

ENVIRO TALK



BREAKING OLD GROUND: DEPAVING PUGET SOUND

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Fall 2022

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Up Close with Tacoma's Urban Forest



Photo courtesy of Hannah Letinich

The City's Urban Forestry program has an important goal to increase Tacoma's tree canopy cover from an estimated 20 percent to 30 percent by 2030. We are working towards this goal by planting trees with help from partner organizations and community members, and by preserving existing healthy trees.

To illustrate this goal, the Urban Forestry team has brought the wonders of the forest right to the community. At the 2022 South Sound Sustainability Expo and inside the Tacoma Mall during Earth Week, guests walked through an immersive Pop-Up Forest experience. Trees and native plants were temporarily planted in mulch over hard concrete in Tollefson Plaza, bringing to life a forest scene in an urban environment.

The Pop-Up Forest experience is a traveling tool that helps to engage Tacoma residents in a conversation about how green spaces can play a role in increasing their neighborhood and overall city tree canopy. Urban Forestry plans to do yet another experience in the Tacoma Mall Neighborhood this fall. For more information, visit cityoftacoma.org/urbanforestry.

Did you know that you can also take advantage of City programs to contribute to the urban forest around your home?

Grit City Trees is the City's free street tree giveaway program. Applications are open in the summer, with trees available in the fall for planting. The goal of

the program is to equitably increase Tacoma's tree canopy. The priority application deadline is Sunday, August 28, 2022. Completed applications received after this priority date will be reviewed by the City on a rolling basis, only while supplies last. For more information, visit cityoftacoma.org/GritCityTrees.

In addition, residents are encouraged to check out the Tree Coupon Program, open from October 1, 2022, through March 31, 2023, to Tacoma and Pierce County residents. Visit cityoftacoma.org/treecoupon to find out more.

Planting and caring for trees can make a difference, and there are many ways to get involved. From participating in tree planting incentive programs, to simply having a conversation with your family or neighbors about the benefits of trees - it all works toward a healthier future.

Find out more about these programs at cityoftacoma.org/urbanforestry contact, trees@cityoftacoma.org or call at (253) 502-2138.

FOCUS ON GREEN BUILDING

In the U.S., 43% of carbon emissions and 40% of total energy use is attributed to the construction and operation of buildings (U.S. Dept. of Energy). Resilient & Green Building Specialist Beth Jarot shares more about how building “green” is an approach that can improve human health, support a better environment and provide cost savings.

Are There Any Green Buildings in Tacoma?

Yes, there are several residential and commercial green buildings in Tacoma – many have been certified through national or local green building programs. Some of these include the Center for Urban Waters, Metro Parks Tacoma Eastside Community Center, and the Tacoma Housing Authority Salishan and Bay Terrace residential properties.

What Green Building Certification Programs Are Available?

There are many, including Built Green, a Washington-based residential green building program of the Master Builders Association. Participants may also qualify for incentives which can range from cash rebates to priority permitting. Certification programs also provide quality assurance meaning more people have inspected and verified the project, and it has proven savings in water and energy. For a full list, visit tacomapermits.org/green-tools.

Why Should Someone Consider Green Building?

By incorporating green building and sustainable living practices, you'll provide for your needs now and the needs of future generations. Choosing this method can increase resale value of your property, save you money through lower operating and maintenance costs, make a healthier home through improved air quality, and reduce environmental impact by being resource-efficient and minimizing waste.

Are There Green Building Examples to Tour for Ideas?

The City's EnviroHouse is a permanent model home showcasing green building and natural landscape ideas, materials, and techniques to create a healthy home and planet. This space is now open for walk-in visitors, Thursday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. They also offer virtual workshops. For more information, visit cityoftacoma.org/envirohouse, or call (253) 573-2426.

Can Someone Go Green for Their Home Construction Projects?

