



# WASTELINE



February 2016  
City of Omaha  
Jean Stothert, Mayor

Recycling, Garbage and Yardwaste Information for the Citizens of Omaha, Nebraska  
Public Works Department Robert G. Stubbe, P.E., Director Environmental Quality Division

April 16  
Elmwood  
Park  
11AM to 6PM

## New West Omaha Drop-off

**A** NEW WEST OMAHA drop-off site was recently opened with a ribbon cutting by Mayor Stothert along with members of the Western Douglas County Chamber of Commerce (the site's host), Omaha Public Works Department and the City's recycling contractor Firststar Fiber. The new drop-off site is located in the parking lot at 20801 Elkhorn Drive, adjacent to Ta-Ha-Zouka Park.

There has been a major need for a drop-off site near Omaha's western edge. This drop-off site is the result of a new five year contract with Firststar Fiber that was approved by the City Council in December. Another result of this new contract is that all of Omaha's drop-off sites will see improvements in their overall appearance with more uniform container colors and signage.

Omaha has four additional drop-off sites available for the public and businesses to use. Drop-off sites are

critically important to Omaha's overall recycling program as they are the only place where glass bottles are accepted to be recycled.

In 2015, over 1,040 tons of glass bottles and more than 1,200 tons of other recyclables were collected at Omaha's drop-off sites. Drop-off sites represent 13% of all the recycling tons collected in Omaha.

Omaha's drop-off sites are located at:

**West:** **Western Douglas County Chamber of Commerce**  
20801 Elkhorn Drive  
Open: Daily, 7AM - 7PM

**Northwest:** **Parking Lot**  
North 75th and Corby Streets  
Open: Daily, 7AM - 7PM



**Southwest:** **Firststar Fiber**  
10330 "I" Street  
Open: Daily, 7AM - 7PM  
Turn off "I" Street using the east driveway, then turn left into the fenced parking area before you reach the guard shack.

**Northeast:** **Parking Lot**  
2574 Douglas Street  
Open: Daily, 7AM - 7PM

**Southeast:** **River City Recycling**  
6404 South 60th Street  
(Between Harrison & "Q" Streets)  
Open: Monday - Friday: 8AM - 4:30PM  
Saturday: 8AM - NOON (Winter)  
Monday - Saturday: 8AM - 4:30PM  
(Spring, Summer, Fall)

▼ KOB's Environmental Education Director (Meridith Dillon) conducts a small group activity in a local Omaha school.

## New Year and New Faces at Keep Omaha Beautiful Inc

**D**ATING BACK TO 1959, Keep Omaha Beautiful (KOB) is one of the oldest environmental nonprofit organizations in Nebraska. Over the years, the organization has worked with tens of thousands of volunteers and served the Omaha community by focusing on litter reduction, community beautification, and education on recycling and solid waste issues. As it moves into its 57th year of operation, KOB is excited to announce its new team of three that will be leading the organization: Chris Stratman, Meridith Dillon, and Kay Noonan-Replogle.

In December 2015, Mr. Stratman took over as the third Executive Director in the history of the organization. He is a native of Omaha and has graduate training and experience in sustainability and nonprofit marketing and management. He previously worked as a sustainability consultant for Verdis Group.

Ms. Dillon transitioned to a full-time position as KOB's Education Director in November of 2015. She is a recent graduate of UNO and brings a wealth of talent and enthusiasm to the organization. Ms. Dillon is passionate about creating educational opportunities that connect students and citizens with the natural world and empowering them to affect positive change in their community.

Mrs. Noonan-Replogle is the ranking veteran of the group having dutifully served the organization for over 16 years and has been instrumental in helping grow KOB to what it is today. She serves as the Office Manager and plays a vital role in overseeing internal operations and program logistics.

