

Woodbury GreenTimes

A special environmental edition

March 2021



Washington County to host FREE document shredding events

Residents and businesses are invited to shred their personal and confidential papers during five upcoming shredding events at the Washington County Environmental Center in Woodbury.

The events are free. Participants will be allowed to drop off up to six boxes weighing no more than 30 pounds each for shredding. This limit will be strictly enforced.

Documents will be shredded on site by Shred Right and recycled. CDs and other media will be accepted for off-site destruction.

- Due to COVID-19, the county is not able to offer witnessed destruction.
- Do not put documents in plastic bags; use boxes or paper bags. Totes and reusable bags will be returned.
- Staples, paper clips and rubber bands do not have to be removed. Please remove three-ring binders, large binder clips, plastics or metals.
- Do not tape boxes shut because it slows down the process.
- Do not mix confidential paper with items that do not require shredding such as newspapers or magazines.

The Washington County Environmental Center is located at 4039 Cottage Grove Drive in Woodbury.

Learn more at www.co.washington.mn.us (select "Environmental Center," then "Shredding Events").

Date	Time
Wednesday, April 21	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, June 16	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Aug. 4	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 29	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 17	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Purchase discounted compost bins and rain barrels

Composting fruit and vegetable scraps with yard waste at home helps you protect the environment and recover value from your waste. Finished compost is an important resource that can improve your soil, reduce erosion and decrease the need for fertilizers.

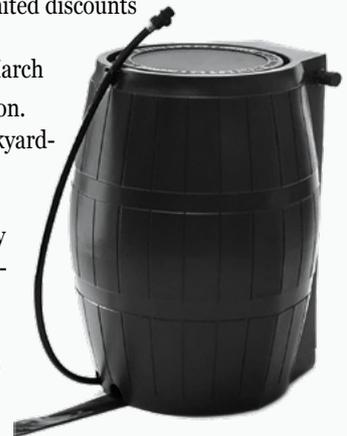


Washington County is excited to partner with the Recycling Association of Minnesota to offer county residents discounted compost bins and rain barrels.

- Home Composter Compost Bin
\$64 full price | \$44 after resident discount
Currently available
- Rain Catcher Rain Barrel
\$79 full price | \$59 after resident discount (Limited discounts available)
Sales begin March

Visit co.washington.mn.us/2813/Backyard-Composting for ordering details. Proof of residency is required at purchase. Limit two rain barrels and two compost bins per household.

Pre-ordered items will be available for pick-up at the Washington County Environmental Center, 4039 Cottage Grove Drive, in Woodbury, during regular business hours.



BE A BATTERY HERO

Put batteries in their place.

Batteries in the trash or recycling may cause fires.

Bring all batteries to the
Washington County Environmental Center.
www.co.washington.mn.us/batteries

Washington County

HENNEPIN COUNTY
MINNESOTA

RAMSEY COUNTY





South Washington Watershed District receives 2021 Climate Adaptation Award

Along the border of Woodbury and Cottage Grove, black-eyed susans, bergamot and grey-headed coneflowers bloom in an 80-acre expanse of oak-savanna and prairie. The preserve doubles as a regional infiltration basin, capable of capturing and infiltrating 1500 acre-feet of water (enough to fill 740 Olympic-sized swimming pools) after a large rainstorm or when snow melts in the spring.

Further south in Cottage Grove, visitors can find goats grazing on buckthorn and garlic mustard along the steep, wooded hillsides in Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park. A dry stream bed winds along a paved trail through the park, leading to the lake below.

Within the South Washington School District, seven schools are working to replace large expanses of turf grass with native flowers, shrubs and trees. The “campus greening” projects at Lake, Middleton, Nuevas Fronteras, Valley Crossing, Crestview, Cottage Grove Middle, and Grey Cloud schools will help to infiltrate rainwater, reduce groundwater pumping for irrigation, create habitat for birds and pollinators and offer unique learning opportunities for the children.

