

Treeways

2021 - 7

Burning Permits

Yes, you can get a burning permit.

Yes, you do need a burning permit to have a bonfire.

Burning permits are available at most times of the year except when there is an abundance of dry leaves and grass that could carry a grassland or brush fire away from a contained location. We all can have recreational fires and bonfires however being able to do both comes with the responsibility to burn safely and under control. I've said this many times, "An out of control fire is not a good way to meet your neighbor."

In a city with a rural character such as Sunfish Lake disposal of large amounts of woody debris generated by removal of dead trees, buckthorn and honeysuckle removal, or landscape maintenance can be overwhelming. Chop and drop, chipping and composting are preferred methods of organic debris disposal however burning permits are available most of the year to burn brush, wood and leaves. Sunfish Lake follows the DNR open burning advisories so burning permits may not be available during very dry periods that occur in the spring and fall.

Burning permits to burn brush are required if the fire will be larger than 3 feet wide and 3 feet high so this would usually include bonfires too. A burning permit does not allow the burning of household garbage, painted wood, paper, treated wood, railroad ties, plastic, tires, or other non-organic materials. Garbage burning is now the greatest source of deadly dioxins in the United States.

Burning permits are available by contacting the City Forester, Jim Naves, at 612-803-9033, or jim@LStreets.com for a fee of \$45.00 payable to the City. Burning permits are good for three days, either consecutive or non-consecutive, within one calendar year. Remember it is your responsibility to keep your fires, recreational or otherwise, under control at all times. Open burning without first getting a burning permit can lead to a misdemeanor citation and a fine of \$500.00 from the City.

General requirements for open burning in Sunfish Lake include:

Obtain a burning permit from the City Forester.

Call the number on your burning permit prior to beginning your fire.

Keep the fire under control at all times.

Do not burn if wind is more than 10 MPH.

Have a water source or other means of quickly extinguishing the fire nearby.

Smoke must not be a hazard to the public.

No open burning within 50 feet of a neighbor's residence without their written permission.

A **recreational fire** does not require a burning permit. A **recreational fire** is a fire that is no larger than 3 feet wide and with flames that do not climb higher than about 3 feet high.