



Inside Gardner Utilities

Official Utility News for the City of Gardner

Utility Bill E-Notification is now available!

- Help the environment! Conserve paper by viewing online copies of your paper statements.
- Receive an email each month alerting you that your statement is available for viewing online.
- Have less mail to sort through and fewer papers to file.

To sign up for paperless billing, please e-mail a written request including your name, address and account number to utilities@gardnerkansas.gov

Gardner Energy Tree Trimming Program



The 2011 Electric Line Tree Trimming Program is almost one-half complete. As you are aware, Gardner Energy is committed to providing safe and reliable electric service to the citizens of Gardner. GE must trim trees for safety purposes, as required by law, and to avoid service interruptions.

As a result of this trimming, there are logs left behind by Asplundh, GE's contractor. All of the wood is cut to fireplace length and is FREE for residents to take. Some of it is on public property and readily accessible to citizens. There are, however, stacks of wood left on private property. While many residents are happy to keep the wood, others do not want it.

If you see wood stacked in a backyard that is obviously the result of these tree trimming activities, please do not assume the homeowner would like to get rid of it. Take the time to contact the homeowner and get their permission first.

Join the Take Charge Challenge!

Free CFL Light Bulbs

Through October 2011, the City is working on plans to get everyone involved in saving energy, money and helping the environment get a little greener!



The City has free CFL light bulbs from the Take Charge Challenge grant and they are available at City Hall. Stop by to pick up your free CFL light bulb today!

Energy Audits

There are reduced costs for these audits during Gardner's Take Charge Challenge! For only \$100 you can receive a thorough audit with action steps prioritizing the biggest savings for your hard earned dollars. Visit www.GardnerGreen.com or www.takechargekansas.org for more information on this great deal.

Community Groups

Are you part of a community group that would like to learn more about the Take Charge Challenge? Contact Melissa Mundt, Interim City Administrator, at 913-856-0939 or mmundt@gardnerkansas.gov to schedule a speaker for your community group to help them learn more about the Take Charge Challenge.

Electronic Recycling & Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event

Second Saturday of each month, April through October, 8:00 to 11:30 a.m.
To make an appointment, please call 913-715-6900

The Johnson County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program will be collecting electronic waste for recycling, in addition to household hazardous waste (HHW). Residents must make an appointment to drop-off their electronic waste and HHW for recycling!

Accepted electronic items include batteries, cameras, CD players, cell phones, all computer equipment, faxes, printers, video games and more. A fee will apply for monitors (\$10) and TVs (\$15); all other items are free.

For more information, contact the Johnson County Environmental Department at 913-715-6900 or www.jocorecycles.org.



Have You Considered a Rain Barrel?

Lawn and garden watering make up nearly 40% of total household water use during the summer. A rain barrel collects water and stores it for when you need it most, during periods of drought, to water plants, wash your car, or to top a swimming pool. It provides an ample supply of free “soft water” to homeowners, which contains no chlorine, lime or calcium making it ideal for gardens, flowerpots and car and window washing.

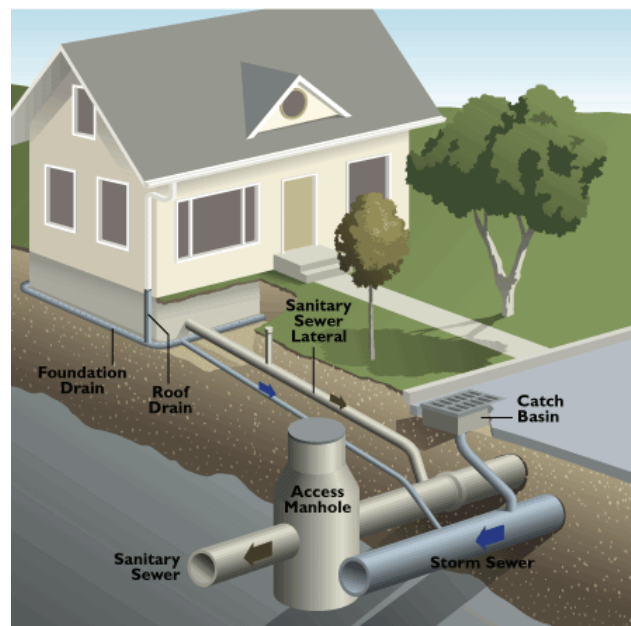
A rain barrel will save most homeowners about 1,300 gallons of water during the peak summer months. Saving water not only helps protect the environment, it saves you money and energy (decreasing the demand for treated tap water). Diverting water from storm drains also decreases the impact of run-off to streams. Therefore, a rain barrel is an easy way for you to have a consistent supply of clean, fresh water for outdoor use FREE.

Storm vs. Sanitary Sewer—What’s the difference?

When it comes to pollution, not all sewers are created equal.

Sanitary sewer systems collect and carry wastewater from drains in homes and businesses, such as bathrooms, kitchens, washers and showers, to a treatment plant to remove solids and contaminants before it is discharged back into the river.

On the other hand, **storm sewer systems**, also called **storm drainage systems**, include inlets, pipes and ditches that collect and carry runoff, from rainfall and snow melt, with no prior treatment to our streams, rivers and lakes. Storm water pollution may occur as runoff flows across streets, lawns, construction and industrial sites picking up fertilizers, soil pet waste, pesticides, leaves, oil, litter and many other pollutants along its way before entering the storm drains.



Help keep the storm water that leaves your home or workplace clean. Remember, only rain down the drain—storm drains that is!