



May 2013
City of Omaha
Jim Suttle, Mayor

WASTELINE

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

**Memorial Day,
May 27 and
Independence Day,
July 4 will affect the
collection schedule.**

Minor Crime Affects Omaha's Recycling Program

WHEN YOU OBSERVE SOMEONE taking recyclables from a recycling bin or drop-off site, please report it. It's a crime! Likewise if you observe someone making a mess at a drop-off site by either leaving material on the ground, or placing non-recyclables in a recycling collection container, please report it. It's a crime!

For a long time the Omaha Public Works Department has battled against these two problems; both are crimes that rarely are prosecuted because they aren't reported or the suspect can't be found.

Through a new cooperative effort between Omaha's Police Department and Public Works Department, Police Chief Schmaderer has assigned the Omaha Police Department's Nuisance Task Force Squad to pursue these crimes.

Persons who observe someone taking recyclables from a recycling bin or a recycling drop-off site

should report it. It's a form of petty theft, a violation under Nebraska State Statute Chapter 28, Section 511 and Omaha Municipal Code Chapter 33, Article II, Section 29.

Likewise, an observation of someone making a mess at a drop-off site by either leaving material on the ground, or placing non-recyclables in a recycling collection container, should be reported as well. This is an illegal dumping violation, Omaha Municipal Code Chapter 34, Article I, Section 4.

Reporting these crimes is easy and you will remain anonymous. Just jot down the license plate number and vehicle description. Note the date, time and location then report this information using the on-line form found at <http://report.wasteline.org>. Reports may also be made by phone during business hours by calling the solid waste helpline at 402-444-5238.



Sergeant Erin Dumont, a supervisor with the Nuisance Task Force states "The goal of the Nuisance Task Force Squad is to address quality of life issues that affect the city as a whole, such as illegally parked or illegally licensed vehicles. By now addressing these new issues of recycling theft and abuse of recycling drop-off sites, we are raising the awareness and seriousness of minor issues that affect the community as a whole."

These minor crimes aggravate neighboring businesses and households, steal revenue from the city, and jeopardize the future of recycling drop-off sites. Often these crimes also result in litter that is offensive and potentially harmful to the environment and wildlife.



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

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OMAHA, NE
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The Nebraska Environmental Trust—Good for Nebraska and Omaha

THE NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST (NET), a beneficiary of the Nebraska State Lottery, distributes grants for environmental projects across the state. Over 1,600 projects have received grant funding from the NET in its 20-year history. With the matching funds provided by the project sponsors, the NET's \$200-million has grown to \$600-million invested in environmental projects across the state over the last 20 years.

Omaha has been the recipient of nearly \$18 million in grants that have gone to the City, other government agencies, non-profits and for profit groups for a variety of activities. Here are some highlights of what the Trust has funded in Omaha.

- ▶ Heron Haven Wetland, a unique urban wetland near 120th & Maple, has been supported by the Trust for the land purchase, rehabilitation and education.
- ▶ UnderTheSink, the household hazardous waste collection facility for Douglas and Sarpy counties and operated by the City, is located at 4001 S 120th Street. The Trust funded about half of the building's construction and has also funded some equipment. UnderTheSink's predecessor, the paint drop-n-swaps, were funded by the Trust too.
- ▶ The Trust has assisted in funding of many things related to the lead clean up and riverfront development including

the closing of the ASARCO plant, creation of the landing, the state's portion of the Superfund clean up cost, and additional lead education.

- ▶ The pedestrian recycling containers, available in many of the business districts and at special events, have been funded by the Trust.
- ▶ Omaha Public School grade-schoolers that received a field trip to Fontenelle Forest can thank the Trust for that experience.
- ▶ Lauritzen Garden will be getting a conservation center and a demonstration rain garden with grant money over the next year.
- ▶ The Zoo's nocturnal swamp under the desert dome may be the most visited Trust-funded project. An enhanced recycling program at the zoo, funded by the NET, will be coming next year.
- ▶ Metropolitan Utility District's expansion into compressed natural gas vehicles and fill stations have been Trust-funded.
- ▶ After the devastating October 1997 snow storm that downed so many trees, it was the NET funded Branching Out program that helped to re-tree the city.
- ▶ The Habitat for Humanity's ReStores have received funding for equipment and their buildings.
- ▶ The Trust has funded many water projects in Omaha including the rehabilitation of park ponds at Benson and

Hitchcock Parks and large rehabilitation projects at Cunningham and Zorinsky. Storm water projects, a key element to Omaha's combined sewer overflow program, have been funded on Saddle Creek, Spring Lake, Hell Creek and at Adams Park.

▶ Behind the scenes, the Trust has funded almost a million and a half dollars of education activities and studies in Omaha.

