



No Dumping! Drains to River!

Most people think that water pollution is caused by big business and large industrial facilities. While this is partly true, a significant portion of water pollution is also caused by residents and small businesses. Chemicals, fertilizer, vehicle fluids, dirt, litter, and other pollutants on rooftops, driveways, lawns, sidewalks, and streets are washed into storm drains by rain and snowmelt. Water that enters a storm drain is not treated at the Wastewater Treatment Facility; it discharges into the river.

What are the problems?

- Anything on a street – from oil, antifreeze, leaking vehicle fluids to cigarette butts thrown out a car window - gets washed into the storm sewer system.
- Soil, grass clippings, fertilizer, pesticides, and leaves that enter a storm drain.
- Rain water or snowmelt that washes off rooftops, driveways, lawns, sidewalks, and streets flows to the river.
- Chemicals and other pollutants that enter rivers and streams harm wildlife that live in and along the river, and cover up or destroy critical aquatic habitat.

What can be done to help?

- Fix leaky cars right away.
- Keep soil, grass clippings and leaves out of the streets and gutters. Use fertilizers that are phosphorus free. Do not over fertilize. Use organic mulches like shredded bark or wood chips to control weeds in shrub beds.
- Do not dump old oil or other automotive and household liquids into the storm drains. Residents can take them to the Clay County Hazardous Waste Facility.
- Participate in the River Keepers' Storm Drain Marking Program to help prevent others from dumping into the storm drains.

Clay County Household Hazardous Waste Facility
2729 Highway 10 East
Moorhead, MN 56560
Phone 218.299.5077
www.co.clay.mn.us/Depts/PlanEnvi/SWHHW.htm

Fargo-Moorhead River Keepers
325 7th St. S.
Fargo, ND 58103
Phone 701.235.2895
www.riverkeepers.org

Substantial Improvement/Damage

The National Flood Insurance Program requires that, if the cost of improvements to a building or the cost to repair damages (from any cause) to a building exceeds 50% of the market value of the building (excluding land value), the entire building must be brought up to current floodplain management standards. Building improvement projects include exterior and interior remodeling, rehabilitation, additions and repair and reconstruction projects.

Additionally, the cost of currently planned improvements must be added to the cost of previously made improvements and compared to the existing market value to determine if the improvements exceed 50% of the structure's value. Please contact the City of Moorhead Engineering Department at 218.299.5390 for further information.

Floodplain Permit Requirements

All development within the 100 year floodplain (not just construction of buildings, but filling, excavation, fences, etc.) requires a City of Moorhead Floodplain Permit. Applications must be made prior to performing any work in the floodplain area. Please contact the Engineering Department at 218.299.5390. You may also report any illegal activities to the above number.

Drainage System Maintenance

As simple as it may sound, keeping smaller ditches and streams free of debris can dramatically improve run-off capacity of low-lying areas, as well as greatly reduce the possibility of blockage that significantly contributes to flooding.

It is illegal to dump materials into the storm sewer system and violators may be fined. If you see someone in the act of dumping chemicals, paint, or other materials into the storm sewer system please contact the City of Moorhead at 218.299.5386.

Additional Information

More detailed information regarding flood related issues in Moorhead is available at:

- Moorhead Engineering Department 218.299.5390
- Moorhead Public Library 218.233.7594
- www.cityofmoorhead.com/the_city/floodplain.asp
- www.floodsmart.gov
- Maps of the current and proposed floodplains are available at www.cityofmoorhead.com/city_services/engineering.asp.