

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE!

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Spring 2012

Why Waste Newsletter

The City of Blue Springs waste reduction newsletter

Pink Hill Park Recycling Center

The Pink Hill Park Recycling Center located at 2725 Park Road has been serving local residents at no cost now since July 2010. Items accepted at the center include:

- Paper, shredded paper, newspaper & magazines
- Cardboard, paperboard & brown paper bags
- Plastics #1 (bottles)
- Plastics #2 (containers)
- Plastics #3-7 (containers)
- Aluminum cans
- Steel/tin food cans
- Glass jars & bottles
- Phone books

We request that patrons rinse and remove lids from all containers. No need to re-

move container labels.

A staff member is always at the center to help with any questions or assist with sorting the materials into the proper collection bins. The center hours through October are:

- Wednesdays 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Saturdays & Sundays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Collection data shows that while the amount of recyclable goods varies from month to month, there continues to be an overall increase in the amount of materials collected since the center has been open.

- From July 2010 thru December 2010 a combined 96,360 lbs was collected,

while in the same months of 2011, 170,390 lbs was collected. That is an increase of 77% or 37 tons!

- Since opening, 435,760 lbs of waste have been recycled.
- Paper is the most commonly recycled material at the center with approximately 4.5 tons diverted from the landfill each month.
- **You can help support the recycling center!** For every pound of paper and fiberboard products collected at the center, the City receives 50% on the sale of the commodity. This helps to partially fund the operations of the center.

Household Hazardous Waste Event

- **When:** Saturday, April 21, 2012, from 8 a.m. to Noon
- **Where:** Pink Hill Park
- **Items:** Antifreeze, Batteries, Oil and Paint **ONLY**
- **Residential Waste Only**
- **420 vehicle limit**
- **Free event** to all Blue Springs residents and residents of communities

participating in the 2012 regional HHW program.

Do you have more hazardous waste than is accepted at our event? As a participating member of the regional program, Blue Springs residents can attend year round mobile events in other communities or visit the permanent collection facilities at no cost.

- Kansas City, Mo. Facility
- Lee's Summit Facility

- Independence full HHW event—April 7, 2012
- Jackson Co./Grain Valley full HHW Event—June 16, 2012

For a complete list of the 2012 mobile events and information about the permanent HHW facilities visit www.recyclespot.org or call 816-701-8226.

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Quick Facts

- Blue Springs hosted our first paper shredding event downtown last June and shredded and recycled approximately 4,800 lbs of secure documents. Be sure to check the City website at www.bluespringsgov.com for updates on future recycling events.
- Since joining the regional HHW program in 1999, Blue Springs residents have safely diverted more than 600,000 lbs of hazardous materials.
- City ordinance requires residents to place trash and/or recycling items within five feet of the house or attached garage. Curbside placement is not allowed.



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 903 W. Main St.
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 Phone: 816-220-4504
 Web: www.bluespringsgov.com/recycling

Regional recycling information:
 816-474-TEAM or
www.recyclespot.org

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Interested in receiving the Why Waste newsletter? Email Lauren at lgowdy@bluespringsgov.com

Grasscycling

With the weather getting warmer its time again that the green grass returns, and so does your yard waste. Instead of paying to have grass clippings removed or dumping lawn refuse into the street to clog up storm drains, consider grasscycling.

Grasscycling is when you leave the grass on the lawn when you mow. The grass is a natural fertilizer which will rapidly decompose and replenish valuable nutrients to the soil.

By not disposing the grass you're saving time and money spent on watering, bags, fertilizer and disposal costs. It also helps conserve water and protects waterways from runoff pollution commonly found in chemically fertilized lawns.

Here's how to grasscycle:

- Cut grass when it's dry
- Cut no more than one-third of the grass height at any one time. For example, a lawn maintained at 3 inches should be mowed

when the grass reaches 4 inches in height.

For more information about grasscycling and "Don't Bag It" lawn care visit <http://extension.missouri.edu/p/G6959>.

For other yard waste recycling alternatives contact:

- Missouri Organic Recycling, Inc. at 816-483-0908
- City of Lee's Summit Yard Waste Dropoff Center at 816-969-1800

Light bulbs burned-out?

Compact fluorescent light bulbs contain small amounts of mercury that can be released into the environment if thrown into the trash and sent to a landfill.

Instead, the EPA encourages the recycling of mercury-containing light bulbs before they break. A few options for recycling old CFL bulbs include the HHW facilities in Lee's Summit and Kansas City, Missouri or at in-store collection bins at a local Home Depot or Lowe's.



Community Spotlight: Daisy Troop 782

This year is the Girl Scouts 100th anniversary and they are celebrating with the "Take Action Project." The three month long "forever green" program focuses on improving the environment and protecting natural resources. The three goals of the project are to:

- reduce waste by promoting recycling and reuse,
- encourage sustainable behavior by saving and reducing energy consumption, and
- increase green space by building rain gardens that help to reduce water-borne pollutants.

The first grade Daisy Troop 782 at Sunny Pointe Elementary has chosen to take the lead for their families, school and community. With projects modeled after the national campaign projects, the girls have completed three activi-

ties with one more planned for April.

In February, the Daisy Troop made reusable bags out of t-shirts. All they had to do was cut the sleeves off, cut a scoop in the neckline and with a little help on the sewing machine to sew up the bottom, they ended up with 35 reusable bags. The bags were given to teachers at Sunny Pointe.



Another project the girls undertook was collecting plastic bags to be recycled. They placed a collection bin at the elementary school and held a challenge within the first grade classes to see who could col-

lect the most plastic bags. In total they recycled more than 1,500 bags! The winners of the challenge received the extra reusable t-shirt bags.

While the girls of Daisy Troop 782 might be young, its easy to tell that they understand wastefulness. Many of the girls said they recycle at home and throwing things in the trash is "yucky." Small changes in behavior like using reusable bags and bottles or turning off the lights when you leave a room can make a real difference.



One reusable bag takes the place of 600 single-use plastic bags, which may last for up to 1,000 years in the landfill.