



Clean Waters

Starting in Your Home and Yard

What's the Big Deal About Water Quality?

The City of Medina is excited to promote Clean Waters - a mission to educate individuals about the impacts of everyday activities on water quality and simple techniques that help protect water resources from the home well to Medina's various watersheds.

It used to be that no one really thought much about water. It came out of the faucet, went down the drain and that was the end of that. If you wanted to go fishing or swimming, you went to the local stream, swimming hole or maybe even took a trip down to Lake Independence. Nothing to worry about there's clean water to spare, right?

There are plenty of reasons to worry about water and water quality. We expect to have crystal-clear, pure water for drinking, food production, and recreation AT THE SAME TIME we use our waters for waste disposal. The old slogan, "the solution to pollution is dilution" typified the feeling that anything dumped down a drain, into a river or even into the ocean was going to disappear without a trace. We now know NO aquatic system, even an ocean, can absorb unlimited human pollution. just ask someone with a contaminated well, residents of a town where a water conservation emergency has been declared, or sailors who find rafts of plastic trash in the middle of the ocean. They'll tell you that water, both in terms of quantity and quality, is not to be taken for granted.

The need to prevent water pollution has been recognized for years. The federal and state Clean Water Acts were passed in the early 1970's specifically to clean up discharges from industry and sewage treatment plants. We now know the problem is much more complicated than simply ordering a plant to stop discharging pollutants. Factories and sewage treatment plants are two examples of "point source pollution", where pollution enters the water from a specific source. All other types of water pollution are lumped together in a category called "nonpoint source pollution" or "polluted runoff."

These pollutants fall from the sky, wash from the land during rain storms, travel across the state in streams and rivers, and even get dumped into storm drains or directly into the water by the thousands of individuals who don't realize that what they are doing causes water pollution. The Environmental Protection Agency now considers nonpoint source pollution the NUMBER ONE threat to water quality in the United States.

Through our everyday activities, we all cause water pollution without realizing it. The exhaust and oil from driving cars, materials washed down drains or flushed down the toilet, pet wastes, fertilizers and pesticides used in yards, all contribute to water pollution. Making simple changes in our everyday activities can help reduce some types of pollution. For example, conserving water both saves money and helps septic systems or the local sewage treatment plant remove pollutants more effectively. Choosing non-toxic alternatives for household cleaning products reduces water pollution, cleaning bills, and our exposure to hazardous materials. Rethinking landscaping and gardening practices reduces the need for pesticides, fertilizer, and irrigation, thus reducing the potential for contaminating local waters.



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Fact Sheet

January 2021

These are just a few examples of personal efforts that protect water quality. There are many written materials available, including this fact sheet series, with information on different ways to help prevent water pollution.

Please take some time and find out how you can help protect our most important natural resource - CLEAN WATER.

Follow us on Facebook or visit our website to stay up to date on the **Clean Waters** series - <https://medina.us/svcs/environment/cleanwaters>



HELP US SHOWCASE THE CITY OF MEDINA!

We are in search of beautiful photos from the community. Please submit your photo(s) that highlight what you love about life in Medina!

How to Submit Your Photo(s)

- ✓ Email photos to lisa.demars@medinamn.gov
- ✓ Photos may be cityscapes, parks, activities, landscapes, events, plants, animals, pets, etc. highlighting the City of Medina - let us know photographer name, location (or event name) and date of the photo for copyright credit.

“Treat the Earth well. It was not given to you by your parents; it was loaned to you by your children.”

Ecologist Lee Talbot

Guidelines

- ✓ Photos must be taken within Medina municipality.
- ✓ Entries must be submitted by the original photographer. Your submission of the photo and entry is your guarantee that you are the author and copyright holder of the photo. If photos contain people, we need written permissions from those individuals.
- ✓ Photos submitted may be used in city publicity, including city publications, the city website and city social media sites.



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Medina's **Clean Waters** is a series of fact sheets put out by the City of Medina Public Works. Fact sheets will be posted on our web page and Facebook page at the beginning of the month. Do you want to receive Clean Waters by email? Get added to the City's distribution list today! Email lisa.demars@medinamn.gov to sign up.