



Newsletter

June 2004

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ONE DAY ONLY! Backyard Compost Bin Sale Saturday, June 11 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The McLean County Solid Waste Program will subsidize a sale of the Earth Machine, an efficient backyard composter that is made of recycled materials and comes with a 10-year warranty. With a height of 33" and a diameter of 33", the Earth Machine fits into most vehicles for easy transportation. The size allows for 80 gallons of kitchen or yard waste to be composted, while also being manageable. The Earth Machine creates compost that helps to reduce household waste and makes lawn maintenance more efficient. This device regularly sells for \$80, but at this special event, they will be available for \$37 (tax included) while quantities last. Compost Turners (\$13) and Kitchen Scrap Pails (\$5.50) will also be available for purchase. This special sale will take place on Saturday, June 11th from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Eastland Mall parking lot in Bloomington. Come early to be sure you get your Earth Machine!



Join us for the 3rd Annual YARD SMART WALK Saturday, June 18 9 a.m. to 12pm

We will visit yards in our community where homeowners use little or no pesticides, use few resources for maintenance (such as watering or fuel for mowing), and provide a safe haven for wildlife. Join us to see four yards that have been given an award as either: a Chemical Free Yard, an Easy on the Earth Yard, or a Wildlife Habitat Yard. The Yard Smart Program is co-sponsored by Living Upstream, John Wesley Powell Audubon, and the Ecology Action Center.

2005 Illinois Sustainable Living Fair a Success MANY THANKS to YOU!

The first Illinois Sustainable Living Fair at the IWU Shirk Center in Bloomington on April 22-23, 2005 included 75 exhibitor booths and 40 workshops on Energy-Efficient Technologies, Renewable Energy, Green Building, Green Vehicles, Sustainable Living, Organic Agriculture, and Affordable Housing. On Friday, we offered free programming for children age 3-7 and an Energy Code Training Seminar for architects and builders. On Saturday, we had hands-on workshops for children age 6-12 and offered a bus tour of an energy-efficient house, a solar house, and an organic farm. The Fair was a huge success with at least 1250 people in attendance, including 400 children. We are grateful for everyone who participated and helped to promote environmental and energy awareness in our community and beyond. Special thanks goes out to the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation, Arrowsmith Wind Farm, Center for Sustainable Community, Renewable Choice Energy, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, US Department of Energy, The Pantagraph, Common Ground Groceries, Joy Luke Galleries, Thermal Imaging Services, McLean County Affordable Housing Fair Committee, Shenanigans Comedy Troupe, IWU Quartet, and the numerous volunteers that made this event possible. We look forward to your participation in next year's festivities!

TIPTON PARK: New Life Through Sustainable Development



Urban sprawl continues as new stores, businesses, and residential areas are added to our communities. With all this growth, often nature is overlooked or compromised. Nature and industry can live in harmony, but first we must start with mutual respect and understanding. The term “sustainable development” was coined by the United Nations in a report on environment and development. The report stated that the economic, social, and environmental activities of the present cannot be sustained into the future unless we bring about changes in how we both grow and preserve our resources. Without proper attention to unmanaged growth, we risk stripping our urban areas of the environment that makes them lush and beautiful places to raise families and memories. For example, uncontrolled urbanization can cause flooding, resulting in property damage and unusable water resources.

When the growth is managed, however, it brings great benefits to both natural and social environments. Managed growth provides guidelines to protect natural resources, encourages economic development for the benefit of the entire region, and provides environmental and quality of life benefits to all residents. Sustainable communities pursue developments or redevelopment of land in a way that maintains the natural environment. Some techniques for sustainable community development include: (1) preserving large quantities of space by clustering homes together, (2) providing community areas for outdoor recreation in natural landscapes, and (3) incorporating native landscaping in their yards to enhance the beauty of the neighborhood while reducing maintenance costs. These methods increase the economic and environmental value of land and water resources for all members of society.

The City of Bloomington uses eco-friendly techniques in coordination with private developers to promote sustained development. Tipton Park is a subdivision in Bloomington that serves both recreational and storm water filtration and drainage needs. Central to the design of the area is the use of management practices for storm water management: large areas of various types of native landscaping, such as prairie plantings and wetlands that slow the discharge of storm water into surrounding rivers, streams, and creeks and reduce the amount of sediment, fertilizer, and pollutants carried into them. Water draining from yards in the development is collected in a series of rear yard swales and ditches planted with native grasses and fed into wetland areas. Three primary wetlands feed the 12-acre Tipton Lake.

See the back cover for a list of free Tipton Park seminars planned for this summer.



Bike Helmet Collection

Do you have an old bike helmet in good condition? Some children riding bikes or rollerblades are not able to afford the proper protection. To solve this problem, Carle Clinic of Bloomington is collecting gently-used bike helmets to give to kids in need. This collection will last throughout the summer. If you have a bike helmet in good shape and wish to donate it, drop it off at the Pediatrics Department at Carle Clinic on College Avenue. For more information, contact nurse Mary, at 664-3100.



