

## Spring trash clean-up

As our temperatures start to rise and the snow melts, what is left behind is often a plethora of trash around businesses, parking lots, streets, and waterways. Litter is perhaps most visible at this time of year, but it is also a problem throughout the year. Trash and debris, especially plastic, is washed away with rain events and snow melt, polluting our lakes, rivers, and other surface waters. All of this trash and plastic pays a heavy toll on wildlife as well, as aquatic life and birds often ingest it or become entangled with it.

### What can you do?

- Do not litter. Littering is prohibited by City Code, and is considered a misdemeanor and subject to a fine. Dispose of trash, recyclables, and organics in the proper receptacles. For disposable options and more information: [co.dakota.mn.us/Environment/Residential](http://co.dakota.mn.us/Environment/Residential).
- Encourage and teach children the importance of not littering.
- If you see trash, pick it up, as long as you feel safe doing so.
- If you notice dumpsters or trash receptacles overflowing, notify the business or property owner.
- Organize or join a local clean-up effort. Below are some local clean up events and opportunities.
  - [Adopt-a-River](#) through the Freshwater Society.
  - Join a clean-up event through the [Great Mississippi River Cleanup](#).
  - [Adopt-A-Drain](#) by signing up on-line, and commit just 15 minutes every two weeks to keep your neighborhood clean and protect our surface waters.
  - Join your neighbors for a city park clean-up on April 23, as part of the [Mendota Heights Earth and Arbor Day Celebration](#). Pick up free clean-up supplies at City Hall from 9 a.m. to noon.
  - Take part in [additional events](#) throughout Dakota County.