

ORDINANCE NO. 103, FOURTH SERIES

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING
THE REDWOOD FALLS CODE OF ORDINANCES § 3.40
PERTAINING TO RULES AND REGULATIONS RELATING TO SEWERAGE USE**

FINDINGS AND PURPOSE:

WHEREAS, on July 13, 1988 the City Council of the City of Redwood Falls, Minnesota Passed and Adopted Ordinance No. 136, Second Series, Titled "SEWER USE ORDINANCE" regulating the use of public and private sewers and drains, private wastewater disposal, the installation and connection of sanitary and building sewers, and the discharge of waters and wastes into the public sewer system, and providing penalties for violations thereof; and

WHEREAS, the regulations created by Ordinance No. 136, Second Series, are currently found in Chapter 3, § 3.40 of the Redwood Falls City Code of Ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it appropriate and necessary to amend § 3.40 Subdivisions 1 and 2 of the Redwood Falls City Code of Ordinances, to clarify what constitutes a private sewer connection and its limits versus the public sanitary sewer and the responsibility for maintenance respectively as well as to institute a reporting requirement for slow drainage or backups that will help property owners avoid unnecessary costs associated with maintenance of private sewer services.

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY OF REDWOOD FALLS DOES ORDAIN:

SECTION 1. That Redwood Falls City Code of Ordinances, Chapter 3, § 3.40, Subd. 1, shall be amended by amending and inserting the following provisions, in their entirety, in lieu thereof:

Subd. 1. *Definitions.* The following term, as used in this section, shall have the meanings stated.

A. The term "biochemical oxygen demand (BOD)" means the quantity of oxygen utilized in the biochemical oxidation of organic matter under standard laboratory procedure in five days at 20°C in terms of milligrams per liter.

B. The term "building drain" means that part of the lowest horizontal piping of a drainage system which receives the discharge from soil, waste and other drainage pipes inside the walls of the building and conveys it to the building sewer, beginning five feet (1.5 meters) outside the inner face of the building wall.

C. The term "building sewer" means the extension from the building drain to the public sewer or other place of disposal, also called "house connection". It shall include septic tank and sewer lead.

D. The term "combined sewer" means a sewer intended to receive both wastewater and storm or surface water.

E. The term "easement" means an acquired legal right for the specific use of land owned by others.

F. The term "floatable oil" means oil, fat or grease in a physical state such that it will separate by gravity from wastewater by treatment in an approved pretreatment facility. A wastewater shall be considered free of floatable fat if it is properly pretreated and the wastewater does not interfere with the collection system.

G. The term "garbage" means the animal and vegetable waste resulting from the handling, preparation, cooking and serving of foods.

H. The term "Hearing Board" means that Board appointed according to provisions of this section.

I. The term "industrial wastes" means any liquid, gaseous or solid waste substance resulting from any process of industry, manufacturing trade or business or from the development of any natural resource.

J. The term "infiltration" means water entering the sewage system (including building drains and pipes) from the ground through such means as defective pipes, pipe joints, connections and manhole walls.

K. The term "infiltration/inflow (I/I)" means the total quantity of water from both infiltration and inflow.

L. The term "inflow" means water other than wastewater that enters a sewer system (including building drains) from sources such as, but not limited to, roof leaders, cellar drains, yard and area drains, foundation drains, drains from springs and swampy areas, manhole covers, cross-connections from storm sewers, catch basins, surface run-off, street wash waters or drainage.

M. The term "National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit" means a permit issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), setting limits on pollutants that a permittee may legally discharge into navigable waters of the United States pursuant to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, §§ 402 and 405.

N. The term "natural outlet" means any outlet, including storm sewers and combined sewer overflows, into a watercourse, pond, ditch, lake or other body of surface or ground water.

O. The term "normal domestic strength wastes" means wastewater derived from non-industrial sources which contain not more than 200 mg/l biochemical oxygen demand and 250 mg/l suspended solids.

P. The term "pH" means the logarithm of the reciprocal of the hydrogen concentration. The concentration is the weight of hydrogen ions, in grams, per liter of solution. Neutral water, for example, has a pH value of seven and a hydrogen-ion concentration of ten to seven.

Q. The term "private sewer service" means the entire sewer connection from all houses, buildings, or properties used for human occupancy from the building to the public sewer including the building drain and building sewer to the point of connection to the public sewer.

R.Q. The term "properly shredded garbage" means the wastes from the preparation, cooking and dispensing of food that have been shredded to such a degree that all particles will be carried freely under the flow conditions normally prevailing in public sewers.

S.R. The term "public sewer" means a common sewer controlled by a governmental agency or public utility.

T.S. The term "sanitary sewer" means a sewer that carries liquid- and water-carried wastes from residences, commercial buildings, industrial plants and institutions together with minor quantities of ground, storm and surface waters that are not admitted intentionally.

U.T. The term "septic tank" means a structure designed to settle out heavier solids from the wastewater before entering the sewer.

