

live green in Plano



SUMMER 2014

NEWS

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NOW AVAILABLE: 2013 Water Quality Report

The Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) is an annual water quality report provided by the City of Plano to all its water customers. As required by the Safe Drinking Water Act, the purpose of the CCR is to raise customer awareness about the quality of our local drinking water. It provides information about where it is sourced from, what it takes to deliver it to homes, and the importance of protecting drinking water sources.

View your 2013 annual water quality report online: plano.gov/waterquality2013. Call (972) 769-4160 to speak to someone about the report or to request a paper copy be mailed to your home.

En Español: Este reporte incluye información importante sobre el agua potable. Si tiene preguntas o comentarios sobre éste informe en español, favor de llamar al tel. (972) 941-7000 para hablar con una persona bilingüe en español.

Environmental Star of Excellence Awards

Deadline: Applications are due by 5 p.m., Friday, August 1.
Apply online: plano.gov/ECAawards.



Through the Environmental Community Awards, the City of Plano recognizes outstanding environmental leadership and achievement within our community by honoring businesses, non-profits, homeowner associations (HOAs), schools and individuals with the Environmental Star of Excellence award. If you're aware of these types of efforts, then tell us your own story or nominate someone else.

The awards are divided into two categories -

Business:

- Environmental Commitment
- Green Building
- Organic Recycling
- Single-Stream Recycling
- Small Business Sustainability Practices
- Multi-family Sustainability Practices

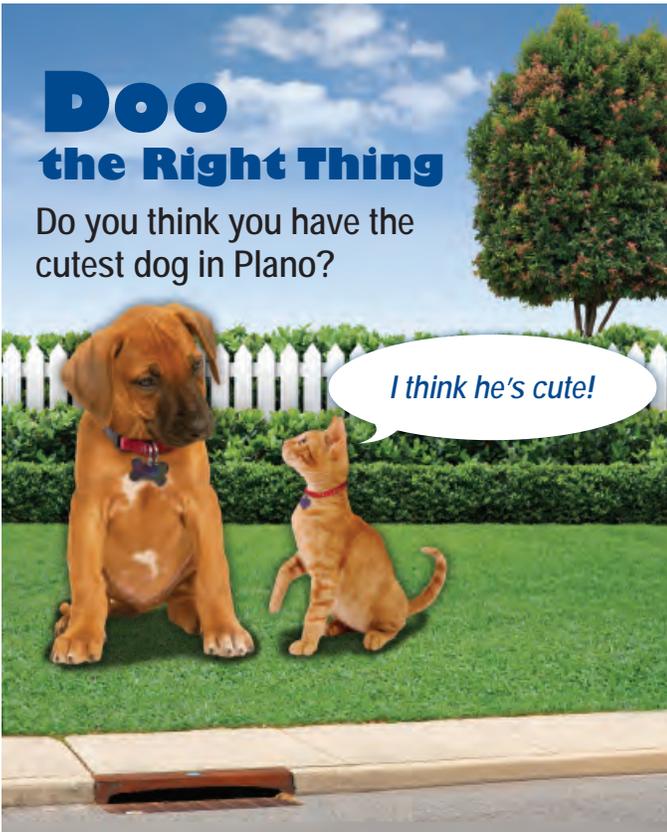
Community:

- Non-profits (including faith-based)
- Educational Institutions
- Neighborhood Group/HOAs
- Community Partnerships
- Individual

Save the date! Awards are presented at the Environmental Community Awards Celebration on Wednesday, September 17 at Collin College, Spring Creek Campus, Plano 75074.



livegreeninplano.com



Doo the Right Thing

Do you think you have the cutest dog in Plano?

I think he's cute!

Though your pet may be cute, pet waste is a problem when left unaddressed. It's not pretty! It causes water pollution and it's a health risk to pets and people. Untreated pet waste washes into storm drains and flows into local creeks where it ends up in our lakes.