You can go green now without the commitment of a major remodel or building project. Here are five easy ways to get started:

1. Use low or no volatile organic compounds paint, adhesives, and finishes.
2. Install compact fluorescent bulbs.
3. Install water-saving devices, such as faucet aerators and low-flow shower heads.
4. Select or replace your HVAC system with a heat pump that will deliver heating as well as cooling and air filtration.
5. Use salvaged building materials or products with renewable and recycled content.

Where Can People Go to Find Out More?

If you are considering choosing green building as an option, visit cityoftacoma.org/greenbuilding, or contact Beth Jarot at (253) 208-4351 or bjarot@cityoftacoma.org.

Place Your Trash and Visit the Past

Downtown Tacoma has a rich history of unique buildings, landmarks, and cultural attractions. A new project from Tacoma Solid Waste Management and the Downtown Tacoma Partnership is working to make sure those areas also stay clean, healthy, and free from trash and litter.

Earlier this year, Tacoma Solid Waste Management and the Downtown Tacoma Partnership worked together to design and install over a dozen "Trash Can Time Machines" which allow users to responsibly place their trash while also discovering a historic image from the past. Each can is installed with a QR code that can be scanned with any smartphone. After scanning, the user is directed to a historic image taken from the same place where that can is located, along with a story and description of what happened there.

"Trash cans are usually a boring but very necessary part of our urban environment," said Leah Michaelson, Community Relations Officer for the City's Environmental Services Department.

"The Trash Can Time machine project is meant to bring a fun and unique experience to the otherwise pretty dull task of throwing away your trash."

- Leah Michaelson

Historic images featured on the cans include the 1930 World Series when fans flocked to the outside of the Tribune Publishing Building and the 1963 Music Box Building fire when moviegoers were evacuated during a matinee showing of Alfred Hitchcock's "The Birds."

Solid Waste Management and the Downtown Tacoma Partnership will install more Trash Can Time Machines in the coming months, and plan to gather suggestions from community members on more images they would like to see featured.

To learn more about these and other historic images featured on the cans, visit trashcantimemachine.com or email info@downtowntacomapartnership.com.



Make a Splash Grants

Do you have a great idea for a project that can help prevent stormwater pollution? Applications for Make a Splash Grants are now being accepted! Make a Splash Grants are reimbursable grants of up to \$4,000 for projects that have a strong stormwater benefit, having a focus on preventing stormwater pollution and protecting or restoring clean surface water. Applications are open September 1-30, 2022.

For more information, including a link to the grant applications, visit

cityoftacoma.org/ESGrants or call (253) 208-0536.

Puget Sound Starts Here Month

September is Puget Sound Starts Here (PSSH) Month, a regional campaign for communities to work together to protect the Puget Sound and raise awareness of how our everyday actions impact our waterways. During this month, you can learn more about how to prevent stormwater pollution by fixing car leaks, preventing illegal dumping, picking up pet waste, building raingardens, and picking up litter.

To learn more and find out what's going on near you, visit **pugetsoundstartshere.org** or call (253) 208-0536.

Apply to Sponsor a Pet Waste Bag Station

Does dog poop cause a problem in your area? Apply to sponsor a Pet Waste Bag Station. This free program is available to businesses, multi-family properties, and single-family properties. The City will provide the station and refill bags; all you need to do is restock the station when needed.

To find out more, visit **cityoftacoma.org/preventstormwaterpollution**, or call (253) 208-0536.

Green Recipe

Non-Alcoholic "La Mojita"

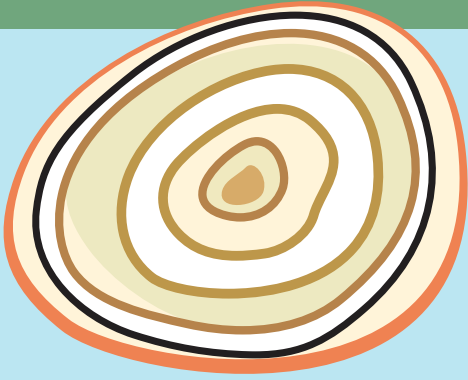
Discover a unique pick-me-up using kombucha and other fresh ingredients. Komadre Kombucha owner Julie Davidson was on Urban Green to showcase the "La Mojita," a non-alcoholic homage to a classic Cuban cocktail. To find out more and to view episode 36, visit **cityoftacoma.org/UrbanGreen**.

