**A plea from Nicollet’s wastewater staff: Don’t flush your disposable wipes!**

Disposable wipes have been causing problems in communities around the country and Nicollet is no different. Wipes (used for changing diapers, personal hygiene, housecleaning, and more) cause major problems when flushed down toilets. Though many of these products are labeled “flushable” or “septic safe,” they are not.

Because the wipes do not break down the way toilet paper does, disposable wipes clog homeowner and municipal sewer pipes, put stress on community wastewater collection and treatment equipment, and cause cities to spend thousands on premature equipment repair and replacement. Wipes snag on any imperfection in sewer pipes, catch passing debris and grease, and create a “ball” that will grow to plug the pipe. They also get drawn into sewer-line and wastewater treatment plant pumps and clog and damage them.

In Nicollet, the increased use of disposable wipes have caused damage to our wastewater treatment pumps resulting in the need for the City to replace them at an estimated cost $56,000.00, this cost in return will then be passed onto all the taxpayers.

We are asking that if residents do use wipes, please put them in the trash. Do not flush them.

Also, a friendly reminder that only your personal contributions and toilet paper should be flushed. The following items should not be flushed down the toilet:

* Baby wipes and diapers
* Rags and towels
* Cotton swabs
* Syringes
* Candy and other food wrappers
* Clothing labels
* Cleaning sponges
* Toys
* Plastic items of any description
* Aquarium gravel or kitty litter
* Rubber items, such as latex gloves
* Cigarette butts
* Sanitary napkins
* Hair
* Underwear
* Disposable toilet brushes

For more information about disposable wipes and the problems they are causing in Nicollet, please contact the Maintenance Department at (507)232-3471.

We thank you for helping us resolve this issue.

Nicollet City Council