These three examples, demonstrate some of the many ways in which South Washington Watershed District (SWWD) is working to build resiliency and protect local communities against climate-related threats, including flooding, aquifer draw-down and invasive species. In recognition of its accomplishments, ongoing work, and leadership on climate adaptation and resiliency, SWWD earned the 2021 Organization Award from Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership.



This 80-acre prairie in southern Woodbury doubles as a regional infiltration basin. It is one example of how the South Washington Watershed District (SWWD) is working to build resiliency and protect local communities against climate-related threats, including flooding. SWWD was recently recognized for its leadership on climate adaptation and resiliency by earning the 2021 Organization Award from Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership.

The Washington Conservation District and South Washington Watershed District contributed to this article.

The district’s Climate Resiliency Plan identifies adaptation strategies with multiple benefits, such as reducing stormwater pollution, protecting homes from flooding, and improving habitat for wildlife. The district’s cornerstone project is a multi-phase system, designed to alleviate flooding in Woodbury and Cottage Grove.

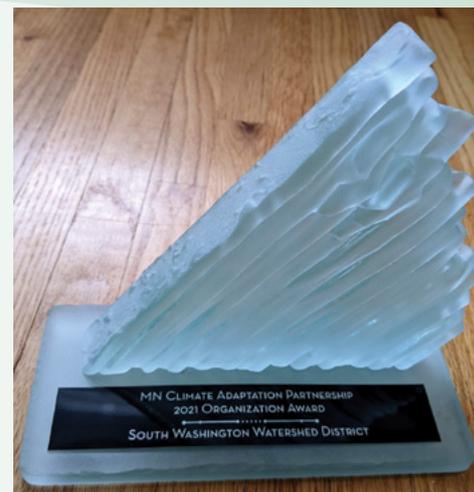
The watershed system begins with the 80-acre oak-savanna open space along the southern border of Woodbury, continues through a series of basins, buried pipes and dry-stream beds, down through Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park and, eventually, to the Mississippi River. The system infiltrates large amounts of rainwater during smaller storms, helping to recharge aquifers, and also provides a safe route for floodwater to reach the Mississippi River during 100-year mega-storm events. The oak savanna in Woodbury will eventually become a city park and a hub for a regional trail connecting Lake Elmo Park Reserve to Cottage Grove Ravine Park.

In the coming year, SWWD will continue to work with South Washington County Schools on campus greening projects and continues funding to support city projects that improve water quality and increase climate resiliency.

About SWWD

The SWWD is a special-purpose local unit of government that covers 110 square miles in southern Washington County. The area includes 12 lakes, 120 miles of piped and natural streams, 2,400 acres of wetlands, and the confluence of the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers.

The district works to protect communities against flooding and improve water quality in lakes and streams. SWWD operates in close



partnership with the county, cities and other local government, as well as with private land owners and non-profit organizations including Great River Greening and Friends of the Mississippi River.

The boundary of a watershed district does not follow political boundaries, but instead follows the natural boundary of a watershed. Woodbury has three watershed districts, with SWWD being the largest, covering north, central and southern portions of Woodbury.

To learn more about the South Washington Watershed District and access interactive maps of projects in the district, visit swwdmn.org.



Save the Date! Curbside Recycling Event

The 11th annual Curbside Recycling Event is scheduled May 17-20. Once again, the city will partner with licensed trash haulers to provide curbside recycling of appliances, tires and scrap metal at a one-time reduced rate. In 2020, the event was postponed to September, but this year, the event will resume its regular timing in the spring.

A flyer will be mailed to all households in early April with cost, participation deadlines and contact information to schedule your pick-up. Additional information will be available online at woodburymn.gov. Questions should be directed to Jennifer McLoughlin, sustainability specialist, at 651-714-3522 or you can send an email to jennifer.mcloughlin@woodburymn.gov.

