



The Woodlands, Green Team Spring 2009 Grounds Update

Grass seeding. The grounds crew, Landmark Landscaping, has been busy reseeding grass areas to help with erosion control and visual enhancement. Some high impact areas have been staked off to allow for improved seed germination and growth. Please be respectful and tread lightly while we work on getting the grass to grow.

New plants. We have new plants around the pond edge and through the drainage channel. There will be many wildlife, storm water, and visual benefits to the new plantings. Please do not disturb the new plantings while they are getting established, such as, walking on or pulling up plants. These plants represent a significant ecological and economic investment that we hope to protect. The planting crew will be speaking to all interested residents in mid summer to explain the planting in more detail. We will notify residents a few weeks before the scheduled talk.

Dog-waste bag holders. There will be two new dog-waste bag holders installed on the grounds for resident's convenience in the next few weeks. Please be responsible neighbors and pet owners by cleaning up after your dog and disposing of the waste in the dumpsters. One will be located at the corner of the garage by the waterfall and one will be located at the corner of the garage along the main drive north of the basketball court. We thank all the responsible pet owners we have and hope to make their job a little more convenient.

Children. Parents please remind your children to be respectful of their neighbors by keeping all toys off of sidewalks and roads when not in use. All toys should be stored on each resident's property and not left in the common areas. Unattended toys can become a safety hazard for our visually impaired residents.

Dumping. Please refrain from dumping plant debris or any debris along the woodland edge. We have built up quite a deposit and are looking to thin out this debris over time. Please notify our grounds manager, Debra Beck, that you have plant debris to remove. You may reach her at dtbeck@juno.com or 339-1820. If you place your pile of plant debris by your back patio, the grounds crew will be notified to dispose of or recycle it properly on their next scheduled workday.

Community composting. There is a community composter in the greenspace inbetween units 2354 and 2356 on the Circle. Feel free to contribute your fine-chopped (see reverse side for what to put in and what not to put in) food items and give it a stir! We'll take care of the rest. It takes awhile to make compost that is suitable for use in your garden, but give it time.

Environmental education programs. We are starting to put together programs to teach kids and adults, alike, about our environment. They will start over the summer and include topics such as native plantings, trees, composting, recycle/reduce/reuse, and more... including frogs and other critters that share our habitat. Please let Kriste know of other topics you would like to see, as well. We will keep you posted on days and times...



WHAT TO COMPOST

Your composter will work best if it is fed a diet of green (nitrogen-rich) and brown (carbon-rich) materials. Check out the list of kitchen and yard waste "greens" and "browns" that will keep your composter happy.

<p>Kitchen Greens Fruit scraps, vegetable scraps Houseplant cuttings Coffee grounds Rice & pasta Egg shells Tea bags</p> 	<p>Kitchen Browns Coffee filters, stale bread Paper napkins & towels Dryer lint Hair</p> 
<p>Yard Greens Flowers Vegetables Plant trimmings Hedge clippings Grass (small amounts)</p> 	<p>Yard Browns Leaves Straw or hay Small twigs/chips Dried grass and weeds</p> 

Don't Compost

- Meat, fish or bones
- Dairy products
- Oils or fats
- Sauces
- Ashes
- Pet waste
- Diseased plants
- Mature weeds with seeds



HOW TO COMPOST

Composting is easy – it happens on its own. However, there are a few things you can do to speed up the composting process. Just follow these four steps.

Keep the material in your composter about as moist as a wrung-out sponge.



CHOP

– It helps to chop up larger items like watermelon rinds or corn cobs before putting them in your kitchen bucket.



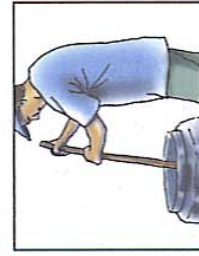
EMPTY

– Once your kitchen bucket is full, take it to your composter and tip it into your composter.



STIR

– Mix the new material into the existing pile using a compost turner, pitchfork or other garden tool. This also adds oxygen, a key component to successful composting.



COVER

– Cover your food waste with a handful of old leaves, other dried yard waste or soil. This will add carbon and reduce the chance of odors and fruit flies. Then put the lid back on and let it "cook".