McLean County Water Resources

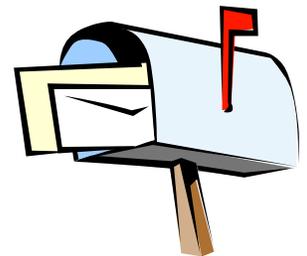
Approximately one-third of Illinois' drinking water is supplied by groundwater resources from three major areas: 1) sand and gravel, 2) shallow bedrock, and 3) deep bedrock. The majority of the groundwater resources are centered in the northern two-thirds of Illinois. Sand-and-gravel aquifers across the state are found along many of the major rivers and streams and also within "buried bed-rock valley" systems. There are many instances of thin sand-and-gravel deposits within the unconsolidated materials above bedrock. These thin deposits are used

throughout Illinois to supply small towns' water needs. The shallow bedrock units are used more commonly in the northern third of Illinois, whereas the deep bedrock units are used most widely in the northeastern quarter of Illinois (in and around the Chicago area). The buried bedrock valleys in Illinois were created by the complex glacial and interglacial episodes of surface erosion .

In 1993, a group of officials from Normal, Bloomington, and McLean and Tazewell Counties, and groundwater scientists from the Long Range Water Plan Steering Committee (LRWPSC), began a study of the sand-and-gravel aquifers in southwestern McLean and southeastern Tazewell Counties. The study, which was funded by the LRWPSC, had two goals: 1) to determine the potential for the Sankoty-Mahomet Sand aquifer to supply 10 to 15 million gallons per day (mgd) of water, and 2) to determine the possible effects on ground-water levels and existing wells that might occur from such a water supply extraction. To complete this study, a three-dimensional ground-water computer model was created to simulate ground-water movement across an 1,100 square-mile area. Model results show that more than 15 mgd could be sustained by the Sankoty-Mahomet Sand aquifer with varying impacts on existing wells, depending on the location of the proposed well field. By placing a well field where it is connected to shallower aquifers on the Mackinaw River, away from aquifer edges, maximum well yields could be obtained while minimizing effects on existing wells.

Currently, the LRWPSC has not discovered an integrated tool to assess, evaluate, and predict hydrologic and water quality responses to natural or human-induced changes in the Illinois River Basin. Fortunately, there are several databases and different surface and ground-water models for segments of the river basin. The LRWPSC hope to

How To Stop Junk Mail



Facts on Junk Mail:

- 4.5 million tons of junk mail are produced each year!
- Each person will receive almost 560 pieces of junk mail this year.
- 44% of all junk mail is thrown in the trash, unopened and unread.
- 100 million trees are ground up each year to produce junk mail.
- Approximately 40% of the solid waste in our landfills is paper and paperboard waste.

1. Stop the pre-approved Credit Card offers that waste of paper and put you at a risk of identity theft. To remove your name from the major credit card bureau list: Call **888-567-8688**. You can also do this online at: **www.optoutprescreen.com**.
2. Stop junk catalogues and mailings! The direct Marketing Association represents many mail order sales companies, and estimates that listing your name will stop 75% of all national mailings coming to your home. To do this, send a postcard with your name, address and signature to: **Mail Preference Service, Direct Marketing association, P.O. Box 643, Carmel, NY 10512**, or download the online form at **www.dmaconsumers.org/cgi/offmailinglistdave**.
3. Companies that do not participate in the D.M.A. program must be contacted directly. You can write to firms that send you unsolicited material and tell them firmly to stop. Be sure to use the enclosed Business Reply envelopes when replying through the mail, and address them to the Customer Service. You can also call the firms' toll free numbers and speak with customer service.
4. Buyers beware...you are covered under a manufacture's warranty whether the card is returned or not. These cards are primarily used to gather names for mailing lists. Write National Demographics & Lifestyles (a firm that collects this information) to have your name removed: **NDL List Order Services, 1621 18th Street, Suite 300, Denver, CO 80202**.

Remember to be persistent and patient as you take action to reduce your own personal junk mail, . You should notice a decrease in the amount of junk mail you receive within a month, but the removal of your name from these extensive lists takes a while.

Tipton Park Seminars



The Ecology Action Center, U of I Extension Master Gardner Program, and Bloomington Parks and Recreation invite you to learn about the sustainable development at Tipton Park and the value of urban prairies.

June 14—Prairie Values: Wild and Urban—Join prairie expert, Roger Anderson to learn more about a prairie ecosystem and important habitats, their history in Illinois, and the variety of plant and animal life they can support. **Bloomington Public Library, 7 pm.**

June 28—Ornamental Grasses for an Urban Prairie—Must an attractive yard be mowed down to 1/4” every two weeks? Join Master Gardeners Phyliss Doran and Margaret Hollowell as they offer innovative yard designs using ornamental grasses and discuss the benefits of native plantings to incorporate elements of the local ecosystem into your yard. **GE Road shelter at Tipton Park, 7 pm.**

July 12—The Birds and Wildlife of Tipton Park—Discover the diverse creatures in newly-opened Tipton Park! Dale Birkenholz, an expert on local wildlife, will describe what they need to survive in this area and how yard care in the surrounding neighborhood can benefit them. **GE Road shelter at Tipton Park, 7 pm.**

July 26—History of Tipton Park—A New Kind of Urban Development—Bloomington-Normal was once wet prairie, a vibrant ecosystem that also provided its own water treatment and flood control. Keith Rich, Bloomington Park and Recreation Director, will discuss how designers of the park and surrounding neighborhoods engineered a wet prairie for efficient local water management. **GE Road shelter at Tipton Park, 7 pm.**

August 9—Rain Gardens & Wetland Prairies—A new gardening concept, a Rain Garden, is catching on nation-wide. Here in the Midwest, the wet prairie is a native Rain Garden. Farnsworth Group Landscape Architect, Brandon Descarpentrie, discusses how, through local plantings of native species, the Rain Garden helps prevent flooding and improve water management, while providing urban beautification. **Bloomington Public Library, 7 pm.**



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