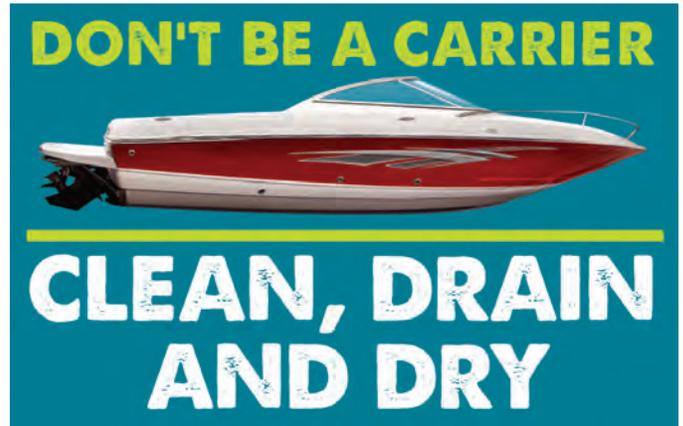
Showcase your pet and make a positive community contribution. Visit plano.gov/petwaste and pledge to pick up after your pet. Then, enter your pooch into a competition for the region's cutest pet. Follow these simple tips to be a good resident and partner with your pet to protect local creeks and lakes:

- **Bag it.** Attach a small bag to your dog's leash with a supply of bags. Pick up after your dog on walks.
- **Keep your cats indoors.** Indoor cats are healthier, live longer, and don't contribute to water pollution.
- **Keep your yard clean.** Remember to pick up pet waste in your yard at least weekly.

Mosquito Reduction/ Disease Prevention

Mosquito and West Nile Virus (WNV) protection seems daunting, but a few simple precautions take a big bite out of summer mosquito breeding and help protect you and your family from disease.

Target standing water and potential mosquito habitat, then correct these areas to prevent mosquito breeding around your home and yard. Working with your neighbors keeps your neighborhood as mosquito free as possible.



Our lakes and rivers are under attack by zebra mussels. This destructive invasive species harms aquatic life, damages boats and affects our water supply. Lake Texoma, Ray Roberts Lake, Lake Lewisville, Lake Bridgeport, Belton Lake and Lake Lavon are already infested. Without your help, zebra mussels will spread throughout the state.

Prevent the spread of zebra mussels by always following these steps:

CLEAN off any vegetation, mud or foreign objects on the boat, trailer and gear before you leave the lake. Adult zebra mussels attach to hard surfaces such as boat hulls, motors and pipes.

DRAIN all water from the boat. Zebra mussel larvae are invisible to the naked eye and hide in the water located in the motor, bilge, live wells and bait buckets.

DRY the boat and trailer for a week or more before entering another water body. It's a surefire way to kill any remaining zebra mussels.

Visit texasinvasives.org/zebramussels to find more information.

West Nile VIRUS

Remember the 4 D's and lower your risk for WNV:

- 1. Dress** in clothing to minimize exposed skin for mosquitos to bite.
- 2. Drain** areas of standing water to prevent mosquito breeding.
- 3. Dusk/Dawn** are the times to minimize outdoor activities because mosquitos which may transmit WNV are most active then.
- 4. Defend** yourself with effective mosquito repellent while you're outdoors.

Environmental Health Department staff members are available to speak about mosquito management at HOA meetings, service clubs and other organization meetings. Contact us at: (972) 941-7143.



Summer Food Safety - From Picnics to Power Outages

It is the season for picnics and powerful summer storms. If electrical service is knocked out, there is risk for compromised food safety. Here are some tips to help minimize potential for food-related illness:

Tips to remember for picnics:

- **STORAGE.** Keep perishable foods out of the "DANGER ZONE." (40°F - 140°F)
- **TRANSPORT.** Keep raw foods separate from produce; GO STRAIGHT HOME.
- **ONSITE COOKING.** Fully cook meats. (poultry - 165°F, ground meats - 155°F, whole meats - 145°F, and seafood - 145°F)
- **LEFTOVERS.** Discard picnic leftovers.

	DO	DON'T
SHOPPING	Buy perishables last.	Shop with dairy and meat in cart.
THAWING	In refrigerator or cook from frozen.	Thaw at room temperature.
SANITATION	Wash hands after handling raw meats.	Handle raw meats with produce.

