



701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Council Memo

Department Source: City Utilities - Sewer/Stormwater

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: June 15, 2026

Re: Amending Chapter 12A of the City Code as it relates to waste disposal prohibitions in stormwater.

Impacted Ward: Citywide

Executive Summary

Staff has prepared for Council consideration and ordinance amending Chapter 12A of the City Code

Discussion

The City is required by the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit issued by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to minimize pollutants from entering our waterways. This is addressed in City ordinance section 12A-178 – Waste disposal prohibitions. This proposed amendment is to specifically address and reduce pollutants in and around unsheltered encampments near waterways. The goals of the proposed amendment to the ordinance are to protect water quality, improve public health and stay in compliance with state stormwater requirements.

The stormwater utility proposes to modify Section 12A-178 to the following (changes shown in underline):

“It shall be unlawful for any person to place, deposit or dump or to cause or allow the placing, depositing or dumping any refuse, rubbish, yard waste, paper litter, human waste or litter from encampment activities or other gatherings in close proximity to any waterway or other discarded or abandoned objects, articles and accumulations containing pollutants into the municipal separate storm sewer system or into any waterway.”

The proposed amendment to the ordinance along with the Stormwater Management Plan required for the MS4 permit, had a posted 30-day comment period ending April 10 and a scheduled public meeting on April 2, 2026. Four anonymous comments were received reporting a perceived increase in litter due to encampment areas. Comments were also about the importance of educating the public on stormwater issues. The comment log is attached.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: None

Long-Term Impact: None



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Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Reliable and Sustainable Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Environmental Management, Secondary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

Date	Action
N/A	N/A

Suggested Council Action

Approve the ordinance amending Chapter 12A-178 of the City Code.