

Live Green in Plano

NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE CITY OF PLANO SUSTAINABILITY
& ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Winter 2011



Protect Your Landscape & Save Water

The drought and watering restrictions have some homeowners shaking in their boots, but here are some easy, practical tips for protecting your landscape while ensuring we all have enough water to drink.

Find watering guidelines and more suggestions on how to keep your landscape alive during drought at plano.gov/water.

livegreeninplano.com

Turn off those sprinklers

Landscapes in North Texas naturally go dormant between November and March, which is why Texas AgriLife Extension Center recommends only one inch of water per month on landscapes during those months. Plants may look brown and dry, but are actually waiting for warmer temperatures. Watering plants the same way now as you would in the summer will cause soil saturation, which leads to root rot or freezing.

Mulch

Mulch protects trees, flowerbeds and even your foundation. It helps the soil retain moisture longer and provides a buffer for temperature extremes. Texas AgriLife Extension Center recommends between 3 - 6 inches of mulch to prevent weed growth. Mulch is easy to use; just remember to water thoroughly before and after laying it down. Keep the immediate area around tree trunks and weep holes next to the foundation clear of mulch to avoid pests.

Texas Pure compost is OMRI-listed and STA certified through the United States Composting Council, making Texas Pure a high-end, organic choice for your landscape and garden. Residents can purchase Texas Pure products at Member City prices. texaspureproducts.com

Switch to Drip

Drip irrigation is 90 percent efficient and waters your plants where they need it most - the roots. Drip irrigation is easy to install, customizable to your needs, and ideal for watering trees, flowerbeds, gardens and foundations. Drip irrigation is allowed under Stage 3 Watering Restrictions. Our clay soil absorbs only ¼ inch of water per hour, and cannot handle long run times from spray sprinklers which put out 2 - 3 inches of water per hour. In contrast, drip irrigation has an application rate of 0.75-0.9 inch per hour, which makes it more compatible with both the needs of your irrigation system and the needs of your plants.

Seek Leaks Around Your Home

The winter months are ideal to find leaks around your house. They cost you money and waste water. The most common leaks are found in three areas.

Toilets

A toilet leak wastes hundreds of gallons of water a month, and many toilet leaks cannot be seen or heard. To check for leaks, put a few drops of food coloring in the tank. Do not flush for ten minutes. If the color appears in the bowl, then you have a leak!

A malfunctioning flapper is usually the culprit of toilet leaks. The flapper is a part inside the tank which is easy to replace and you can get one free at the Customer & Utility Services Counters located at the Municipal Center or the Joint Use Facility. Visit plano.gov/water for more details.

Faucets and Showerheads

The dripping sound from a leaking faucet is more than annoying; it actually means you're wasting a lot of water! Fix your drip. Usually, it's as simple as wrapping some plumbing tape around the connecting threads and tightening the faucet or showerhead with a wrench. Replace worn out washers inside faucets. They cost less than a dollar, and will save you much more.

Irrigation Systems

Sometimes a leak is obvious because there's either a noticeably soggy area or water is bubbling out of your sprinkler heads. If you are using a great deal of water and can't find the source, then investigate your sprinkler programming carefully to ensure you are not overwatering.

If the problem with your irrigation system is not a simple repair, then hire a Licensed Irrigator to take care of it for you.

The City of Plano offers credit on your water bill for some of the money lost due to a leak. Contact Customer & Utility Services at (972) 941-7105 for more information.

STAGE

3

2011-2012
WATER RESTRICTION
CALENDAR



For this program even/odd are based upon the last digit of the service address.

Even Addresses:

Irrigate every other Thursday.

Odd Addresses:

Irrigate every other Tuesday.

There's no watering between 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. on watering days. Foundations, new landscaping, new plantings (first year) of shrubs and trees may be watered within a 10' radius of their trunk for up to two hours on any day by a hand-held hose, a soaker hose, or a dedicated zone using a low flow irrigation system.

2011
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The One Stop Drop

GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP COLLECTION



Spring clean your closets, garage and attic and bring the following reuseable items (clean and in good condition) to the one day drop-off collection event.

