Pesticide and*

*Fertilizer Use,*" the Resource Conservation Commission's annual event, on April 4, 2013 from 6:30 - 7:30 pm at the Fitchburg Library.

One strategy for implementing sustainability in your yard is to grow native plants, such as prairie species, instead of a conventional lawn. (You need to apply for a City permit to do this, and the terrace and property boundaries must still be mowed. Objections from a majority of neighbors within 200 feet may cause the application to be rejected. So consider visiting with neighbors to discuss your plans first.)

Instructions for establishing natives often take a literally "scorched earth" approach, with repeated burning, rototilling, or glyphosate (*Roundup*) applications to kill the existing vegetation. You'll need to control erosion during the period the ground is unprotected by vegetation. Your management plan should also deal with vegetation build-up, by annual mowing or less frequent prescribed burning.

A second strategy for implementing sustainability in your yard is organic care of a conventional lawn. This means no chemical fertilizers or pesticides and minimizing energy input and irrigation. I still mow with gasoline, rather than a hand or electric mower, but I mow as infrequently as possible. I forgo irrigation, letting the lawn go dormant each summer.

For several years, I didn't use any fertilizer or pesticides, keeping complaints down from my neighbors by hand-digging dandelions. For the last two years, I've also applied corn gluten in the spring. Corn gluten is a by-product of corn milling, and is both a slow-release nitrogen fertilizer and a natural weed inhibitor. It's available from local vendors of animal feed, and cost less than \$60/year for my relatively large lawn. The lawn has been noticeably greener and there are fewer dandelions to dig.

If you undertake natural lawn care, you'll learn to love clover. Clover, a legume, can fix nitrogen from the air, reducing the need for fertilizer, but getting used to clover in a lawn requires a change in mindset. The most popular synthetic broadleaf herbicide, 2,4-D, has virtually wiped out clover in America's urban areas as the lawn care industry has spent millions in advertising to demonize clover. To get past this learned bias against clover, remember that the hallmark of a healthy ecosystem is diversity. How many different plant species can you see in your lawn?

So far, I've covered minimizing inputs here. To reduce outputs, use grading to keep rainwater where it falls. Rain gardens increase your yard's capacity for soaking up downpours and infiltrating the water on site, increase hummingbird and butterfly habitat, and reduce the amount of grass to mow. Mulch-mowers make every mowing a treatment of slow-release, organic fertilizer, or clippings can be used to stop weeds around flowers or vegetables, or go into the compost bin. For more on minimizing outputs, watch a video on Fall Leaf and Lawn Cleanup from FACT: <http://goo.gl/RMyzJ>.

Have a pleasant and sustainable growing season!

### **Springtime Brings More than Flowers with those Showers**

Whether March comes in like a lion or a lamb, it also brings spring showers and melting snow. When snow melts and rain falls, it flows across streets, driveways, parking lots and rooftops and



transports sand, salt, leaves, oil, trash and many other pollutants directly to storm drains, which eventually ends up in our lakes and streams.

Some folks mistakenly think that water running off streets goes into a sewage treatment plant. But the truth is that it goes right to our lakes and streams.

### **You Can Help**

There are many things each of us can do to prevent storm water pollution.

- 💧 Use salt sparingly during the winter.
- 💧 Sweep up any excess sand left over from the snow shoveling season.
- 💧 Clean up pet waste year round—flush it down the toilet or collect it in a bucket until you can bury it properly.
- 💧 Keep cars well maintained and repair fluid leaks; but consider walking, public transportation or riding a bike whenever you can.
- 💧 Direct rainwater away from paved areas to lawns or gardens where it can soak in.
- 💧 Keep leaves and grass clippings out of the street. Compost yard waste, debris and leaves.
- 💧 Get a soil test before applying fertilizer to your lawn. Don't pay for something you don't need. If a test shows that your lawn does need fertilizer, apply it according to directions and carefully clean up any spills on paved surfaces.
- 💧 Wash your car on the lawn or at a car wash that sends its used water to the sewage treatment plant.
- 💧 Prevent soil erosion.
- 💧 Don't let anything but rain go down the storm drain or into the ditch.

Go to [www.myfairlakes.com](http://www.myfairlakes.com) for more ideas on how you can help our lakes and streams.

### **Garlic Mustard and other Invasive Plant Disposal**

Many residents and businesses have been identifying and removing garlic mustard and other invasive plants (e.g. Japanese Knotweed, Hedge Parsley, Dames Rocket, Wild Parsnip, etc.) from their property. This is great! But just as important in the eradication of these highly invasive plants is that everyone follow-through on sending these plants to the landfill so the seeds can't mature and start new plants. If you have small amounts, you can just bag them and place in your green refuse cart. For large amounts, you can bag them and place them in the dumpster marked "Yardwaste Bags and Oil Containers Only" at Fitchburg's Recycling Drop Off Site (2373 S. Fish Hatchery Rd.).

### **Outdoor Water Conservation**

Dane County has the highest average water usage per person in the State. Each day in Dane County 69 million gallons of water are drawn from the ground. One of the largest contributions to Dane County's above average water usage is lawn watering. We can help reduce Dane County's water usage by implementing better landscape, lawn watering, and stormwater management practices. Some of these practices are described below.

#### **Landscaping Practices**

- Choose climate-appropriate, drought-tolerant, and native/adapted plant species

that are optimal for local conditions.

- Plant shrubs, trees and other vegetation in place of lawns.
- Mulch around your plants with compost or other organic material to help stabilize soil temperatures, prevent weeds, add nutrients and help conserve water.

#### **Lawn Watering Practices**

- *Water on Time*- Watering in the early morning increases the amount of infiltration and decreases the amount of evaporation.
- *Don't Overwater*- Overwatering can increase leaching of fertilizers and can harm your lawn's health by promoting the growth of short roots, fungi and weeds. Experts have noted that more than 50 percent of lawn irrigation goes to waste due to evaporation and overwatering.
- *Irrigation systems* – If installing an irrigation system consider a drip irrigation system with water efficient spray heads and rain and soil sensors. They are considered to be the most efficient automatic irrigation system. The rainfall and the soil sensors allow the sprinklers to activating only when the soil moisture levels are below a certain point.

#### **Managing Stormwater to Conserve Water Use**

- *Rain gardens* – Install rain gardens to collect and filter runoff on your property. Rain gardens are depressed areas usually located near a storm drain. More information about rain gardens can be found at the City of Fitchburg web site.
- *Limit impervious surfaces* - Install a porous pavement or porous concrete driveway to increase infiltration on your property.
- *Capture Rain Water for Lawn Watering* – Install a rain barrel to collect stormwater from downspouts for outdoor watering use.

### **Thank You Fitchburg Waterway Cleanup Volunteers!**

The City of Fitchburg and the Fitchburg Resource Conservation Commission (RCC) would like to thank all the volunteers who helped with Fitchburg's Earth Day Waterway Cleanups this year. Four different groups of volunteers helped collect trash, recyclables and brush on Sat., April 20<sup>th</sup>. Over 70 volunteers including the Dunn's Marsh Neighborhood Association, Dane County Boys and Girls Club, and other waterway neighbors helped Fitchburg staff clean these areas. Altogether, four different areas were cleaned up, including: Apache Pond, Dunn's Marsh North Complex, Wildwood Kettle, Syene Road, and waterways along the north portion of the Swan Creek of Nine Springs Neighborhood. This year's waterway cleanup was kicked off with a special recognition ceremony for David Martin, who served as a member of Fitchburg's Recycling Committee, Resource Conservation Committee and Resource Conservation Commission from January 1986 to April 2013.

Volunteers removed over 25 large garbage bags of trash, 8 bags of recyclables, and ~10,000 cubic feet of brush from these areas, helping clean up our waterways and improve ecosystem health.

Don't worry if you missed out on this event - there are plenty of other opportunities to help around the community! We welcome any other volunteers interested in helping to keep these and other waterways clean throughout the year to contact Rick Eilertson, Fitchburg's Environmental Engineer, at [rick.eilertson@city.fitchburg.wi.us](mailto:rick.eilertson@city.fitchburg.wi.us) or 270-4264 for more information.

