

Memorandum

TO: Gary Barczak, Chair, Board of Public Works
Michael Czaplewski, First District
Martin Weigel, Second District
Daniel Roadt, Fourth District
Rosalie Reinke, Fifth District

FROM: Joseph Burtch, Assistant City Engineer

DATE: February 4, 2014

RE: West Allis Rain Barrel Program

West Allis Rain Barrel Program

The City of West Allis will become a retailer for rain barrels purchased from the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD). Participating West Allis property owners can purchase a rain barrel at a cost of \$20 including sales tax. Non-participating property owners can purchase a rain barrel for \$49.95 + tax.

What Is the Purpose of this Program?

- Reduced stormwater in our storm sewer system which reduces risk for flooding
- This will help the City reach our water quality goals for our Stormwater Permit.
- Rain Barrels provide property owners a way to be part of the solution for stormwater concerns. This “green infrastructure” provides retention for re-use, helps charge the ground water table and improves the water quality by capturing suspended solids in the stormwater run-off.
- The image of West Allis will be enhanced by showing our commitment to green infrastructure.

How Would a Property Owner Obtain a Rain Barrel?

- Similar to ordering a garbage cart, residents would call, or come in person, to Public Works or Engineering to order a rain barrel

- The cost for a West Allis property owner that signs an agreement to keep the rain barrel in service for 5 years would be \$20. The rain barrel would be delivered to their property.
- The cost for non-participating property owners would be \$49.95 plus tax. (non-participating property owners are those buying rain barrels for use on properties outside of West Allis and those not willing to sign a 5 year commitment)
- Rain barrel information would be available on our website, the City's Facebook page, City Newsletter, postings at City Hall, City Yards, and Morgan Avenue dump.

How Will the Program Work?

- MMSD sells rain barrels to the City for \$35. The City will subsidize \$15 per barrel plus the cost of pick-up and delivery from Stormwater Management Funds.
- Once a month the Department of Public Works will pick-up rain barrels from MMSD and deliver them to participating property owners. (Any amount can be picked up from MMSD with a 2-day notice.) Barrels for non-participating property owners will be brought to the Yard for owner pick-up.

Cc: Mike Lewis, Director of Public Works/City Engineer