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1. Take Steps to Save Water and Money During Fix a Leak Week, March 16-22



March 16-22, 2015

Fix a Leak Week

EPA
WaterSense

Follow these tips to slow the flow of water and money down the drain:

- Check water utility bills for signs of leaks.
 - Check toilets and faucets for leaks regularly.
 - Repair dripping faucets, showerheads and toilet flappers. For repair tips, visit fitchburgwi.gov/conservation to watch a short video.
 - Toilets and faucets account for 42% of indoor water use. Replace older toilets to save 13,000 gallons of water per year and \$2400 over the life of the toilet. WaterSense bathroom sink faucets can reduce water blow by 30% or more. Go to epa.gov/WaterSense/products/.
- Apply for a \$100 toilet rebate at fitchburgwi.gov/conservation for pre-1994 water-wasting toilets.
 - Run only full loads in the washing machine and dishwasher.
 - Turn off water when brushing teeth or washing hands and face.

2. Celebrate World Water Day This Sunday, March 22

World Water Day is a day to celebrate, a day to make change and a day to conserve our most precious resource: Water. This Sunday get outdoors and celebrate World Water Day by enjoying Fitchburg area waters. A trip to Dunn's Marsh or the Capitol Springs State Park and Recreation Area are two great ways to enjoy the first days of spring while appreciating our majestic water resources. For more information, visit unwater.org/worldwaterday.

The Wisconsin Academy of the Arts, Sciences and Letters is also sponsoring a celebration and performance of Handel's Water Music by the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra from 1:00-3:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 22 in the Wisconsin Studio at the Overture Center for the Arts, Madison. Also at Overture Center from March 10 through May 10, 2015, is an exhibition in the James Watrous Gallery including paintings, prints, sculpture, and video works that investigate water's substance, actions, and powerful, poetic voice. Visit wisconsinacademy.org for details.



3. Drop Off Recyclables for Craft Projects at Fitchburg Library

The Fitchburg Public Library is currently seeking clean egg cartons, tin cans, plastic water bottles, and toilet paper and paper towels rolls for future programs. Look for Earth Day craft events made from reused egg cartons and milk jugs caps, DIY wind chime event made out of tin cans, and a planting project using egg cartons and milk jug caps. For more information, contact Kelly Witt, Youth Services Librarian, at 729-1768 or kelly.witt@fitchburgwi.gov or drop off materials at Fitchburg Public Library, 5530 Lacy Road.

4. Fitchburg Green and Complete Streets Forum Set for April 9th

The Fitchburg Resource Conservation Commission will host a forum on Green and Complete Streets on Thursday, April 9th from 3:00-4:30 p.m. at the Fitchburg Library in Room A/B. Bernard Lenz, La Crosse Assistant City Engineer, will talk about the City of La Crosse's efforts to integrate green infrastructure practices into their Complete Streets process.

While a Complete Street improves health, safety, and accessibility for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and public transportation users of all ages and abilities, the "green" component of La Crosse's 2012 Green Complete Streets Ordinance ensures environmental sustainability through stormwater management, landscaping, and air quality improvements that are integral to the process as well.



All Complete Streets look different, but common features include sidewalks, bike lanes, raised crosswalks, bus shelters and crossings, refuge medians, wide shoulders, special bus lanes, sidewalk bulb-outs and audible pedestrian signals. A "Green" Complete Street also adds green infrastructure such as porous pavement, grass swales, bio-retention basins, trees, and vegetated boulevards and medians.

Green Complete Streets make it easier and more enjoyable to cross the street, walk to shops, or bicycle to work while cleaning the environment, and thus facilitate a healthier, active city; but making that change to a Green Complete Street design process can be difficult. Mr. Lenz will share how La Crosse integrated green infrastructure into the Complete Street process and describe some of the lesson learned.

For more information on Complete Streets, please visit completestreets.org.

