

KEEP BLOOMINGDALE BEAUTIFUL – PUT LITTER IN ITS PLACE!



Springtime is upon us and outdoor maintenance of our properties requires additional attention and resources than during the winter season. A good spring cleanup of properties may be necessary to revitalize areas neglected during the winter. Litter, debris, landscape waste and other materials not properly picked up and disposed of from properties can be blown into or transported by stormwater runoff into our storm drains. All stormwater runoff in Bloomington drains to local waterways, ponds, streams and rivers, so any waste, litter or debris in our stormwater runoff will pollute our waterways. Only stormwater runoff should be drained into our catchbasins and stormwater storage facilities. To help keep stormwater runoff free of debris and maintain properties from becoming unsightly, owners should plan to address:

- **Landscape Maintenance** – A property owner should begin spring landscape maintenance that includes inspecting landscape for broken, fallen, or weakened branches in trees and shrubs. These can become unsightly and may be hazardous especially as the weather improves and people are outdoors more often. A general cleanup of all properties is needed in the Spring to pick up litter and debris that may have accumulated over the winter. Leaves, twigs, branches and litter that may have blown onto the property should be picked up and discarded. Weed growth from the previous season should be eliminated from the property to help reduce the spread of noxious weeds. Replenishing mulch should help to keep landscape areas healthy and reduce weed growth during the upcoming summer season.
- **Site and Building Maintenance** – Property owners should check their site and building improvements for damage that may have occurred over the winter. Wind, snow, ice, temperature fluctuations and other winter conditions can wreak havoc with our improvements and repairs may be needed. Roofing, gutters, downspouts, sidewalks, paved areas, fences and other infrastructure may be affected by winter conditions. Repairs should be made as soon as possible so that additional damage does not occur which could lead to more costly repairs. Trip hazards on sidewalks from frost heave or potholed pavement areas could be hazardous to those using these spaces and should be repaired to prevent damage or injury.
- **Site and Building Drainage** – Owners should check their drainage systems are functioning properly and have not been damaged over the winter. Gutters and downspouts should be inspected and cleaned as needed as leaves and other debris may have been blocking drainage.

Fasteners that connect the gutters and downspouts to the structure should be checked to make sure ice has not loosened or damages these fasteners. Check the base of the downspout to make sure the splashblock is properly placed to reduce soil erosion at the base of the downspout. Sump pump discharge lines should be checked to make sure water is draining properly away from the sump pump and not accumulating into pools on the property or neighboring properties.

- Stormwater Detention and Wetland Areas – Most stormwater detention basins, ponds and wetlands in the Village are on private property and as such are owned, operated and maintained by the property owner. These areas can be affected by winter conditions as well. If your property has a stormwater detention basin and/or wetland, owners need to check for damage and proper water flow, and make repairs if needed. If the site has a stormwater catchbasin, any debris that has built up over the drain opening should be cleared away and properly disposed. Litter and other debris may have blown in to these areas or been moved to the area from natural drainage of the site; such litter and debris should be picked up and disposed of properly off-site. Nuisance wildlife can also damage these areas and owners will need to repair the damage and may want to consider options to reduce the potential of future damage caused by wildlife. Owners of these facilities should check that outlet drains and piping are free of debris or obstructions so that water can flow properly.

Information about waste disposal and branch collection programs are available on the Village website under “Branch Collection Pickup”. Additional information can be found on the Village website under “Stormwater Management” and “Handouts: Sump Pumps, Rain Barrels, Lawn Care, etc”.

To report a concern, please call the Village Building and Zoning or Engineering Departments at 630-671-5660.