Power Outage Reminders:

- When in doubt, throw it out.
- Maintain cold temperatures by keeping refrigerator and freezer doors closed.
- If it looks bad, it probably is - don't taste for safety.
- Discard cold and frozen foods when power outage lasts longer than two hours.

ZeroWasteEvent

Local Goal, Global Impact.

Recycle

Food Waste

Trash

Summer is full of special events, block parties and cookouts.

These events can be a little greener with planning and by following a few simple tips to reduce waste:

- Serve foods in bulk, rather than relying on individually-wrapped portions (use bottled ketchup and mustard rather than packets).
- Replace Styrofoam and disposable plastic plates with compostable or reusable plates.
- Use compostable utensils instead of plastic ones.
- Provide recycling and composting containers in addition to trash receptacles.
- At public events, accept only the fliers, brochures or giveaways you need.
- Bring your own water bottle to events to minimize the use of disposable cups.

If you'd like to see a great example of a Zero Waste Event in action, visit the Plano International Festival on Saturday, October 18 at Haggard Park, Plano 75074.

Learn more about Zero Waste Events: livegreeninplano.com.



TIPS From the Cart

Plastic bags and films are the top recycling cart contaminants. Many plastic bags and films (such as cling-wrap or shrink wrap packaging) are recyclable, however they're NOT recycled through the City's curbside collection. All plastic bottles, containers and lids bearing a stamped number 1 to 7 are currently accepted EXCEPT Styrofoam and plastic bags.

Plastic bags and films aren't allowed in curbside recycling carts because they get caught in the gears of collection and sorting machinery which causes equipment failures. Place only the items accepted through the City's recycling program in the recycle cart. Unaccepted items are discarded as trash.

If you'd like to recycle your plastic bags or film, check out your local stores for collection bins. Most grocery stores provide recycling collection bins for plastic grocery bags. Many dry cleaners accept returned plastic film and work with partners to ensure it's recycled properly. Need more places to recycle plastic films and bags? Visit plasticfilmrecycling.org.

For the latest list of acceptable recycling items: plano.gov/recyclables.

Gold Star Cart Program

The City of Plano is launching a new program this summer to inform residents about the latest and greatest recycling practices while creating some friendly neighborhood competition.

Visit recyclerightplano.com to learn more and be on the lookout for Gold Star Carts around the city!



Drought Survival Tips for Your Landscape

Plano is under **Stage 3** water restrictions which limit outdoor water use to **once every other week** on designated Tuesdays and Thursdays before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m. For a complete list of outdoor water restrictions and a current watering calendar, visit plano.gov/water.

Follow these tips to use water efficiently outdoors this summer:

- Apply Texas Pure compost to your landscape beds and grass to hold soil moisture and release water and nutrients to plant roots. For how-to videos visit texaspureproducts.com.
- Plan to replace plants in your landscape? Consider Texas native and adapted plants which are drought tolerant. These plants endure extreme conditions common in Texas summers. For more information on these Texas-friendly plants visit txsmartscape.com.
- When using your sprinkler system, the cycle and soak method is the best way to distribute water deeply into clay soil where grass roots need moisture to grow. Learn more about cycle and soak irrigation and outdoor water conservation by visiting plano.gov/outdoorwateruse.
- Apply a 4" layer of Texas Pure mulch to landscape beds. Mulch helps retain soil moisture, while regulating soil temperature and insulating plant roots.

Purchase mulch and compost, produced by the City of Plano, at a discount from Texas Pure Products at texaspureproducts.com.



Water Conservation Classes

The City of Plano offers classes all summer to help residents use water more efficiently outdoors.

Classes are held at the Environmental Education Center, 4116 W. Plano Pkwy. Plano 75093. All classes are free, but space is limited.

Registration is required online: livegreeninplano.obsres.com.

DIY Drip Irrigation

This class covers the benefits of drip irrigation and how easy it is to install from an existing hose bib or by converting an existing sprinkler zone.

