

# CityNews



SUMMER 2014

A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF APPLE VALLEY, MN

## SUMMER BUCKTHORN REMOVAL



Buckthorn is an invasive, non-native small tree infesting many forested areas. Left unmanaged, buckthorn overtakes native species and becomes the dominant plant in forest understories and along woodland edges. It is nearly impossible to walk through buckthorn-infested areas, and buckthorn provides little wildlife value. Buckthorn was brought from Europe to the United States as a landscape plant in the late 1800s.

For the average do-it-your-selfer, buckthorn is generally removed in two ways: pulled or dug out of the ground, or cut off at ground level. Plants less than 2" in diameter are the most feasible to pull or dig out, which removes the majority of the root system and eliminates the need for stump treatment. Plants greater than 2" in diameter are best tackled by cutting at ground level and applying a chemical stump treatment to kill the root system. Products such as **Brush Be Gone** (active ingredient triclopyr) or **Round-up** (active ingredient glyphosate) are

effective for treating buckthorn stumps, and are available at most retail stores selling yard and garden supplies. Herbicides for killing grass and weeds are not effective for killing buckthorn root systems.

**ALWAYS READ THE PRODUCT LABEL AND FOLLOW DIRECTIONS WHEN USING CHEMICALS.**

Apple Valley residents can use, free of charge, a City-owned weed wrench for pulling buckthorn plants from the ground. These mechanical levers are designed for pulling buckthorn plants up to 2.5" in diameter. A \$200 deposit is required at the time of tool pickup, and is returned when the tool is brought back. The following options are recommended for buckthorn disposal:

1. Refuse haulers provide convenient and affordable yard waste service for residents. Most haulers can provide both a weekly yard waste collection service throughout the growing season and an on-call service to collect yard waste materials. Contact your hauler for specifics relating to brush disposal.
2. Removed buckthorn plants pose no threat of spreading or impacting the environment. Buckthorn is about the same density as hickory so it makes good firewood.
3. Buckthorn trunks and branches can be chipped and used safely for mulch. The City maintains a list of tree work contractors licensed in Apple Valley, many of which provide wood chipping services.

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4. Buckthorn materials, including stumps, can be disposed of at most compost sites. The Wood Mulch Store located in Empire Township accepts buckthorn materials. Details can be found on their website, <http://www.mulchstoremn.com>.

For additional information or assistance identifying buckthorn, call the Natural Resources Division at **952-953-2460**, or search for buckthorn at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us>.

## 2014 STREET MAINTENANCE

The City of Apple Valley performs street maintenance work on an annual basis to preserve the condition of streets throughout our community. This work is not specially assessed to residents and property owners as the costs of the program are incorporated into the property tax levy. Apple Valley primarily uses three methods for maintaining the condition of streets:

- Micro-surfacing: sealing the pavement surface
- Overlay: placement of a new 1-inch to 2-inch thick asphalt surface on the street
- Full depth pavement replacement

**Micro-surfacing** consists of applying a thin (0.25 inches) layer of oil and rock mixture over the existing street surface. The resulting product is similar to a street overlay and has a life expectancy of approximately seven years. The application process is not conducive to use in cul-de-sacs, so those will receive a seal coat consisting of an oil-based sealant and crushed aggregate. These methods are preventative maintenance techniques.

**Overlays** generally consist of patching failed pavement, repairing failed or damaged concrete curb and gutter, milling each edge of the street, and applying a new 1-inch to 2-inch thick layer of pavement over the entire surface. The procedure is generally applied to middle-aged streets and acts to provide a new wearing surface and revitalization of the pavement structure.

**Full-depth pavement replacement** of a street is utilized as pavement nears the end of its useful life cycle. This process consists of replacing failed or damaged concrete curb and gutter, and removal and reconstruction of the existing pavement, gravel base, and subgrade materials. For 2014 the City of Apple Valley has identified approximately 19 centerline miles of streets to receive one of the three forms of maintenance.

The work includes park trail maintenance and spot repair of concrete along the ring route. It is anticipated that park, ring route, and overlay work will begin by early May; micro-surfacing work will begin in July; and all work will be complete no later than mid-September. Full-depth pavement replacement is anticipated to occur between the months of April and August.

The following list identifies the areas tentatively scheduled for work in 2014. The list may be adjusted based on bid prices received and available funding for the project. If you have questions, please contact the Public Works Department at **952-953-2400**.

