

# CITY OF BEMIDJI

Newsletter - Spring 2026

## Annual Permit Requirement

The City of Bemidji is required to hold an annual public hearing regarding the adequacy of the City's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP).

The Public Hearing will be held on **Monday, May 4, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter, in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Questions or comments in this regard may be directed to Jenna Roberts, Assistant City Engineer, at 218-333-1856.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

May 4, 2026 - 6:00 p.m.



## 2026 CITY COUNCIL

Mayor:  
Jorge Prince

Ward 1:  
Gwenia Fiskevold Gould

Ward 2:  
Josh Peterson

Ward 3:  
Mark Dickinson

Ward 4:  
Emelie Rivera

Ward 5:  
Lynn Eaton

At Large:  
Audrey Thayer

## CITY RESIDENTIAL REFUSE SERVICE

**Take the worry out of refuse, hire the City to haul...**The City of Bemidji charges \$20.30 a month for a 65 or 95 gallon can with weekly pick up. To request refuse pickup service, property owners can call City Hall at 218-759-3560.

### CONTAINER PLACEMENT GUIDELINES:

- Set out container before 7 a.m. on the day of pickup;
- Refuse container must be placed with wheels toward the home;
- Lid must be flat or closed (container should not be overflowing);
- **Do not** place HOT ash in refuse container;
- **Do not** leave the refuse container by curb between pickups.



Proper Placement



*Please consider Recycling!*

*Information on where and how to recycle is available on Beltrami County's website at [www.co.beltrami.mn.us](http://www.co.beltrami.mn.us).*

Save time  
and a stamp...

Make payment—View your  
bill—Manage your account

## Pay Your Bill Online

Visit our website:  
[www.ci.bemidji.mn.us](http://www.ci.bemidji.mn.us)



## **2026 Rain Barrel and Compost Bin Program**

The City of Bemidji has partnered with the Recycling Association of Minnesota to sell low-cost Rain Barrels and Compost Bins.

We had another successful event as rain barrels and compost bins are both **Sold Out** for the 2026 season. Check back next year for the opportunity to get yours.

Orders can be picked up between **8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m. April 21st, 2026 at the Bemidji Public Works Facility, 1351 5th St NW.**

### ***PLEASE REPORT...***

**If you see someone dumping or “evidence” of someone dumping chemicals, oil, grease, etc., into a storm drain, please report the incident to 218-333-1856.**

**If we work together, we can keep our beautiful lake clean.**

### **CONTACT US:**

**City of Bemidji  
317 4th Street NW  
218-759-3560  
[www.ci.bemidji.mn.us](http://www.ci.bemidji.mn.us)**



## **Citizen's Guide to Stormwater**

### **MUNICIPAL STORMWATER**

Rain and melting snow create runoff as they move across the landscape to lakes, streams, rivers, and wetlands. In urban areas, most stormwater falls on streets, sidewalks, parking lots, roofs, and other hard surfaces and carries pesticides, fertilizers, oils, metals, salt, bacteria, litter, yard waste, sediment, and other materials down storm drains and into lakes and streams. Unlike wastewater, most stormwater is not treated before it empties into nearby bodies of water. Not surprisingly, stormwater runoff is a leading source of water pollution.

In addition to the contaminants it carries, stormwater runoff from hard, urban surfaces travels faster and in large quantities, the force of which damages rivers, streams and wetlands and can destroy habitats for fish and other aquatic life. Impervious surfaces also prevent stormwater from filtering into the ground and recharging groundwater.

A public entity's stormwater system (ditches, stormwater ponds, curbs and gutters, storm drains, catch basins, storm sewer pipes, and so on) is called a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4). This does not include systems where wastewater and stormwater are combined. The MPCA regulates MS4 systems as mandated by the federal Clean Water Act with the goal of improving water quality by reducing pollutants in stormwater discharges. MS4 regulations require that owners/operators educate citizens on stormwater management issues and include them in solving stormwater problems, make plans to detect and stop illicit discharges, control runoff on construction sites, and more.

### **Maintenance of Grass, Weeds, Trees & Shrubs**

It is the responsibility of any owner or occupant of any lot or parcel of land in Bemidji to: Maintain any weeds or grass growing at a height of not more than six (6) inches; remove all nuisances and public health or safety hazards; treat or remove insect infested or diseased trees; and neatly stack firewood and lumber to be used in construction.

Please trim/control trees and shrubs overhanging the public sidewalks, alleys or street adjacent to your property.

When mowing next to streets, please mow away from the curb, or sweep up any grass clippings to avoid from going into the storm sewer system.

### **CURRENT CHALLENGES IN MUNICIPAL STORMWATER**

In most towns and cities, there's a storm drain on almost every street corner. That's a lot of openings to the storm sewer, a direct path to lakes and streams. So keeping contaminants out of stormwater requires effort from everybody: keeping leaves and grass clippings away from curbs, using phosphorus-free lawn fertilizer, picking up litter when you see it, and directing your rain gutters onto your lawn or into a rain barrel. Some of the larger challenges include:

**Chloride (salt)** — The salt applied to roads, parking lots, and sidewalks during our icy winters contains chloride, a water pollutant. When snow and ice melts, the salt goes with it, washing into storm drains and then lakes and rivers. It takes only one teaspoon of road salt to permanently pollute five gallons of water. Once in the water, there is no way to remove the chloride, and at high concentrations, chloride can harm fish and plant life.

**Lawn care practices** — Homeowners use up to 10 times more chemical pesticides per acre on their yards than farmers use on their crops, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A lot of that fertilizer will end up in stormwater. Unraked leaves get into the gutter. Patios and driveways add to the hard surfaces over which stormwater runs, rather than soaking into the ground. Better lawn care practices keep contaminants out of stormwater.