Saturday,
March 31,
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Clark High School

523 West Spring Creek Parkway,
Plano, TX 75023
East parking lot



Bicycles*- bicycles in all conditions for donation to children of all ages
Partner: Bikes for Tykes and Bicycle Recycle

Books*- *Partner: Friends of the Plano Public Library*



Cell Phones - *Partner: ECO Phones*



Clothing - Men's, women's and children's clothing, belts, purses, backpacks, wallets, duffle bags and stuffed animals (gently used and clean items only)
Partner: World Wear Project



Document Shredding - TWO BOX limit per household (13"x16"x26")
No commercial business paperwork accepted. Secure on-site shredding until truck is full
Partner: DFWSHredding.com

Durable Medical Equipment*- clean and usable
Partner: DME Dallas Project

Eye Glasses*- prescription eyeglasses and sunglasses, reading glasses, frames and accessories
Partner: Plano New Millennium Lions Club



Pet Products - collars, leashes, toys, nail clippers, pet bowls, brushes, combs, small rugs, towels, blankets, animal shampoo, laundry detergent, dish detergent, spray bottles, IAMS canned and dry food (unopened), Tidy Cat non-clumping litter, flea products, dog and cat treats
Partner: Plano Animal Services

Shoes* - adult athletic shoes and children's shoes (any style) in good condition
Partner: Shoe Bank



Sporting Goods* - all types of usable equipment child and adult sizes
Partner: Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children



*Non-profit organizations may provide receipts; no other organization will provide donation receipts.

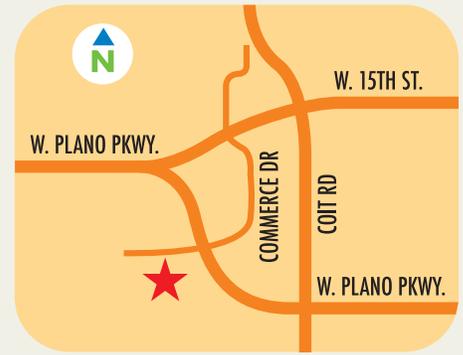
Prepared in cooperation with the North Central Texas Council of Governments through funding from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

For more information visit livegreeninplano.com



HOUSEHOLD CHEMICAL REUSE CENTER

4110 W. PLANO PARKWAY
AT COMMERCE DRIVE
PLANO, TEXAS 75093



**BROWSE OUR
SHELVES AND SELECT
FREE PRODUCTS,
SUCH AS:**



- Latex and oil-based paints and stains, including our re-blended latex paint: Conservation Colors



- Garden Products
- Pool Chemicals
- Cleaning Supplies
- Repair Products



- Automotive Products



- Pet Products

FREE PAINT AND HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS

HOURS OF OPERATION

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

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

December-February Mondays 5-7p.m.
Third Saturdays ONLY 9-11a.m.

Closed on City of Plano holidays.

DO YOU HAVE OLD OR UNWANTED HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS OR PAINTS?

DON'T THROW THEM IN THE TRASH!

Dispose of or recycle them safely by calling (972)769-4150 to schedule a home chemical collection.

BENEFITS OF THE REUSE PROGRAM

- Diversion of household chemicals from the waste stream
- Reduction of chemical pollutants entering our local creeks and waterways
- Volunteer staffing allows city resources to be stretched and builds support for other environmental programs.



The Household Chemical Reuse Center
is **NOT** a chemical drop-off site.

Energy Rebate Powers Up Your ROI

The City of Plano has funds available for the Energy Audit & Weatherization Grant Program. Eligible Plano residents may qualify for up to \$1,575 toward the cost of energy audit and weatherization improvements for owner-occupied single family homes. To qualify, homes must be built before 2002. Pending eligibility, funds are awarded on a first come, first served basis.

Go to livegreeninplano.com and click on the link to pre-register.

Live Green in Plano has a new online learning module, *Let's Take Care of the Trash.*

Learn more about recycling and other curbside services, and be eligible to receive a free bag of Texas Pure products.

Visit livegreeninplano.com and follow the *Let's Take Care of the Trash* link.

Great American Cleanup: March 1 - May 31

The Great American Cleanup (GAC) is the Nation's and Plano's largest organized litter prevention and community improvement program. All Plano residents are encouraged to participate, including individuals, families, scouts, youth groups, high school and college clubs, church groups, corporate groups, neighborhood associations and HOAs. Plano's official cleanup date is March 31, 2012, but cleanups continue throughout the Great American Cleanup period (March 1-May 31). If you'll provide the group, then we'll provide the supplies! Online registration at livegreeninplano.com is required.



Smart Energy LOAN PROGRAM

The City of Plano, in partnership with Credit Union of Texas, is launching the Smart Energy Loan Program to assist Plano homeowners with improving their home's energy efficiency.

Plano homeowners should apply for affordable home energy improvement loans online at smartenergyloans.com.