- 10 - 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 16
- 7 - 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 23
- 10 - 11:30 a.m. Saturday, August 9
- 10 - 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, August 20

Irrigation Quick Fixes

Do you irrigate wisely? Learn how and when to water your plants, how to make simple sprinkler repairs, and where to go for help.

- 10 - 11:30 a.m. Saturday, July 12
- 10 - 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, August 5





Keep Cool this Summer: Easy Tips for an Energy Efficient Home

If you're hot under the collar about rising energy costs, then try these tips to stay cooler this summer.

1. Use the Thermostat.

Up to half the energy used in your home goes to heating and cooling. Set your thermostat to 78° F in summer to help lower electricity bills. If you have a programmable thermostat, program it to automatically raise the temperature when you leave the house and lower it again right before you return. Is your thermostat constantly turning on even after your home has been cooled? Check the location of the thermostat to make sure there are no lamps or electronics disrupting the temperature gauge.

2. Turn on the Fan.

Turning on a floor or ceiling fan is an easy and inexpensive way to keep you cool during the hot summer months. Fans keep you feeling comfortable so you won't be tempted to adjust the thermostat.

3. Upgrade your Lighting.

The average home has about 30 light fixtures, and traditional incandescent bulbs can reach 300-600° F depending on their wattage. That's a lot of heat being generated in your home! Switch those bulbs out with compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) or light emitting diodes (LEDs). These lights give off less heat and are much more energy efficient. When shopping for lights, be sure to choose ENERGY STAR labeled products.

4. Keep Your Air Conditioning in Check.

Air conditioning units run dependably when homeowners maintain them. This includes scheduling an annual check-up of your system. Check your air filter monthly and replace when needed (typically every three months). A clogged filter makes your air conditioner work even harder during the summer months. If you have pets or pollen allergies, then consider changing your filter monthly.

5. Shade from the Sun.

Use window coverings such as blinds and curtains to block some of the radiant heat in your home. Homes with windows facing west and north experience the most heat gain from the sun.

For more energy efficiency tips and local incentives, visit: takealoadoftexas.com.

The City of Plano offers a Smart Energy Loan (SEL) Program to qualified Plano residents to facilitate energy retrofits in existing homes at interest rates which are below current market rates.

For more information, visit: smartenergyloans.com.

Smart Energy LOAN PROGRAM

SmartEnergyLoans.com

Clean Air Action Day, June 27 Take Action For Clean Air!

Air North Texas has designated the first Friday of summer as Clean Air Action Day, emphasizing long-term behavioral change during the peak ozone season when the air quality is typically at its worst. Participation is easy. On June 27, individuals, organizations and corporations across our region come together and commit to at least one clean air action to help us all breathe cleaner air and build healthier communities in North Texas. On Friday, June 27 do something extra for clean air! Carpool to work, plan a family bike ride or take Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) to an exciting destination. Choose something to do which reduces ozone-causing pollution.

Air quality is a serious, ongoing problem. For North Texans struggling with respiratory illnesses and lung health issues, breathing is always on their minds. Air pollution poses a threat to both human health and our environment.



Be Air Aware

Take Action Now at AirNorthTexas.org

Sign up to receive Ozone Action Day email alerts.

Know the Air Quality Index (AQI) and what each of the colors indicates.

Make behavioral changes, such as carpooling, avoiding idling, combining errands, maintaining your vehicle, and using mass transit.

Subscribe to Clean Air Mail for up-to-date information about our air.

Pledge to be air aware during this ozone season.

Spread the Word About Clean Air

Tell us your story.

What will you do on June 27? Why is clean air important to you?

Post your comments or upload a photo or video to our Live Green in Plano Facebook page.

Promote the cause.

Tell your friends and family about Clean Air Action Day.

Organize a family bike ride or carpool to lunch with coworkers to let them know about this important day.

Go Green, Breathe Clean!

The City of Plano is a proud partner of Air North Texas, an air quality awareness campaign funded by the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG).

Proper Use of Storm Drains/ How to Drain and Fill Swimming Pools

Maintaining a safe and inviting swimming pool requires proper treatment and maintenance. This includes occasional backwashing or partial draining. Pool water can contain environmentally harmful pollutants such as excess salts, elevated levels of chlorine and other chemicals. It's best to consult a pool professional to determine whether draining your pool is necessary.

