

## Participate in our Stormwater Survey

Are you a resident of NE Minneapolis who experiences stormwater management issues on your property? If yes, the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization is interested in learning more about the stormwater challenges you are facing through a brief survey.

Please pull out the insert between pages 2 and 3. Please complete the short survey to the best of your knowledge and submit it online or by mail **no later than Monday, July 20**. You may want to wait until just after the next rainfall event when problems can be more easily observed and documented.

## Waite Park Raingarden Program

In partnership with Metro Blooms, a local non-profit organization, Waite Park Community Council (WPCC) is again sponsoring a neighborhood raingarden program. Twenty raingardens will be available on a first come first serve basis. Last year, 10 raingardens were installed in the neighborhood, 14 in 2018 and 25 in 2017.

If you are interested in participating and having a raingarden installed on your property, contact Jennifer Moeller at Metro Blooms at (preferred) jmoeller@metroblooms.org or 612-367-6080 with your name, address, phone number and email address if you have one--please reference Waite Park because several neighborhoods have raingarden programs. WPCC uses Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) funds from the City of Minneapolis to subsidize the cost of the consultations, designs, project oversight and installation, bringing the homeowner cost down to approximately \$350-\$400 per property.

Metro Blooms and the Conservation Corps of Minnesota will be installing the raingardens in Waite Park in August.



These raingardens may seem small but their impact on water quality is incredibly important. Below, we have estimated the amount of runoff that each raingarden captures per year, and as a group of 10 raingardens. Take that water quality benefit and multiply it over many years, not to mention the pollinator habitat created by the new native plants. A total of 430 new perennials and shrubs were planted as a part of this project. The impact is huge and very exciting!

### Project Results

Metro Blooms installed 10 raingardens in the Waite Park neighborhood in the summer of 2019.

Total Project square footage: 1,156 sf

Each raingarden was an average of 115 sf.

Pollution Reduction Calculations per raingarden per year (estimated):

Runoff captured – 14,873 gallons

Total Suspended Solids captured – 6.75 lbs.

Total Phosphorus captured – 0.038 lbs.

Pollution Reduction Calculations for total project per year (estimated):

Runoff captured – 148,733 gallons

Total Suspended Solids captured – 67.5 lbs.

Total Phosphorus captured – 0.376 lbs.

## NE Storm Drain Challenge

(Photo credit John Weirick)



Audubon Neighborhood is challenging other Northeast neighborhoods to see which one can adopt the most storm drains. All of the storm drains in our area lead directly to underground pipes that flow straight to the Mississippi River, carrying trash and debris with it. Preventing pollution from entering the river improves water quality for us here in the Twin Cities, as well as the millions of people living downstream. As of April 2020, five other Northeast neighborhoods have confirmed their participation in the challenge: Logan Park, Sheridan, Waite Park, Windom Park and Bottineau.

In Northeast, we find many types of debris in our storm drains and they each harm our river in different ways. Trash and cigarette butts are a rather obvious pollutant to our River, but they also clog storm drains causing flooding. Plastics are especially harmful since they don't break down and are consumed by the fresh and other animals living by the River. Microplastics have even been found in our drinking water. Leaves make great compost for our gardens, but those same nutrients cause our lakes and rivers to turn green and slimy. This effect can eventually lead to fish kills and dead zones. Even the sand left by road trucks over the winter can cause "turbidity", which causes adverse health effects for fish, stressing the entire ecosystem.

Caring for a storm drain is easy. Sweep or rake up the debris and put it in a trash bag. Early spring storm drain debris is probably contaminated from winter salt and oil and should be thrown away. Later in the season, if your storm drain is full of mostly leaves and sticks, it's probably safe to dispose of with yard waste. Be sure to formally adopt your drain at [adopt-a-drain.org](http://adopt-a-drain.org) and track the pounds of waste you've collected. We'll be able to measure our collective progress at the end of the Challenge in October and provide the neighborhoods with a report on how much pollution we've kept from the River.