With the support of this new team and the organization's Board of Directors, KOB is poised to have an even bigger impact on the community of Omaha moving forward. At the present time, the staff



**KEEP OMAHA BEAUTIFUL**

is working on enhancing and expanding KOB's programs, some of which consist of the following:

- ▶ **Litter Cleanups**—KOB coordinates volunteers and provides equipment to pick up litter in local neighborhoods and public areas such as parks, trails, and dam sites.
- ▶ **School-Based Environmental Education**—KOB conducts tailored environmental education presentations and activities at public and private schools located throughout Omaha.
- ▶ **Helping Hands Program**—KOB coordinates volunteer groups to conduct a one-time yard cleanup (raking, picking up litter and twigs, pulling weeds, etc.) for elderly citizens and residents with disabilities.
- ▶ **Siena/Francis House Program**—As part of this litter reduction and workforce skills program, homeless clients at the Siena/Francis House are paid an hourly wage to pick up litter in downtown Omaha.
- ▶ **Stormwater Education & Storm Drain Disc Placement**—KOB works with the City of Omaha to educate the public about how to prevent water pollution; this includes coordinating volunteers to clean up debris/litter around storm drains and place "no dumping" discs on the grates.

KOB also supports the City by helping coordinate and promote the Spring Clean Up, provide recycling education, and publicizing **UnderTheSink**.

For more information about Keep Omaha Beautiful or to volunteer, visit [KeepOmahaBeautiful.org](http://KeepOmahaBeautiful.org) or call Keep Omaha Beautiful Inc. at 402-444-7774.

**LEGAL NOTICE:** Placement of solid waste (garbage, recyclable materials, and yardwaste) by a resident along a private owned street or road implies permission for the City's solid waste collection contractor to drive onto that street or road to perform contract work. Accordingly, such residents and owners of private streets and roads shall assume the risk of incidental damages incurred in the course of performing work while driving on the surface of these private streets and roads. Incidental damages may include cracks in the surface of the roadway or cave-ins due to collapsed sewers or poor street surface substrate. The City's contractor is not exempt from causal damages to personal property or premises adjoining private streets and roads. Please call the Solid Waste Hotline 402-444-5238 for questions or concerns about collection on private streets and roads.

Favor de llamar al  
402-444-5238 si tiene  
alguna duda sobre el  
sistema de colección de  
basura en Omaha.

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 1086  
OMAHA, NE

# Garbage

**Collection Missed?**  
Call 402-444-5238 after 7PM  
on your collection day.

Because of state and federal laws, there are limits to the types of waste you may include in your garbage. Each household is limited to 5 properly prepared trash cans or clear bags of garbage per week.

## Yes! ‡



➤ Trash cans up to 32-gallons that weigh up to 45 pounds when full.

➤ Clear plastic bags that weigh up to 30 pounds when full.



➤ Up to 5 containers of garbage per week (example 2 trash cans and 3 bags).

➤ Place within 5 feet of curb, approved alley or other approved location.

**Note: Trash cans and recycling bins must be removed from the curb by 10AM the day after collection.**  
(Omaha Municipal Code, Chapter 18, Article X, Section 102) **!**

## No!

- A mixture of garbage and yardwaste.
- Christmas trees. Follow yardwaste collection rules.
- Rocks, dirt, and concrete.
- Dead animals.
- Any liquids.
- Loose pet waste or loose cat litter.
- Tires, engines, or other large auto parts.
- Bulky items (couches, chairs, stoves, etc.).
- Dark plastic bags that you can't see through.
- Motor oil and automotive batteries.
- Cardboard boxes (empty or full) when not in a can or bag.
- Items outside a can or clear bag.

# Yardwaste

**Set out before 6AM**

There is no limit to the amount of properly prepared yardwaste that may be set out for collection. Place yardwaste within 5 feet of your collection location and leave 2 feet of space between yardwaste and garbage containers.

**Yardwaste is now collected year-round when properly prepared.**

## Yes! ‡



➤ Grass clippings and leaves.

➤ Garden waste such as fallen apples, rotted or excess vegetables and fruit.

➤ Trash cans up to 32-gallons that weigh up to 45 pounds, marked with a **YW** on both sides.