## MICRO-SURFACING/ SEAL COATING

Street	From	To
144th Street West	Garden View Drive	Holland Avenue
144th Street Court W.	-	-
Holland Avenue	-	-
143rd Street West	Garden View Drive	Holland Avenue
143rd Street Court W.	-	-
Holland Court	-	-
Holiday Court	-	-
130th Street West	Galaxie Avenue	Garrett Avenue
Garrett Avenue	130th Street West	Garrett Court
Garrett Court	-	-
Garner Lane	Garrett Avenue	130th Street W.
Galaxie Place	-	-
128th Street Court W.	-	-
Upper 139th Street W.	Galaxie Avenue	end of court
Glazier Court (N)	-	-
Glazier Court (S)	-	-
Garrett Avenue	139th Street West	Gladiola Way
Gladiola Way	139th Street West	Garrett Avenue
Gladiola Court	-	-
Gauntlet Court	-	-
Galway Court	-	-
142nd Street West	Cedar Ave. (HWY 77)	Galaxie Ave.
Glazier Avenue	142nd Street West	Germane Ave.
Germane Avenue	Glazier Avenue	142nd St. W.
Garrett Avenue	142nd Street West	Garland Ave.
Garland Avenue	Garrett Avenue	142nd St. W.
Upper 143rd Court W.	-	-
Galaxie Court	-	-
143rd Street West	Cedar Ave. (HWY 77)	Genesee Ave.
Gladiola Court (N)	-	-
Gladiola Court (S)	-	-
Genesee Avenue	142nd Street West	145th St. W.
Garrett Avenue	142nd Street West	145th St. W.
145th Street West	Genesee Avenue	Galaxie Ave.
144th Court West	-	-
Garland Avenue	142nd Street West	145th Street W.
Gannon Way	Garland Avenue	145th St. W.
Garrett Avenue	145th Street West	Upper 146th St. W.
146th Street West	Garrett Avenue	Galaxie Ave.
Upper 146th St. W.	Garrett Avenue	Glazier Avenue
Glazier Avenue	Upper 146th St. W.	145th St. W.
145th Street West	Cedar Ave. (HWY 77)	Glazier Avenue

<u>Street</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
<b>146th Way West</b>	Glazier Avenue	Upper 146th St. W.
<b>Glazier Avenue</b>	Upper 146th St. W.	147th St. W.
<b>Freeport Trail</b>	Flagstone Trail	Foxtail Lane
<b>Freeport Court</b>	-	-
<b>Foxtail Lane</b>	Fountain Avenue	Freeport Trail
<b>Foxtail Court</b>	-	-
<b>Friday Lane</b>	Foxtail Lane	Freeport Trail
<b>Freeport Trail</b>	Flagstone Trail	Fridley Way
<b>Fridley Way</b>	Freeport Trail	Flagstone Trail
<b>Fresno Avenue</b>	Fridley Way	Flagstone Trail
<b>155th Street West</b>	Pilot Knob Road	Dodd Bvd. (CSAH 31)
<b>Dodd Boulevard</b>	155th Street West	Diamond Path (CSAH 33)
<b>Eagle Bay Drive</b>	155th Street West	Cobblestone Lake Parkway
<b>Cobblestone Lake Parkway</b>	Eagle Bay Drive	158th Street W.
<b>Eaglestone Road</b>	-	-
<b>Duck Trail Lane</b>	Cobblestone Lake Parkway	Dunberry Way
<b>Duck Crossing Way</b>	-	-
<b>Dunberry Way</b>	-	-
<b>Duck Pond Way</b>	-	-
<b>Duncan Path</b>	Cobblestone Lake Parkway	Duck Pond Way
<b>158th Street West</b>	Cobblestone Lake Parkway	Diamond Path (CSAH 33)
<b>Cobblestone Lake Parkway</b>	158th Street West	Eastbend Way (W)
<b>Eastbend Way</b>	-	-
<b>Diamond Way</b>	-	-
<b>Drymeadow Lane</b>	158th Street West	Drawstone Tr.
<b>Drawstone Trail</b>	158th Street West	159th St. W.
<b>159th Street West</b>	Drawstone Trail	Duxbury Lane
<b>Drycreek Lane</b>	Cobblestone Lake Parkway	159th St W.
<b>Dumont Lane</b>	Cobblestone Lake Parkway	159th St. W.
<b>Dutton Lane</b>	Cobblestone Lake Parkway	159th St. W.
<b>Duxbury Lane</b>	Cobblestone Lake Parkway	159th St. W.

**CAUTION: Work Crew Ahead**

Please be aware of City crews this summer and drive carefully near their work sites. Summer work includes street repairs, litter picking, sewer cleaning, sign replacement, crosswalk striping, and hydrant flushing and repairs.

**OVERLAYS**

<u>Street</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
<b>Diamond Path</b>	Pilot Knob (CASH 31)	McAndrews Rd. (CSAH 38)
<b>Diamond Court</b>	-	-
<b>Ethelton Way</b>	-	-
<b>128th Street West</b>	Diamond Path	Euclid Avenue
<b>Essex Way</b>	-	-
<b>132nd Street West</b>	Galaxie Avenue	HWY 77 Frontage Road
<b>HWY 77 Frontage</b>	132nd Street West	Cedar Avenue (HWY 77)
<b>Geneva Way</b>	-	-
<b>155th Street West</b>	Cedar Avenue	1100' East of Cedar Ave.