Although caring for storm drains can seem like a relatively small act, together our efforts add up. It feels good to be taking action with one's own hands and making a measurable difference in a river that is the heart of our city.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello Neighbor,

In a Normal newsletter I would be asking everyone to show up at the movie in the park, or carnival, or other group and neighborhood activities. We are very unfortunately and obviously not in "normal" at the moment. How quickly things can change; when our last newsletter went out we were all able to gather in groups, shake hands, and casually stroll through the grocery store. When the last newsletter went out; over 1300 Minnesotans and George Floyd were still alive. When the last newsletter went out the conversations that are happening now were not happening with the same honesty.

The cursory information that I need to tell everyone about in the newsletter is that there is a survey to fill out from the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization about storm water in Northeast; please take a moment to fill it out

online or by filling out the form and mailing it to the address on the form. We are partnering with with Metro Blooms again this year to help install raingardens around the neighborhood; if interested contact Metro Blooms that can be found in the article on the front page. Also read up on the NE Stormdrain Challenge.

For the foreseeable future we will be holding our regular Community Council meetings via Zoom. The meetings take place on the last Thursday of the month. Attendance is open to anyone that wants to participate, please email [WaiteparkCC@gmail.com](mailto:WaiteparkCC@gmail.com) for log-in information.

As someone who spent close to two decades in the service industry I know that the work is often thankless. So I would be amiss if I did not thank the essential workers who are out working, helping people and getting things done. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Rain water, and where it ends up is not the most important thing to think about right now. However, the distraction of the small differences and changes that we can do to improve even a small thing are important for our front yard, in part because it feels good to get out of the house and do something, and in part because my son likes to help "dig for worms". It also has the added benefit of leading to many impromptu conversations with people out for walks. We live in a small corner of the city of Minneapolis, and the impact that we can have on the city as a whole is small. The importance of a hello, and honest conversation, or just asking if a neighbor needs help right now can make a large difference in someone's life.

To paraphrase Dr. Seuss, *A person is a person no matter who they are.*  
- Ross

**Public hearings scheduled for July on revised 2020 budget**

The City Council's Budget Committee will hold two public hearings in July on proposed revisions to the City's 2020 budget.

The City faces a significant revenue shortfall as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and needs to make cuts to the City's roughly \$1.5 billion budget.

Mayor Jacob Frey will brief the City Council's Policy & Government Oversight (POGO) Committee on a revised 2020 budget July 9, and staff will present the *revised budget to the City Council July 10.*

**Public hearings**

Engage and share your voice in this process during two online public hearings:

- 6:05 p.m. Tuesday, July 14
- 10 a.m. Wednesday, July 22

You can watch the online meetings and participate in the online public hearings. Visit the website, [www.MinneapolisMN.gov](http://www.MinneapolisMN.gov).

The City Council is scheduled to vote July 24 on a revised 2020 budget.

**Minneapolis Forward: resources for recovery, rebuilding**

Over the last several months, our Minneapolis community has faced extraordinarily painful challenges. The City of Minneapolis is working hard to help the people of our city heal and recover, to emerge stronger and more equitable than before.

To find information about legal actions related to George Floyd's death, plans to transform public safety, and resources for residents and businesses affected by recent violence, civic unrest and the COVID-19 pandemic, visit [minneapolismn.gov/minneapolisforward](http://minneapolismn.gov/minneapolisforward).

Welcome Home.



**Mission Statement:**

The Waite Park Community Council (WPCC) serves as a forum to support the interests of the Waite Park neighborhood to maintain a high quality of life through community engagement.

**Waite Park Community Council**

1810 34th Avenue Northeast  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55418-1423

**New Website:** [www.waiteparkmpls.org](http://www.waiteparkmpls.org)

**Voicemail:** 612-789-5104

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/waitepark](https://facebook.com/waitepark)

**Twitter:** [twitter.com/waiteparkcc](https://twitter.com/waiteparkcc)

**E-mail:** [waiteparkcc@gmail.com](mailto:waiteparkcc@gmail.com)

President..... Ross Logas  
Vice President..... Michelle Shaw  
Treasurer..... Megan Ausen

*Board of Directors:*

Gary Arntsen	Nora Kraemer
Jim Bensen	Diane Krawczynski
Brant Kochsiek	Hayley Nemmers

*Ex-Officio Board Members:*

Brian Hall, Mpls Parks & Rec.  
Sandi McDonald, Waite Park Cmty. Ed.

