



Compliance Requirements for the City of Bloomington's Wetland Vegetation Treatment Policy

Introduction

Under the City of Bloomington's Wetland Vegetation Treatment Policy, the City will share in the cost of treating a wetland only when owners abutting the wetland commit to implementing specific measures to help improve the wetland's water quality. The cost sharing options are listed in the treatment policy.

To comply with the measures mentioned above, and owner must establish a native vegetative buffer, refrain from dumping yard waste near the shore or storm drains and comply with general urban landscape best management practices. Specific guidelines to meet these requirements are listed below:

1. Native Vegetative Buffer

- The minimum recommended buffer in the City's Wetland Protection and Management Plan is 20 feet. However, since property sizes vary, we require a 5 – 10 ft buffer from the shore where possible. However, larger buffers are encouraged.
- To establish a proper buffer, the shoreline must be re-vegetated with native species. These are species that would have grown naturally had they not been removed to plant lawn. Simply letting your lawn grow along the shore does not meet compliance.
- Riprap, sand, boulders, and retaining walls are not acceptable substitutes for a vegetative buffer.
- Resources on how to plant a native buffer are listed below:
 - a. DNR publication "Shoreline Alterations: Natural Buffers and Lakescaping" is available from the City or the Library.
 - b. DNR website <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/backyard/index.html> (hit shoreline management) has a variety of shoreline topics, including "Shoreline Alterations" publication.
 - c. *Restore Your Shore* CD ROM (an interactive CD ROM to assist shoreland owners in implementing shoreland restoration and protection projects, produced by Department of Natural Resources 2002) is available from the City to check out or can be purchased from Minnesota's Bookstore 1-800-657-3757.
 - d. Visit the Lower Penn Lake Park Native Plant Restoration Site at 86th Street and Penn Avenue.

2. No Dumping near wetland, street or storm drain

- Keep grass clippings, leaves, and yard waste away from wetland and out of streets and storm drains.
- Grass clippings and mulched leaves provide additional nutrients to lawn.
- If collected, bag and set out for pick up or compost using a proper compost container.
- Storm drains are a direct, quick drainage to water body, keep your storm drain free of debris.
- Rake leaves near water as soon after they fall as possible (to prevent them from blowing into water). Never rake leaves or grass clippings into the street.

3. Comply with general urban landscape BMP's

- Do not use fertilizer near the shore and make sure any fertilizer is phosphorus free (the middle number must be 0).
- Pick up pet waste from property as soon as possible and before it rains.
- Limit the amount of paved area on your property (to reduce the amount of water runoff).
- Plant bare areas to prevent soil erosion.
- Do not allow oil or other chemicals on driveways where they can wash to the storm drain (wipe up all spills).
- Wash cars on the lawn, rather than the driveway (to keep detergents out of the wetland).
- Keep rain gutters directed onto the lawn.

Contact Steve Gurney in Engineering at 952-563-4606 for questions regarding these compliance requirements. Thank you for your attention to this matter.