If the following conditions apply, then drain pool to curb or alley:

1. Chemical levels of the pool water are as low as possible.
2. Draining water won't cause soil runoff.
3. Your neighbors' property won't be disturbed or flooded.

Another option is to drain pool water to the sanitary sewer. Closely monitor this process, as it can create additional problems if not done properly.

Due to Stage 3 water restrictions, in order to refill your pool a variance request must be sent to Public Works Director, Gerald Cosgrove at geraldc@plano.gov.



Swimming Pool Inspections

All public and semi-public pools are routinely inspected for compliance with health and safety requirements throughout the year. Outdoor pools are inspected twice per year. Indoor pools are inspected three times a year.

If violations are found during a routine inspection, they must be corrected immediately. A follow-up inspection is required if the pool is closed for health and safety reasons to ensure conditions are corrected.

Pools may be closed immediately for the following violations:

- Chemistry outside code parameters
- Clouded water
- Fecal incident
- Other issues posing immediate threat to life, health or safety

Pools may not re-open without Environmental Health department approval.

Restaurant and Swimming Pool Inspections

Did you know you can check out the latest inspection of your favorite restaurant and swimming pool through your smartphone? Plano's Environmental Health department includes quick response (QR) codes on all annual permits. Scanning a QR code with a QR code reader application on your smartphone directs your phone's browser to the Environmental Health department's inspection scores page, where you can access information from a facility's last three inspections.

Restaurant Scores



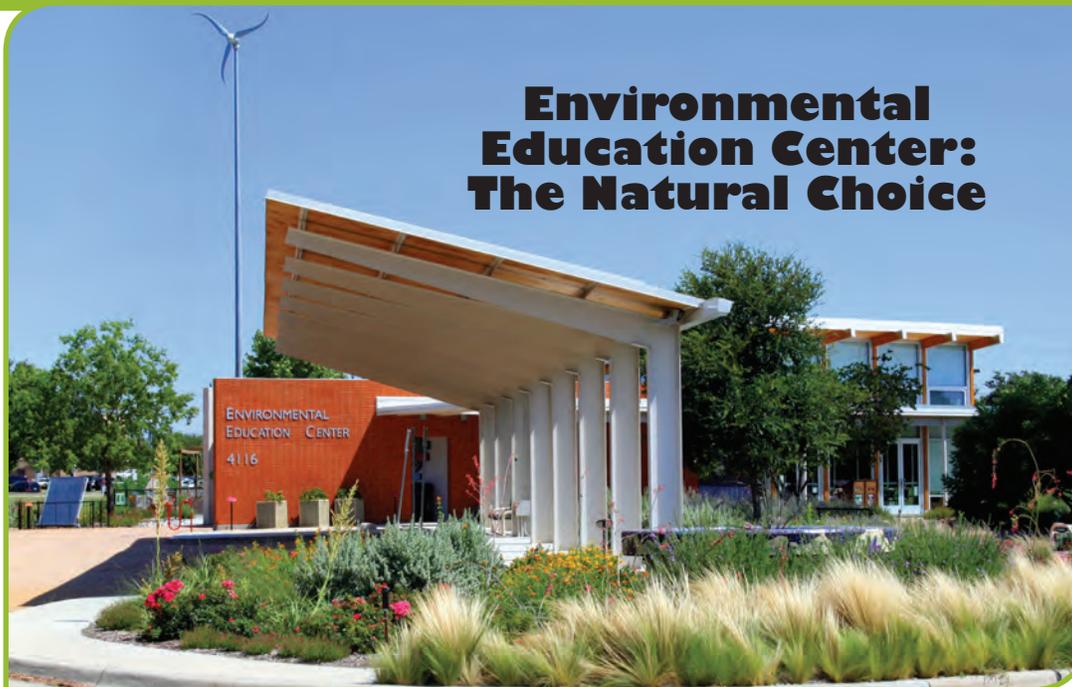
Swimming Pool Scores



Access inspection scores via your computer's browser:

RESTAURANT SCORES: plano.gov/restaurantcores

SWIMMING POOL SCORES: plano.gov/poolscores



Environmental Education Center: The Natural Choice

Looking for a green venue to hold special events or meetings?

