

live green in Plano



SPRING 2016

NEWS

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Looking for a way to give back to your community and have fun while doing it?

The citywide Great American Cleanup is April 16.

Great American Cleanup



Join hundreds of volunteers throughout Plano
working to beautify the community.

Register online: plano.gov/GAC



- Go on a litter scavenger hunt! Download a checklist at plano.gov/scavengerhunt.
- Compete to see who in your group or neighborhood can collect the most litter.
- Cache in on litter - There are hundreds of geocaches in Plano. Take a trash bag to pick up litter while out geocaching.
- Litter can be weird. Bring your oddest littered item to the Great American Cleanup celebration on April 16 to win prizes! Details inside on page 3!



Photo: www.geocaching.com



The Facts About Litter:

Litter is Harmful to animals in the water – but land animals like raccoons and squirrels can be affected too.

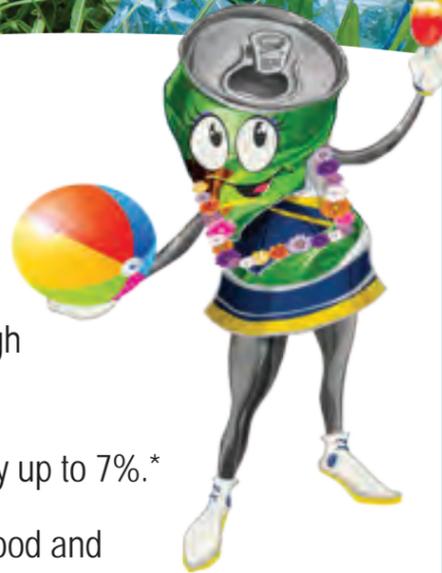
Fires can be caused by discarded cigarettes and sun shining through broken glass.

Litter is unsightly and its presence can decrease property values by up to 7%.*

Balloon releases create litter – the balloons and ribbons look like food and are hazardous to wildlife.

Most litter is less than 4 inches in size – smaller than an iPhone.

*Source: 2009 National Visible Litter Survey & Litter Cost Study, www.kab.org



Social Media Challenge:

Join the Litterati and be a part of the Digital Landfill.

1. Find a piece of litter.
2. Photograph and post on Instagram with #Litterati and key words like brand names, #plastic, or be creative!
3. Visit litterati.org and track the impact.

Check out these hiding spots when searching for litter:

- Under bushes
- Tangled in branches
- Along stream banks
- Mixed in with leaves



2016 CITYWIDE Great American Cleanup



Join us to celebrate all the litter diverted from local waterways that flow to the ocean.

April 16 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Chase Oaks Church Parking Lot 281 Legacy Drive, Plano

- * Free lunch for participants wearing their GAC T-shirt!
- * 7-Eleven Slurpee Truck
- * Steel drum band
- * Face painting
- * Caricature artist
- * Island of trash
- * Games, booths and more!



Thank you to our sponsor



Details and volunteer registration at plano.gov/GAC.



Sign up to be part of the solution!

- Participate in a cleanup on Saturday, April 16 and receive a GAC T-shirt
- Register online at plano.gov/GAC by April 8
- Cleanup supplies provided



ANATOMY OF A TEXAS SMARTSCAPE™ YARD



1

Plan – With a thoughtful plan, you save time, energy and money. You can also organize your vision into small weekend projects.

2

Prepare the Soil – Test your soil. Incorporate Texas Pure compost into soil to conserve water and prevent runoff.

3

Right Plant, Right Place – Select plants and groundcover based on sunlight conditions.

4

Reduce turf – Add pavers, widen paths, expand landscape beds, mulch around trees and use groundcovers.

Mulch – To reduce weeds and retain water, apply Texas Pure mulch 4-6 inches deep. For how-to videos, visit texaspureproducts.com.

5

6

Water Efficiently – Use drip irrigation or water by hand to apply water directly to plant roots where it's needed.

Visit TXSmartScape.com for more resources and a photo gallery for inspiration.