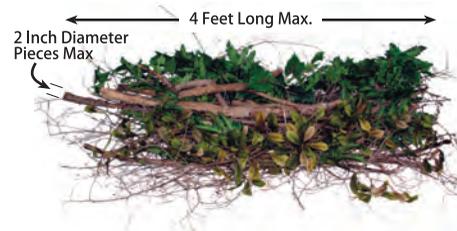


➤ Special yardwaste paper bags that weigh up to 40 pounds.

➤ Unlimited number of properly prepared marked cans, paper bags or brush bundles.

➤ Bundles of branches and brush, tied with string or twine. Bundles may weigh up to 30 pounds.

➤ Branches may be up to 2 inches in diameter and 4 feet in length.



## No!

- Plastic bags used in yardwaste collection.
- Mixtures of yardwaste and garbage.
- Saw dust, lumber or treated lumber/wood.
- Litter, trash, or garbage.
- Whole cans of dirt or sod.
- Street sweeping sand, litter, or rocks.
- Cardboard boxes of yardwaste.
- Pet waste or kitty litter.
- Branches over 2 inches in diameter.
- Branches over 4 feet long.
- Plastic twine, nylon twine, or wire used to bundle brush or branches.
- Rope of any kind.
- Brush that is not bundled.

**Yardwaste is now collected year-round when properly prepared.**

**Seasonally, yardwaste will be collected in conjunction with garbage.**

‡ Omaha Municipal Code, Chapter 33, Article II, Division 2.

## Solid Waste Assistance



Special collection assistance for garbage, yardwaste and recyclables is available to households where all residents in the home have a medical disability, or are age 70 or older.



It takes several weeks to get the service set up.

To apply, call 402-444-5238 from 8AM to 8PM weekdays.



Properly dispose of unwanted household, lawn, garden and automotive chemicals at **UnderTheSink**.

Operating hours are:

Wednesday 9:00AM-4:45PM  
Thursday 9:00AM-6:15PM  
Friday 9:00AM-4:45PM

Saturday **Call for an appointment**  
402-444-sink [7465].

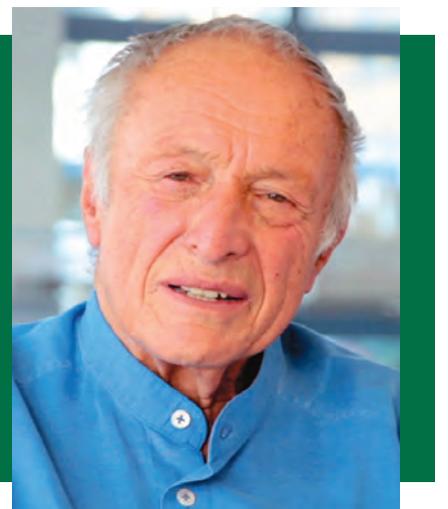
Residential waste only.  
There is no charge.

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

## Quotes Requested

*The only way forward, if we are going to improve the quality of the environment, is to get everybody involved.*

Richard Rogers, 1933-  
British Architect



# Spring Clean Up Begins in April

OMAHA'S SPRING CLEAN UP program is a joint effort of the City of Omaha, Keep Omaha Beautiful, Inc., and the participating neighborhood organizations. This program wouldn't be possible without the neighborhood organizations that provide the volunteers to staff the collection sites. In 2015, over 100 neighborhood groups participated in Spring Clean Up at various locations throughout Omaha.

Spring Clean Up is for the disposal of bulky or difficult to dispose of items such as chairs, couches, appliances, and tires. It is not a disposal program for regular household garbage for which collection is provided weekly.

Spring Clean Up also offers the opportunity to dispose of large limbs and brush that would be difficult to dispose of using the City's weekly yardwaste collection.

In 2016, Spring Clean Up will be on Saturdays from April 16 to May 21. Each Saturday, at least one participating neighborhood location will be available that will accept appliances, tires, and lead acid batteries. Vouchers will be available at each Spring Clean Up location good for one load of brush or tree limbs delivered to a local disposal business.

