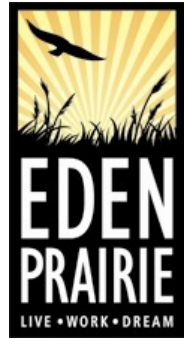


ENVIRONMENTAL TIMES



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Summer 2010

NEW - Commercial Recycling Requirements

Beginning June 24, 2010, owners and tenants of commercial, office, industrial and multiple-family zoned areas should be aware of the City's new commercial recycling requirements. Here are several points to keep in mind:

- New requirements are not retroactive and apply to new construction only.
- Management must provide services for collection of recyclables to all occupants.
- Services must be available onsite and picked up on a regularly scheduled basis.
- The owner shall provide information on the availability of collection services, including procedures, and date and time of collection.
- The owner shall provide and maintain the containers in a clean and sanitary condition, replacing stolen or broken containers as needed.
- Recyclable waste must be kept inside a building or trash enclosure.

Managing Solid Waste at Home

Many homeowners unintentionally overlook guidelines for managing and storing solid or recyclable waste in the City. Guidelines include:

- Refuse must be removed on a weekly basis.
- Recyclables must be removed on a bi-weekly basis.
- Waste containers must be stored at least 20 feet from the property line.
- Waste containers stored in the front yard must be screened from the public with a fence or other landscape material.

NEW - Compostable Bags Required for Yard Waste Collection

Beginning in January 2010, waste haulers now collect yard waste that is placed in compostable bags **ONLY**. Yard waste in plastic bags can no longer be picked up.

What can be used?

Rolling carts, Kraft paper bags (they look like large brown paper bags) and compostable plastic bags are all acceptable. Look for bags that are certified as compostable under the ASTM D6400 standard. Be careful, biodegradable does not mean compostable!

Disposal Requirements

- Bags must be smaller than 33 gallons in size and weigh less than 40 pounds.
- Brush and branches must be less than 3 inches in diameter.

For more information check out the following websites:

rethinkrecycling.com

bpiworld.org (Biodegradable Products Institute)

Recycling Fun Facts:

- The first recycling program was introduced in New York City in the 1980s.
- You can walk one mile along an average highway in the U.S. and see about 1,457 pieces of litter.
- Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV for three hours.
- Approximately 1-billion trees are thrown away every year in the U.S.

From *Curbside Value Partnership* at
recyclecurbside.org

Summer Lawn Watering

We are now into the hot summer months, and with the heat comes the need to make sure your yard receives adequate water. With this in mind it is important to remember Eden Prairie's year-round watering restrictions. The City adheres to an odd/even policy. This means odd numbered addresses can water on odd numbered days of the month, and even numbered addresses on even days of the month. Furthermore, it is important to check the clock. Lawn irrigation is not allowed between the hours of noon and 5 p.m.

Important Reminders:

- **Remember** - Reset your "every other day" system when the calendar has two odd days in a row (such as after May 31 or July 31).
- Peak water usage is from midnight to 3 am, please check your system to make sure it set for the right day.

More information about Eden Prairie's lawn watering restrictions can be found at edenprairie.org.

Storm Damage Cleanup

Storms common this time of year can be strong enough to cause damage to trees and other landscaping. In the case of severe storm damage please follow these guidelines.

Guidelines for removal of storm debris on private property:

- Private property owners are responsible for clean up on private property.
- Debris that is too large for a yard waste removal service can be taken to a disposal site, or a hired lawn care service can chip it up and haul it away.
- Options for disposal sites can be found at edenprairie.org.



The City removes tree debris in the following situations only:

- Debris falls on City property, across sidewalks and/or on public streets.
- A storm emergency has been declared by the City Council after extensive citywide tree damage, which could trigger additional cleanup by the City.

Environmentally Friendly Lawn Care

Water that runs off your lawn can have a negative impact on local ponds, lakes and creeks. Fertilizers, pesticides, grass clippings and pet waste can make their way into stormwater drainage systems and result in algae blooms or contamination of the body of water where the stormwater is discharged. Stormwater is not treated before it flows into our lakes and rivers. Here are some tips for environmentally friendly lawn care:

- Instead of using a hose to remove grass clippings from your sidewalk or driveway, use a blower to blow the clippings back onto the lawn or rake them up for disposal.
- Sweep up and reuse lawn care products, such as fertilizer, that fall on the sidewalk, driveway or street.
- Direct water from downspouts away from your house and paved surfaces, and onto your lawn. Rainbarrels and raingardens are also good options.
- Leave a buffer zone of unmanaged grasses or natural vegetation along a shoreline to help filter out fertilizers and other pollutants.

Street Obstructions - Dumpsters



Construction, remodeling, landscaping and additions often take place over the summer months. It is important to remember that items such as landscape rock, construction materials and dumpsters must be placed within private property boundaries whenever feasible.

If this is not an option, a permit, which includes a property inspection, is required for placing these obstructions on City right-of-way or public easements.

Permits are available at edenprairie.org on the "Licenses & Permits" page.