Ingredients

- 1 cup unflavored kombucha
- 1 tsp. mojito simple syrup
- ½ lime, cut into 2 wedges
- 10 fresh mint leaves
- 1 cup ice cubes

Directions: Muddle half the mint leaves with one lime wedge, adding the simple syrup and ice cubes. Stir in the unflavored kombucha to blend and taste, adding more simple syrup if desired. Garnish with extra lime and mint.

How-To: Curing Onions for Storing



1. Harvest onions in the garden when the green stems have flopped over.
2. Make sure the bulb skin is intact and that the onion is a good candidate for storing.
3. Lay onions on a table or cardboard in a sunny location. Keep the stems off the bulbs to avoid absorbing moisture.
4. Cover the onions at night with a towel or sheet.
5. After curing outside for four to five days, move them to a warm location indoors for up to two weeks to finish the curing process.
6. Stems and roots should be dry enough to trim and store.
7. Store in an open plastic container with newspapers at the bottom.

To watch this EnviroHouse How-To video, visit <https://rb.gy/clob58>, or to check out a list of videos, visit [youtube.com/CityofTacoma/playlists](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL1234567890) and find the EnviroHouse How-To playlist.



Events

Calendar of

The EnviroHouse is also holding virtual workshops each month. To view a full list, visit cityoftacoma.org/workshops.

SEPTEMBER

- 1-30 Make a Splash Grant Applications are open.** Applications and details are available at cityoftacoma.org/makeasplash or call (253) 591-5172
- 05 Labor Day,** Curbside Collection is NORMAL
- 10 Composting,** FREE, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., virtual class, advance registration required at piercecounitywa.org/ediblegardens, or call (253) 208-8527
- 22 Turning the Tide Documentary Premiere,** 6 – 9 p.m. Doors open at 6pm, show time at 7pm Pantages Theater, 901 Broadway, to learn more and reserve tickets, visit cityoftacoma.org/turningthetide or call (253) 591-5172
- 24 Seed Saving,** FREE, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., virtual class, advance registration required at piercecounitywa.org/ediblegardens, or call (253) 208-8527

OCTOBER

- 01 TAGRO Fall/Winter Hours Begin,** Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., 2301 Cleveland Way, Central Treatment Plant, Gate 6, call (253) 502-2150 or visit tagro.com
- 08 Green Tacoma Day,** from 9 a.m. to noon, is a Green Tacoma Partnership volunteer event to celebrate and restore urban green spaces citywide. To learn more about the event, visit greentacomaday.org, or contact Forterra at (206) 292-5907
- 08 Putting Your Garden to Bed,** FREE, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., virtual class, advance registration required at piercecounitywa.org/ediblegardens, or call (253) 208-8527
- 22 Fruit Trees in the PNW,** FREE, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., virtual class, advance registration required at piercecounitywa.org/ediblegardens, or call (253) 208-8527

NOVEMBER

- 06 Daylight Savings Time End**
- 11 Veterans Day,** The Tacoma Recovery and Transfer Center is open and curbside collection is on a regular schedule
- 24 Tacoma Recovery and Transfer Center is closed Thanksgiving Day.** Curbside collection will be one day late. Customers scheduled for Thursday collection will be picked up on Friday and customers scheduled for Friday collection will be picked up on Saturday

Breaking Old Ground: Depaving Puget Sound

From roads and parking lots to sidewalks and rooftops, our urban environment is filled with hard, impermeable surfaces. When last measured in 2018, it was estimated that around 52 percent of Tacoma's surface area is made of asphalt, concrete, pavement, or other material that does not allow rainwater to soak into the ground. With an average rainfall of just under 40 inches annually in Tacoma, that means a lot of water hitting a lot of hard surfaces.