	SUN-LOVERS:		SHADE-TOLERANT:	

COUPON
ONE FREE BAG COMPOST OR MULCH OR 10% OFF BULK
 EXPIRES MAY 31, 2016

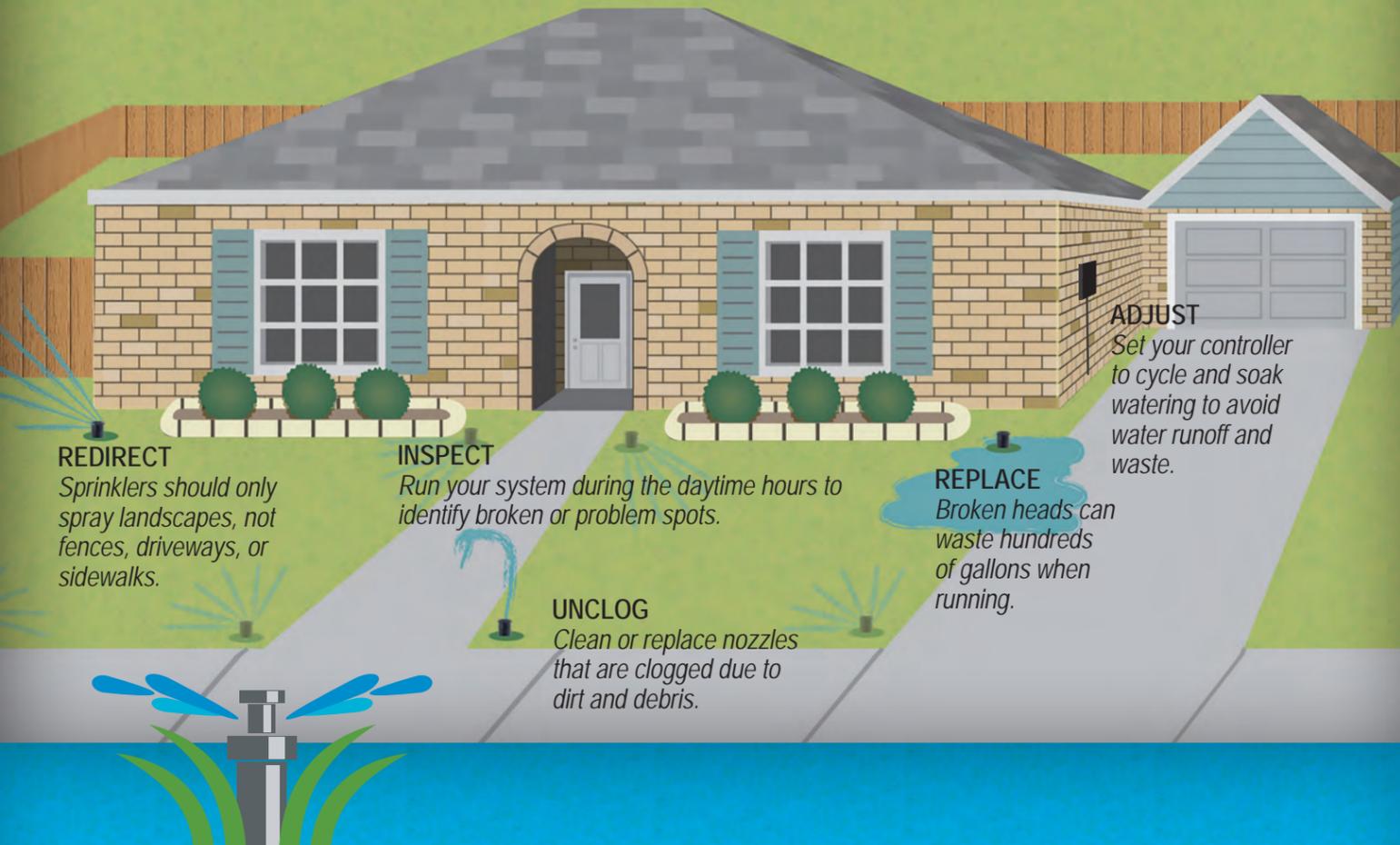
LOCALLY PRODUCED FOR LOCAL SOILS
texaspureproducts.com

REDUCES WATER USE | PROTECTS SOIL | SUPPRESSED WEEDS

Redeem at Texas Pure Retail
 9901 Custer Rd., Plano 75025

Sprinkler Spruce Up

Sprinklers help provide water to your landscape when rainfall isn't available. If the system isn't working properly, more than 50% of the water used is wasted. Give your sprinklers a quick check by following these simple tips:



Be Sprinkler Savvy

- Attend the **Sprinkler Spruce Up workshop** for guidance on irrigation improvements. See the Calendar of Events on page 10 for details.
- Try our online module, **Water, Water Everywhere: A Guide to Sprinkler Repair** at plano.gov/modules. Learn how to spot and repair problems to keep your sprinklers in top form.
- Join us for a **DIY Drip Irrigation workshop** and discover how to convert your sprinklers to drip irrigation. Check out the Calendar of Events on page 11 for details.