**FULL DEPTH PAVEMENT REPLACEMENT**

<u>Street</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
<b>142nd Street West</b>	Hayes Road	Heritage Court
<b>Heritage Court</b>	-	-
<b>141st Street West</b>	Hayes Road	Heritage Court
<b>Glazier Avenue</b>	147th Street West	Garrett Avenue
<b>Garrett Avenue</b>	147th Street West	County Rd.42
<b>Flagstone Trail</b>	Galaxie Ave.	Fountain Ave.
<b>Freeport Trail</b>	Fridley Way	Flora Way
<b>Flora Way</b>	145th Street West	Freeport Way
<b>Freesia Way</b>	-	-
<b>144th Street West</b>	Diamond Path (CSAH 33)	Diamond Path Elementary entrance
<b>Whitney Drive</b>	Cedar Avenue (HWY 77)	Pennock Ave.
<b>132nd Street West</b>	Johnny Cake Ridge Road	Galaxie Ave.
<b>132nd Way</b>	-	-

**STREET LIGHT MAINTENANCE**

Is there a burned out street light in your neighborhood? If so, contact Dakota Electric at **651-463-6287**. If possible, note the identification number found at eye level on the pole. With this number, Dakota Electric knows the pole's exact location. If you do not know the pole number, please provide the closest address or cross streets. In addition to replacing burned out bulbs, Dakota Electric repairs broken globes and adjusts the sensitivity of the light sensors.

## SUMMER WATER QUALITY



### Think Before You Dump

The stormdrain on your street or in your backyard is directly connected to a neighborhood lake, pond, or wetland. Water and substances entering the drain are not cleaned or otherwise treated. If it goes down the drain, it goes into the lake. If it's left on the street, sidewalk, or driveway, it will be washed into the lake when it next rains. Even seemingly harmless substances, such as grass clippings and soaps, can have a dramatic effect on water quality. Help keep local lakes, wetlands, and ponds clean by sweeping spilled substances off driveways, sidewalks, and streets. Never pour anything down the stormdrain. Only rain down the drain.

### Develop Your Habitattitude™

Habitat + attitude = Habitattitude™. Someone with good Habitattitude™ takes care not to release aquarium, water garden, and land based pets and plants into the environment because they can degrade the quality of native habitats.

How bad can it get, do you ask? Take the example of goldfish. They look great in your aquarium, but they can wreak havoc on water quality in local lakes. Goldfish tend to root around in the lake bottom, stirring up sediments that release chemicals into the water causing unsightly algal blooms and other problems.

So what do you do if you find you have an unwanted pet or aquarium plant on your hands? See if you have a friend who wants it; see if the local pet shop wants it; put aquatic plants in a sealed plastic bag in the trash; ask if an area school or business wants it. Do not release out into the wild; do not dump down stormdrains. You can learn more about Habitattitude™ at [www.habitattitude.ca](http://www.habitattitude.ca).

### Add a Native Garden for the Birdies, Butterflies, and Fish

That's right, fish too can benefit when you garden with plants native to Minnesota. How's that? Native plants typically have deeper root systems that aid in stormwater runoff infiltration: a process that removes pollutants, recharges groundwater, and reduces the risks of flooding. Native plants also require no watering or fertilizer once established; those deep roots tend to find the resources they need during the long hot summer. All this leads to better water quality for the walleyes, bass, and crappies at the local fishing hole.

But, let's not forget about those birdies and butterflies. They evolved right alongside those plants, and many of them have a stage of life that is reliant on one specific plant -- monarch caterpillars and milkweeds, karner blue butterfly caterpillars and wild lupine. If you want to see more birds and butterflies in your yard, you need plants they like to make their home in or whose seed and nectar they like to eat.

A word to the wise, not all native plants are created equally. Oftentimes, a plant may have gone through a selective breeding process to get a bigger bloom or shorter plant, resulting in what is called a cultivar. Cultivars often result in a tradeoff. You may have a showier bloom or a bloom that is an unusual color, but often the quality of the nectar or pollen is sacrificed. So if your ultimate goal is to attract wildlife, stay away from cultivars. Cultivars are indicated by a word or phrase inside single quotation marks on plant tags (e.g., Feather Reed Grass 'Karl Foerster').

Gardening with native plants isn't much different from gardening with other plants. Just have a care to pick plants that can tolerate the amount of sun/shade and moisture in your yard. You will need to water regularly the first year, but after that they should be fine except for in severe drought. Never fertilize native plants.

Here are some native plants that are butterfly favorites and work in sunny and partial shade spots: Golden Alexanders, Prairie Phlox, Wild Lupine, Marsh Milkweed, Spotted Joe Pye Weed, Yellow Coneflower, Sky Blue Aster, and Brown Fox Sedge.