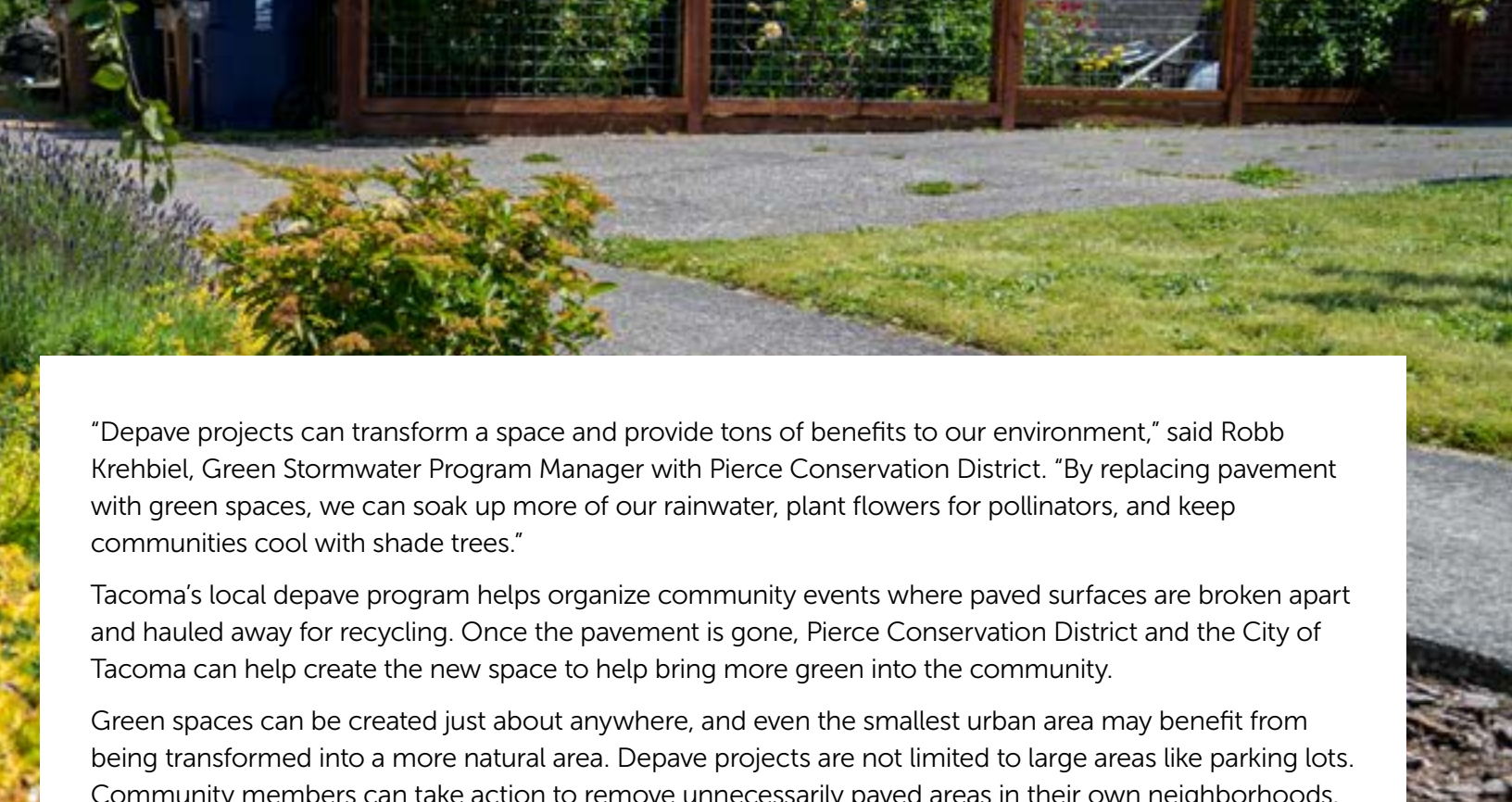
The soil beneath us does a great job at naturally filtering out many of the toxic materials that contribute to pollution in Puget Sound, but only when the water carrying those pollutants has a chance to soak into the earth. When water flows over hard surfaces, it collects all the pollution on the ground and eventually carries it to the waters of Puget Sound.