Renting the Environmental Education Center (EEC) and the surrounding gardens is simple.

This beautiful, quiet setting serves as the perfect location for functions such as receptions, weddings, parties, reunions, showers and meetings. Amenities include state-of-the-art audio/visual equipment, tables, chairs, galley kitchen with dishes, flatware and stemware.

For more information, availability and pricing, visit eecgreenevents.com or call (972) 769-4130.

Come see for yourself and drop by the EEC at 4116 W. Plano Pkwy. Plano 75093.

Sustainability Series: The Basics

Learn the basics of sustainability and how you can Live Green in Plano. Topics include: consumerism, recycling, energy, water, litter, air quality, transportation and urban agriculture. The series of classes is offered three times a year, allowing you flexible scheduling options.

Fall 2014

Six Consecutive Wednesdays, 7 - 8:30 p.m.
Environmental Education Center, 4116 W. Plano Pkwy., Plano 75093

Spring 2015

Three Consecutive Mondays, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Environmental Education Center, 4116 W. Plano Pkwy., Plano 75093

Individual Classes

Six Thursdays (during the year), 7 - 8:30 p.m.
Harrington Library, 1501 18th St., Plano 75074

View upcoming dates and register for one or all at livegreeninplano.obsres.com.

Little Free Library

Walk through the Environmental Education Center's Nature Explore Classroom and visit the Little Free Library installation. This is a perfect example of volunteerism and teamwork for the benefit of our community.

John Reas, LGIP Volunteer, saw a Little Free Library elsewhere and thought that it could be a great addition at the EEC. Once he secured concept and design approval, LGIP Volunteer Jinx Smith built it and LGIP Volunteer Jan Eppard painted it. Charlotte DeMolay hand painted the artwork. Donated gently-used books are available to borrow for "reuse" by visitors to the garden. Participants simply replace the book they're "checking out" with another donated book.

Online Learning with the Click of the Mouse

When it's too hot to go outside this summer, consider kicking back and taking time to learn something new! If you're too busy to attend one of our classes in person, we've still got you covered.

Try one of our online learning modules at livegreeninplano.com.

Not sure what to recycle? Click on our Taking Care of the Trash module. We'll teach you what goes in the recycling cart.

Wondering what to compost? Learn what to put in and what to leave out in our Food Waste and Backyard Composting modules.

Trying to make your house more energy efficient? We have tips to reduce your utility bills in our Energy Efficiency module.

We've got the answers to sustainable living at your fingertips at livegreeninplano.com.

Summer Calendar of Events

Online class registration: livegreeninplano.obsres.com

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

JULY

- 3 Eco Tots Discovery Hour:**
Healthy Soil, Healthy Earth
9:30 - 10:30 a.m., Thursday
Cost \$3 resident/\$5 non-resident, Register Online

- 10 Eco Tots Discovery Hour:**
Garden Goodness
9:30 - 10:30 a.m., Thursday
Cost \$3 resident/\$5 non-resident, Register Online

- 12 Irrigation Quick Fixes**
10 - 11:30 a.m., Saturday
FREE, Register Online

- 13 Nature Explore Family Club**
3 - 4 p.m., Sunday
FREE, Register Online

- 14 Nature Explore Family Club**
9:30 - 10:30 a.m., Monday
FREE, Register Online

- 16 DIY Drip Irrigation**
10 - 11:30 a.m., Wednesday
FREE, Register Online

- 17 Eco Tots Discovery Hour:**
Fun with the Sun
9:30 - 10:30 a.m., Thursday
Cost \$3 resident/\$5 non-resident, Register Online

- 23 DIY Drip Irrigation**
7 - 8:30 p.m., Wednesday
FREE, Register Online

- 24 Eco Tots Discovery Hour:**
Air All Around
9:30 - 10:30 a.m., Thursday
Cost \$3 resident/\$5 non-resident, Register Online

