

A few things you can do to conserve water and improve water quality in Farmington.

Keep chemicals out

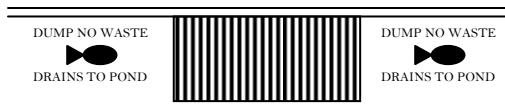
Anything that enters a storm drain goes directly to local ponds, wetlands, and streams; it does not go to a waste water treatment facility

- ◆ Use a drain pan to catch automotive fluids when changing oil, antifreeze or other fluids.
- ◆ It is illegal to dump chemicals such as paint, motor oil, and cleaning solutions into the storm drains.
 - Visit the Dakota County Environmental Management at: www.co.dakota.mn.us/EnvironmentRoads/default.htm or Earth 911 at: <http://earth911.com> for information on household hazardous waste
 - Storm drain stenciling kits are available from the City to raise awareness in your neighborhood.

Practice good lawn care

Your lawn care choices directly affect water quality

- ◆ Yard waste should not be dumped into or near waterbodies. Yard waste contains phosphorus that will affect water quality.
 - Keep in mind that leaving grass clippings on your lawn is equal to one application of fertilizer.
- ◆ Limit the amount of chemicals you use on your lawn. Those excess chemicals will eventually make their way into the water.
 - Remember that fertilizers containing phosphorus are no longer allowed.
- ◆ Keep the pavement clean. Sweep all grass clippings and fertilizer off driveways, sidewalks, and streets; then spread them back on your lawn.
- ◆ Clean up pet waste by picking it up, bagging it and putting it in the trash.
 - Pet waste contains bacteria that may be harmful to health.



Leave a buffer

A buffer is a strip of tall native vegetation that will improve water quality in many ways

- ◆ A buffer filters contaminants from your yard and driveway prior to reaching the water.
- ◆ The vegetation will stabilize the soil to help prevent erosion.
- ◆ A buffer will discourage geese and ducks from using your property as a gathering place.



Plant native plants

Native species of plants are beautiful and help the environment

- ◆ Native plants are hardiest in our climate; therefore they will last through the winter and will be able to live through conditions that each season brings.
- ◆ Once the plants are established they require low maintenance.
- ◆ Native plants are resistant to most diseases and pests.
- ◆ Your native plants will attract many beautiful birds, butterflies and other insects.



Conserve water

Water is one of the most valuable resources we have in the world

- ◆ Water the lawn only when needed. If grass springs back up after you step on it; it does not need water.
- ◆ Don't water the pavement. Position sprinklers so that water lands on the lawn or garden, not in areas where it is not needed.
- ◆ Sweep your driveway and sidewalk. Avoid hosing your driveway and sidewalk where polluted water can run into a street or storm drain. This also saves gallons of water.
- ◆ Use a commercial car wash for your vehicle where wash water gets cleaned and recycled.