Utility customers who complete and submit a Fitchburg Creek Supporter Pledge Form (available at: [www.city.fitchburg.wi.us/stormwater](http://www.city.fitchburg.wi.us/stormwater)) may be eligible for a reduction in their stormwater utility bill for pledging to help keep Fitchburg's waterways clean.

### **Nine Springs Creek Watershed Master Plan Update**

The City of Fitchburg has received a grant from the WDNR in order to improve the quality of water within the Nine Springs Creek Watershed. The scope of the project consists of six objectives, completed by Fitchburg staff and consultants, aimed towards producing an overall strategy for water quality improvement and protection for this watershed. These objectives include:

1. Compiling historical information on stormwater facilities in the watershed
2. Holding public involvement meetings
3. Creating a Nine Springs Creek Watershed Master Plan including...
  - a. Necessary maintenance and management projects
  - b. Nutrient management plan for the Nine Springs Golf Course
  - c. Pollutant-reduction strategies
  - d. Updates to water-resource related ordinances
  - e. Site reviews for clean wastewater re-use
4. Updating Fitchburg stormwater mapping
5. Making financial recommendations for the Fitchburg Stormwater Utility
6. Creating stormwater management plan for Dunn's Marsh

The Master Plan has been moving along smoothly throughout the fall, winter and spring. Progress Reports have been put together on a quarterly basis and are available at: [www.city.fitchburg.wi.us/departments/cityHall/publicWorks/stormwater/NineSpringsMasterPlan.php](http://www.city.fitchburg.wi.us/departments/cityHall/publicWorks/stormwater/NineSpringsMasterPlan.php).

Most of the work to date includes field work, and stormwater modeling work done by City Staff, MSA Professional Services (the consulting firm conducting the stormwater modeling and draft stormwater recommendations) and Stantec (the consulting firm providing recommendations related to vegetation management and ecological restoration). On March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013, the Dunn's Marsh Neighborhood Association held a meeting and City Staff along with representatives from the City of Madison and MSA presented information and answered questions about stormwater runoff for the watersheds flowing into Dunn's Marsh.

The next phase of the project includes a public information meeting to be held in August 2013 to review the draft recommendations and provide feedback to Fitchburg staff, MSA, and Stantec prior to the final recommendations being put together for a final public involvement meeting anticipated in late Fall or early Winter 2013-14.

To view a more comprehensive progress report, historical and working documents on the Nine Springs Creek Watershed and future meeting times and locations please visit [www.city.fitchburg.wi.us/departments/cityHall/publicWorks/stormwater/NineSpringsMasterPlan.php](http://www.city.fitchburg.wi.us/departments/cityHall/publicWorks/stormwater/NineSpringsMasterPlan.php) or contact Mac Olsen at 270-4274 or [mac.olsen@fitchburgwi.gov](mailto:mac.olsen@fitchburgwi.gov).

### **Water, Water Everywhere?**

By: Samuel Cooke & Diane Streck, Fitchburg Resource Conservation Commission members

If you read the May 2013 Fitchburg Update, you already know that Dane County has the highest average water usage/person in the state. Did you know that the amount of groundwater pumped out for use in Dane County is significantly more than the amount of groundwater recharging Dane County's aquifers? Since groundwater is Dane County's primary source of drinking water, this is an important issue.

Did you also know that whenever you use water, you are also using electricity? The more water you use, the more electricity used to pump and pressurize the water system and, as a result, more money is spent on energy consumption and more greenhouse gases are emitted.

Did you also know that Fitchburg has escalating water rates for residential use, i.e. the more water you use, the higher your rate?

When you combine increasing prices and greenhouse gas emissions with diminishing groundwater, conserving water makes a lot of sense.

Easy things you can do to conserve water:

- Raise the height of your mower and water established lawns only when it's absolutely necessary – turf can handle turning brown for a period of time, typically ~4 weeks, where it goes dormant until it gets a thorough soaking. When you decide to water, fully saturate your lawn with ~1" of water in order to promote deep root growth. Last year's drought caused problems because the soil temperature became too high caused by the extended dry period combined with high air temperatures. Watering lawns and gardens is one of the highest uses of water in Fitchburg.
- Mulch your flower/vegetable gardens to reduce evaporation from the soil.
- Collect rainwater to use for garden watering between rain events. Sustain Dane ([www.sustaindane.org](http://www.sustaindane.org)) and other organizations sell rain barrels and even offer installation. Fitchburg offers credits or rebates for conservation efforts such as rain barrels and rain gardens (which promote rainwater infiltration).  
[www.city.fitchburg.wi.us/stormwater](http://www.city.fitchburg.wi.us/stormwater)
- Take shorter showers. Taking 5-minute showers instead of 10-minute showers can save over 10,000 gallons of water per year, per person.
- Don't continually run water while brushing your teeth, washing your hands, rinsing dishes, etc.
- Use water-saving products such as low-flow showerheads, faucet aerators and low-flush toilets.
- Run dishwashers and clothes washers only when full. When purchasing a dishwasher or clothes washer consider ones that are energy *and* water efficient.

Thanks for doing your part to conserve our water now and for future generations.

### **Fall Leaf and Lawn Cleanup – Curbside collection on weeks of Oct. 28th and Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>**

The wonderful autumn season is coming and with it the Fall leaf and lawn cleanup. Before hauling your yard waste out for collection consider the natural value of your fallen leaves. Fallen

leaves and other yard waste are a valuable resource since they are high in phosphorus, an important nutrient for plant growth and a harmful pollutant for our lakes and streams.

Putting these nutrients to good use and preventing them from entering our storm drains can be done easily by mulching or composting leaves. Mulching your lawn is done by periodically mowing small amounts of leaves and yard waste, which reduces the need for raking and provides a good source of nutrients to your lawn. Shredding the leaves with a mulching mower greatly reduces the volume of leaves and speeds up their decomposition. Raked leaves also make excellent mulch. They can be used to protect roses and other plants over the winter. Adding leaves to your vegetable or flower garden in the fall is a great source of nutrients and a soil conditioner. Any leaves which do not break down over the winter can be tilled into the soil in the spring.

Fall leaves can also be recycled at home by composting. Composting is a simple process and requires little time or effort on the part of homeowners. Compost provides essential nutrients for healthy plant growth. It improves soil structure and helps hold in moisture so you can save money by reducing the amount of water and commercial fertilizers you use on your lawn and garden. Leaves are rich in carbon and useful for balancing nitrogen-rich materials like fresh grass clippings and food waste when you're composting. Stocking your compost piles with leaves in the fall will give you plenty of carbon rich material to balance out your grass clippings in the spring.

For information on other Leaf and Lawn Cleanup options and techniques, visit [www.myfairlakes.com](http://www.myfairlakes.com), [www.fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste](http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste) or scan the QR code with a smart phone device. You can also stop by Fitchburg City Hall to view the "Leaf and Lawn Cleanup" display in the main hallway. Free "Love your Lakes, Don't Leaf Them" yard signs, beverage coasters, and "Dane Waters: A Reflection of Us All" dvds are available in the main lobby for you to use and show your love of Fitchburg's creeks and the lakes and rivers they drain to.

If you are setting your leaves and other yardwaste out for curbside collection this fall, there are three guidelines to be aware of.

1. Keep the leaves contained in a bag or container on the terrace of your yard, not in the street. Although some other municipalities may collect leaves this way, Fitchburg prohibits raking leaves into the street. Raking leaves into the street can clog storm sewers, contribute to water pollution in local lakes and streams, and necessitate more frequent street cleaning. Leaves, grass clippings, plastic bags, and trash in streets can clog storm sewer pipes, resulting in street flooding that can damage property and make street driving hazardous. Yardwaste debris and contaminants in the sewers also harms downstream environments. Nutrients, such as phosphorus and nitrogen found in yard waste encourage the growth of aquatic plants and algae, contributing to the unappealing smell and color of local ponds, lakes and streams while negatively affecting aquatic habitats. Leaves and other nutrients in the street this fall result in green stormwater ponds, lakes and streams next summer.

