

### 3R Recycling Drive-thru: Celebrate America Recycles Day with The Woodlands Township

By Zoe Killian

Celebrate America Recycles Day with The Woodlands Township at the 3R Recycling Drive-thru on Saturday, November 13, 2021, 9 a.m. to noon in The Woodlands High School's parking lot, 6101 Research Forest Drive, The Woodlands, TX 77381. This event celebrates the importance of recycling in our community and offers a free opportunity to recycle select items that cannot be recycled in curbside carts. Secure, on-site document shredding will be available while capacity lasts. *This event is for residents only, no businesses.*

The following items will be accepted:

- Lightbulbs (intact only)
- Alkaline batteries
- Block Styrofoam (please no food containers or peanuts)
- Textiles and shoes (in any condition)
- Eyeglasses
- Oral care products
- Snack and drink pouches
- Disposable razors



*Incandescent, Compact Fluorescent (CFL) and LED light bulbs* are the featured item this year. Recycling light bulbs keeps hazardous chemicals, like mercury, out of our environment and reuses valuable material. Please remember, **light bulbs do not belong in your curbside cart.**

**Can't make it to 3R Recycling Drive-thru?** The Montgomery County Precinct 3 Recycling Center, located at 1122 Pruitt Road in Spring, Home Depot, Lowes, Batteries Plus and Best Buy accept different types of light bulbs year-round. For a list of local recycling outlets for other materials such as electronics, batteries, paints, pharmaceuticals and more, please scan the QR code or visit [www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/recyclemore](http://www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/recyclemore).



The 3R Recycling Drive-thru is hosted by The Woodlands Township Environmental Services Department and sponsored by Chevron Phillips Chemical, H-E-B, The Woodlands G.R.E.E.N., Waste Management, Alspaugh's Ace Hardware, and Woodlands Water. For more information, please visit [www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/3rbazaar](http://www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/3rbazaar) or contact Environmental Services at [enviro@thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov](mailto:enviro@thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov) or 281-210-3800.

## From Bags to Benches: Closing the Recycling Loop in The Woodlands

By Zoe Killian

Did you know that every ounce of plastic ever created is still with us? Breaking down into ever-smaller particles, plastic never fully disappears or forms a new compound. Since plastic remains an integral part of our lives, recycling it is critical for protecting the environment. We know plastic bottles belong in the recycle cart, but what about plastic film, like grocery bags, case and bubble wrap, air pillows, plastic shipping envelopes, and food and dry-cleaning bags?



*This park bench is made of over 60,000 plastic bags!*

Plastics do **NOT** belong in the recycle cart. Recycle carts deliver a mixed load of materials to the recycling facility, known as single stream recycling. Once there, the jumble is sorted into discrete bales of recyclables such as aluminum, cardboard and paper. Contaminants are filtered out and landfilled. The more contaminants that enter the system, the harder it is to produce bales of quality recyclables.

Plastic bags and film top the list of contaminants. Hoses, wires, textiles and Styrofoam are a close second. They wrap around equipment, clog filters and force the line to stop regularly for cleaning and repair.

Although plastic bags and film can't be recycled at a single stream recycling center, they CAN be recycled at a dedicated plastic film recycling center. Each year, thousands of tons of plastic film are turned into composite lumber which is a plasticized material used in park benches, picnic tables, decks, fences and playground equipment. And where do manufacturers get their film? Mostly from groceries and big box stores who collect it from customers.

So, don't toss your plastic bags and film in the recycle cart and don't bag your bottles and cans (empty them loose into the cart). But DO recycle it! Take your clean, dry and stretchy plastic bags and film back to the store on your next trip. Exclude any non-stretchy or crinkly plastic wrap as well as frozen food bags - they're the wrong kind of plastic.

If you're looking for easy ways to recycle other items that can't go in the curbside cart, such as batteries, electronics, Styrofoam and more, check out the Recycle More Guide at [www.thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov/recyclemore](http://www.thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov/recyclemore). For questions, please contact Environmental Services at [enviro@thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov](mailto:enviro@thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov) or 281-210-3800.

### Where can you take plastic bags?

- H-E-B, Kroger
- Lowe's Home Improvement
- Montgomery County Precinct 3 Recycling Facility
- Target, Wal-Mart, Kohl's

## Recycle clean, dry plastic bags and film packaging\*



**\*At participating stores**



Look for this label on film products like these:



Air Pillows



Newspaper Bags



Grocery & Retail Bags  
labeled #2 (HDPE) or #4 (LLDPE)  
*Tip: Store in plastic bag until next trip to the store*



Case Wrap



Bread Bags  
(with crumbs shaken out)



Napkin, Paper Towel,  
Bathroom Tissue, and  
Diaper Wrap Packaging



Produce Bags



Food Storage Bags



For more information, visit our website: [www.plasticfilmrecycling.org](http://www.plasticfilmrecycling.org)

## Recycle plastic film correctly



Clean

Dry

Stretches

\*At participating stores only. Never in curbside recycle carts.

