



*Office of Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey
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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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City of Rockford to Begin Annual Hydrant Flushing Program

ROCKFORD, Ill. – The City of Rockford will begin its annual hydrant flushing program on Monday, May 2, 2016. Hydrant flushing occurs Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

The City of Rockford implements a flushing program every spring to maintain water quality. Flushing consists of opening hydrants in a specified neighborhood to flush out accumulated rust and sediment. The City, with the use of computerized mapping, has developed a unidirectional flushing program that involves closing specific valves and directing the flow of water out of a hydrant in one direction. This method has proven to be more effective than conventional flushing because it increases the speed of the water flow through the pipes, more effectively removes even the most stubborn iron build up, uses 40 percent less water than conventional flushing, and lasts longer than conventional flushing methods. This flushing method also tests the water system's valves and hydrants, identifying those in need of repair.

Customers are advised that they may experience discolored water during hydrant flushing. While not a health hazard, flushing iron (red water) or manganese (black water) may become stirred up within the main which may create staining on porcelain and laundry.

An interactive flushing schedule is posted on the City website, www.rockfordil.gov, for customers to determine when crews will be working in their neighborhood. Customers will also receive an automated phone call prior to work starting in their area.

Water quality questions and concerns may be directed to the Water Quality Section at 779-348-7151.

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