2. Know the collection dates of the curbside collection so that your leaves are on the curb for as short a time as possible. This year's fall leaf and yard waste collection will take place the **weeks of October 28<sup>th</sup> and November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013** for residents of single family homes and apartments with up to four-units who receive City refuse & recycling collection. Pellitteri Waste Systems will

begin collection on Monday of each week, and may continue through Saturday (or later depending on weather constraints). Your yard waste will not necessarily be collected on the same day as your pickup for refuse and recycling. **Please have leaves at the curb by 6:30 a.m. on the Monday that collection begins, regardless of which day your refuse and recycling is collected.**

3. Know your yardwaste collection container options. Place leaves and yard waste at the curb in reusable containers or in bags no larger than 50 gallons or 50 lbs. each. **The non-reusable black plastic bags are to be left untied with a container for Pellitteri staff to place them in.** Loose leaves will not be collected. Although the fall cleanup is intended primarily for leaves, other non-woody yard waste will be collected, including grass clippings, weeds, flowers, garden debris, etc.

A photo is included, depicting the most sustainable options (#1) to least sustainable (#4), but still acceptable, curbside yard waste set out options:

- 1 – No Yard Waste set at curb (composted onsite or mulched on lawn – preferred)
- 2 – Reused plastic cart or container, reusable hundreds of times
  - Reusable ~ 30-50 gallon polybag w/ drawstring handles or draw cord (~\$3-10/polybag)
- 3 – Compostable ~30-50 gallon paper bag w/ folded top (~\$0.50-1/bag)
  - Compostable ~ 30-50 gallon plastic-like bags (\$0.60-1.20/bag)
- 4 – **Untied** Non-recyclable ~30 gallon black plastic bag (\$0.10-0.20/bag)

**Two Reusable 50 gallon polybags** will be available for **FREE** to participating Fitchburg households while supplies last, at the **Fitchburg Compost Bin Sale on Saturday October 19<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 11 am at the Fitchburg Public Works Maintenance Facility at 2373 S. Fish Hatchery Rd.**

All residents may also take yard waste to the Fitchburg Recycling Drop Off Site. The site is open every day during daylight hours. In addition, Fitchburg residents may drop off yard waste at Purple Cow Organics, LLC at 2159 Range Trail in Verona at no charge. Call (608) 848-4400 for hours and yardwaste preparation requirements.

Please contact Public Works at 270-4260 or by e-mail at [publicworks@fitchburgwi.gov](mailto:publicworks@fitchburgwi.gov) if you have any questions on yard waste collection procedures.

### **Nine Springs Creek Watershed Master Plan Update**

The City of Fitchburg has received a grant from the WDNR in order to improve the quality of water within the Nine Springs Creek Watershed. The scope of the project consists of six objectives, completed by Fitchburg staff and consultants, aimed towards producing an overall strategy for water quality improvement and protection for this watershed.

The Master Plan has been moving along smoothly since the beginning of 2012 and is on track to be finished by the end of 2013. Quarterly Progress Reports detailing the work accomplished by the Master Plan Team are available on the Master Plan web page shown below.

The work completed since the last Fitchburg Update includes field work, stormwater modeling and draft recommendations completed by City Staff, MSA Professional Services (the consulting

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firm conducting the stormwater modeling and draft stormwater recommendations) and Stantec (the consulting firm providing recommendations related to vegetation management and ecological restoration). Several meetings have taken place with the Nine Springs Creek Watershed Master Plan team, as well as DNR staff, discussing the modeling process, revised draft recommendations and other future planning efforts. To view the meeting minutes for these meetings, please visit the Nine Springs Watershed Master Plan site.

City staff and consultants have also completed three stormwater facility walk-throughs with residents at the Bosshard, Harlan Hill East, and Longford ponds. The purpose of these walk-throughs is to create site specific management plans for stormwater ponds throughout the Nine Springs Creek watershed. If you and your neighborhood are interested in creating a management plan for a stormwater pond near you, please contact Rick Eilertson and Mac Olsen.

The next phase of the project includes a public information meeting to be held in on September 26, 2013 at 6:30pm the Fitchburg Library Meeting Room A&B to review the draft recommendations and provide feedback to Fitchburg staff, MSA, and Stantec prior to the final recommendations being put together for a final public involvement meeting anticipated in late Fall or early Winter 2013-14.

To view the quarterly progress reports, historical and working documents on the Nine Springs Creek Watershed and future meeting times and locations please visit [www.fitchburgwi.gov/departments/cityHall/publicWorks/stormwater/NineSpringsMasterPlan.php](http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/departments/cityHall/publicWorks/stormwater/NineSpringsMasterPlan.php) or contact [mac.olsen@fitchburgwi.gov](mailto:mac.olsen@fitchburgwi.gov) or [rick.eilertson@fitchburgwi.gov](mailto:rick.eilertson@fitchburgwi.gov).

**Nine Springs Creek Watershed Master Plan Public Involvement Workshop  
Green Thursday, December 12, 2013, 6 - 9PM at the Library Meeting Room**

The Nine Springs Creek Watershed Master Plan is nearly finished! The scope of the project consists of six objectives, completed by Fitchburg staff and consultants, aimed towards producing an overall strategy for water quality improvement and protection for this watershed.

The next phase of the project includes a public involvement workshop to be held on December 12 from 6 - 9 PM at the Fitchburg Library Meeting Room A&B. The draft agenda includes the following items:

6:00 PM – Exhibits detailing recommended Best Management Practice (BMP) improvements throughout the watershed can be viewed and staff will be available to discuss the improvement areas. A few of the top priority BMP recommendation locations include McKee Farms Park, Dunns Marsh, the Nine Springs Golf Course, and Seminole Village Pond.

6:30 PM – An overview of the Nine Spring Creek Watershed Master Plan will be presented by Rick Eilertson, the City of Fitchburg's Environmental Engineer.

7:00 PM – The stormwater modeling process and the results of the modeling process will be presented by Eric Thompson, MSA Professional Services.

7:30 PM – Vegetation Management tools for ecological and stormwater quality improvements will be presenting by Steve Banovetz, Field and Stream Restorations.

7:45 PM – PermiTrack, a new web based construction site erosion control reporting process will be presented by Jeff Mazanec from R.A. Smith. PermiTrack will enable easier and quicker

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construction site inspection reporting by builders, contractors, and consultants and also provide the public with the ability to view the web-based inspection reports and condition of the construction sites.

8:00 PM – Information about volunteer stream monitoring in the Rock River Basin will be presented by Nancy Sheehan.

8:15 PM - Exhibits detailing recommended Best Management Practice (BMP) recommendations throughout the watershed can be viewed and staff will be available to discuss the improvement areas.

More information can be viewed at: [www.fitchburgwi.gov/stormwater](http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/stormwater) and clicking “Nine Springs Watershed Master Plan” or by contacting [rick.eilertson@fitchburgwi.gov](mailto:rick.eilertson@fitchburgwi.gov) or 270-4264.

We hope to see you all at this great Green Thursday event!

### **Construction Site Erosion Control Reporting Process Update – PermiTrack**

The City of Fitchburg Stormwater Utility is updating and improving its erosion control permitting process for 2014 by employing a new reporting system called PermiTrack. PermiTrack is a web tool that provides City staff and permittees the ability to load and view erosion control permit and inspection information electronically. Using a hand-held tablet, smart phone or laptop, permittees and City staff can visit a site and perform the following:

- Create an inspection report
- Take and save photos
- View the site’s erosion control inspection history
- Record observations that are automatically entered into a database.

Entering the inspection data using an electronic device eliminates the need for paper forms to track and file, making the process more efficient and sustainable. PermiTrack also provides public access to the information through a public map interface. This public interface allows users to view all active construction projects’ key information and saved inspection records.

Improving the erosion control permitting process with PermiTrack also means that problems can be reported and resolved quickly. By using the PermiTrack tool, the City can quickly alert the responsible person of the erosion control permit to conduct a site visit or to complete other actions to maintain permit compliance.

Training sessions will be held with City Staff, Contractors, and Consultants in December and a brief overview for the public will be presented at the Green Thursday, Dec. 12, 2013 Nine Springs Creek Watershed Master Plan Public Involvement Workshop at the Fitchburg Public Library between 6 and 9pm. Please feel free to visit [www.fitchburgwi.gov/stormwater](http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/stormwater) to view more information on the PermiTrack implementation.