- 31 Eco Tots Discovery Hour:**
Water is a Home for Animals
9:30 - 10:30 a.m., Thursday
Cost \$3 resident/\$5 non-resident, Register Online

AUGUST

- 1 Environmental Star of Excellence Awards**
Applications Due by 5 p.m.
plano.gov/ECAwards

- 3 Nature Explore Family Club**
3 - 4 p.m., Sunday
FREE, Register Online

- 4 Nature Explore Family Club**
9:30 - 10:30 a.m., Monday
FREE, Register Online

- 5 Irrigation Quick Fixes**
10 - 11:30 a.m., Tuesday
FREE, Register Online

- 7 Eco Tots Discovery Hour:**
Meet Freddy the Fish, Keep Creeks Clean
9:30 - 10:30 a.m., Thursday
Cost \$3 resident/\$5 non-resident, Register Online

- 9 DIY Drip Irrigation**
10 - 11:30 a.m., Saturday
FREE, Register Online

- 14 Eco Tots Discovery Hour:**
Love YOUR Water
9:30 - 10:30 a.m., Thursday
Cost \$3 resident/\$5 non-resident, Register Online

- 20 DIY Drip Irrigation**
10 - 11:30 a.m., Wednesday
FREE, Register Online



SEPTEMBER

7 Nature Explore Family Club

3 - 4 p.m., Sunday
FREE, Register Online

8 Nature Explore Family Club

9:30 - 10:30 a.m., Monday
FREE, Register Online

11 Basics of Backyard Composting

7 - 9 p.m., Thursday
FREE, Register Online

17 Environmental Community Awards Celebration

11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Wednesday
Collin College, 2800 E. Spring Creek Pkwy.,
Plano 75074
RSVP REQUIRED: (972) 769-4130

18 Sustainability Series: The Basics

Consumerism
7 - 8:30 p.m., Thursday
Harrington Library, 1501 18th St., Plano 75074
FREE, Register Online

24 - October 29

Sustainability Series: The Basics

Topics: Consumerism, Waste Diversion, Water, Energy,
Air Quality, Urban Agriculture and Transportation
7 - 8:30 p.m., Six Consecutive Wednesdays
FREE, Register Online

CITY HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Independence Day

City offices, 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 Friday, July 4. Household Chemical Reuse Center is closed Saturday, July 5.

Labor Day

Household Chemical Reuse Center is closed Saturday, August 30. City offices, Household Chemical Reuse Center, Texas Pure Custer Retail Facility, Texas Pure Regional Composting Facility, NTMWD Transfer Stations and 121 RDF are closed Monday, September 1.

COLLECTION SCHEDULE CHANGES

Independence Day

With Independence Day falling on a Friday, there is NO delay or change in services. Trash, recycling and yard trimmings collections follow the normal schedule for the week.

Labor Day

NO collection service on Monday, September 1. Trash, recycling, yard trimmings and bulky waste collections slide forward one day. (Monday on Tuesday, Tuesday on Wednesday through Friday).

Environmental Education Center Garden Workdays

4116 W. Plano Pkwy., Plano 75093

A waiver must be submitted at least three days before workday.

Register: nancyca@plano.gov

7 - 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 12 and Saturday, August 9

8 - 11 a.m. on Saturday, September 13

Plano Community Garden Workdays

4030 W. Plano Pkwy., Plano 75093

A waiver must be submitted at least three days before workday.

Register: nancyca@plano.gov

7 - 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 26 and Saturday, August 23

8 - 11 a.m. on Saturday, September 27



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P.O. Box 860358 Plano, Texas 75086-0358

Para esta informacion en espanol, Llame (972) 769-4150

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Residential Customer

inside:



Summer Calendar of Events
2013 DRINKING WATER REPORT
Environmental Star of Excellence Awards
Cutest Pet Competition • Summer Food Safety
CLEAN AIR ACTION DAY
West Nile Virus Protection • Swimming Pools
Energy Efficient Home Tips
Landscape Drought Survival Tips • Water Conservation Classes
Environmental Education Center • Gold Star Cart Program



This Publication Printed on 30% Recycled
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