For more information on native plants, how to garden with them, and where to purchase them, visit [www.BlueThumb.org](http://www.BlueThumb.org), [www.WildOnes.org](http://www.WildOnes.org), or contact Apple Valley Natural Resources at **952-953-2460**.

## EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL IN YOUR YARD

Are you planning a land-disturbing project this spring? Maybe you've decided to add a garage, a pool, or a retaining wall. Depending on the amount of soil disturbed, a City of Apple Valley Natural Resources Management Permit (NRMP) may be required.

Any land-disturbing activity can impact our natural environment. Exposed bare soils can easily leave your yard and move into the City storm sewers. Soils have a strong bond with phosphorous and may contain pollutants which can cause excessive algal blooms and substantial weed growth in our lakes, ponds, and wetlands.

Whether or not an NRMP is needed, residents are required by City Ordinance to keep sediment within the project area and to provide adequate erosion and sediment controls. Perimeter sediment control devices include silt fence, biologs, mulch berms, and straw waddles. Erosion control devices include blankets, disc-anchored mulch, tarps, hydroseeding, and turf-reinforcement matting. Any time work has stopped for more than 14 days, exposed soils need to be temporarily or permanently covered. Without properly functioning erosion and sediment controls:

1. Sediment-filled stormwater can cause physical and biological harm to our natural habitats.
2. Polluted runoff can cause excessive growth of weeds and algae in adjacent waterbodies.
3. Recreational activities like swimming and fishing are negatively impacted.
4. Cleanup and maintenance costs increase.

Help do your part to protect the beneficial uses of our water resources! Contact Natural Resources at **(952) 953-2463** with questions.

### CALL BEFORE YOU DIG – DIAL 8-1-1

Remember to call Gopher State One Call (GSOC) before you do any digging. State law requires anyone doing any excavating to call GSOC at least 48 hours in advance (excluding weekends and holidays). When you call GSOC, they notify companies with underground utilities in the area. If the companies determine an underground utility could be affected by your digging, they will mark the area with paint or flags. Call **651-454-0002**, or **311** for GSOC.

## SANITARY SEWER INFO

### Sewer Backups

If you have a sewer backup and do not know the cause of the blockage, you should consider calling the Public Works Department before you call a drain cleaning company. You may be able to avoid an unnecessary charge if the problem is in the City's sewer line rather than yours. A Public Works employee will determine if the problem is in the City's line.

**952-953-2400 (Public Works)**

**Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

**952-322-2323 (Police Department)**

**After hours, weekends and holidays.**

Sanitary sewer line blockages can be caused by grease and improper disposal of items as well as tree roots. FOG (Fats, Oils, and Grease) can solidify in the sewer lines and restrict other waste from flowing through. Lines can be blocked by disposable diapers, towelettes, feminine hygiene products, washing machine lint, or any items flushed down the drain or toilet.

Some homeowner insurance policies exclude damage resulting from sewer backups. Many insurers have riders that can be purchased to insure loss due to sewer backups.

### Sanitary Sewer Program

Routine sanitary sewer cleaning and maintenance is done on approximately 60 miles of sewer lines annually. A map of areas to be cleaned is posted on the City web site, [www.cityofapplevalley.org](http://www.cityofapplevalley.org). Remember to keep the toilet lid down when cleaning operations are occurring in your neighborhood. During cleaning operations, air can vent into a home through the sanitary sewer service line and ventilation system. A blockage in the sanitary sewer ventilation system can cause water in the toilet to bubble or splash out of the bowl.

### DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

The annual Drinking Water Quality Report can be found at <http://mn-applevalley.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/Home/View/967>. The 2014 report will be posted in June. The Safe Drinking Water Act determines water quality tests included in the report. The City of Apple Valley meets every water quality standard. The purpose of the report is to advance consumers' understanding of drinking water and heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water resources. To request a paper copy, please call 952-953-2400 or contact us at [pubworks@cityofapplevalley.org](mailto:pubworks@cityofapplevalley.org).



## HELP PREVENT FLOODING!

With the rainy season upon us, the Public Works Department seeks your help to prevent flooding of streets and ponds which can cause damage to homes and property. Clogged catch basins and pond outlet grates prevent the City's stormwater system from operating properly. Your assistance in removing or eliminating debris from street gutters and back yards can make a big difference.

Removing debris from the street gutter along your property will prevent it from washing down the street and clogging a catch basin grate. During a rainstorm, debris can be washed a long way. If you notice debris at a catch basin, please remove it as soon as possible. Flooded streets are often the result of a blocked stormwater catch basin grate.

If you live on or near a pond or a drainage swale, it is important to keep woodpiles and other items above the potential high water line. Debris carried from backyards is a major contributor to clogged pond outlet grates. A clogged outlet can cause water levels to rise which may result in damage to yards and homes. If we all strive to keep the stormwater flowing, perhaps we can minimize the occurrence of flooded streets and ponds, and help prevent property damage. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact Public Works at **952-953-2400**. Your help is greatly appreciated.



