

April 2011



Bellaire Recycles!



<http://ci.bellaire.tx.us/>



Grasscycling: What Is It & Why Do It?

What if you could work less, save money, and help your lawn and the environment all at the same time? There is a way and it's called grasscycling. All you have to do is STOP bagging grass clipping when you or your lawn service mow. When clippings are left on the lawn they decompose quickly and actually feed the grass.

- Grass clippings can provide 25% of a lawns total fertilizer needs
- Grass clippings contain nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorus. When clipping are removed lawns require more nitrogen. Keeping them on the lawn creates natural fertilizer.
- Grass clippings are about 90% water, so they break down quickly.
- Grass clippings DON'T cause thatch. Thatch is caused by decomposing roots and stems which decompose slowly.
- Bagging takes time- by NOT bagging you can save almost 40% on mowing time.
- Lawns with clippings hold moisture better & require less water.
- Grass clippings add significantly to solid waste pick-up and clog landfills.
- Grass clippings account for 20% of household solid waste collections each year!
- One acre of grass yields three tons of clippings filling around 260 bags each year!

Tips for Grasscycling

- Regular mowing with a sharp blade so that no more than 1" is removed at each mowing.
- Cut grass when it is dry
- You can grasscycle with any mower.



So Remember Grasscycling-

- Reduces waste going to the landfill.
- Saves energy resources by reducing trips to the landfill.
- Reduces fertilizer use and run off into the groundwater - so there is less water pollution.
- Eliminates bagging and hauling bags to the curb saving 40% on mowing time!



With Spring's arrival, our grass starts growing and we start the annual mowing and fertilizing ritual. This year we are kicking off a "Don't Bag 'em, Leave 'em" campaign in the City of Bellaire in an effort to reduce the amount of grass clippings we are hauling to the landfill. With your participation, we can greatly reduce the impact that taking grass clippings to the landfill has on our city and the environment. Check your April water bill for more on grasscycling or go to our website for more tips.

All information regarding grasscycling collected from on-line sources.



Spring Fling Earth Day Celebration at the Nature Discovery Center – April 16th

On Saturday, April 16th, the Nature Discovery Center will host their Spring Fling Earth Day celebration from 10 am to 3 pm. This FREE family event has something for everyone: children's crafts and activities, nature walks, environmental exhibitors, music on the front porch, a spring gift market, and The Bellaire Garden Club's annual Spring Plant Sale (from 8am – 3pm). The Bellaire Recycling Committee will be onsite with a booth to support the event. We will provide information, and answer questions about all kinds of recycling and waste disposal including our new campaign, Don't Bag 'em, Leave 'em. You can see more about the event and the Nature Discovery Center at www.naturediscoverycenter.org.

HANA AND ARTHUR GINZBARG

nature discovery center



Annual Citywide Garage Sale- April 30

The Bellaire Citywide Garage Sale will be held on Saturday April 30th. All Bellaire residents are invited to host a garage sale with no registration or permit requirements for sales held that day.

You probably have a number of things that you no longer use, but are still too good to just throw out. Look in the back of the closet, you'll find things you forgot you even had - toys the kids no longer use or clothes they have outgrown. Let your "trash" become someone else's treasure. This is an excellent type of recycling, since every item that is sold at the garage sale gets reused. The rain date for citywide garage sale is May 7.

It's Your Turn 

Want to share your motivation for recycling and inspire others in the community?

Send us your ideas to DDelaloye@ci-bellaire.tx.us

We will post them on our website and share them in the next newsletter.



Local Recycling Options

Have items that need shredding??

OfficeMax customers can now bring unneeded confidential documents for secure destruction to any OfficeMax counter nationwide. Shred-it will provide on-site locked security consoles that will safely store the materials to ensure privacy. Documents will be stored there securely until destroyed on-site at the OfficeMax location by a Shred-it mobile shredding vehicle, following a tight security process. All the paper that Shred-it collects for secure shredding is recycled into a wide assortment of paper products. Once the materials have been destroyed, the OfficeMax location will keep a Certificate of Destruction on file for three years that will be available to customers upon request.



Best Buy makes it easy to recycle

Every U.S. Best Buy store has free kiosks, just inside the door, where you can drop off ink and toner cartridges, used gift cards, cell phones batteries and rechargeable batteries. In addition, Best Buy takes larger electronics too. Regardless of where you bought it, what brand it is, or how old it is Best Buy will take your old electronic items and make sure they are properly and safely recycled. They take just about anything electronic, including TVs, DVD players, computer monitors, audio and video cables, cell phones, and more. Most things are recycled absolutely free with some restrictions.



Are you a Super Recycler? Need Another Bin?

If you are filling your first bin each week and need more, *great job!* Bellaire residents can purchase additional recycling bins for \$10 each at the City Hall complex, 2nd floor, M-F during regular business hours. Fill those bins!



We can all do our part ...

Here are some small changes that can make a big difference.

- **Recycle-** when you can't reduce or reuse then be sure to recycle. Know what goes in your curb side bin and take advantage of this great service!
- **Shorten your showers-** Every minute in the shower uses up to 6 gallons of water. Cutting your shower one minute daily can equal 1,500 gallons saved per year.
- **Shut down and Unplug-** Computers use energy even when turned off and chargers use energy if you leave them plugged in. Any appliance with a glowing light is using energy.
- **Minimize Idle Time-** When waiting in your car turn it off to save gas and reduce emissions.
- **Check settings-** Choose "air dry" or "no heat" on you dishwasher to save energy. Turn up your thermostat this summer-for every degree you turn up in the summer you save 5%.

These tips and more found at momsbestnaturals.com



Do YOU Want to Be On the Bellaire Recycling Committee?

If you want to help educate Bellaire residents on how to recycle and live greener then check the Bellaire city web site for an opening and details on how to apply to join the Recycling Committee in April.



Bellaire Recycling Online

For a complete list of everything accepted in your recycling bin each Wednesday visit the city website at

<http://ci.bellaire.tx.us/> go to departments at the top then in the

pull down menu click Public Works and finally Solid Waste & Recycling.

There you will find the list of curbside recyclables, recent recycling newsletters, green tips, and eco-friendly links.