When these impermeable materials outlast their usefulness, it can result in "over-paved" areas that serve no other purpose than contributing to stormwater pollution and trapping heat. Imagine

an old parking lot that is no longer used, or a right-of-way area that was paved over years ago. Even an over-paved school playground may be harmful to the environment and can cause a lot of scraped knees. That's when Depave Puget Sound can help.

Depave Puget Sound is a regional movement to improve the health and environment of our cities by transforming areas that are unnecessarily paved into places where people and nature can thrive. Here in Tacoma, the Environmental Services department partners with Pierce Conservation District to help fund depave projects throughout the city.





"Depave projects can transform a space and provide tons of benefits to our environment," said Robb Krehbiel, Green Stormwater Program Manager with Pierce Conservation District. "By replacing pavement with green spaces, we can soak up more of our rainwater, plant flowers for pollinators, and keep communities cool with shade trees."

Tacoma's local depave program helps organize community events where paved surfaces are broken apart and hauled away for recycling. Once the pavement is gone, Pierce Conservation District and the City of Tacoma can help create the new space to help bring more green into the community.

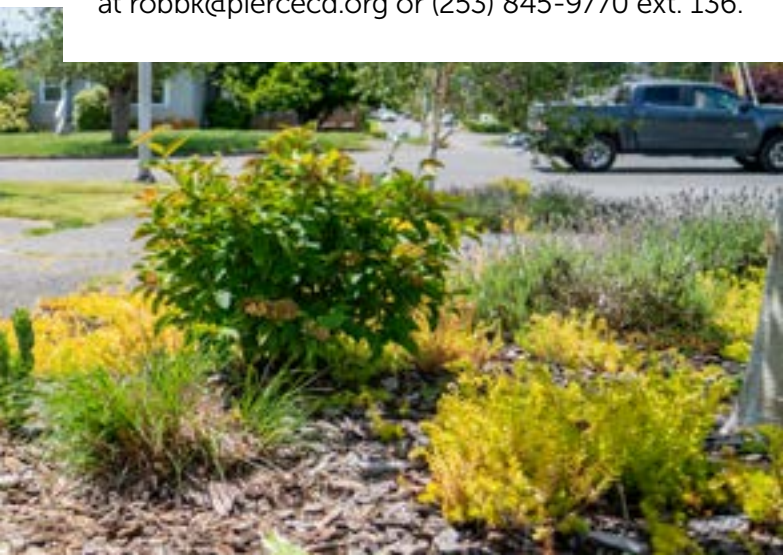
Green spaces can be created just about anywhere, and even the smallest urban area may benefit from being transformed into a more natural area. Depave projects are not limited to large areas like parking lots. Community members can take action to remove unnecessarily paved areas in their own neighborhoods.

"Anyone can nominate a site to be a depave project," said Krehbiel. "Once we have the ok to remove pavement from nominated sites, PCD and City of Tacoma staff work with community members and volunteers to pull up pavement and replace it with plants."

Kristin Ely, a resident of the North Tacoma neighborhood, worked with Pierce Conservation District in 2019 to depave the right-of-way outside of her home. The space is now a thriving pollinator habitat with native plants and healthy soil.

"It was great to see that dead space transformed with new life," said Ely. "Working with Pierce Conservation District could not have been easier. They helped with the budget, plant selection, and layout of the project. I'm not a gardener, but I didn't have to be to complete this project!"