Grants from the Trust can vary from a few thousand dollars to several million dollars. The cost overhead to run the Trust, a state agency, is less than 3% with a staff of five. It is governed by a volunteer board of 14 that includes five state agency directors and nine citizens appointed by the Governor and approved by the Unicameral.

Go Figure

A disposable water bottle weighs about $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce. This is significantly less than what they weighed just a few years ago and a step in the right direction. But with just one bottle per day, that's 11 pounds of waste in a year. Why not change to a refillable bottle? You'll avoid waste and save a lot of money.



Yardwaste

**Set out
before 6AM**

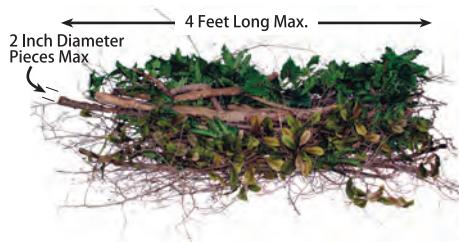
There is no limit to the amount of properly prepared yardwaste that may be set out for collection. Place yardwaste within 5 feet of your collection location and leave 2 feet of space between yardwaste and garbage containers.

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.



YW for YW Only!



You must remove the **YW** label if you need to use a trash can for garbage.

Only a yardwaste collection truck will stop for cans marked with a **YW**, so if it holds garbage, it will be tagged as inappropriate material and will not be collected.

As an additional reminder, trash cans must be the correct size and designed to be a trash can. Preferably it will not have a swinging lid that is often the cause of worker injuries. Creatively reusing a plastic barrel for garbage or yardwaste collection is not permitted (Omaha Municipal Code Chapter. 33, Article II, Section 42 & 43).

[†]Reported in Tons (2,000 pounds)

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.



Garbage

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

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) **O!**

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.

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.

2012 Omaha Solid Waste Results

2012 [†]	Garbage		Recycling		Yardwaste	
January	7,781.23	87%	1,157.74	13%	-	-
February	6,865.02	86%	1,147.70	14%	-	-
March	8,064.07	85%	1,389.15	15%	-	-
April	11,845.91	78%	1,290.61	8%	2,050.71	14%
May	8,835.88	63%	1,431.76	10%	3,851.60	27%
June	8,619.24	70%	1,405.61	11%	2,374.10	19%
July	8,439.29	75%	1,303.54	12%	1,437.08	13%
August	8,767.00	75%	1,425.75	12%	1,560.22	13%
September	7,415.09	72%	1,220.80	12%	1,682.40	16%
October	8,407.35	58%	1,357.26	9%	4,769.29	33%
November	13,271.85	89%	1,559.90	11%	-	-
December	8,088.58	85%	1,439.37	15%	-	-
Total 2012	106,400.51	76%	16,129.19	11%	17,725.41	13%
Total 2011	127,102	84%	16,268	11%	7,433	5%
Total 2010	104,578	69%	16,268	11%	30,618	20%
Total 2009	101,874	68%	16,511	11%	30,770	21%
Total 2008	107,487	70%	17,586	12%	27,840	18%
Total 2007	99,164	66%	16,459	11%	34,176	23%
Total 2006	98,985	66%	15,156	10%	35,928	24%
Total 2005	98,270	65%	16,710	11%	35,391	24%

The last couple years have been a roller coaster; 2011 was an epic flood and then 2012 was a severe drought. Omaha's Oma-Gro composting facility survived the flooding; however the access road to the facility was closed to heavy truck traffic for all but six weeks in 2011. This meant that there was very little raw material (yardwaste) to make compost. Then 2012's drought again reduced the amount of raw material to make compost. Oma-Gro is up and running and does have product to sell, so ask for it from your favorite garden center or buy it direct from the composting facility. Visit www.omagro.com for information.

The economy continued to affect the amount of recyclables available in 2012 but we have remained consistent since 2010. On a very positive note, expanding the number of distribution locations for recycling bins has been a huge success. The support from the Omaha Libraries is much appreciated.

Recycling markets moderated some in 2012. Over \$725,000 in revenue was brought in from recycling, a decrease of \$364,000 compared to 2011. The tons of recyclables processed helped us avoid paying \$390,000 in landfill tipping fees.

O!



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.

✗ Do not include: Any soiled paper or these non-recyclable items:

Styrofoam	Hardbound Books
Tissue Paper	Rubber Bands
Plastic Bags	Paper Plates
Diapers	



All recyclable paper may go into the same paper sack or a small cardboard box.

Newspapers don't need to be kept separate. **O!**

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 1, HDPE 2, V 3, or PP 5.