Spring Clean Up is open to all Omaha residents. Residents do not need to be members of a neighborhood organization or pay any fees.

Omaha residents may contact their neighborhood association to see if they are participating, or starting on April 11, residents may call 402-444-4636 for Spring Clean Up locations.

After Spring Clean Up finishes for the year, Omaha residents that need to dispose of bulky items not collected with regular garbage may utilize the City's bulky disposal cost share program. This program lets residents deliver a limited number of loads of bulky items to a disposal location. Please note that brush and tree limbs are not included in this program. For more information call the solid waste help line at 402-444-5238 or visit [Wasteline.org](http://Wasteline.org) then click on *Garbage* then *Bulky Item Disposal*. **!**



# Recycling

## Place Materials Out in Green Bin, Before 6AM.

All Clean Paper—To prevent litter, place in a Paper Sack or Small Cardboard Box  
*(Do not use plastic bags)*

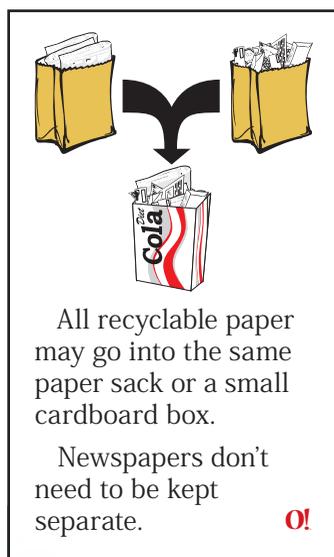
- Includes: Most all clean paper. Things like:
 

Magazines	Greeting Cards
Newspaper	School Paper
Detergent Boxes	Phonebooks
Junkmail	Paperback Books
Catalogues	Wrapping Paper
Cereal Boxes	Paper Egg Cartons

Lay sack or box either inside bin, on top of bin, or next to your bin with the opening facing away from wind.

Corrugated cardboard. Break down flat and place under bin. For lots of boxes, fold and stuff multiple boxes into one box. Set out next to recycling bin.

- NO!** Do not include: Any soiled paper or these non-recyclable items:
- |              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Styrofoam    | Hardbound Books |
| Tissue Paper | Rubber Bands    |
| Plastic Bags | Paper Plates    |
| Diapers      |                 |



Containers—Loose in the bin  
*(Not in plastic bags)*

Gable top and Aseptic cartons including—juice boxes, milk cartons, juice cartons, and soup or broth boxes.

Aluminum cans and Steel (tin) cans including—empty aerosol cans, empty and dry paint cans with lid removed. Tip: Place the top of food cans inside can and crimp closed.

Plastic containers and packaging marked PETE, HDPE, V, or PP.

- Flattening bottles helps prevent litter.
- Caps and lids are OK.

- Includes:
- Bottles
  - Cups
  - Snap top container
  - Clamshell deli containers
  - Cookie trays
  - DVD cases
  - Clear plastic packaging
  - Microwave meal trays

Use a paper bag or a small box to hold extra recyclables.

**NO!** Don't recycle these plastic items, no matter what: Toys, plastic bags, motor oil bottles, lawn chemical bottles, or hazardous chemical bottles

**NO!** Glass bottles or jars. (Glass may be taken to drop-off sites listed in this issue of **WASTELINE** or placed in the garbage)



Plastic Bottles, Cups, Caps, Lids, Food Containers and Packaging with numbers:



## Collection Pointers

- Place all materials at your collection point before 6AM.
- If your collection is missed, call 402-444-5238 after 7PM on your collection day.
- Leave a couple feet of space between your yardwaste, recyclables, and garbage containers.
- Keep your garbage dry—use plastic bags or trash cans with lids.
- One cap full of household ammonia poured in to each garbage container will deter animals from investigating and searching for food in your garbage.
- Use clear trash bags.



Within 5 feet of curb or alley.

