

## **Information about Sandbag Disposal**

It is estimated that 375,000 sandbags were placed along the Rock River to protect property during the flood event of June 2008. Approximately 260,000 of those sandbags were laid in the Towns of Milton, Fulton, Janesville and Rock. Landowners may be in violation of local ordinances if they empty the sandbags where they lie, thus placing fill in the floodplain. The Rock County Shoreland Zoning Ordinance (applies to properties within 1,000 feet of the River) regulates permanent placement of sand in flood prone areas. Dumping sand in the River without proper permits is a violation of the Rock County Floodplain Ordinance as well as state and federal law. If your property is in the City of Janesville or the City of Beloit, municipal ordinances may apply to disposal of sand and sandbags.

### **Summary of regulations pertaining to the disposal of sandbags.**

1. Sand emptied from sandbags can be disposed in areas not prohibited by state and local codes or ordinances (i.e. do not dump sand in the floodplain without a permit, and never dump it in the River unless you have a permit from the DNR or Army Corp of Engineers).
2. Empty sandbags should be sent to the landfill, recycled, or stored for reuse.
3. Full burlap sandbags are biodegradable, and can be disposed in the same fashion as #1.
4. Full plastic sandbags may be disposed of at a municipal landfill or at temporary collection sites. Those temporary sites include:

Town of Beloit: Armstrong Eddy Park, Burrwood Park at the end of South Street, and Glenwood Park at the end of Powers Drive.

Town of Fulton and Town of Milton: Rock County Highway Shed at the corner of Sherman and Highway 59 west of Interstate overpass.

Town of Janesville: Behind Rock County Public Works Garage on Newville Road.

Town of Rock: The Old Airport Road, former access to the Airport from the south off of Happy Hollow Road.

Indianford County Park (east of the Rock River only): at the intersection of County Roads F&M.

Note: These sites are for sandbags only – no trash or construction rubble.

5. Full plastic sandbags may be disposed of at a site other than a municipal landfill with prior written approval from the DNR.
6. Full burlap and plastic sandbags may be reused at other flood sites and used to construct permanent earthen structures.

## **Sand from sandbags**

1. Use caution when reusing sand that came in contact with flood waters as the material may contain more bacteria than normal soil.
2. Avoid placing sand in playgrounds, sandboxes, or other areas of direct human contact soon after removal from bags. Bacteria will dissipate with time and exposure to the elements.
3. Sand may be stockpiled for uses such as winter road sand, fill, concrete or mortar sand, landscaping projects or other uses.