### **Save Money – Use Less Salt this Winter**

Salt and sand contribute greatly to lake and stream pollution. Once it’s spread on parking lots, streets, sidewalks and driveways, it’s on its way to the nearest lake or stream and cannot be recovered. Fifty pounds of salt (one large bag) can pollute 10,000 gallons of water—which is equivalent to one teaspoon in a five-gallon bucket of water. Municipalities are working to cut salt



use while still keeping streets safe. So, let's all save money this winter with these helpful tips and help the lakes and streams at the same time.

- Always use a shovel first, especially if the pavement temperature is 32°F or more—don't waste money on deicers.
- Reserve deicers for ice, not snow. Shovel as soon as possible so that wet, heavy snow doesn't have the opportunity to turn to ice.
- All salt is not created equal. Various types of deicers perform differently at different temperature ranges. The most common and cheapest is sodium chloride ("rock salt"), but doesn't work when the pavement is colder than 15°F. Magnesium chloride and calcium chloride cost more, but you'll use less and it works in colder temps.
- Consider getting a pavement thermometer (~\$30) to help determine pavement temperatures, which can vary widely depending on how much sun shines on your driveway. (Plus, they're kind of fun to play with.)
- Measure your sidewalk and driveway so you know how much you need. A general guideline is to use 1-3 cups of salt per 1,000 square feet. Save money by using only what is needed.
- Apply liquid salt to the pavement before the storm and shovel a little while it's snowing. After the storm, shovel before using any salt. Most times, you won't need any. Use deicers on ice, don't waste it on snow.
- You can use 30% less deicer if you wet your salt with some water before applying it.
- While salt is sometimes mixed with sand to keep the sand from freezing into a solid block, it's not a good idea to use both at the same time on your sidewalk. The salt will melt the ice, but when it refreezes, the sand will be frozen below the surface where it can't do any good. Choose one or the other. Try removing the ice by hand first before using either sand or salt.
- If you have an area that tends to ice up, consider making it a priority to remedy next summer so you won't need to deice in the future.

**Be a "Label Reader"!**

Read the label on the ice melt product so that you know exactly what you are spending your hard-earned cash on. If the bag doesn't say otherwise, it's probably sodium chloride, but you're better off using something that says exactly what's in the bag. Some products claiming to be "green" or "pet safe" are simply chloride compounds. You can always ask for the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for the product—it will show percentages so that you can see if you are paying for pretty packaging of rock salt. And while you're reading, be sure to follow the application rates. You need much less of some products than others, so be sure not to waste money by over applying.

<b>Labeled as:</b>	<b>Works Down to:</b>	<b>Approximate Cost</b>	<b>Pros/Concerns</b>
Calcium Chloride	-25°F	\$35 for 50 pounds	Use much less than rock salt, chloride impacts; may damage concrete
Magnesium Chloride	5°F	\$30-\$35 for 50	less toxic than calcium chloride and

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		pounds; \$15-\$20 for 20 pounds	less damaging to concrete and pavement, but may corrode metals over time
Sodium Chloride (“rock salt”)	15°F	\$6 for 25 pound bag	Chloride impacts
Calcium Magnesium Acetate (CMA)	25 °F	\$20 for 50 pounds	No chlorides; less toxic
Potassium Chloride	25°F		need to use more than rock salt; works slower than calcium chloride, safer on concrete
Sand	No melting effect	\$5 for a 20 lb bag	Not a deicer; for traction only; do not use with salt; accumulates in streets, lakes and streams; needs to be swept up, easily tracked into buildings









*Urea and Amide/Glycol are other deicing products that are chloride free and touted as pet/kid/environmentally friendly, but generally are not as effective as chlorides. However, when combined with shoveling first, can be a useful alternative.*

*The Madison Area Municipal Storm Water Partnership is working with the Rock River Stormwater Group to reduce the amount of pollution making its way to our lakes and streams. The Yahara chain of lakes and the Yahara River both ultimately drain to the Rock River. Both groups thank you for helping to Renew the Rock by reducing stormwater pollution throughout the Rock River area. Learn more at [www.myfairlakes.com](http://www.myfairlakes.com) and [www.renewtherock.com](http://www.renewtherock.com).*

**Stormwater Articles appearing in the 2014 Fitchburg Update**

**Planning for 2014 Earth Day, Arbor Day, and Migratory Bird Day Events**

April 22, 2014, marks the 44<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Earth Day and April 25, 2014, is the 142<sup>nd</sup> year of celebrating Arbor Day. To commemorate these anniversaries, staff is beginning planning for the following events expected to be held between mid-April and early May 2014:

-  Annual Waterway Cleanups of Fitchburg’s stormwater facilities and creeks
-  Biking, Walking, and/or Paddling Tours through the Nine Springs Creek Watershed
-  Electronics Recycling Event for computers, monitors, etc.
-  Shred Day Event for shredding and recycling confidential paper documents
-  Compost Bin & Rain Barrel Sale
-  Spring Community Cleanup Day of Fitchburg Parks and City Hall
-  Arbor Day / Earth Day / Migratory Bird Day Celebration - Tree Planting in Fitchburg Parks (Saturday, May 3, 2014), McKee Farms Park Tree Walk & Migratory Bird Day Celebration
-  Nine Springs Birding Event – Fri. Evening, May 9 ([www.madisonaudubon.org](http://www.madisonaudubon.org))

If you have ideas on any of these activities that you or your neighborhood association can get involved in, please contact Rick Eilertson, Fitchburg Environmental Project Engineer, at 270-4264, [rick.eilertson@fitchburgwi.gov](mailto:rick.eilertson@fitchburgwi.gov) or Ed Bartell, Fitchburg Urban Forester/Naturalist, 270-4289, [ed.bartell@fitchburgwi.gov](mailto:ed.bartell@fitchburgwi.gov).

Further information on the 2014 Earth Day, Arbor Day, and Migratory Bird Day Events will be included in the March 2014 Fitchburg Update. Final details will be posted at [www.fitchburgwi.gov](http://www.fitchburgwi.gov) closer to the event.

### **Nine Springs Creek Watershed Master Plan Nearly Completed**

Fitchburg staff and consultants are putting the finishing touches on the Nine Springs Creek Watershed Master Plan. This Master Plan has been funded by a \$75,000 grant received from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) as well as funding by the Fitchburg Stormwater Utility. Work began in the summer of 2012 and is nearing its completion now at the beginning of 2014. The scope of the project consisted of six objectives, completed by Fitchburg staff and consultants, aimed towards producing an overall strategy of ecological and water quality improvement and protection within the Nine Springs Creek Watershed.

The first objective was to compile historical information on stormwater facilities in the watershed. This was completed by scanning previous reports, studies, articles, and books with information pertaining to the Nine Springs Creek Watershed. Each document was reviewed and important recommendations were summarized within the Nine Springs Creek Watershed Master Plan. In total, 32 historical plan documents were scanned and are available electronically online on the Master Plan web page at: <http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/departments/cityHall/publicWorks/stormwater/NineSpringsMasterPlan.php>.

The second objective was to hold public involvement meetings. The first public involvement meeting was a Stakeholder Kick Off Meeting held on August 16, 2012. The meeting presented information on the Nine Springs Creek Watershed and the objectives of the Master Plan. The second meeting was held on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013 where Fitchburg staff and consultants presented the preliminary results and recommendations from the reconnaissance efforts and stormwater modeling of the watershed. The third public involvement meeting was held on December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013. This final public involvement workshop consisted of several presentations about the work completed, and the new programs and recommended plans for the watershed. In addition to the three public involvement meetings and workshop, four onsite stormwater facility walk-throughs were completed at Bosshard Pond, Harlan Hills East Pond, Longford Pond, and McKee Farms Park ponds.

The third objective is to create a Nine Springs Creek Watershed Master Plan. The master plan report consists of a description of the watershed, summaries of previous reports and their recommendations, work completed for the watershed modeling and reconnaissance, financial recommendations, regulatory recommendations, and watershed management recommendations. A draft document can be accessed at the Master Plan web page listed above.

The fourth objective was to update Fitchburg stormwater mapping system. This objective was completed by first collecting and organizing as-built plans for each stormwater facility and connecting the as-built plans with Fitchburg's computerized stormwater system inventory. Onsite stormwater facility inspections were then completed to supplement any missing or incomplete data from the asbuilt plans.