Collection problems: 402-444-5238

**Garbage:**  
Up to 5 containers

Metal or plastic can with handles. 32 gallon, 45 pound max.

Clear plastic. 30 pounds max. Tie shut.



**Recycling:**  
Must use bin

No plastic bags. No glass. Paper in paper bag or box. Flatten cardboard boxes.



**Yardwaste:**  
No container limit

Metal or plastic can with handles. 32 gallon, 45 pound max. Marked YW.

Paper bags only 40 pounds max.



Bundle with string. 4 feet long max. 2 inch diameter branches max. 30 pounds max.



Set out before 6AM

# Holiday Collection Schedule Through 2016

THERE ARE SIX HOLIDAYS that are observed by the City's solid waste collection contractor when they occur during the work week.

Following a weekday holiday, collection is delayed by one day for the remainder of that week, with Friday's collection occurring on Saturday.

Yardwaste is now collected year-round. During the growing season a separate truck will collect yardwaste and during the rest of the year properly prepared yardwaste will still be collected, however it will go to the landfill. Live Christmas trees are considered yardwaste so they must be properly prepared as yardwaste for collection.

!

## Solid Waste Holiday Collection Schedule

Holidays that delay collection by one day:

- ▶ Memorial Day: Monday, May 30, 2016.
- ▶ Independence Day: Monday, July 4, 2016.
- ▶ Labor Day: Monday, September 5, 2016.
- ▶ Thanksgiving Day: Thursday, November 24, 2016.
- ▶ Christmas Day 2016: Is on a Sunday and will not affect collection.
- ▶ New Year's Day 2017: Is on a Sunday and will not affect collection.



## Worth Noting

Created by a vote of the people, the Nebraska Environmental Trust began in 1994 with the mission to distribute a portion of the proceeds from the Nebraska Lottery. Now 25 years later, more than \$250 million have been awarded to environmental conservation efforts across Nebraska.

This includes more than \$31 million invested in conservation projects in Douglas and Sarpy Counties.

Eligible conservation projects can involve water, air, land, wildlife, and recycling.

When matching funds are included, more than a half billion dollars have been invested in conservation in Nebraska.

!

# Recycling Bin Distribution Locations Updated Again

THE OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY has come through yet again with a fifth library distributing recycling bins. The A. V. Sorensen branch is a helpful location in the heart of the city.

Replacement and additional recycling bins are available to addresses with City of Omaha solid waste collection service, from these locations listed here.

Please note that holidays will affect the schedule of each location.

!

## A. V. Sorensen Branch Library

**New!** 4808 Cass Street  
 Monday CLOSED  
 Tuesday 10:00AM – 8:00PM  
 Wednesday 10:00AM – 6:00PM  
 Thursday 10:00AM – 8:00PM  
 Friday and Saturday 10:00AM – 6:00PM  
 Sunday CLOSED

## South Omaha Branch Library

2808 "Q" Street  
 Monday through Thursday 7:30AM – 9:00PM  
 Friday and Saturday 9:00AM – 6:00PM  
 Sunday CLOSED

## Charles B. Washington Branch Library

2868 Ames Avenue  
 Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 9:00AM – 8:00PM  
 Thursday, Friday and Saturday 9:00AM – 6:00PM  
 Sunday CLOSED

## Milton R. Abrahams Branch Library

5111 North 90th Street  
 Monday through Thursday 9:00AM – 9:00PM  
 Friday and Saturday 9:00AM – 6:00PM  
 Sunday 1:00PM – 6:00PM

## Bess Johnson Elkhorn Branch Library

2100 Reading Plaza  
 Monday through Thursday 9:00AM – 8:00PM  
 Friday and Saturday 9:00AM – 6:00PM  
 Sunday CLOSED

## UnderTheSink, Special Waste Facility

4001 South 120th Street  
 Drive around building to parking lot and enter office.  
 Wednesday 9:00AM – 4:45PM  
 Thursday 9:00AM – 6:15PM  
 Friday 9:00AM – 4:45PM  
 Saturday 9:00AM – NOON

From this to this!