Sustainable Community Partners in Action

Constructed during drought conditions, Cambria Hotels & Suites is committed to installing drought-tolerant native and adaptive plants. A variety of Texas SmartScape® plants and trees are installed on the property. Drip irrigation is used to ensure water is applied efficiently to plants and only delivers the water that is needed. The beautiful landscape around this hotel doesn't have a cactus in sight and is very attractive to Plano residents and visitors. Cambria Hotels & Suites is committed to environmental sustainability beyond just landscaping. Stop by to see all their eco-friendly features (7500 Parkwood Blvd, 75024).



CAMBRIA
hotels & suites.



Explore more Certified Green Businesses at plano.gov/greenbusiness.

Rockcreek Place received a 2015 Environmental Community Awards Winner for their beautification and water saving initiatives.



This 83-home neighborhood is committed to water conservation and sustainable landscaping along its shared White Rock Creek greenbelt. Due to large shade trees and drought conditions, turf grass was struggling to grow along the creekway. The Homeowners Association worked with a landscaper to install river rock to reduce water consumption and prevent further erosion. In addition to creating a more attractive landscape, they've experienced a reduction in maintenance and gallons of water savings while creating attractive landscapes and preventing further erosion issues.



Has your neighborhood completed beautification projects?

Apply for an Environmental Community Award at plano.gov/ECAawards by August 1.





Tips from the cart

Remember:
Your curbside recycling cart is for paper and single-use containers **ONLY**. Visit plano.gov/recyclables to see what goes in the cart!

GREEN YOUR SPRING CLEANING:

Time to gear up for the annual spring cleaning bonanza!

Before you start throwing everything away, consider these tips and City services to help reduce the waste going to the landfill:

- Donate clothing and durable goods to reuse stores like Goodwill or locally-owned thrift shops.
- Take old electronics, appliances and accessories to an electronic recycling event. Check plano.gov/electronics for details.
- For the hard-to-recycle items that don't belong in your carts, try Earth911.com.



Put your yard trimmings in paper bags for pickup on your trash collection day. Only put organic materials in them – no plastic bags, bottles, dirt, rocks or containers. Bags should be less than 50 lbs. and placed at least 2 feet from trash/recycling carts. Collected yard trimmings are turned into Texas Pure compost, mulch, and more!



Shop Household Cleaners & Paint - For Free!

Have you shopped at the Reuse Center? If not, you are missing out! The City of Plano operates a Household Chemical Reuse Center where Plano residents can shop for common household products and paint – for FREE!

The household chemical collection program and Reuse Center were created because hazardous and flammable chemicals were causing fires in our trash and recycling trucks.

Collected items are inspected and either recycled or approved for reuse and made available at the Reuse Center. Visitors can shop from a variety of items including: pool chemicals, automotive products, and a variety of gardening products. In need of paint? Our Conservation Colors brand is mixed by Plano staff using paint that has been collected from residents – no two colors are the same!

More than 80,000 gallons of household products have been given away at the Reuse Center – diverting these chemicals from the landfill, our water supply and the environment.

Hours of Operation

Friendly volunteers are ready to assist you during your trip to the Reuse Center.

March-April:
Mondays 5-7 p.m., and Saturdays 9-11 a.m.

May-November:
Mondays 5-7 p.m., Wednesdays 11 a.m.-1 p.m., and Saturdays 9-11 a.m.

December-February:
Mondays 5-7 p.m., and THIRD Saturdays ONLY 9-11 a.m.

**Closed on City of Plano holidays*

For more information, visit plano.gov/householdchemicals



Chemicals cannot be placed in your trash or recycling cart. Call Environmental Waste Services at 972.769.4150 to schedule a FREE pick-up of your unwanted household chemicals. Examples of chemicals accepted include: household cleaners, motor oil, paint, and many more.





SOLAR POWER
Become energy independent!

Discover the ins and outs of residential solar and speak with members of Plano Solar Advocates.



