

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE!

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Winter 2015-2016

Why Waste Newsletter

The City of Blue Springs waste reduction newsletter

Recycling During the Holidays

The average household increases their waste by 25% between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. This waste increase comes from a variety of sources, including food, shopping bags, wrapping paper, bows and ribbons. Here are some helpful tips on cutting back your household waste this holiday season!

- Over 1.2 billion holiday greeting cards are sent every year. Most greeting cards can be recycled. You can also reuse the front of greeting cards for holiday crafts!
- Some types of wrapping paper (the non-shiny kinds) can be recycled.
- Consider reusing boxes, gift bags, tissue paper, bubble wrap, bows and ribbons for future gift giving. Most of these items can be easily stored for future reuse. Not only are you helping the environment, but you are also saving money!

Holiday Lights Recycling

Holiday lights can be recycled at several area locations now through January 16, 2016. Drop-off bins are available at the following locations in Blue Springs (hours vary by location):

- Pink Hill Park Recycling Center



- Blue Springs North and South branches of the Mid-Continent Public Library.
- Both Westlake ACE Hardware stores in Blue Springs.
- Parents and staff may also drop-off at bins at local schools in the Blue Springs District.
- Wal-Mart Supercenter in Blue Springs will have a drop-off bin through December 31st.

Holiday lights recycling is being handled by Southeast Enterprises, a local sheltered workshop that provides employment for 160 Jackson County residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities. For more information about Southeast Enterprises or the holiday lights recycling drive visit their website at: www.kcrecyclelights.com. Their goal is to collect 40,000 lbs. of lights this season! Light strands are deconstructed, sorted and recycled.

Holiday Tree Recycling

Approximately 33 million live holiday trees are sold in the U.S. every year. As in years past, holiday trees can be recycled at Pink Hill Park starting December 26th through January 31st. Pink Hill Park is open to the public from 6 AM to Mid-

night daily. A collection area will be located in the parking lot to the west of the baseball fields along the drive to the recycling center. Last year, more than 750 trees were collected. Trees are chipped and the mulch is used throughout the Parks

system. Please make sure all tree trimmings (tinsel, ornaments, lights, etc.) and bases/stands are removed before drop-off! For more information, contact Blue Springs Parks & Recreation at 816-228-0137.

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Did You Know?

- Almost 40% of all battery sales in the U.S. occur during the holiday season! Visit RecycleSpot.org to find a location close to home to recycle your used batteries OR dispose of them at a Household Hazardous Waste facility. Another option is using rechargeable batteries.
- The average family in the U.S. takes home 1,500 plastic bags every year. Make your holiday shopping more green by reusing or recycling the bags at local grocery stores, including Hy-Vee, Price Chopper, Target, Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market and Supercenter! Another option is making the switch to green bags.



City of Blue Springs
903 W. Main St.
Blue Springs, Missouri 64015
816-220-4504
www.bluespringsgov.com/
recycling

Regional Recycling Info:
816-474-TEAM or
www.recyclespot.org



Interested in receiving the Why Waste Newsletter via email? Email Matt at mwright@bluespringsgov.com

Pink Hill Park Recycling Center Update

Drop-off recycling is simple and free at the Pink Hill Park Recycling Center located at 2725 NW Park Road. Items accepted include:

- Paper, shredded paper, newspapers & 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
A staff member is always at the center to help with any questions or assist with sorting the materials into the collection bins. **Center hours through mid-March are Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.** The City receives a percentage of funds from the sale of materials collected at the center. This helps to fund maintenance and operations. Recycling rates

have increased significantly in 2015! During the first eight months of 2015, more than 397,000 pounds of materials were recycled, a 42% increase compared to the same period in 2014. The months of June, July and August set back-to-back records, with a new monthly high of 60,640 pounds recycled in August. Since opening in June 2010, nearly 2 million pounds of material has been recycled at Pink Hill Park!

Recycling in Downtown!

Blue Springs Downtown Alive! has installed 4 new recycling/trash receptacles on Main Street. Downtown Alive! would like to install more in the future and are currently requesting donations to continue improving the downtown streetscape. For more information, visit www.downtownbluesprings.com. Downtown recycling is collected by the Parks Department and taken to the Pink Hill Park Recycling Center for sorting.



Recycling at the new Blue Springs Fieldhouse!

The new Blue Springs Fieldhouse is now open at 425 NE Mock Avenue! The 76,000 square foot facility includes a variety of recreation and fitness options for members. The new facility also includes recycling bins for water bottles and cans. Also included with standard water fountains are water filling stations that make it easier and more convenient to fill reusable water bottles! For more information about Blue Springs Fieldhouse, call 816-228-0137 or visit their website at bluespringsgov.com/240/Parks-Recreation!



Community Spotlight: Winter Cleaning

Are you planning on doing some indoor cleaning this winter? Replacing old items with new gifts? There are multiple places in Blue Springs that accept a variety of gently used items that can be reused by others in the community! Small appliances, kitchenware, clothing, working electronics and home décor are just some of the categories accepted at the following businesses in Blue Springs:

- Goodwill
926 SW 7 Hwy.
816-229-2782
- Necessities Consignment
704 SW Walnut
816-224-3213
- Red Racks Thrift Store
922 SW 7 Hwy.
816-874-8812
- Kansas City, MO
4707 Deramus (East Bottoms)
816-513-8400
- Lee's Summit
2101 SE Hamblen Rd.
816-969-1805

Call ahead for hours and to verify if your item is accepted OR visit RecycleSpot.org and search for the business name under "Service Provider Search" for a complete list of items accepted. Household Hazardous Waste can be safely disposed of at the following two permanent facilities for

free of charge to Blue Springs residents with proof of residency:
Call ahead for hours of operation. A complete list of accepted materials can be viewed at RecycleSpot.org under "What is HHW?" A mobile event will be held in April 2016 in Blue Springs for the convenience of our residents!