# Collection Frequently Asked Questions

WHILE MOST OF THE CALLS that come into Omaha's solid waste help line (402-444-5238) are simple requests for information or to report a missed collection, others are more unusual. Here are some of the frequently asked questions that don't regularly get covered in **WASTELINE**.

**Q:** I didn't get my garbage out in time last week so will I be able to put out twice the amount next week?

**A:** No, the limit is still 5 containers.

**Q:** My material was tagged as over weight. How do they know it was over weight? I got it to the curb, why can't they collect it?

**A:** Each crew picks up the waste from over 2,000 households per day. The 45 pound limit is a federal guideline to protect the workers from injury. They are very experienced and will give the benefit of the doubt to the resident unless it's grossly over weight.

**Q:** My material was tagged as Over Weight but that's just because it rained last night and it's wet. It's not my fault.

**A:** The weight limit on cans is 45 pounds. The containers will need to be less than 45 pounds to be collected next week. To avoid this situation in the future, we suggest using trash cans with lids or switching to bags instead.

**Q:** My material was tagged as Over Weight, but now I've divided it up into more containers. When will they be back to pick it up?

**A:** Your next day of collection.

**Q:** Animals tipped over my can and there is litter everywhere. Why wasn't the litter picked up?

**A:** The contractor is not responsible for litter in the area prior to their arrival.

**Q:** My garbage can was emptied but there is still trash in the bottom of it. Why didn't they dig out the trash at the bottom?

**A:** The contractor is not required to dig out trash that is stuck in the bottom of the can. It is not safe for the collector to reach into a trash can. To avoid this problem, you could use plastic bags for garbage and the special paper yardwaste bags.

**Q:** I had branches bundled and when the crew picked it up the string broke and they just left it. Why didn't they go ahead and take the branches?

**A:** Branches need to be securely bundled to avoid this. The crew is not responsible for picking up branches that are not bundled securely.

**Q:** Someone is going through my recycling and taking out the cans. What can I do about that?

**A:** This is considered theft of City property and should be reported by using the form available at <http://report.wasteline.org>. You will need a vehicle licence plate number. If there is no vehicle you may report the incident to the non-emergency police number at 402-444-5600 with a description of the person.

**Q:** My trash was tagged because it is in a black bag. I've always used black bags and never had a problem before. Why didn't they take them today?

**A:** The City's municipal code and our contract with Deffenbaugh prohibits the use of black bags however it is the discretion of the contractor to risk penalties at the landfill if unauthorized items have been discarded in a black bag.

**Q:** Who collects the trash now? Is it Deffenbaugh or Waste Management?

**A:** Deffenbaugh was purchased by Waste Management last year. They operate under both names here in Omaha. Old habits die hard so we usually refer to the company as Deffenbaugh.

**Q:** What are the holidays that delay collection?

**A:** The holidays are listed on the back page of this issue of **WASTELINE**, and on the [Wasteline.org](http://Wasteline.org) website. When in doubt, put your material out on your regular day so you won't be missed.

**Q:** They left behind the glass bottles that I had placed in my recycling bin. Aren't they recyclable?

**A:** Glass bottles are only collected for recycling at Omaha's recycling drop-off sites. The trucks that collect recyclables compress the material and would break the glass making a dangerous situation. Omaha's drop-off sites are listed inside this issue of **WASTELINE** and on the [OmahaRecycles.com](http://OmahaRecycles.com) website.

**Q:** My garbage cans or recycling bin is all busted up. How do I get rid of it?

**A:** The Solid Waste Help Line will mail you a paper to tape to the container to notify Deffenbaugh you want to dispose of it. Recycling bins will be collected and recycled. Trash cans will go in the garbage.

The solid waste help line is for reporting service related issues and to find answers to your solid waste collection questions. Calls are answered by city staff from 8AM to 8PM weekdays and 8AM to NOON on Saturdays. At other times an answering service will take your call and it will be handled by city staff during normal business hours.

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Clip and Save