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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Litter Bit Better postponed until October 2020

May 4, 2020 – ROCHESTER, MINN. – “The health and safety of our Litter Bit Better volunteers are of the highest importance,” said Stephanie Hatzenbihler, Environmental Education Specialist for the City of Rochester. The Litter Bit Better planning team decided last week to postpone the annual citywide cleanup event until October. The planning team with representatives from R Neighbors, Olmsted County Environmental Resources, and the City of Rochester discussed reasons why a postponement is in the best interest of the event and its dedicated volunteers, as well as, ideas for how Rochester residents can still do their part to beautify Rochester while staying safe and following social distancing practices.

For volunteers and groups that have already registered, sites will continue to be held for those groups unless they make a cancellation request through Eventbrite or by emailing stormwater@rochestermn.gov. Registration will remain open over the summer and volunteers can sign up for sites and participate in the event this fall.

“It’s important to remember that there are still many ways to care for our environment while practicing social distancing,” said Hatzenbihler, who encourages Rochester residents to seek out those opportunities by visiting www.rochesterstormwater.com and www.RNeighbors.org. Here a few to get you started:

- 1. Litter Walks**
Bring a small trash bag on any walks you take and pick up any litter along the way. If your dog tags along, be sure to clean up their waste too.
- 2. Adopt-a-Drain**
Register for www.adopt-a-drain.org and clean up debris on storm drains in your neighborhood.
- 3. Prevent litter at home**
Place all trash in a plastic bag and tie the bag shut before throwing it away. Do not overload your garbage and recycling containers and make sure each container cover closes completely.
- 4. Recycle**
Learn what can be recycled with your curbside hauler or at the Olmsted County Recycling Center Plus. All items should be clean, dry, and empty and then placed loosely in your recycling cart.

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**NOVEL CORONAVIRUS
(COVID-19) PANDEMIC**



EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS

- Stay at Home Executive Order 20-20**
Effective until May 18
- City of Rochester Declaration of Local Emergency**
Issued March 17, 2020
- Olmsted County Public Health Emergency**
Issued March 17, 2020
- Minnesota Peacetime State of Emergency EM-3453**
Issued March 13, 2020
- National Emergency Concerning Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak**
Issued March 13, 2020

LOCAL ACTIVATIONS

- City of Rochester Emergency Operations Plan**
- Joint Information Center (JIC)**

City of Rochester Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

- EOC STRATEGY**
Ensure Community Lifelines
- EOC OBJECTIVES**
Continuity of Operations
Timely Community and Teammate Communication
Economic Stability
Community Stability
Healthcare System Support

Lifelines enable the continuous operation of critical government and business functions and are essential to human health and safety or economic security.

ROCHESTERMN.GOV/COVID19