## WATER RESTRICTIONS

From **May 1 to September 30**, no lawn watering is permitted **between 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.** These restrictions do not apply to hand watering of plants (hose must be attended), children's water toys when in use by children, and non-irrigation water use such as vehicle washing. New sod laid and trees planted in the calendar year are exempt.



## DARTS RIDE CONNECTION

In partnership with your city, DARTS Dial-A-Ride service is now available for residents of Farmington, Apple Valley, and Lakeville to any destination within our 6 city service area.

This individualized service for residents age 60 and older, offers assistive, door-to-door transportation to any destination within Lakeville, Farmington, Burnsville, Eagan, Apple Valley, and Rosemount.

- You must schedule your ride 2 days in advance
- Same day requests can be accommodated as schedule permits
- When calling to schedule a ride, please leave a detailed message
- Be ready 10 minutes before your stated pickup time
- One business day before your ride, you'll receive a phone call confirmation

This service is partially funded under contract with the Metropolitan Area Agencies on Aging, Inc. as part of the Older Americans Act Program and the cities of Farmington, Apple Valley, and Lakeville.

### Reservation/Registration/Information

**Voicemail line (651) 234-2281**

**1645 Marthaler Lane • West St. Paul, MN 55118**

[www.dartsconnects.org](http://www.dartsconnects.org)

## GRILL SAFETY TIPS

Information contained on this page provided by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

### Charcoal Grill Safety Tips

Each year, there are about 20 deaths from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning and more than 300 emergency room treated injuries from CO poisoning resulting from charcoal grills. Charcoal produces CO when burned. CO is a colorless, odorless gas that can accumulate to toxic levels in closed environments. To reduce these CO poisonings, CPSC is offering the following safety tips:

- Never burn charcoal inside of homes, vehicles, tents, or campers.
- Charcoal should never be used indoors, even if ventilation is provided.
- Since charcoal produces CO until the charcoal is completely extinguished, do not store the grill indoors with freshly used coals.

### Gas Grill Safety Tips

Liquid petroleum (LP) gas or propane, used in gas grills, is extremely flammable. Each year more than 500 fires occur when people use gas grills and about 20 people are injured as a result of gas grill fires and explosions. Many of these fires and explosions occur when consumers first use a grill that has been left idle for a period of time or just after refilling and reattaching the grill's gas container.

To reduce these risks, consumers should:

- Check the tubes that lead into the burner for any blockage from insects, spiders, or food grease. Use a pipe cleaner or wire to clear blockage and push it through to the main part of the burner.
- Check grill hoses for cracking, brittleness, holes, and leaks. Make sure there are no sharp bends in the hose or tubing.
- Move gas hoses as far away as possible from hot surfaces and dripping hot grease. If you can't move the hoses, install a heat shield to protect them.
- Replace scratched or nicked connectors, which can eventually leak gas.
- If you detect a gas leak, immediately turn off the gas at the tank and don't attempt to light the grill until the leak is fixed.
- Keep lighted cigarettes, matches, or open flames away from a leaking grill.
- Never use a grill indoors. Use the grill at least 10 feet away from any building. Do not use the grill in a garage, carport, porch, or under a surface that can catch fire.

- When lighting the grill, keep the top open. If the grill does not light in first several attempts, wait 5 minutes to allow gas to dissipate.
- Never attempt to repair the tank valve or the appliance yourself. See an LP gas dealer or a qualified appliance repair person.
- Consumers should use caution when storing LP gas containers. Always keep containers upright. Never store a spare gas container under or near the grill. Never store a full container indoors. Never store or use flammable liquids, like gasoline, near the grill.
- To avoid incidents while transporting LP gas containers, consumers should transport the container in a secure, upright position. Never keep a filled container in a hot car or car trunk. Heat will cause the gas pressure to increase, causing the relief valve to open and allowing gas to escape.
- CPSC worked with the industry to develop a new voluntary standard to prevent LP gas leaks. Grills meeting this standard will shut themselves off if a gas leak occurs.

*The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission protects the public from unreasonable risk of injury or death from 15,000 types of consumer products under the agency's jurisdiction. To report a dangerous product or a product-related injury and for information on CPSC's fax-on-demand service, call CPSC's hotline at (800) 638-2772 or CPSC's teletypewriter at (800) 638-8270. To order a press release through fax-on-demand, call (301) 504-0051 from the handset of your fax machine and enter the release number. Consumers can obtain this release and recall information at CPSC's web site at <http://www.cpsc.gov>. Consumers can report product hazards to [info@cpsc.gov](mailto:info@cpsc.gov).*

### DISEASED SHADE TREE INSPECTIONS

Have you noticed any unhealthy looking elm or oak trees? Each year, Public Works inspects for oak wilt and Dutch elm disease beginning in June and continuing through the growing season.