To be eligible you must:

- Live in an owner-occupied home in Plano
- Hold title to the property with no involuntary liens
- Be current on your mortgage and property taxes
- Be a U.S. citizen or Legal Resident Alien
- Have no bankruptcy or foreclosure in the past three years
- Complete all required program documents and/or surveys

You can reduce your home energy bills, improve the comfort level in your home, know your home is safe and healthy by correcting pre-existing conditions, increase the longevity of your home, enhance the market value, and decrease your home's carbon footprint.

Some eligible projects include:

- Whole-House Weatherization Package
- Hot Water Heating Systems
- HVAC and Heat Pump Replacements
- Geothermal Heating and Cooling Systems
- Replacement of Household Appliances
- Solar Screens and Daylighting
- Window Replacement
- Energy Monitoring/Management Systems
- Renewable Systems

For a complete list of eligible projects and to apply online, visit:

SmartEnergyLoans.com

E V E N T S

M A R C H

1 - May 31

Great American Cleanup

City-wide litter cleanup of Plano's parks, creeks, neighborhoods, schools and roads. Supplies provided.

Register: livegreeninplano.com

1 Food Waste Composting

7 - 9 p.m., Environmental Education Center
4116 W. Plano Pkwy., **Cost: \$5.**

Register: livegreeninplano.obsres.com

3 All About Composting

8 - 11 a.m., Environmental Education Center
4116 W. Plano Pkwy., **Cost: \$5.**

Register: livegreeninplano.obsres.com

8 Basics of Bokashi: Japanese Food Composting

7 - 8 p.m., Environmental Education Center
4116 W. Plano Pkwy., **Cost: \$5.**

Register: livegreeninplano.obsres.com

21 - May 9

Kids in the Garden

3:30 - 5 p.m., Wednesdays,
Environmental Education Center
4116 W. Plano Pkwy., **Cost: \$5.**

Register: livegreeninplano.obsres.com

22 Learn Green 2 Live Green Series: Slow Food - Connecting Your Plate to the Planet

7 - 8 p.m., Haggard Library
2501 Coit Rd., **FREE!**

31 The One Stop Drop

Great American Cleanup Collection

9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Clark High School
523 W. Spring Creek Pkwy.

31 YardWise 1, 2, 3, and 4

8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Environmental Education Center
4116 W. Plano Pkwy., **Cost: \$15.**

Register: livegreeninplano.obsres.com



There will be no yard trimmings collection the week of Dec. 26 due to the collection of excess holiday trash. The residential yard trimmings collection crew will pick up trees beginning the week of Jan. 3, 2012. Trees and greenery need to be stripped of ornaments, lights, stand and other decorations for collection.

Christmas trees and live greenery will be collected from Dec. 26 to Jan. 8, 2012 at these convenient drop-off sites:

- **Preston Meadow Park, 4243 Lorimar Drive**
- **High Point Park, 6500 Alma Drive**
- **Heritage Yards Ball Fields, 4525 Hedgcoxe Road**

All recycled trees and greenery will be processed at the Regional Composting Facility and marketed as Texas Pure products, such as compost, topdressing, soil blend and wood mulch. Locally made for local soils, products are sold by the bag or cubic yard. Have yours delivered directly to your yard, garden or business! For more information, visit texaspureproducts.com or call (972) 769-4150.

Tips from the Cart:

**RIGHT PLACE,
RIGHT TIME,
RIGHT STUFF!**



For our drivers to provide you with the most efficient service possible, we need your help. Here are a few tips to guarantee your satisfaction with the trash and recycling collection at your home:

Right Place

Your cart needs to be 2 feet away from all impediments, including gas meters, cable/utility boxes, privacy fences, and vehicles. Proper cart placement avoids property damage, assures uninterrupted service, and reduces safety hazards.

Right Time

BEFORE 7 a.m., place your cart at the collection point. We can't pick up your cart if it's not there.

Right Stuff

Recycle all acceptable items in your recycling cart, then throw the trash in the trash cart. What can you recycle? It's pretty simple! Here are the important things to remember:

- 1. All types of paper.** Anything you can tear and hasn't touched food - you can recycle!
- 2. Hard plastic containers and lids.** All numbers (types) accepted, but no Styrofoam (too soft and squishy) and no plastic bags because they wrap around machinery at the Materials Recovery Facility.
- 3. Aluminum and steel cans** (including empty aerosol containers).
- 4. Glass containers.** If you can reuse it, great. If you can't, then always recycle!