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The fifth objective was to make financial recommendations for the Fitchburg Stormwater Utility. Stormwater Utility rate recommendations were provided by Trilogy Consultants and the recommendations were incorporated into the Nine Springs Creek Watershed Master Plan. City staff also recommendations which provided adjustments to Stormwater Credit amounts and added categories to the Creek Supporter Form.

The last objective of the Nine Springs Creek Master Plan was to create a stormwater management plan for Dunn's Marsh. Stantec and MSA's provided detailed analysis of Dunn's Marsh's ecological, hydraulic, and hydrologic health. The analysis results provided recommendations which are presented within the Nine Springs Creek Watershed Master Plan.

The Nine Springs Creek Watershed Master Plan is a comprehensive and detailed watershed study, which involved work conducted by MSA Professional Services, Stantec and City staff and also involved the participation and feedback from many stakeholders and Fitchburg residents. To view the detailed progress reports, historical and working documents on the Nine Springs Creek Watershed please visit:

[www.fitchburgwi.gov/departments/cityHall/publicWorks/stormwater/NineSpringsMasterPlan.php](http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/departments/cityHall/publicWorks/stormwater/NineSpringsMasterPlan.php) or contact Rick Eilertson at 270-4264 or [Rick.Eilertson@fitchburgwi.gov](mailto:Rick.Eilertson@fitchburgwi.gov).

#### **Fitchburg Initiates Web-based Erosion Control Inspection Process: PermiTrackESC**

One method of protecting our streams and lakes from sediment runoff is using erosion control best management practices (BMPs) on construction sites. These practices can be as simple as adding a stone tracking pad to a job site entrance to knock the mud off of tires as vehicles leave a construction site, or as complex as a sediment pond to settle out mud from stormwater before it leaves the site.

In a typical year Fitchburg will have anywhere from 15 to 30 commercial/plat construction projects underway. Keeping track of what needs to be done for a particular project and making sure all projects are in compliance with their permit can be challenging. To meet this challenge Fitchburg is partnering with SEH Technology Solutions and RA Smith National to implement a web-based erosion control inspection process called PermiTrack. PermiTrackESC (<https://www.mypermitrack.com>) enables property owners or their contactors to file weekly erosion control inspection reports via a mobile device or personal computer (PC) instead of making hard copies that they need to make an extra effort to drop off, fax, e-mail or snail mail to Fitchburg staff. It also gives the property owner, contractor, and Fitchburg staff easy access to the project documents and past reports wherever they can get web access.

Fitchburg staff and contractors will be able to start using PermiTrackESC effective January 1, 2014. To help ease the transition Fitchburg and RA Smith National hosted training for city staff and interested contractors this past December. The training session for contractors is available on line at:

<http://factv.city.fitchburg.wi.us/Cablecast/Public/Show.aspx?ChannelID=2&ShowID=2852>

PermiTrackESC will save both contractors and city staff time, and protect our water resources by staying on top of erosion control practices to ensure that they are functioning properly. In addition an on line map of active projects and their current status will be accessible to the

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public. To access the map or if you'd like to learn more about Fitchburg's erosion control practices or PermiTrackESC's use in Fitchburg please visit:  
<http://www.city.fitchburg.wi.us/departments/cityHall/publicWorks/stormwater/ErosionControl.php>  
or contact Felipe Avila at [felipe.avila@fitchburgwi.gov](mailto:felipe.avila@fitchburgwi.gov).

### **Spring 2014 Waterway Cleanup on April 19<sup>th</sup>**

Fitchburg's Spring Waterway Cleanups for 2014 are tentatively planned for Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> from 9am until noon, rain or shine.\*

This year's plan calls for cleanups on the north side of Dunn's Marsh along Crescent Road. In addition, there may be a cleanup group in your area, coordinated by your neighborhood association. Anyone interested in being a group leader may contact Rick Eilertson, Fitchburg Environmental Engineer, at [rick.eilertson@fitchburgwi.gov](mailto:rick.eilertson@fitchburgwi.gov) or (608) 270-4264 to coordinate a cleanup in your neighborhood.

Fitchburg will provide refreshments and a tote bag or T-shirt to participants. Volunteers are encouraged to wear boots and bring work gloves. Please be forewarned: Restroom facilities are often not convenient to the planned cleanup locations.

\*Further details on the Waterway Cleanups will be posted at [www.fitchburgwi.gov/stormwater](http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/stormwater) closer to the events.

### **Brush Collection Begins April 7<sup>th</sup>**

Residents of single family homes and apartments with up to four-units who receive City refuse & recycling collection from Pellitteri Waste Systems and apartment complexes who pay for City brush collection service will receive fourteen curbside brush collections between April and November.

Brush should be placed on your driveway or terrace but should not be placed in the street. You should not place brush at the curb until the weekend before the Monday of the collection week. Leaving brush at the curb for extended periods, or placing brush at the curb long before the collection can result in a \$177 fine.

Please have brush at the curb by 6:30 a.m. Monday on the week of collection, regardless of which day your refuse and recyclables are collected.

Pellitteri collects brush with a packer type truck. Twigs less than 3/4-inch diameter (thumb-size) are considered yard waste and should be disposed of accordingly.

#### **Brush Collection Requirements**

- The maximum length for brush is 5 feet long. Longer branches will not be collected!
- The maximum branch size is 6 inches in diameter. Larger branches are considered firewood and will not be collected.
- Lay brush perpendicular to the street with the cut end toward the street. Pile brush neatly.
- Do not bring brush to the Recycling Drop Off Site. Violators will receive citations.

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Fitchburg residents may drop off brush at Purple Cow Organics (2159 Range Trail, Verona) at a reduced rate of \$22/ton. Call (608) 848-4400 for hours and brush preparation requirements.

Please contact Public Works at [publicworks@city.fitchburg.wi.us](mailto:publicworks@city.fitchburg.wi.us) or 270-4260 if you have any questions.

<b>2014 Brush Collection Schedule</b>	
<b>Week of:</b>	
April 7	August 4
April 21	August 25
May 5	September 15
May 19	September 29
June 2	October 13
June 23	October 27
July 14	November 17
*Actual collection dates may depend on weather	

**Fitchburg Kicks Off Water Conservation Campaign on Thurs., April 3rd**

When: Thursday, April 3, 6:30pm-8:00pm  
Where: Fitchburg Public Library, 5530 Lacy Road

The Mayor and City of Fitchburg Staff have made water conservation a top priority for 2014. Learn about existing groundwater supplies in Dane County, how to fix your toilet, and outdoor water wise landscaping. The event will be held at the City of Fitchburg Public Library and will feature speakers from the Wisconsin Geologic and Natural History Survey, Benjamin Plumbing, and the City of Fitchburg Department of Public Works.

For more information visit: [www.fitchburgwi.gov](http://www.fitchburgwi.gov)

**Spring 2014 Waterway Cleanup Events on April 19<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>**

Fitchburg's Spring Waterway Cleanups for 2014 are planned for Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> from 9am until noon and Sunday, April 27 from 1-3pm, rain or shine.\*

The April 19<sup>th</sup> cleanup will start at Apache Pond (4491 Crescent Road). The April 27<sup>th</sup> cleanup will start at the stormwater pond near the McKee Farms Park Splash Pad (2930 Chapel Valley Road). Fitchburg will provide refreshments and a tote bag or T-shirt to participants. Volunteers are encouraged to wear boots and bring work gloves. Please be forewarned: Restroom facilities are often not convenient to the planned cleanup locations.

In addition, there may be a cleanup group in your area, coordinated by your neighborhood association. Anyone interested in being a group leader may contact Rick Eilertson to coordinate a cleanup in your neighborhood. Fitchburg will provide plastic bags for collecting trash and recyclables as well as Refuse Tags if needed.

\*Further details on the Waterway Cleanups will be posted at [www.fitchburgwi.gov/stormwater](http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/stormwater) closer to the events.

For more information and/or to RSVP for the waterway cleanup events, please contact:  
Rick Eilertson, Fitchburg Environmental Project Engineer  
[Rick.eilertson@fitchburgwi.gov](mailto:Rick.eilertson@fitchburgwi.gov)  
608-270-4264

### **Springtime Storm Showers Bring More Than Just Flowers**

Spring is finally here! The snow has melted and the spring showers have started. When snow melts and rain falls, it flows across streets, driveways, parking lots and rooftops and transports sand, salt, leaves, oil, trash and many other pollutants directly to storm drains, which eventually ends up in our lakes and streams.