---



**DO NOT RECYCLE**

These plastics contain mixed materials that cannot be recycled. Dispose of in trash.



Salad Bags



Frozen Food Bags



Dog Food Bags



Chip Bags



Straws



6 Pack Rings  
(cut before disposal)

## Grow Better Plants with Rainscaping

By Megan McNairn

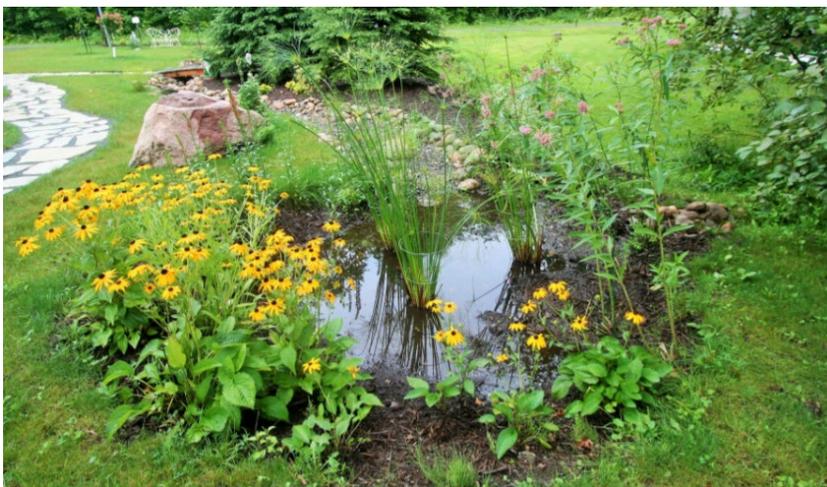
If you're considering a rain barrel for your landscape, why stop there? Take it to the next level with rainscaping. This ancient concept, enjoying a modern resurgence in suburban landscapes, employs a combination of elements to slow, spread and sink rainwater that falls on your property. Stop watching the rain run through your yard and down the street; put it to use instead. Your plants and trees will love you for it; they much prefer rainwater to chlorinated tap water.

It's simpler than you may think. No need to redesign your whole yard to make the rain work for you. A few basic strategies will have you on your way to an effective alternative to traditional irrigation systems, saving you time, water and money.

Learn how at the upcoming Rainwater Harvesting Workshop. You'll discover simple ways to:

- Turn a low spot into a raingarden
- Use swales to direct water away from the house to flower beds and fruit trees
- Store rainwater to irrigate during a dry spell with rain barrels or other vessels
- Create patios and pathways that allow water to soak through to the soil
- Incorporate soil amendments to help your landscape withstand drought

Make better use of our abundant rainwater. Join The Woodlands Township Environmental Services Department to explore the value of rainscaping at the **Rainwater Harvesting Workshop on Saturday, November 6, 2021**, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Emergency Training Center, 16135 Interstate 45 S, The Woodlands, TX 77385. Seating is limited for this FREE workshop so register now at [www.thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov/environment](http://www.thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov/environment).



*Join The Woodlands Township Environmental Services Department to explore the value of rainscaping at the Rainwater Harvesting Workshop on Saturday, November 6, 2021.*

## Navigating the Lawn Care Maze

By Ann Hall

Are you feeling lost as you wander through the maze of lawn care challenges? Not sure how best to water, mow and fertilize, how to keep weeds and pests at bay and, most importantly, how to spend less time doing it?

Find your answers at The Woodlands Township's Environmental Services Department's free online class, Lawn Care: Green with Envy, on Saturday, October 16, 2021, from 9 a.m. to noon. Renowned lawn care expert Patrick Dickinson will share effective, research-based strategies you can implement now in your own landscape.

Learn how to identify your specific turfgrass and how to have your soil tested, two foundational steps for effective lawn care. Then walk step-by-step through soil amendment (the most critical component to a healthy lawn), smart irrigation, control of pests and disease with minimal chemicals, and management of common turfgrass weeds.

With the right information, you can finally have the lawn you're always wanted. Register now for this free online class at [www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/environment](http://www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/environment).

For more information about lawn care and sustainable landscaping practices, please visit the Environmental Services page at [www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/environment](http://www.thewoodlandstownship-tx.gov/environment).



*Register now for The Woodlands Township's Environmental Services Department's free online class, Lawn Care: Green with Envy, on Saturday, October 16, 2021, from 9 a.m. to noon.*