Please, don't put trash in your recycling cart. This could prevent us from servicing your cart on your scheduled collection day.

COLLECTION ROUTE CHANGES

Effective Jan. 3, some residents will have NEW schedules for their Recycling and/or Bulky Waste collection. Be sure to check the Collection Maps on pages 8 and 9 to see if your collection schedule has changed. If your collection day changes, you will receive a cart tag in mid-December.

Extreme Water Conservation - Not For the Faint of Heart!

You might consider Stage 3 Water Restrictions as tough, but some people are raising the lid on water conservation. Do you have what it takes to explore these options?

1 The Lovable Loo:

Advertised as an "Earth-friendly eco-potty", this composting toilet uses no water, chemicals, electricity, venting or plumbing. It can be used as a household, camp or emergency toilet.

humanurehandbook.com/store/Lovable-Loo



2 The Artificial Lawn:

It's not just for professional football fields anymore! Several companies in Dallas/Fort Worth install artificial turf, which could be coming soon to a lawn near you.

asgi.us

3 The Navy Shower:

This is the "surf and turf" style for water rationing in the shower. Simply turn the water on long enough to get wet, then turn it off while you suds up. Turn the water on again to rinse off. A typical navy shower uses only about three gallons of water.

4 The Shower Manager:

This device allows you to set a timer for 5, 8, or 11 minute showers. At the end of the time period, the device shuts the water off and will not turn it back on for five minutes. (showermanager.com)

Luckily, saving water doesn't always mean going to extremes. There are a lot of simple ways to reduce your water use and protect this precious resource. Visit wateruseitwisely.com for more ideas.

livegreeninplano.com

RECYCLING COLLECTION

Residential recycling is collected every other week. Refer to calendar for schedule.

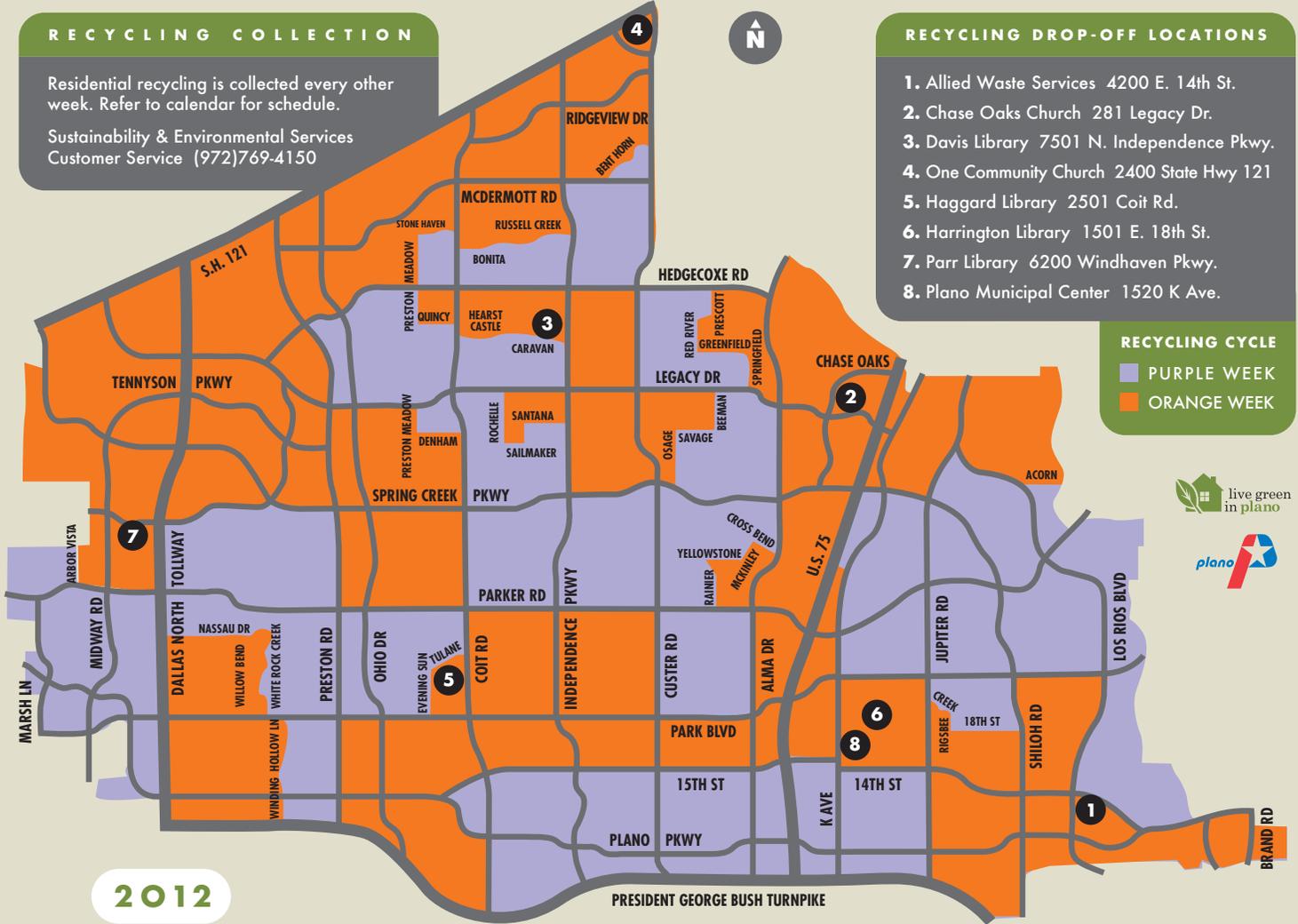
Sustainability & Environmental Services
Customer Service (972)769-4150