Some folks mistakenly think that water running off streets goes into a sewage treatment plant. But the truth is that it goes right to our lakes and streams.

#### **You Can Help**

There are many things each of us can do to prevent storm water pollution.

- 💧 Use salt sparingly during the winter.
- 💧 Sweep up any excess salt and sand left over from the snow shoveling season.
- 💧 Clean up pet waste year round – bag it and put the bagged pet waste in your refuse cart or collect it in a bucket until you can bury it properly.
- 💧 Keep cars well maintained and repair fluid leaks; but consider walking, public transportation or riding a bike whenever you can.
- 💧 Direct rainwater away from paved areas to lawns or gardens where it can soak in.
- 💧 Keep leaves and grass clippings out of the street. Compost yard waste, debris and leaves.
- 💧 Get a soil test before applying fertilizer to your lawn. Don't pay for something you don't need. If a test shows that your lawn does need fertilizer, apply it according to directions and carefully clean up any spills on paved surfaces.
- 💧 Wash your car on the lawn or at a car wash that sends its used water to the sewage treatment plant.
- 💧 Prevent soil erosion.
- 💧 Don't let anything but rain go down the storm drain or into the ditch.

Go to [www.myfairlakes.com](http://www.myfairlakes.com) for more ideas on how you can help our lakes and streams.

### **Give Your Lawn a Checkup Before You Fertilize**

After a long winter under a deep blanket of snow, your lawn is finally visible again, matted and brown. You may be thinking about spring cleaning and maintenance, including an application of fertilizer to ensure lush, green grass this summer. Before you fertilize, test your soil to see what your lawn needs. You may be wasting your time and money, and sending excess nutrients to local waterways where they feed algae and damage fish habitat, if you don't test first.

If your soil already has the right balance of nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium, you don't need to fertilize. To figure out your lawn's needs, send in a soil sample to be tested. The University of Wisconsin has a soil testing lab right in Madison. Any Wisconsin soil can be submitted for analysis at a cost of \$15/sample. A sample is two cups of soil collected in multiple

places from the top 4 inches of your lawn. The laboratory will return a report for each sample indicating soil pH, percent organic matter, phosphorus and potassium analysis. It will also provide recommendations on the addition of lime (for pH) and fertilizer.

Right now is a great time to test—you should have your results in time for a spring application, if one is recommended. You'll find everything you need on the UW soil lab website <http://uwlab.soils.wisc.edu/lawn-garden/> (or google "UW soil testing"), including the submission form and sampling instructions.

Keep your lawn healthy and our area waters clean year round by:

- leaving grass clippings on the lawn
- selecting fertilizers with no phosphorus (unless your soil test results show it's needed; it's the law here in Dane County)
- avoiding weed and feed products
- calibrating fertilizer spreaders correctly
- keeping fertilizer off of paved surfaces
- choosing fertilizers with at least 25%- 50% of the nitrogen in slow release form

The Madison Area Municipal Storm Water Partnership is working with the Rock River Stormwater Group to reduce the amount of pollution making its way to our lakes and rivers. The Yahara chain of lakes and the Yahara River both ultimately drain to the Rock River. Both groups thank you for helping to Renew the Rock by reducing stormwater pollution throughout the Rock River area. Learn more at [www.myfairlakes.com](http://www.myfairlakes.com) and [www.renewtherock.com](http://www.renewtherock.com).

### **Algae in Stormwater Ponds**

With summer sun and heat in full swing, another stormwater side-effect becomes apparent: algae. Algae refers to a large group of plant-like organisms that undergo photosynthesis and grow in water. Algae is often misidentified with aquatic macrophytes, which are aquatic flowering plants, ferns, and mosses. Macrophytes are common in stormwater ponds, streams and wetlands and are classified by four categories floating unattached, floating attached, submerged and emergent seen below.

Common in many of our lakes and ponds, algal growth is accelerated by stormwater runoff collecting nutrient loads of nitrogen and phosphorus found in fertilizers. Not all algae are harmful, but some bacteria do occupy similar habitats as algae and produce certain risks. One of the largest offenders in Wisconsin is "blue-green algae". Blue-green algae is actually not an algae at all but a photosynthetic bacteria called cyanobacteria growing in nutrient rich lakes and ponds between mid-June and late-September. In some cases, blue-green algae produce toxins that can affect the skin, liver, internal organs, respiratory, and nervous systems. Not all blue-green algae produce these toxins, and it is difficult to distinguish when the toxins are being released. Exposure can come from skin contact, inhalation, and/or ingestion.

Another problem associated with algae are algal blooms, which are rapid increases of algae populations in a lake or pond. Algal blooms result from excess nutrients running off into the water body most notably phosphorus, commonly found in fertilizers. The algal blooms last a short period and produce large amounts of decaying algal which consumes oxygen in the aquatic habitat. Reduced oxygen levels damage the aquatic system and harm other aquatic life.



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The City of Fitchburg has actively tested algae samples on stormwater ponds for the last three years with help from Professor Linda Graham at the University of Wisconsin. The ponds sampled over the three years were Swan Creek Pond, The Crossing Ponds, Northern Lights Pond, Arrowhead West & East Pond, McKee Farms North Pond, Longford Pond, Oak Bank Pond and Ashbourne Pond. Most of the ponds sampled had healthy populations of both macrophytes (aquatic plants) and algae. It was only on the ponds with clearer water and lower populations of aquatic plants and algae that cyanobacteria was found.

When there is a balance of aquatic plants and algae harmful cyanobacteria tend not to exist in high concentrations. UW Madison researcher Linda Graham commented "People might think masses of green algae unsightly, but it is far better to have those algae sequestering nutrients from the water, to prevent those nutrients from helping toxic cyanobacteria to grow." While certain algae sampled was harmless and actually beneficial, we did find some toxic cyanobacteria in some ponds, specifically Swan Creek, The Crossing and Arrowhead West pond, during some of the sampling efforts. Stormwater ponds are not designed for public recreation and should be treated with caution, especially for children and pets.

To view past algae and nutrient sampling results and recommendations for each of the ponds sampled throughout the last three years please visit [www.fitchburgwi.gov/documentcenter/view/441](http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/documentcenter/view/441) or contact [rick.eilertson@fitchburgwi.gov](mailto:rick.eilertson@fitchburgwi.gov).

**Thank You Fitchburg Waterway Cleanup Volunteers!**

The City of Fitchburg and the Fitchburg Resource Conservation Commission (RCC) would like to thank all the volunteers who helped with Fitchburg's Annual Waterway Cleanups this year. Three different groups of volunteers helped collect trash and recyclables at Dunn's Marsh and Yarmouth Greenway. Community members, City of Fitchburg staff, RCC members and elected officials all helped out, including: Bill Scheuerell, Steve Streck, Paul Lundsten, Mayor Shawn Pfaff, Dorothy Krause, Steve Arnold, Diane Streck, Tony Hartmann, Jan Kucher, Chris Jimieson, Rick Eilertson, Felipe Avila, Kristofer Canto, and members of Girl Scout Daisy Troop 2157 and Brownie Troup 2747 (Jill McNaughton, Leigh Schmidt, Kelli Schmidt, Ellen Osthelder, Sara Osthelder, Allison Schmidt, Lizzie Schmidt, Sydney Schulz, Hannah Schmidt, Emma Yeager, Sophie Hodkiewicz, Isabella Moreau, Audrie Junge, and Lizzy Robinson).

In total, volunteers removed 27 large garbage bags of refuse and 13 bags of recycling from these areas, helping clean up our waterways and improve ecosystem health. Some of the more interesting items collected from these areas include an unopened bottle of champagne, a fire extinguisher, a dog kennel, a bike, carpet and scrap metal.

Don't worry if you missed out on this event - it is a yearly event and there are plenty of other opportunities to help around the community! We welcome any other volunteers interested in helping to keep these and other waterways clean throughout the year to contact Rick Eilertson, Fitchburg's Environmental Engineer, at [Rick.Eilertson@fitchburgwi.gov](mailto:Rick.Eilertson@fitchburgwi.gov) or 270-4264 for more information.

