

WAVELAND PARK NEWS

SPRING 2022



DES MOINES, IOWA

H₂O 101: 5 simple steps to cleaner water (and more beautiful yards and gardens)

By Jeanne Ambrose

Springtime in Waveland Park kicks off a flurry of outdoor action, including tinkering in our yards, planting flowers, tackling weeds, and mowing lawns. It may surprise you to know that much of this activity on the home front has a direct impact on our community's drinking water.

Once water drains away from your Waveland Park yard, it makes its way through storm sewers into the ponds at Glendale Cemetery and Waveland Golf Course. From there it flows to Walnut Creek. "Walnut Creek dumps within one mile of Des Moines Water Works drinking water intake," says John Swanson, Water Resource Planner for Polk County Public Works.

And that water can be full of contaminants, like sediment from construction sites, pesticides from lawns, and bacteria from pets. That doesn't mean our drinking water is contaminated, but extra treatment steps are necessary to meet safety standards.

"Small changes by homeowners can make a big impact on our watershed and water quality,"

Swanson says.

Here are the top five (surprisingly simple) ways you can make an impact:

1. Scoop your dog poop. The longer doggy doo sits in your yard, the higher the bacteria counts in it,

Swanson says. When it rains, the bacteria washes into the street and gets

pipled into our lakes and streams.

Daily scooping is best, he suggests, but at the very least, pick up the waste weekly.

Many falsely believe that pig and cow manure causes problems in our water system, but bacteria in dog poop is

higher due to your pooch's meat-based diet, says Swanson.

2. Keep grass clippings out of the street. It's as simple as flipping your mower in a direction that prevents grass from blowing into the street.

Grass is full of natural nutrients similar to fertilizers and typically is high in nitrogen and phosphorus.

"Grass blown into streets ends up in the sewer and is equivalent to dumping fertilizer into a stream," Swanson says. Too much of those nutrients in the water



A local rain garden filled with native plants and soil amended to improve absorption. The area can catch and hold rain water until it's able to fully soak into the ground within a few hours.

Image courtesy of John Swanson.

causes algae to grow quickly and harm water quality.

People often ask Swanson if grass clippings are indeed a really big problem in Polk County, so he ran an experiment. Storm sewer nets were placed in front of sewer intakes on various streets. The results: Up to 50 pounds of grass clippings were caught going into a single intake during an average summer.

EGG HUNT!

Saturday, 4/9
@Perkins Elem.
10:00 a.m.
Details on Page 3

It's also important to be cautious with fertilizer applications. Keep fertilizer away from your driveway or sidewalks because it washes directly into the sewer, Swanson says.

3. Don't wash your car at home. The suds flow right into the storm system and eventually end up in nearby lakes, rivers and ponds. Instead, take your vehicle to the car wash where they are obligated to capture and decontaminate the dirty, sudsy, and sometimes waxy water before it is released.

4. Practice rainscaping. That means taking steps to make sure water stays in your yard and seeps deep into the soil instead of running into the street.

It can be as simple as installing a rain barrel to capture rain water to use in your garden. Homeowners love the fact that they can catch and release water into their gardens, even reducing their water bills in the summer, Swanson says. There are three key points to keep in mind when placing a rain barrel: You'll need to connect it to a downspout from a rooftop gutter. Plan to place it close to the area where you'll be using the water. And make sure your barrel has an overflow outlet spout because the barrel can fill and overflow very quickly when it rains, Swanson says.

Some larger, high-impact projects include installing special permeable pavers for driveways and sidewalks that will allow water to seep through into the ground. Or, plant a rain garden in the low spots in your yard. These gardens are designed to catch and absorb large amounts of water before it hits the streets (see *page one*). And consider soil quality restoration for your lawn. The basic process includes deep aeration and composting. (Bonus: It's part of the recipe for a lush, green lawn that requires less watering and fewer chemicals for upkeep, *below*.)

5. Plant a prairie. Although this is technically part of "rainscaping," we're making it a separate step because it's probably the most satisfying move toward impacting water quality. Most native plants have deep root systems—five to 10 feet—which help break up heavy soil and soak up excess water. Plus, native plants typically attract birds, bees, and butterflies.



At left, the "after" of a local soil quality restoration project. The city notes these indicators that you may be a project candidate: Ponding or drainage issues, brown, patchy lawns, "Squishy" lawn after a rain, and a constant need for watering. Image courtesy of John Swanson.

FUNDING

Waveland Park
homeowners eligible
for stormwater
management assistance

Iowa, once covered in prairie, had rich, sponge-like topsoil that allowed water to soak deeply into the earth. But that was 200 years ago. Today, Iowa is considered the state that has been changed the most by people, says John Swanson, Water Resource Planner for Polk County Public Works. Those changes—in agriculture and urban growth—have impacted how water flows across the land, causing flooding, erosion, and pollution-filled watersheds.

A funding program is being offered to help homeowners throughout the Des Moines metro area make changes to improve water quality.

City staffers can provide a free site evaluation to discuss what practices are suited to your yard.

The City may reimburse property owners 50% of project costs, with a reimbursement limit of \$2,000.

For questions or to set up a site evaluation contact the Des Moines Clean Water Team at (515) 323-8165 or email stormwater@dmgov.org.

Visit raincampaign.org for more information.

SPRING EVENTS

THE EASTER EGG HUNT IS BACK!

Saturday, April 9 • 10 a.m. • Perkins Elementary School

The Easter Bunny will be on hand to kick off the hunt for thousands of eggs scattered around the playground. Bring your kids, your friends, and your camera!