RECYCLING DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

1. Allied Waste Services 4200 E. 14th St.
2. Chase Oaks Church 281 Legacy Dr.
3. Davis Library 7501 N. Independence Pkwy.
4. One Community Church 2400 State Hwy 121
5. Haggard Library 2501 Coit Rd.
6. Harrington Library 1501 E. 18th St.
7. Parr Library 6200 Windhaven Pkwy.
8. Plano Municipal Center 1520 K Ave.

RECYCLING CYCLE

- PURPLE WEEK
- ORANGE WEEK



2012

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■ CITY OBSERVED HOLIDAYS Collection services slide forward one day following City observed holidays.
Christmas 2012 - services will slide forward 2 days.

BULKY WASTE COLLECTION

Bulky Waste is collected one day per month. Refer to calendar for schedule.

Sustainability & Environmental Services
Customer Service (972)769-4150

PICK-UP WEEK

BLUE WEEK

- M MONDAY
- T TUESDAY
- W WEDNESDAY
- R THURSDAY

GREEN WEEK

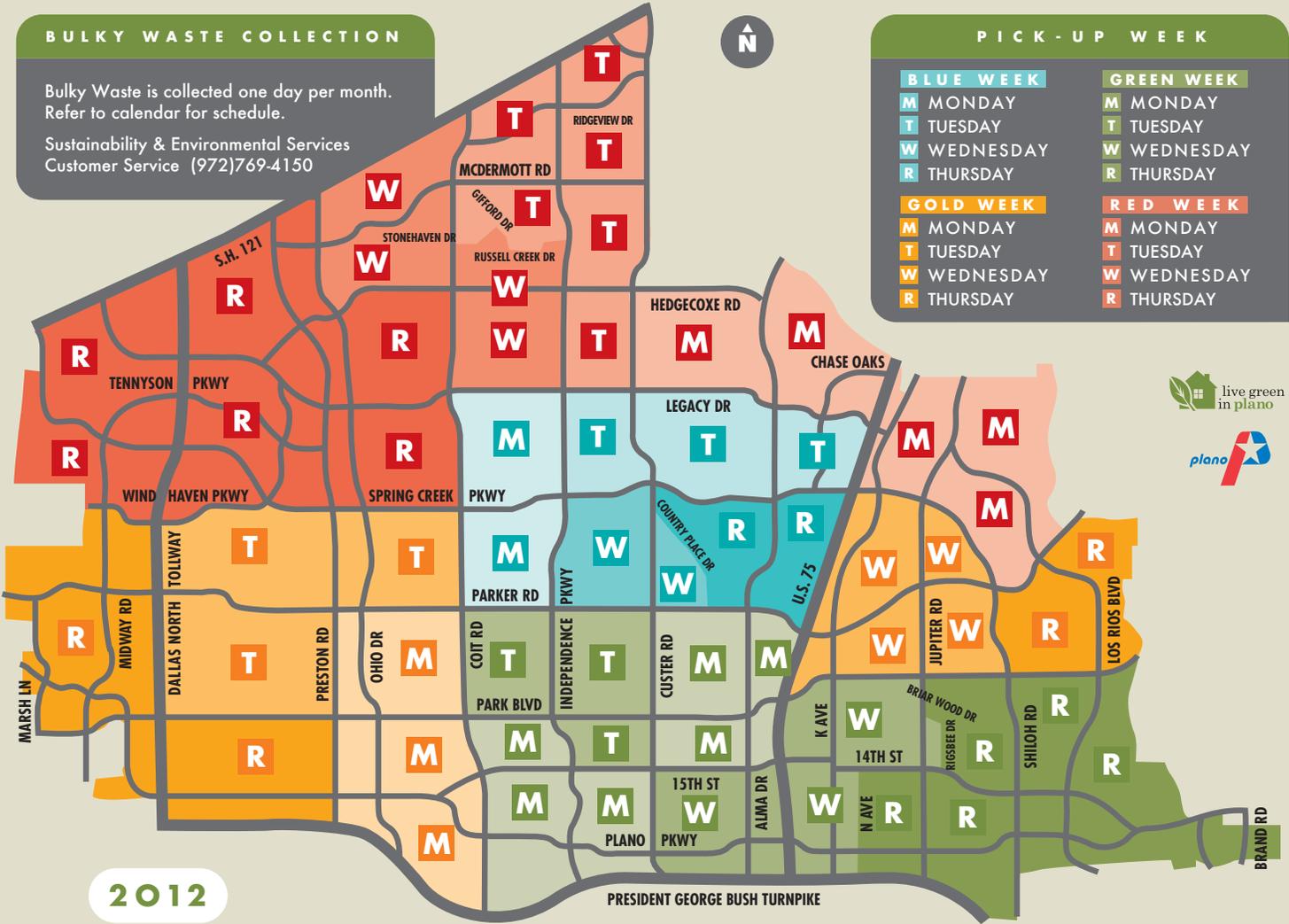
- M MONDAY
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- W WEDNESDAY
- R THURSDAY