Fitchburg's Stormwater Utility will provide extra bags and/or Refuse Tags to volunteers who clean up Fitchburg waterways and/or road ditches. Also, Stormwater Utility customers who

complete and submit a Fitchburg Creek Supporter Pledge Form (available at: [www.fitchburgwi.gov/stormwater](http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/stormwater)) may be eligible for a reduction in their stormwater utility bill for pledging to help keep Fitchburg's waterways clean.

**Fall Leaf and Lawn Cleanup – Curbside collection on weeks of Oct. 27th and Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>**

The wonderful autumn season is coming and with it the Fall leaf and lawn cleanup. Before hauling your yard waste out for collection consider the natural value of your fallen leaves. Fallen leaves and other yard waste are a valuable resource since they are high in phosphorus, an important nutrient for plant growth and a harmful pollutant for our lakes and streams.

Putting these nutrients to good use and preventing them from entering our storm drains can be done easily by mulching or composting leaves. Mulching your lawn is done by periodically mowing small amounts of leaves and yard waste, which reduces the need for raking and provides a good source of nutrients to your lawn. Shredding the leaves with a mulching mower greatly reduces the volume of leaves and speeds up their decomposition. Raked leaves also make excellent mulch. They can be used to protect roses and other plants over the winter. Adding leaves to your vegetable or flower garden in the fall is a great source of nutrients and a soil conditioner. Any leaves which do not break down over the winter can be tilled into the soil in the spring.

Fall leaves can also be recycled at home by composting. Composting is a simple process and requires little time or effort on the part of homeowners. Compost provides essential nutrients for healthy plant growth. It improves soil structure and helps hold in moisture so you can save money by reducing the amount of water and commercial fertilizers you use on your lawn and garden. Leaves are rich in carbon and useful for balancing nitrogen-rich materials like fresh grass clippings and food waste when you're composting. Stocking your compost piles with leaves in the fall will give you plenty of carbon rich material to balance out your grass clippings in the spring.

For information on other Leaf and Lawn Cleanup options and techniques, visit [www.myfairlakes.com](http://www.myfairlakes.com), [www.fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste](http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste) or scan the QR code with a smart phone device. You can also stop by Fitchburg City Hall to view the "Leaf and Lawn Cleanup" display in the main hallway. Free "Love your Lakes, Don't Leaf Them" yard signs, beverage coasters, and "Dane Waters: A Reflection of Us All" dvds are available in the main lobby for you to use and show your love of Fitchburg's creeks and the lakes and rivers they drain to.

If you are setting your leaves and other yardwaste out for curbside collection this fall, there are three guidelines to be aware of.

1. Keep the leaves contained in a bag or container on the terrace of your yard, not in the street.

Although some other municipalities may collect leaves this way, Fitchburg prohibits raking leaves into the street. Raking leaves into the street can clog storm sewers, contribute to water pollution in local lakes and streams, and necessitate more frequent street cleaning. Leaves, grass clippings, plastic bags, and trash in streets can clog storm sewer pipes, resulting in street flooding that can damage property and make street driving hazardous. Yardwaste debris and contaminants in the sewers also harms downstream environments. Nutrients, such as

phosphorus and nitrogen found in yard waste encourage the growth of aquatic plants and algae, contributing to the unappealing smell and color of local ponds, lakes and streams while negatively affecting aquatic habitats. Leaves and other nutrients in the street this fall result in green stormwater ponds, lakes and streams next summer.

2. Know the collection dates of the curbside collection so that your leaves are on the curb for as short a time as possible.

This year's fall leaf and yard waste collection will take place the **weeks of October 28<sup>th</sup> and November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013** for residents of single family homes and apartments with up to four-units who receive City refuse & recycling collection. Pellitteri Waste Systems will begin collection on Monday of each week, and may continue through Saturday (or later depending on weather constraints). Your yard waste will not necessarily be collected on the same day as your pickup for refuse and recycling. **Please have leaves at the curb by 6:30 a.m. on the Monday that collection begins, regardless of which day your refuse and recycling is collected.**

3. Know your yardwaste collection container options.

Place leaves and yard waste at the curb in reusable containers or in bags no larger than 50 gallons or 50 lbs. each. **The non-reusable black plastic bags are to be left untied with a container for Pellitteri staff to place them in.** Loose leaves will not be collected. Although the fall cleanup is intended primarily for leaves, other non-woody yard waste will be collected, including grass clippings, weeds, flowers, garden debris, etc.

A photo is included, depicting the most sustainable options (#1) to least sustainable (#4), but still acceptable, curbside yard waste set out options:

- 1 – No Yard Waste set at curb (composted onsite or mulched on lawn – preferred)
- 2 – Reused plastic cart or container, reusable hundreds of times
  - Reusable ~ 30-50 gallon polybag w/ drawstring handles or draw cord (~\$3-10/polybag)
- 3 – Compostable ~30-50 gallon paper bag w/ folded top (~\$0.50-1/bag)
  - Compostable ~ 30-50 gallon plastic-like bags (\$0.60-1.20/bag)
- 4 – **Untied** Non-recyclable ~30 gallon black plastic bag (\$0.10-0.20/bag)

All residents may also take yard waste to the Fitchburg Recycling Drop Off Site. The site is open every day during daylight hours. In addition, Fitchburg residents may drop off yard waste at Purple Cow Organics, LLC at 2159 Range Trail in Verona at no charge. Call (608) 848-4400 for hours and yardwaste preparation requirements.

Please contact Public Works at 270-4260 or by e-mail at [publicworks@fitchburgwi.gov](mailto:publicworks@fitchburgwi.gov) if you have any questions on yard waste collection procedures.

### **Wisconsin's Recycling Leader Looks to Water**

#### **Water Conservation Campaign**

Mayor Pfaff and Fitchburg City Staff have made water use and conservation initiatives a top priority for 2014. Located within the Yaraha Lakes Chain and the Rock River Watershed basin, Fitchburg is going above and beyond to ensure our most critical resource remains protected.

In April Fitchburg participated in the Wyland Foundation Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation, ranking 13<sup>th</sup> amongst communities of similar size. This Challenge encouraged residents to conserve water throughout the year by pledging online. The April kick-off event included information on existing groundwater supplies in Dane County, how to fix your toilet, and outdoor water wise landscaping. The event was held at the City of Fitchburg Public Library and featured speakers from the Wisconsin Geologic and Natural History Survey, Benjamin Plumbing, and the City of Fitchburg Department of Public Works.

### **Advanced Metering Infrastructure**

The City of Fitchburg Water Utility has also begun installation of an Advance Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system for water meter reading and residential cross connection surveys. These installations and surveys will be completed over a three year period.

As part of the installation of the AMI system, the City will be upgrading all water meters to a newer wireless technology that provides hourly water consumption data. With this upgrade, the City will no longer need to drive by each property to collect meter reads; they will be able to better track water consumption, provide timely and accurate responses to billing questions, and will be able to provide faster customer leak identification.

### **Nine Springs Creek Watershed Master Plan**

In 2011, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) created the Rock River Basin Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) standard. Several water ways within the Rock River Basin are listed on the state's 303(d) list, including the Yahara River and Nine Springs Creek. With financial support from the Wisconsin Urban Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Abatement & Stormwater Management Grant Program, the City of Fitchburg has conducted stormwater planning activities to ensure the Nine Springs Creek Watershed meets standards set forth by the Rock River TMDL while also protecting public/private safety. Objectives for the Stormwater Management and Grant Program included:

1. Compile and analyze prior studies of stormwater facilities within the Nine Springs Creek Watershed, with emphasis on Dunn's Marsh;
2. Conduct public involvement meetings and generate community awareness surrounding the Nine Springs Creek Watershed;
3. Create a Nine Springs Creek Watershed Master Plan with proposed stormwater best management practices;
4. Update mapping and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) for stormwater infrastructure; and
5. Determine a long-term rate structure for the stormwater utility.
6. Complete detailed management recommendations for Dunn's Marsh.

### **A Forward Fitchburg**

Fitchburg recognizes the importance water plays in our own individual health, environmental systems, and Wisconsin's economy. As a community, we have committed ourselves to protecting our water resources and supporting the vision of a Forward Fitchburg.