V.U. The term "sewage" means the spent water of a community. The preferred term is "wastewater".

W.V. The term "sewer" means a pipe or conduit that carries wastewater or drainage water.

X.W. The term "slug" means any discharge of water or wastewater which in concentration of any given constituent or in quantity of flow exceeds for any period of duration longer than 15 minutes, more than five times the average 24-hour concentration of flows during normal operation and shall adversely affect the collection and/or performance of the wastewater treatment works.

Y.X. The term "state disposal system (SDS) permit" means any permit including any terms, conditions and requirements thereof issued by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) pursuant to M.S. § 115.07, as amended from time to time, for a disposal system as defined by M.S. § 115.01(5), as amended from time to time.

Z.Y. The term "storm drain (sometimes termed storm sewer)" means a drain or sewer for conveying water, ground water, subsurface water or unpolluted water from any source.

AA.Z. The term "Superintendent" means the Superintendent of wastewater facilities, and/or of wastewater treatment works, and/or of water pollution control of the city or his or her authorized deputy, agent or representative.

BB.AA. The term "suspended solids" means the total suspended matter that either floats on the surface of, or is in suspension in water, wastewater or other liquids, and is removable by laboratory filtering as prescribed in Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater and referred to as nonfilterable residue.

~~CC.BB.~~ The term "unpolluted water" means water of quality equal to or better than the effluent criteria in effect, or water that would not cause violation of receiving water quality standards, and would not be benefitted by discharge to the sanitary sewers and wastewater treatment facilities. (See "non-contact cooling water".)

~~DD.CC.~~ The term "wastewater" means the spent water of a community. From the standpoint of source, it may be a combination of the liquid- and water-carried wastes from residences, commercial buildings, industrial plants and institutions, together with any ground water, surface water and storm water that may be present.

~~EE.DD.~~ The term "wastewater facilities" means the structures, equipment and processes required to collect, carry away and treat domestic and industrial wastes and dispose of the effluent.

~~FF.EE.~~ The term "wastewater treatment works" means an arrangement of devices and structures for treating wastewater, industrial wastes and sludge. Sometimes used as synonymous with "waste treatment plant", "wastewater treatment plant" or "water pollution control plant".

~~GG.FF.~~ The term "watercourse" means a natural or artificial channel for the passage of water, either continuously or intermittently.

SECTION 2. That Redwood Falls City Code of Ordinances, Chapter 3, § 3.40, Subd. 2, shall be amended by amending and inserting the following provisions, in their entirety, in lieu thereof:

Subd. 2. *Use of Public Sewers Required.*

A. It is unlawful for any person to place, deposit or permit to be deposited in any unsanitary manner on public or private property within the city, or in any area under its jurisdiction, any human or animal excrement, garbage or objectionable waste.

B. It is unlawful for any person to discharge to any natural outlet within the city or in any area under the jurisdiction of the city, any sewage or other polluted waters except where suitable treatment has been provided in accordance with subsequent provisions of this section.

C. Except as hereinafter provided, it is unlawful for any person to construct or maintain any privy, privy vault, cesspool or other facility intended or used for the disposal of wastewater.

D. The owner of all houses, buildings or properties used for human occupancy, employment, recreation or other purposes, situated within the city and abutting on any street, alley or right-of-way in which there is now located, or may in the future be located, a public sanitary or combined sewer of the city, is hereby required at the owner's expense to install suitable toilet facilities. If such a sewer is available, the owner shall connect the facilities directly with the proper public sewer in accordance with the provisions of this section, within 60 days after date of official notice to do so; provided that, the public sewer is within 200 feet (61 meters) of the property line.

E. The owner of all houses, buildings or properties used for human occupancy, employment, recreation or other purposes, situated within the city and abutting on any street, alley or right-of-way in which there is now located, or may in the future be located, a public sanitary or combined sewer of the city, is hereby required at the owner's expense to maintain the private sewer service free of defects, leakage, root intrusion and or clean water intrusion until the requirements found in Subdivision D of this Section are no longer applicable and the private sewer service is properly plugged or removed.

F. When the owner determines that maintenance is needed on the private sewer service due to back flow or slow drainage, the owner shall contact the Superintendent to confirm the public sewer is functioning properly, prior to performing maintenance on the private sewer service.


SECTION 3. Effective Date. This Ordinance becomes effective from and after its passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Redwood Falls, Minnesota this 17th day of March, 2026.

ATTEST:



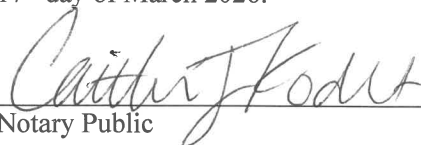
Keith Muetzel
City Administrator



Tom Quackenbush
Mayor

(City Seal)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this
17th day of March 2026.



Notary Public

Introduction: 03/03/2026
Posting: 03/06/2026
Adopted: 03/17/2026
Approval Published: 03/26/2026