**WAITE PARK VOICE**

June 2020

Volume 26, Issue Number 2

The Waite Park Voice is published by the WPCC with funds from the Minneapolis Community Participation Program (CPP). The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the WPCC.

*Contributors in this issue:*

Gary Arntsen, Audubon Neighborhood Association, Megan Ausen, Amanda Degener, Jennifer Ehlert, Steve Gallagher, Ross Logas, Emilie Quast, David Rubedor, and Jack Whitehurst

*Thanks to our partners in spreading the news:*

Park Printing, DO-GOOD-.BIZ, and the United States Postal Service.



**Complete the census!**

Invitations to participate in the 2020 Census were mailed in April, and the decennial population count is officially underway! It has never been easier to respond without having to meet anyone in person, and you can get counted from the comfort of your own home online and over the phone (in 12 non-English languages) right now. We must ensure our communities are fully counted so we receive our fair share of resources and political representation for the next decade.

Complete the census in the safety of your own home:

- Online: [www.my2020census.gov](http://www.my2020census.gov)
- By Phone • 1-844-330-2020
- Or via mail

Simply fill out the form you receive in the mail and return in the envelope provided.

As of June 8th, Minnesota is was #1 in the nation with a self response rate of 71.1%, 10% over the national average of 61.5%!

As of June 8th, Minneapolis had a response rate of 68.5%, nearing our 72.8% response rate from 2010! The response rate for Waite Park neighborhood was over 80%.

The City of Minneapolis has translated census outreach materials that are available on its resources page: visit to [minneapolismn.gov/census/wecountresources](http://minneapolismn.gov/census/wecountresources).

## Participate in our Stormwater Survey

Are you a resident of Northeast Minneapolis who experiences stormwater management issues on your property? If yes, the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization is interested in learning more about the stormwater challenges you are facing through a brief survey. All survey participants will receive information about stormwater management practices that could potentially benefit your property.

The impacts of stormwater runoff on your property depend on how long and how hard it rains, the slope of your property, the type and quality of the soils, the amount of impervious surface on your property, and other factors. The results of the survey will help us identify problems that are common throughout the community, as well as any problems that are unique to particular residential properties with similar characteristics. Identifying potential solutions is only possible once there is a full understanding of the challenges residents are facing.

Please complete the short survey to the best of your knowledge and submit it no later than **Monday, July 20**. You may want to wait until just after the next rainfall event when problems can be more easily observed and documented.

Complete the survey at this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/nestormwatersurvey>

Or fill out this paper copy and mail to:  
Mississippi Watershed Management Organization  
2522 Marshall St. NE Minneapolis, MN 55418

This program is part of the overall Northeast Stormwater Management Initiative, where modeling, planning, and project implementation are currently being used to address identified flood risk areason a regional scale, whereas this survey is intended to address stormwater issues on a localized scale.

To learn more about the regional initiative, on visit <http://www.mwmo.org/planning/northeast-stormwater-managementinitiative/>.

Any questions, please contact: Michaela Neu Youth & Community

Outreach Specialist (612) 746-4975 or [mneu@](mailto:mneu@)

## Stormwater Management – Property Owner Survey

1. Please provide the following contact information so we can reach you regarding this survey.  
The MWMO will not use your information for any other intent.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

*Instructions: Place an "X" in the space next to your answer(s). Once you have completed the survey, mail to MWMO at 2522 Marshall St. NE Minneapolis, MN 55418.*

2. Does water pool in your yard after a rainfall event? \_\_\_ y \_\_\_ n

If yes, how long does it usually stay?