**Thursday
March 31
7 pm**

Davis Library
7501-B Independence Pkwy.
Plano 75025

Register: livegreeninplano.obsres.com

SPRING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Online class registration is required: livegreeninplano.obsres.com. Questions? Call (972) 769-4130

APRIL

- 2 **Rain Barrel & Compost Bin Pick-up**
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Parkway Service Center,
4120 W. Plano Parkway, Plano 75093
Order Online by March 22:
rainbarrelprogram.org/plano
- 5 **Rain Barrels 101 Workshop**
7:00 – 8:00 p.m., FREE, Register Online
- 7 **LGIP Volunteer Orientation**
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Register Online: myvolunteerpage.com
- 7 **Sustainability Series: Square Foot Gardening**
7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Davis Library,
7501-B Independence Pkwy, Plano 75025
FREE, Register Online
- 16 **Great American Cleanup Event**
11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Chase Oaks Church Parking Lot,
281 Legacy Drive, Plano 75023
More information: plano.gov/GAC
- 23 **Love Where You Live Spring Service Day**
8:00 a.m. – Noon
Faith Lutheran School,
1701 E. Park Blvd, Plano 75074
More information: plano.gov/LWYL
- 30 **Texas SmartScape Plant Sale**
8:00 a.m. – Noon
Home Depot, 6200 W. Park Blvd, Plano 75093
More information: txsmartscape.com

MAY

- 5 **LGIP Volunteer Orientation**
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Register Online: myvolunteerpage.com
- 5 **Sustainability Series: Electric Vehicles**
7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Davis Library,
7501-B Independence Pkwy, Plano 75025
FREE, Register Online
- 7 **All About Birds - Family Event**
10:00 a.m. – Noon, FREE, Register Online
- 12 **DIY Drip Irrigation Workshop**
7:00 – 8:30 p.m., FREE, Register Online
- 21 **Sprinkler Spruce Up Workshop**
10:00 – 11:30 a.m., FREE, Register Online
- 25 **Smart Yards Talk & Tour**
7:00 – 9:00 p.m., FREE, Register Online
- 30 **Spring Drug Take-Back Event**
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Drop-offs at Plano school locations.
Details online: plano.gov/medicalwaste

Unless noted otherwise, all events are held at the Environmental Education Center, 4116 W. Plano Pkwy., Plano 75093

Family Day: All About Birds!

Saturday, May 7, 2016
10 a.m. – 12 noon
Environmental Education Center
4116 West Plano Parkway, Plano 75093

Join us at *All About Birds* for a morning of FREE family fun as we celebrate the timely theme of migration and learn about the birds in our area! Enjoy kids activities, raptor talks, identifying local birds, bird vendors and more! Details and registration: livegreeninplano.obsres.com



Rent the Environmental Education Center

Host your next event at the Environmental Education Center – a beautiful, intimate green venue which is a natural location for meetings, parties and small reunions. Provide guests with a relaxing and comfortable setting while introducing them to the best practices for green living.

For pricing, availability and more information: eecgreenevents.com or call 972.769.4130. Located at 4116 W. Plano Pkwy, Plano, 75093.

WiFi Access now available!



Holiday Closings & Collection Schedule Changes

Memorial Day – NO collection service on Monday, May 30
Trash, recycling, yard trimmings and bulky waste collections slide forward one day.
(Monday on Tuesday, Tuesday on Wednesday through Friday).

Facility Holiday Closings

Memorial Day - Household Chemical Reuse Center will be closed Saturday, May 28.
City Offices, Household Chemical Reuse Center, Texas Pure Custer Retail Facility, Texas Pure Regional Composting Facility, North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) Transfer Stations and 121 Regional Disposal Facility (RDF) are closed Monday, May 30.



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Para ésta información en español, lláme (972) 769-4150

Residential Customer



A ready-to-install 50-gallon rain barrel for just \$67 – purchase two for \$130.

SAVE & BENEFIT

RAIN BARREL & COMPOST BIN SALE

Start saving money, organics and water when you order at rainbarrelprogram.org/plano by March 27.

BARREL AND BIN PICK UP
Saturday, April 2, 9 to 11 a.m.
City of Plano Parkway Service Center
4120 W. Plano Parkway (75093)



A 65-gallon, easy-to-assemble compost bin for just \$67.



This publication printed on recycled fiber with vegetable-based ink.