5. Spring Waterway Cleanup Set for April 18th

Fitchburg's Spring Waterway Cleanups for 2015 are tentatively planned for Saturday, April 18th from 9am-11am, rain or shine.* A cleanup will be held on the north side of Dunn's Marsh along Crescent Road. There may be additional cleanup groups forming 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 or (608) 270-4264 to coordinate a cleanup in your neighborhood.

Fitchburg will provide refreshments and giveaways to all participants. Volunteers are encouraged to wear boots and bring work gloves. Restroom facilities are often not convenient to the planned cleanup locations, so plan accordingly.

*Check fitchburgwi.gov/stormwater for additional details on the Waterway Cleanups closer to the events.

6. Electronics Recycling, Shred Day, Clean Sweep & Med Drops Events Set for May 9 from 8-11 a.m.

The City of Fitchburg, Oak Bank, Pellitteri Waste Systems, Surplus-IT, Dane County Clean Sweep, and Veolia have scheduled Fitchburg's Spring 2015 Electronics Recycling, Shred Day, & Clean Sweep Events on Saturday, May 9, 2015 from 8:00-11:00 a.m.

Information about other options for recycling may be found in Fitchburg's 2015 Recycling Guide on Fitchburg's web page at: fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste. Hard copies are available in Fitchburg City Hall Lobby.

7. Volunteer Recruitment Underway for 2015 Stream Monitoring

Fitchburg has an abundance of streams and waterways in both natural and urban areas that make our community a special place to live, work and play. Stream sampling is an important way for us to keep an eye on the health of those streams and rivers. The City is looking for volunteer stream monitors to check

stream conditions once a month from April to October at three sites in Fitchburg: Nine Springs Creek, Murphy's Creek and Swan Creek.



Monitors check for water temperature, dissolved oxygen, and water clarity. They also take grab samples in a jar and transport them to the laboratory at the Madison Metropolitan Sewage District where it is analyzed for phosphorus and total suspended solids (TSS). Volunteer monitors also enter their data into a database used by local and state officials to identify problem areas and strategies to improve water quality. All equipment and training is provided through the Rock River Coalition. For safety reasons, monitors should work in pairs.

Stream monitoring is part of Fitchburg's Creek Supporter Pledge Program, so Fitchburg residents who volunteer to monitor a stream would be eligible for a reduction in their stormwater utility bill of \$4 to \$12 per year. For more details, visit fitchburgwi.gov/stormwater.

To volunteer, contact Rick Eilertson, Fitchburg Environmental Engineer, at rick.eilertson@fitchburgwi.gov or 270-4264.

8. Fitchburg Launches New Mobile App for Android Users, iPhones

The City of Fitchburg is excited to announce the launch of a new Android and iPhone apps: FitchburgWI! This app is full of features that give citizens easy access to City news, events and announcements, meeting information, the City's Facebook and Twitter sites, a way to sign up for notifications and emergency alerts, library information, rec programs, the staff directory and much more! The app even offers citizens a way to report a concern by submitting a photo using a map feature. The app is free and available for download for Android mobile devices at [Access Mobile App Here](#) or go to the App Store on your iPhone and search for Fitchburgwi.

9. Sauk County Sponsors Rain Barrel & Backyard Composter Sale

Sauk County is now taking orders for rain barrels and backyard composters through Friday, May 15th. The SYSTEM Rain Barrel is available at a cost of \$55 including tax (a value of \$110), and can cut house water bills by up to 40%. The EARTH MACHINE composter is available at a cost of \$40 including tax (a value of \$75), and can reduce garbage output by 30%. Kitchen compost scrap pails are also available for \$10 and composter turns for \$20. Only cash and checks are accepted. Bins and barrels can be picked up at the Sauk County Conservation, Planning and Zoning Office, 505 Broadway, Baraboo. For more information or to order supplies, go to co.sauk.wi.us/cpz/rain-barrels-compost-bins-sale.



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Please contact [Erika Kluetmeier](mailto:erika.kluetmeier@fitchburgwi.gov), Sustainability Specialist, at erika.kluetmeier@fitchburgwi.gov or 270-4274 if you have any questions, comments, and/or suggestions on future Green E-News topics.