Early detection is the most effective way to manage disease. Both diseases are caused by a fungus and can be transmitted from tree to tree by insects or root grafting. City Ordinance requires that elm trees infected with Dutch elm disease, and red oak trees infected with oak wilt must be removed and properly disposed to control the spread of these two diseases. The City will again offer residential property owners cost sharing in 2014 for diseased tree expenses. Details on the Cost Share Program can be found on the City website or requested from Natural Resources.

If you suspect a tree is diseased, want information on the Cost Share Program, or have any tree-related questions; please call the Natural Resources Division at 952-953-2460 or visit [cityofapplevalley.org](http://cityofapplevalley.org).

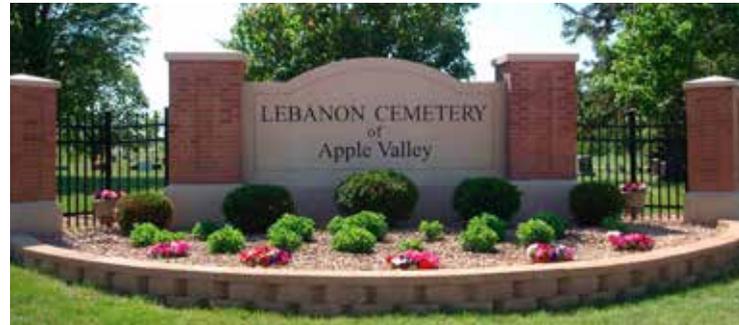
## FILLING PORTABLE GAS CONTAINERS

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) urges motorists to avoid risk of fire by placing portable gasoline containers on the ground while filling them because filling them while they are located in beds of pickup trucks or in trunks or passenger car compartments can be hazardous.

Take the portable gas container out of your vehicle and set it on the ground while filling it with gas. Static electricity could cause fire to erupt while fueling when it is in your car or pickup bed, NHTSA Administrator Ricardo Martinez, M.D., said. Adding to the danger is the location where these fires could occur -- at a gasoline station. Dr. Martinez told owners who have bedliners in their pickups to be especially careful. A bedliner is a plastic, protective lining that fits inside pickup beds to protect the vehicle's surface from wear and tear. He explained that the bedliner acts as an insulator, allowing static electricity to build up on the gasoline container while it is being filled. The flow of gasoline through the pump nozzle can produce static electricity. During fueling, this can create a spark between the container and the fuel nozzle, igniting gasoline vapors and causing a fire or explosion. This danger also applies to nonmetallic containers capable of building up a static charge.

According to NHTSA, there have been 24 fires and 5 injuries associated with static electricity discharge from portable fuel containers, some of which included serious injuries and extensive property damage. Most of the fires involved pickup trucks that had plastic bedliners. Reports also describe fires that resulted while portable gasoline containers were being filled in trunks and passenger compartments of vehicles, when carpeting acted as an insulator. NHTSA recommends the following safe procedures for filling portable gasoline containers:

- Dispense gasoline only into approved containers.
- Do not fill a container while it is inside a vehicle, a vehicles trunk, pickup bed or on any surface other than the ground.
- Bring the fill nozzle in contact with the inside of the fill opening before operating the nozzle. Contact should be maintained until the filling operation is complete.
- Don't smoke while pumping gasoline.



### LEBANON CEMETERY OF APPLE VALLEY

Preplanning your cemetery arrangements is a loving gift to your family at a time of tremendous grief. If you are considering Lebanon Cemetery, staff is ready to assist you. There are a number of ways you can begin. You can receive an information packet through the mail, or access it at the City website, [www.cityofapplevalley.org](http://www.cityofapplevalley.org), under City Services. You are welcome to visit the cemetery, which is located on the southeast corner of County Road 42 and Pilot Knob Road. Lebanon Cemetery is owned by the City of Apple Valley and is open all year from sunrise to sunset. Entrance is from eastbound County Road 42 or northbound Pilot Knob Road. Another way to get started is to meet with Cemetery staff who can explain the choices for casket and urn interments. Please contact Public Works at **952-953-2400** or [pubworks@ci.apple-valley.mn.us](mailto:pubworks@ci.apple-valley.mn.us) for information or to meet with Cemetery staff.

### LEBANON CEMETERY SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

Are you looking for an opportunity to volunteer your services to the City? Would you like to make a positive difference for those in your community? Help is always needed to keep Lebanon Cemetery of Apple Valley looking its best for family members and friends visiting loved ones' graves. Your efforts picking litter or weeding flower beds would be appreciated. This could be done once a week, once a month, once a season, or whatever fits your schedule. For more information about the Cemetery Volunteer Service Program, to request a volunteer packet, or for general cemetery information, please contact Public Works at **952-953-2400**.