To learn more about Depave Puget Sound visit depavepugetsound.org. To nominate an area in Tacoma for a depave project contact Robb Krehbiel at robbk@piercedcd.org or (253) 845-9770 ext. 136.



It is estimated that around **14 million** tons of pollution flow from our regional streets, sidewalks, parking lots, and other impermeable areas annually, making polluted stormwater runoff the biggest source of pollution affecting our environment.

EnviroKids

What's that Word?

Complete the sentences below (you'll find the answers in this issue of EnviroTalk) and then find the word or phrase in the word search below. If you get stumped, the answers are at the bottom.

1. When water flows over hard surfaces, it collects all the **POLLUTION** on the ground and eventually carries it to the waters of Puget Sound.
2. There are over a dozen "Trash Can Time _____" which allow users to throw away their _____ and discover a historic image from the past.
3. The Urban Forestry program has an important _____ to increase Tacoma's tree _____ cover from an estimated 20 percent to 30 percent by 2030.
4. EnviroHouse showcases _____ building and natural _____ ideas, materials and techniques to create a healthy home and planet.
5. Having access to _____ parks and urban green spaces is vital to our quality of life.

O	T	R	A	S	H	Q	T	M	C	N	V	C	P	O
Y	G	U	J	A	Y	E	P	A	C	S	D	N	A	L
P	N	W	O	L	Q	M	R	C	A	M	V	O	T	T
O	G	Z	T	X	T	O	T	H	Z	U	A	I	O	Q
N	V	P	C	K	X	M	I	I	H	R	B	T	M	H
A	G	Q	U	P	M	Y	A	N	G	X	F	U	G	F
C	J	T	Y	B	L	A	V	E	R	V	E	L	X	G
H	D	H	H	B	G	S	P	S	E	L	B	L	J	O
X	W	R	T	A	F	Q	Q	K	E	E	E	O	J	W
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C	O	P	A	L	A	K	C	J	G	L	N	J	X	Y
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C	L	C	H	X	E	G	H	C	U	X	G	P	C	Z
C	J	X	G	N	G	R	M	N	J	L	L	E	X	N

LANDSCAPE, 5.) HEALTHY,
(1.) POLLUTION, 2.) MACHINES, TRASH, 3.) GOAL, CANOPY, 4.) GREEN,

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Cassie Petty

Cassie has worked with Environmental Services for the past 13 years and supports the Business Operations Environmental Compliance Group. This group protects our waterways by making sure residents and businesses around Tacoma who add to our stormwater and wastewater systems are following the rules to keep pollutants out of these systems.

"Working in a support role is rewarding. I love helping people, and I get to do that every day. The absolute best thing about my job is being a part of protecting our waterways."

Being an administrative assistant can require an associate degree with two years of office experience (experience can be substituted for education), computer experience, and most importantly, excellent people skills and the desire to help.