- Flattening bottles helps prevent litter.
- Caps and lids are OK. **→ New!**

Includes:

Bottles
Cups → New!
Snap top container
Clamshell deli containers → New!
Cookie trays → New!
DVD cases
Clear plastic packaging
Microwave meal trays



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



✓ 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 on the back of this issue of Wasteline or placed in the garbage)



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 per 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.

Leave space between

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

Number of Recycling Bin Distribution Locations

Increases Again

THE OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY has come through again with yet another library distributing recycling bins. The Saddlebrook Branch located in Northwest Omaha. This puts every home in Omaha within 3½ miles of a recycling bin distribution location.

Replacement and additional recycling bins are available from these locations only to City of Omaha addresses that receive solid waste collection service through the City's contractor. Distribution locations also have placards that you use to recycle a damaged, unusable recycling bin.

Visit www.omahapubliclibrary.org for hours of each branch. Please note that holidays will affect the schedule of each location:

Northwest:
Saddlebrook Branch Library
14850 Laurel Avenue

Southeast
South Omaha Branch Library
2808 "Q" Street

Northeast
Charles B. Washington Branch Library
2868 Ames Avenue

North Central
Milton R. Abrahams Branch Library
5111 North 90th Street

West
Bess Johnson Elkhorn Branch Library
2100 Reading Plaza



The **UnderTheSink** facility operated by Omaha Public Works also distributes recycling bins. For their regular and holiday hours visit www.underthesink.org

South Central
UnderTheSink, Special Waste Facility 4001 South 120th Street
Drive around building to parking lot and enter office.

Replace this



with this!



Quotes Requested

*Only if we understand can we care.
Only if we care will we help. Only if we help shall all be saved.*

Jane Goodall, born 1934
British Primatologist, Ethologist,
Anthropologist, and
United Nations Messenger of Peace



House Numbers Required

Having house numbers is a public safety issue when the police or fire department is responding to an emergency or apprehending a suspect.

Easily visible house numbers also aid Deffenbaugh in completing their collection rounds and responding to collection problems. In 2007, the Omaha City Council added a provision to the Municipal Code that requires house numbers on the alley side of houses in addition to the street side.

House numbers should be large enough to be seen from the street or alley, and in a contrasting color from their background. Illuminated numbers that can be seen at night are

an added benefit. Numbers that have been painted over should be replaced.



If your home is on an alley, please add house numbers to the alley side of your home and assist neighbors who may have difficulty completing this task. Every home should examine their house numbers to see if they will serve them in an emergency.

Remember, the life or home you save could be your own. **O!**

Recycling Drop-off Sites

Recycling glass and the occasional extra bunch of recyclables is easy. Drop-off sites are located around the city and accept the same materials as your green bin, plus you can also recycle glass bottles.

Drop-off sites consist of two or more large containers. Glass bottles will go in one container and all of the other recyclables go in a separate container. Keeping glass separate from the other recyclables is all the sorting you will need to do.

Illegal dumping at the drop-off sites is punishable by a fine of up to \$500, loss of drivers license for 6 months and all clean up costs. **O!**

Northeast:

Salvation Army
2574 Douglas Street
Open: Daily, 7AM – 7PM

Northwest:

Parking Lot
North 75TH and Corby Streets
Open: Daily, 7AM – 7PM

Southwest:

Firstar Fiber
10330 "I" 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)

[Omaha Municipal Code, Chapter 34, ARTICLE I, Section 4.]



Worth Noting

A recent study published by the Journal of Consumer Psychology has indicated that people may consume more when they know their waste will be recycled. They studied if students, when unaware of the nature of the study, would complete a menial task

differently when the waste from the task had a recycling bin or trash can available.

The researcher's conclusion states "we propose that the ability to recycle may lead to increased resource usage compared to when a recycling option is not available. **O!**



Getting a FREE gas can is EASY!

Just bring your old metal or plastic vented gas can to **UnderTheSink** (4001 South 120th Street, 402-444-7465), and we'll give you a new environmentally-friendly one to replace it. Exchange your gas can for a 2- or 5-gallon can, while quantities last. For hours of operation, visit www.underthesink.org.

How are the new gas cans better?

A gas can that automatically closes and seals after dispensing fuel and remains tightly closed during storage can reduce the amount of ozone-causing vapors released into the air during use, in transport and while in storage. You will also save money because your gas can no longer leaks, spills, or evaporates.



Omaha's air quality is measured daily and an Air Quality Index (AQI) value is reported based on how clean or polluted our air is. Air Quality alerts will be issued to tell citizens to take the proper action in response to Action or Alert Days, as defined by Omaha's Ozone Action Day Program. For more information on the steps you can take to make an impact on air quality go to:

www.LittleStepsBigImpact.com