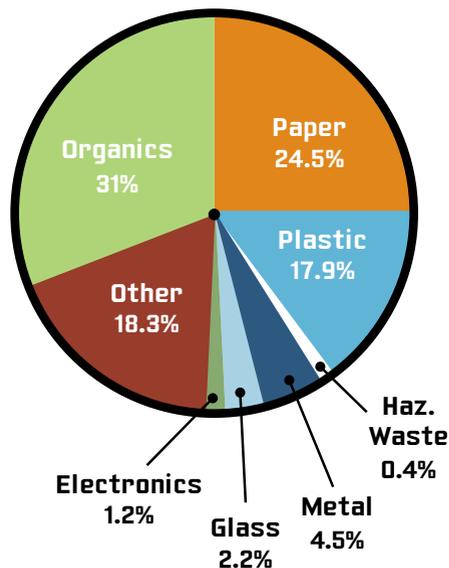


# 2014 Environmental Guide

An environmental guide for the cities of Apple Valley, Burnsville and Eagan

[www.DakotaValleyRecycling.org](http://www.DakotaValleyRecycling.org)

## What is in Minnesota's Trash?



In 2013, Minnesotans generated nearly 3 million tons of garbage.

About 40% of the material we put in the trash could be recycled instead of going to the landfill.

## Don't Treat Recyclables Like Trash

Dumpster diving may not be your cup of tea. However, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) found a wealth of information by digging in Minnesota's trash. The results of their recent study show us there's more we can do to manage the 3 million tons of garbage disposed of in our state each year.

The study found that Minnesotans throw away millions of pounds of recyclable paper, cans and plastics every year, as well as food waste and other compostable items. See the pie chart (left) for the breakdown of Minnesota's trash.

### WHY IS RECYCLING IMPORTANT?

Our recyclable material has economic value. In 2010, Minnesotans recycled approximately 2.5 million tons of material worth \$690 million.

- Paper gets baled and shipped to paper mills to be reprocessed into new paper products.
- Plastic gets ground into flakes and then reformed into a variety of items, from toothbrushes to chairs to soda bottles.
- Metal is exposed to high heat and turned into molten liquid. The liquid is molded into bars and sent to manufacturers.
- Glass bottles and jars can be melted down and recycled an endless number of times. Recycled glass makes up about 70 percent of the mix for new glass containers.

Not recycling costs money. Approximately 1.2 million tons of recyclables are thrown in the garbage each year, costing more than \$200 million to dispose of in landfills, according to the MPCA.

### HOW CAN WE RECYCLE MORE?

About 40 percent of what we throw in the garbage could be recycled. When we increase our efforts, we'll enjoy more benefits, like conserving energy, protecting natural resources and conserving landfill space. To learn what you can recycle at home, visit [www.dakotavalleyrecycling.org/curbside](http://www.dakotavalleyrecycling.org/curbside).

Find out more about trash, recycling and composting at [RethinkRecycling.com](http://RethinkRecycling.com).

# What Can Go in my Recycling Cart at Home?

These guidelines apply to residents in Dakota County.

## Paper



### YES:

- Office and school paper
- Mail and envelopes
- Newspapers, inserts, magazines and catalogs
- Phone books
- Shredded paper (in closed paper bag)
- Boxes from cereal, crackers, pasta and other dry foods
- Boxes from toothpaste, medications and other toiletries
- Cardboard from empty paper towel and toilet paper rolls
- Boxes from refrigerated food and beverage, including beer and pop cases
- Cardboard boxes (flattened)

### NO:

- Paper or boxes soiled with food
- Paper towels, napkins or facial tissues
- Paper cups or plates
- Gift wrap or tissue paper

## Plastic



*Leave caps & lids on for recycling.*

### YES:

- ALL plastic bottles
- ALL gallon and ½ gallon milk, juice and water jugs
- Margarine, cream cheese and other tubs
- Yogurt, pudding and fruit cups
- Disposable plastic cups
- Plastic deli, fruit and take-out containers
- Clear plastic packaging from toys and electronics

### NO:

- Styrofoam™ plates, cups or packaging
- PVC pipes
- Toys or school/office supplies
- Containers that held hazardous products, such as automotive fluids or pesticides

## Glass



### YES:

- Glass beverage bottles and food jars

### NO:

- Drinking glasses, mugs, dishes, cookware, pottery or vases
- Window or mirror glass
- Containers that held hazardous products, such as nail polish or hobby paint
- Light bulbs

## Cartons



### YES:

- Milk and juice cartons
- Juice boxes
- Soup, broth and wine cartons

## Metal



### YES:

- Metal food and beverage cans

### NO:

- Containers that held hazardous products, such as paint thinner or automotive fluids

### Maybe: Depends on your Hauler

Some recycling haulers are collecting more materials. Visit [www.dakotavalley-recycling.org/curbside](http://www.dakotavalley-recycling.org/curbside) for an up-to-date list of what items are accepted in your curbside bin. Click on your hauler's logo to see if you can recycle:

**Paper:** Pizza boxes (NO food residue or grease) • Boxes from frozen food

**Plastic:** Plastic bags and wrap

**Metal:** • Aluminum foil • Aluminum trays or pie tins  
• Empty aerosol cans • Scrap metal items

# Composting 101

## What is Composting?

Composting is nature's way of recycling. It's the natural process of breaking down items such as food, leaves, grass trimmings and paper products. Larger decomposers, such as insects and worms, tear and break apart the materials, while smaller, microscopic organisms break it down further, releasing nutrients in the process.



