

Norfolk Insider

City of Norfolk, NE

www.ci.norfolk.ne.us

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“Keep lawn clippings and other trash off the streets”

It may seem convenient to sweep grass clippings onto the street but it will cost you. City of Norfolk ordinances specify that residents may be fined \$500 if they put any type of trash onto the city streets.



Alec Bruening with Bruening Landscaping blows the grass off a Norfolk sidewalk. Residents are reminded to keep grass clippings off of streets and sidewalks so as not to clog the storm drainage system.

“Grass clippings and other debris in the streets end up in the stormwater drain which goes directly into the Elkhorn River. Not only can the lawn debris clog our stormwater drainage system [and cause localized flooding](#), the [nutrients](#) in the grass causes algae growth in lakes and rivers,” said Mark Dolechek, City of Norfolk Assistant Engineer.

Dolechek added that fines may be assessed against anyone who puts trash in the streets including branches, litter, used oil, fertilizer and lawn chemicals.

He encourages residents to sweep or blow the grass off the street or

sidewalks [back](#) into the grass, compost pile or into a bag to dispose of at the Transfer Station yard waste disposal site at 610 East Monroe Avenue. The Transfer Station is open from 7:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday and 7:30 am to noon on Saturday. Fees for grass clippings and leaves are 60 cents per 32 gallon bag. The Solid Waste link on the City’s website at ci.norfolk.ne.us/solidwaste/composting.htm gives tips to reduce the need to bag lawn clippings.

“The city’s street sweepers pick up light gravel and dirt that has made its way onto our streets. The machines are not [intended](#) to sweep up grass and other trash. It’s a safety issue and an environmental issue to keep any trash and debris off of the streets,” Dolechek said.

With the Fourth of July celebration not too far off, Dolechek reminds residents that fireworks debris needs to be picked up off of streets and sidewalks or residents will be subject to fines for littering.

For more information about the stormwater drainage system, contact Dolechek at 402-844-2020.