GOLD WEEK

- M MONDAY
- T TUESDAY
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- R THURSDAY

RED WEEK

- M MONDAY
- T TUESDAY
- W WEDNESDAY
- R THURSDAY



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TALKING TRASH & RECYCLING



- > Operate a REAL Recycling Truck
- > Meet the City's Recycling Team
- > Talk to Customer Service Representatives, Get Answers
- > Peek Behind-the-Scenes at Environmental Waste Services

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- > Recycling Truck
- > Household Chemical Reuse Center
- > Green 'n' Clean Garage

FREE

10 - 11:30 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 18, 2012
Environmental Education Center
4116 W. Plano Parkway at Commerce Drive

livegreeninplano.com

Healthy Soil Grows Healthy, Hearty Plants!



Redeem this coupon for
ONE FREE bag of Texas Pure Compost or Mulch
at Custer Road Facility or
121 Regional Composting Facility.

Coupon Expires - March 31, 2012



Now OMRI Listed!



texaspureproducts.com



Residential Customer



Reduce Your Holiday Clutter!

1 Give the Gift of Experience -

Don't add to the clutter with more material items than someone truly needs. Instead, give a unique experience - a gift that is consumed and doesn't leave excessive packaging behind. Possibilities include concert tickets, museum passes, golf lessons or painting classes. Support local businesses by giving a gift certificate for car washes, pedicures, house cleaning or anything else. Be creative!

2 Reuse & Recycle -

Use fabric or textiles that you already own to make reusable gift bags. Like making quilts out of a collection of school t-shirts, use Dad's old shirt and tie or a favorite baby blanket to sew a bag and drawstring that can be used to wrap gifts year after year. Add decorative elements with buttons, embroidery, or fabric paint. No more mounds of crumpled wrapping paper going to trash!

3 Pass it On -

Instead of hoarding the family heirlooms on a dusty shelf or at the back of a spare closet, choose a special piece for each family member. Include a hand-written note about the origin of the family possession or how you remember it being used in earlier years. If possible, enclose a photograph of the ancestor that originally owned the item.

4 Create a New Tradition -

Focus less on the amount of gifts under the tree and more on family time spent together. Find an activity to do together - go to a city tree-lighting ceremony, attend a holiday music concert, work on a holiday-themed puzzle, or invite a neighbor or friend without local family to share a holiday meal.

5 Volunteer & Donate -

Use some of the budgeted funds for gifts to direct towards a charitable need instead. Have the family decide together which activity or cause to support. For example, go as a family to the mall to select someone from the Salvation Army Angle Tree. Do the gift shopping and wrapping all together.

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Cherie Ware is a Live Green in Plano Volunteer and Professional Organizer/Consultant/Trainer.