The result is a nutrient-rich soil amendment. Composting helps prevent materials from going to a landfill; instead it can be used for gardening, landscaping projects, or amending poor-quality soil.

When talking about composting, the words “organic materials” or “organics” refer to anything once living and capable of decay, like plant and animal products. It's estimated that about one third of your garbage is made up of organics! Synthetic, metal or mineral items, such as plastic bottles or aluminum cans, don't decay and should be placed in your recycling bin instead.



## How Can I Compost?

There are two main ways organic material can be composted:

- 1) in a backyard compost bin or
- 2) at a large-scale commercial composting facility.

### Backyard Composting

You can compost some of your organics right in your backyard. The following items can be placed in a backyard compost bin:

- Fruit/vegetable scraps and eggshells
- Coffee grounds/filters and tea bags
- Leaves, plant trimmings and grass clippings
- Straw, sawdust and woodchips

Mix the material in your bin with a pitchfork or shovel once every two to three weeks, and you'll have useable compost in about three months. Do not put items like meats, fats, dairy, bones, grease or pet waste into a backyard compost bin. They can cause problems with your compost or attract pests.

Learn what you need to start your own backyard composting bin by visiting [www.dakotavalleyrecycling.org/backyard-composting](http://www.dakotavalleyrecycling.org/backyard-composting).



Machines mix large piles of compost at the Shakopee Mdwakanton Sioux Organics Recycling Facility.

## Commercial Composting: The Next Frontier

Large amounts of organics can be composted at a large-scale compost site. Site operators mound organic material into large piles, where the natural breakdown process can occur faster and more efficiently than a backyard bin. Because the piles are larger and can be mixed by machinery, more types of organic materials can be broken down into compost.

The following items can go to a commercial composting site:

- ALL food (including bread, meat and dairy products)
- Coffee grounds/filters and tea bags
- Food-soiled or non-recyclable paper and cardboard
- Paper plates and cups, paper towels and napkins
- Compostable plastic cups (labeled “compostable”)
- Gift wrap and tissue paper
- ALL yard waste (grass, leaves, branches and trees)

Many organics compost sites allow the public to drop off their organics for a fee. Go online to [www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us) and search “commercial compost” for a list of food and yard waste drop-off sites in your area.



# The Recycling Zone

**651-905-4520**  
 3365 S. Hwy 149 (Dodd Road)  
 Eagan, MN 55121

[www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us)  
 Search: *The Recycling Zone*

## Hours:

Wednesday:  
 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Thursday:  
 Noon – 8 p.m.

Friday:  
 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday:  
 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

## Services Offered at The Recycling Zone

The Recycling Zone, run by Dakota County, is your place to get rid of the stuff you can't throw in the trash. For a full list of items that can be disposed of at The Recycling Zone, go to [www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us) and search "materials accepted." A valid driver's license is required to bring items to The Recycling Zone.



### Household Chemicals & Hazardous Waste Area

Items like paint, cleaners, chemicals, batteries, gasoline, automotive fluids and fluorescent bulbs are accepted for free from households ONLY. Businesses with hazardous waste should contact Dakota County at 952-891-7020 for more information.

### Recycling

Bring in items such as glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles/jugs/tubs, metal cans, paper, cardboard, plastic bags, packing peanuts, scrap metal and cooking oil to be recycled for free. Separate recyclables by material type.

### Home Sharps

Bring home sharps (needles, syringes, lancets) in a rigid, sealed container with the label "Do not recycle: household sharps." Accepted from residents only.

### Electronics Recycling

Items such as computers, laptops, monitors, computer accessories, TVs, VCRs, DVD players and game systems are accepted for free from households ONLY. Small household electronics such as toasters, blenders, coffee makers, hair dryers and vacuum cleaners are also accepted. Remove batteries. Business electronics are collected separately; contact The Recycling Zone for more information.

### Free Stuff Area

Products brought in for disposal—such as paint, cleaners, fertilizers and solvents—are available for free to visitors if they are still useable.

### Compost Bin Sales

Buy backyard compost bins for your home. Call for availability and pricing.

### Aluminum Can Redemption

Bring in your aluminum cans and The Recycling Zone will pay you for them. Call for redemption prices.

### Lead Sinker Exchange

Exchange your lead tackle for a free sample of a non-lead alternative.

### Mercury Thermometer Exchange

Exchange your mercury medical thermometer for a digital alternative.