\_\_\_ 1 hour or less \_\_\_ 1 – 3 hours \_\_\_ 3 – 5 hours \_\_\_ 5-10 hours \_\_\_ 10-24 hours \_\_\_ 24+ hours

3. Do you have areas of soil erosion or gully formation? \_\_\_ y \_\_\_ n

If yes, please describe \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Have you suffered any property damage as a result of stormwater and/or does water get in your basement? \_\_\_ y \_\_\_ n

If yes, please describe \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If yes, what time of year did this occur? (check all that apply)

\_\_\_ spring \_\_\_ summer \_\_\_ autumn \_\_\_ winter

5. Does your house have roof gutters? \_\_\_ y \_\_\_ n

If yes, where do they drain? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. **Have you installed any stormwater practices to help manage stormwater (i.e. raingardens, rainbarrels, landscaping, etc)?** \_\_\_ y \_\_\_ n

If yes, please describe \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. **Do you have a sump pump(s)?** \_\_\_ y \_\_\_ n

If yes, how many? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, are they indoor or outdoor or both? \_\_\_ indoor \_\_\_ outdoor \_\_\_ both

If yes, where does the pumped water discharge? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. **What category of soil type does your yard primarily fall into?**

\_\_\_ clay \_\_\_ sand \_\_\_ fine \_\_\_ coarse \_\_\_ mixed \_\_\_ unsure

9. **Do you believe that the problems stem from stormwater originating on your property or elsewhere?**

\_\_\_ from own property \_\_\_ from elsewhere

Please describe \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. **Where do you look for information on stormwater management? (Check all that apply)**

\_\_\_ I don't \_\_\_ store/garden center \_\_\_ city \_\_\_ watershed \_\_\_ neighborhood org. \_\_\_ internet

other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**The Mississippi Watershed Management Organization works to improve water quality and habitat in our urban watershed that drains to the Mississippi River.**

If you would like to sign up to receive our email updates, please check the box below.

\_\_\_ Yes, sign me up!

Mississippi Watershed Management Organization  
2522 Marshall St. NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Place  
stamp  
here

Fold Here

Please use this space for any comments.

Fold in half and tape closed here to self-mail. Don't forget postage!





1810 34th Avenue N.E.

Minneapolis, MN 55418-1423

On the Web at: [WaiteParkNeighborhood.org](http://WaiteParkNeighborhood.org)

NONPROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID  
TWIN CITIES MN  
PERMIT NO. 30308

## Audubon Farmers Market Thursdays 4-7 p.m.



The Audubon Farmers Market opened on Thursday, June 11th. It is open from 4 to 7 p.m. We are excited and looking forward to start our summer market with you. This year, there will be some changes to the market. The health and safety of everyone is very important to us. Some of these changes will include, limiting the amount of people in the market at a time and following social distancing measures. Handwashing stations will be set up at the entrance and exit of the market and hand sanitizer stations will be available around the market. We will ask that you wear a mask and all market staff will be wearing one also. Lastly, we will have an online pre-ordering option available. We are currently working through this and will share details soon. Even with these changes, we are excited to be open and support our local vendors, and neighbors.

**Vendors that are back:** Chang Family Farm, Lor Family Farm, R&R Cultivation, Ann's Jam, Ishu's Himalayan Foods, Blue Sky Crush

**New vendors this year:** Audubon Honey, Runestone Beef (August and September)

**Food Trucks:** We will continue to have food trucks visiting our market. New health regulations will require that all food will be packaged to go. Continue to watch our Facebook and website for a calendar of who is coming and when.

## Join the board of Eastside Food Co-op

Eastside Food Co-op is a business driven by values, not just profit. Dig into your co-op community and run for the Eastside Food Co-op Board of Directors! Are you a leader with a passion for community, food systems, equity, and co-ops? You could be a great board candidate. We honor the diversity of the community that surrounds our store. We encourage people of diverse backgrounds to consider serving on the board of Eastside Food Co-op.

### ***We invite you to join the board. Some perks include:***

- Time working together with other community members in your neighborhood for a common goal.
- Help lead people towards organic food systems to build a healthier world.
- Attend national coop conferences like CCMA .
- A monthly stipend at the register of \$100-\$150.

For more information access Eastside Food Co-op website or check out the bulletin board on the way to the bathrooms to the right, or RSVP that you want to come to a Zoom meeting. The full board meets the second Monday of every month 6:00-8:30. Upcoming meetings are July 13 August 10. July 13 and Aug 10 we will have a Question and Answer time from 5:30-6:00 and as usual all board members are open if you choose to stay.  
Cooperatively yours,  
Amanda Degener for the Eastside Food Co-op Board of Trustees