

Alternative Ways to Dispose of Landscape Waste

The Health Department encourages more environmentally sound alternatives to open burning of landscape waste and recommends composting, mulching and native landscaping as possible alternatives to reduce/reuse landscape waste. If landscape waste removal is necessary, residents can contact their waste hauler for curbside pickup, or work together with neighbors to rent roll-off dumpsters or contract waste haulers to organize a group pickup of leaves and landscape waste. For a fee, residents may drop off yard waste at an approved compost facility or landscape waste transfer station. Complete details about the Ordinance, suggested alternatives, exemptions and permit applications are available on our web site at www.mcdh.info or by calling 815-334-4585.



Composting

Composting returns organic matter to the soil in a useable form. The composting process reduces material volume by 70 - 80%. Organic material in the soil improves plant growth by:

- Enhancing soil texture
- Adding nutrients back into the soil
- Increasing the soil's ability to retain water & nutrients
- Improving soil structure by adding organic matter
- Loosening heavy soils, allowing better root penetration
- Reducing the need for fertilizers

Mulching

Use a mower to shred leaves into bits which will be washed down into the soil between the grass blades during the next rain. Mulched leaves contribute to soil health by:

- Adding nutrients & organic content
- Encouraging earthworm activity
- Preventing soil compaction
- Conserving moisture
- Reducing weeds and soil erosion

Native Landscaping

Selecting plants that are native to our area will provide the following benefits:

- Reduce pesticide use
- Reduce use of power equipment
- Enhance wildlife habitat
- Less upkeep and watering
- Benefit local wildlife
- Reduce yard work

Landscaping Service Companies

Landscaping service companies may remove landscape waste produced from landscape maintenance services and also offer products such as wood chips, wood mulch or firewood for sale to customers.

Local Municipal Waste Haulers

Municipal solid waste haulers who are licensed in McHenry County and provide regular residential waste pickup are required to offer landscape waste collection service to residential customers. An additional fee may be charged for the service.

Many municipalities and several unincorporated areas of the county are served by designated municipal waste haulers who have exclusive contracts to serve specific geographic areas. Residents who are unsure if they have a designated waste hauler should contact their municipality or the McHenry County Solid Waste Manager for further information.

Residents who do not have a designated waste hauler may contact any municipal solid waste hauler licensed in McHenry County and are encouraged to work collectively with neighbors and subdivision associations to identify the most economical solution for their neighborhood such as:

- working cooperatively with neighbors and subdivision associations to contract with a licensed municipal solid waste hauler to pick up bagged or loose leaves from curbsides or dumpsters, or
- coordinating roll-off containers that would be shared by multiple properties then picked up by the municipal waste hauler for appropriate disposal.

A list of McHenry County licensed municipal solid waste haulers and their services is available on the Solid Waste Program webpage at www.mcdh.info.

Yard Waste Recycling Facilities

Homeowners also have the option of dropping off their yard waste at an approved compost facility or landscape waste transfer station for a fee. Finished compost is available for purchase.

For more information call:

Thelen Sand and Gravel Compost Facility

815-675-6613
www.thelensg.com

Petersen Pit Landscape Waste Transfer Facility

815-675-6613

Garden Prairie Organics

815-597-1318
www.gpocompost.com



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