**Save Money – Use Less Salt this Winter**

Salt and sand contribute greatly to lake and stream pollution. Once it's spread on parking lots, streets, sidewalks and driveways, it's on its way to the nearest lake or stream and cannot be recovered. Fifty pounds of salt (one large bag) can pollute 10,000 gallons of water—which is equivalent to one teaspoon in a five-gallon bucket of water. Municipalities are working to cut salt use while still keeping streets safe. So, let's all save money this winter with these helpful tips and help the lakes and streams at the same time.

- Always use a shovel first, especially if the pavement temperature is 32°F or more—don't waste money on deicers.
- Reserve deicers for ice, not snow. Shovel as soon as possible so that wet, heavy snow doesn't have the opportunity to turn to ice.
- All salt is not created equal. Various types of deicers perform differently at different temperature ranges. The most common and cheapest is sodium chloride ("rock salt"), but doesn't work when the pavement is colder than 15°F. Magnesium chloride and calcium chloride cost more, but you'll use less and it works in colder temps.
- Consider getting a pavement thermometer (~\$30) to help determine pavement temperatures, which can vary widely depending on how much sun shines on your driveway. (Plus, they're kind of fun to play with.)
- Measure your sidewalk and driveway so you know how much you need. A general guideline is to use 1-3 cups of salt per 1,000 square feet. Save money by using only what is needed.
- Apply liquid salt to the pavement before the storm and shovel a little while it's snowing. After the storm, shovel before using any salt. Most times, you won't need any. Use deicers on ice, don't waste it on snow.
- You can use 30% less deicer if you wet your salt with some water before applying it.
- While salt is sometimes mixed with sand to keep the sand from freezing into a solid block, it's not a good idea to use both at the same time on your sidewalk. The salt will melt the ice, but when it refreezes, the sand will be frozen below the surface where it can't do any good. Choose one or the other. Try removing the ice by hand first before using either sand or salt.
- If you have an area that tends to ice up, consider making it a priority to remedy next summer so you won't need to deice in the future.

**Be a "Label Reader"!**

Read the label on the ice melt product so that you know exactly what you are spending your hard-earned cash on. If the bag doesn't say otherwise, it's probably sodium chloride, but you're better off using something that says exactly what's in the bag. Some products claiming to be "green" or "pet safe" are simply chloride compounds. You can always ask for the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for the product—it will show percentages so that you can see if you are paying for pretty packaging of rock salt. And while you're reading, be sure to follow the application rates. You need much less of some products than others, so be sure not to waste money by over applying.

Labeled as:	Works Down	Approximate Cost	Pros/Concerns
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**2013 - 2014 Biennial Report**  
 Group Municipal Storm Water Discharge Permit  
 WPDES Permit No. WI S058416-3  
**Appendix B – Stormwater Management Program**

	<b>to:</b>		
Calcium Chloride	-25°F	\$35 for 50 pounds	Use much less than rock salt, chloride impacts; may damage concrete
Magnesium Chloride	5°F	\$30-\$35 for 50 pounds; \$15-\$20 for 20 pounds	less toxic than calcium chloride and less damaging to concrete and pavement, but may corrode metals over time
Sodium Chloride (“rock salt”)	15°F	\$6 for 25 pound bag	Chloride impacts
Calcium Magnesium Acetate (CMA)	25 °F	\$20 for 50 pounds	No chlorides; less toxic
Potassium Chloride	25°F		need to use more than rock salt; works slower than calcium chloride, safer on concrete
Sand	No melting effect	\$5 for a 20 lb bag	Not a deicer; for traction only; do not use with salt; accumulates in streets, lakes and streams; needs to be swept up, easily tracked into buildings

*Urea and Amide/Glycol are other deicing products that are chloride free and touted as pet/kid/environmentally friendly, but generally are not as effective as chlorides. However, when combined with shoveling first, can be a useful alternative.*

The Madison Area Municipal Storm Water Partnership is working with the Rock River Stormwater Group to reduce the amount of pollution making its way to our lakes and streams. The Yahara chain of lakes and the Yahara River both ultimately drain to the Rock River. Both groups thank you for helping to Renew the Rock by reducing stormwater pollution throughout the Rock River area. Learn more at [www.myfairlakes.com](http://www.myfairlakes.com) and [www.renewtherock.com](http://www.renewtherock.com).

## **Appendix C**

### **Storm Sewer System Map**

Fitchburg staff submitted revisions to its storm sewer system map to the City of Madison. The City of Madison includes a copy of the updated storm sewer system map in its Biennial Report for compliance with WPDES Permit No. WI S058416-3.

## **Appendix D**

### **Water Quality Concerns**

**VI.b. Impaired Waterbody:** Nine Springs Creek. The following practices were used to improve the water quality discharging into the creek: detention ponds, street sweeping, and public education and outreach for the Nine Springs Creek watershed. A Stormwater Master Plan for Nine Springs Creek was being created until grant funding was removed by the DNR in 2009. A new grant for the Stormwater Master Plan was awarded by DNR in 2010 and subsequently defunded. This grant was awarded again in 2012 and work proceeded on the following tasks:

1. Compile historical information on stormwater facilities in the Nine Springs Creek Watershed,
2. Hold public involvement meetings,
3. Create the Nine Springs Creek Watershed Master Plan,
4. Updating the stormwater system mapping,
5. Prepare financial recommendations for the Fitchburg Stormwater Utility, and
6. Create the Dunn's Marsh Stormwater Management Plan.

Initial recommended stormwater concept plans were sent to DNR in Summer 2013. As meetings progressed with DNR, several issues such as navigability determinations and wetland determinations came up which delayed the final release of the Nine Springs Watershed Master Plan. DNR submitted a letter on January 13, 2015 with their final analysis of navigability and wetland determinations for the various recommended stormwater improvements. Fitchburg staff is in the process of reviewing this letter prior to finalizing the Nine Springs Watershed Master Plan.

**VI.c. Identify any known water quality improvements in the receiving water to which the MS4 discharges during the reporting period:** Red Arrow Pond was constructed in 2013 (~0% TSS reduction to ~50% TSS reduction in that subwatershed. Pine Ridge Pond was retrofitted from a dry pond to a bioretention pond in 2014 (~0% TSS reduction to ~75% TSS reduction in that subwatershed). The City of Madison also constructed the Renaissance Stormwater Treatment Structure upstream of Dunn's Marsh during December 2014; however, screens were'nt installed until 2015 so the actual treatment efficiency won't be reached until the 2015-2016 Biennial Report.

**VI.d. Identify any known water quality degradation in the receiving water to which the MS4 discharges during the reporting period and what actions are being taken to improve the water quality in the receiving water:** The City's Stormwater Utility Credit and Rebate program, municipal stormwater facility retrofits (Red Arrow Pond, Pine Ridge Pond conversion), Nine Springs Creek Watershed Master Plan, and improved public education and outreach are actions being taken to improve water quality for receiving waters within and downstream of Fitchburg.



**APPENDIX E**  
**Additional Information**

**VII.a. Description of any revisions or proposed revisions to any element of the municipality's storm water management program.** The City is finalizing the Nine Springs Creek Watershed Master Plan to guide future improvements to water quality and hopes to conduct a similar planning process in other urban stormwatersheds.

**VII.b. Updated listing and contact information for any new industrial facilities that may be regulated under Subchapter II of NR 216, Wis. Adm. Code, and that have commenced operation during the reporting period.** Public Works staff is not aware of any new facilities that would pertain to this section.

**VII.c. Summary of any other activities undertaken to comply with the conditions of this permit or other information you feel the Department of Natural Resources should be aware of:** The City created a Stormwater Utility in 2002 to fund stormwater activities. The Stormwater Utility is responsible for maintaining and upgrading the City stormwater management facilities. Services include street sweeping, stormwater pond and streambank improvements, and public education and outreach.

Property owners within the Fitchburg with impervious areas >3,700 sf are charged a quarterly or annual fee (depending on whether they're in the urban service area or rural service area). The amount of the fee is based on the total impervious area of the property. Credits and Rebates to this stormwater utility fee are available to property owners. The fees, as well as the available credits, are made available to the public at: [www.fitchburgwi.gov/stormwater](http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/stormwater).