- The hunt begins right at 10, so plan to arrive a few minutes early.
- We'll have separate areas for little, middle, and big kids. Look out for signs with ages listed.
- Open eggs before you leave—some have numbers inside that can be exchanged for prizes.
- Look out for boxes to recycle eggs after the hunt. (We'll use them again next year!)
- Parking is limited, so please walk if able.

MORE THAN BOOKS: THE BUZZ AT FRANKLIN AVENUE LIBRARY

By Kevin Kretschmer, Franklin librarian

Programming is ramping back up to pre-pandemic levels as Zoom events have given way to in-person presentations. In addition to our many one-time programs, the Library has several ongoing programs that meet monthly. Those include several weekly kid's programs, **Free Friday Flicks at Franklin** (see below), the **Franklin Afternoon Book Discussion Group** (Second Monday each month at 1:00 p.m.), the **Reading on the Margins Book Club** (Second Thursday at 6:30 p.m.), and the **Franklin Cinema Club** (Third Monday at 6:30 p.m.). dmpl.org for more.

Free Friday Flicks at Franklin (1:30 p.m.)

Cruella, April 1: Emma Stone stars in the live-action prequel to 101 Dalmatians, following the young orphan Estella as she transforms into the powerful Cruella de Vil. The 2021 origin story also stars Emma Thompson. Rated: PG-13.

Emma., May 6: A headstrong, high-spirited, and privileged young woman severely overestimates her matchmaking abilities as she meddles in the romantic lives of people in her small and sleepy English town during the 1800s. Anya Taylor-Joy stars in the title role of the 2020 comedy. Rated: PG.

News of the World, June 3: A Civil War veteran, played by Tom Hanks, agrees to deliver a girl, taken by the Kiowa people years earlier, to her aunt and uncle, against her will. The 2020 western drama was directed by Paul Greengrass. Rated PG-13.

Children's Programming

Baby Rhyme Time: Babies and their caregivers can join Miss Jennifer on Tuesdays for rhymes, songs, bounces, and a story. This program is recommended for caregivers and babies ages newborn to eighteen months. *Tuesdays from 10:15-10:45 a.m.*

• **Family Storytime:** Families with preschoolers and toddlers are invited to Miss Donna's Wednesday storytime, filled with music, stories, and fun! Younger siblings are also welcome to attend. *Wednesdays from 10:15-10:45 a.m.*

• **Creative Readers:** From Book to Art: Children will enjoy listening to a story before creating and exploring with art and STEM activities. This program is aimed at ages five to eight years old, but younger siblings are welcome. Space is limited and registration is preferred but not required. *Tuesdays from 4:00-4:45 p.m. during March and April*

GLENDALE CEMETERY TOURS

Join Ganesh Ganpat, Parks and Recreation Supervisor, for one of several historical cemetery tours. Dates include:

May 5 at 2 p.m. • May 6 at 6 p.m. • June 18 at 9 a.m. • and June 17 at 10 a.m.

Tour cost: \$10. Sign up at: bit.ly/cemeterytours2022

INSIDER'S TOUR

Meet Allison Lyons, owner of Rumors Vintage at 4211 Chamberlain Ave.

rumorsdsm.com

Allison curates vintage clothing from the 1800s to 1990s. She loves western and classic Americana, streetwear, and workwear. She also has jewelry, handbags, and cowboy and work boots. You can even find film cameras for beginners or pros.



How do you take your eggs at Waveland Café?

Sunnyside up on top of hashbrowns, no ham. And I appreciate how the Café will bring food to Waveland Tap where they make great Bloody Marys!

What's the better stroll, down Kingman or Polk?

I live in Drake Neighborhood and commute down beautiful Kingman every day. But I aspire to live on Polk someday.

Friederichs Coffee order?

Adam at Friederich's makes the best cappuccino in town!

What do you like at Cheese Shop?

John has a special sandwich he orders so much they call it the "Hot Johnny". [John Pope co-owns Rogue Planet Music (rpmdsm.com), located in the same space as Allison's shop.]

Save the date! Saturday, June 4th, Rumors will host its 7th Heartland Bazaar with 25 clothing vendors, food and drink, and vinyl music DJ'd by RPM. All of this in their parking lot right in Waveland Park.

JOIN THE WPNA!

NAME/BUSINESS NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
PHONE _____
E-MAIL _____

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Note: Waveland Park Neighborhood Association is a nonprofit organization. Your membership could be eligible for a matching gift from your employer.

- Renewal
- New Membership
 - \$20.00 Individual/Family Membership
 - \$75.00 Business Membership

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Please make checks payable to WPNA and mail to:

WPNA P.O. Box 30112
Des Moines, IA 50310

Payment via PayPal is available at wavelandpark.org under MEMBERSHIP tab. Include your name, address, and email as a NOTE attached to your payment.

ABOUT THE WPNA

Board Members

President: Anna Mason

Vice President: Todd Snell

Treasurer: Richard Knapp

Secretary: Chris LoRang

Communications Director:

Katy Kiick Condon

Historian: Mark Johnson

Members at Large:

Charlie Chedester

Nick Coleman

Carol Lunde

Jacob Ross

Joe Wallace

The WPNA is a non-partisan nonprofit organization in which all meetings, programs, and events are free and open to the public. It is the purpose of the WPNA to enhance and maintain the quality of life in Waveland Park.

For questions, comments, or to become a member contact: Waveland Park Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 30112, Des Moines, IA 50310
Email: info@wavelandpark.org
Web: wavelandpark.org
Facebook: [/WPNAfb](https://www.facebook.com/WPNAfb)



NEW MERCH!

WPNA Logo gear:

For the Waveland Parker who has everything.

Ceramic mug, left, \$15

Round yard sign, \$35

Window decals, \$6

wavelandpark.org/shop