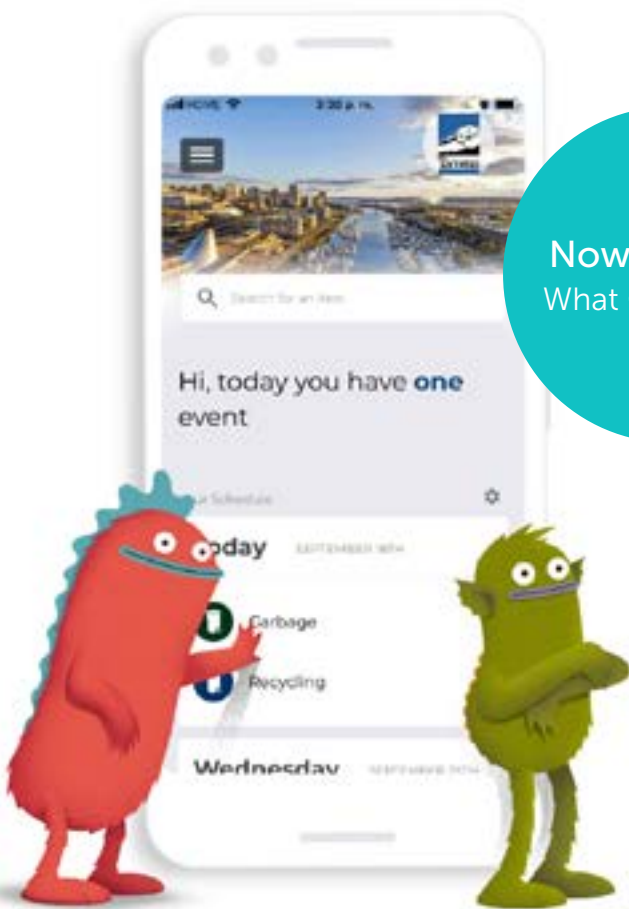


MEET



Waste Less and Recycle More

Confused when it comes to recycling? You're not alone. The City has partnered with Recycle Coach to provide instructions for the proper disposal of thousands of items—from plastic cups to bowling balls. Recycle Coach users can also sign up to receive collection day reminders, calendars, and instant news notifications to a mobile phone, so you never forget to put out your bin.



Now available:
What Goes Where



Never miss a collection again.

Download the **FREE** app on your app store today!



tacomarecycles.org or call (253) 502-2100 to learn more.

Calendar of Events

DECEMBER

- 25 The Tacoma Recovery and Transfer Center is closed Christmas Day**
- 26 City Services are open, and all curbside collection is on regular schedule.**
The Tacoma Recovery and Transfer Center administration office will be closed in observance of the Christmas holiday
- 26 Tacoma Recycling Center, 3510 S. Mullen St., begins to accept unflocked, undecorated Christmas trees without stands**

JANUARY

- 1 The Tacoma Recovery and Transfer Center is closed New Year's Day.**
- 2 City Services are open, and all curbside collection is on regular schedule.**
The Tacoma Recovery and Transfer Center administration office will be closed in observance of the New Year's holiday.
- 15 Last day to drop off your unflocked, undecorated Christmas tree** without a stand at the Tacoma Recycle Center, 3510 S. Mullen St.

NEWS BRIEFS

Tidy-Up Tacoma 2022 and Beyond

City crews are participating in the Tidy-Up Tacoma effort, cleaning up litter/debris, performing graffiti removal, minor right-of-way landscaping, and street sweeping. This work is taking place on the main arterials of Neighborhood Business Districts, around the City's six gateway signs, and at two new locations. Staff will continue to rotate through each designated area throughout the year and beyond into 2023. For more information on Tidy-Up Tacoma, including an estimated schedule of cleanup locations and a list of community neighborhood cleanup resources, visit cityoftacoma.org/tidyup, or call (253) 591-5000.

Green Tacoma Day and Arbor Day 2022

On Saturday, October 8, from 9 am to noon, join fellow community members to give back to city parks and green spaces during the Green Tacoma Day and Arbor Day celebration. Having access to healthy parks and urban green spaces is vital to our quality of life. The Green Tacoma Partnership invites people of all ages to get outside, have fun and engage in Tacoma's natural areas. Volunteers will plant trees, remove invasive weeds, connect with the community, and provide a helping hand to our green spaces. To learn more and to sign up to volunteer, visit greentacomaday.org or contact Forterra at (206) 292-5907.

Turning the Tide Documentary Premiere

A new documentary film about the historic Thea Foss Waterway cleanup will premiere on Thursday, September 22, at 6 pm at The Pantages Theater. Viewers will learn the history of the project and be inspired to do their part to protect this important community resource and ecosystem. Tickets to the premiere event are free, and the event is open to the public. Learn more and reserve your ticket at cityoftacoma.org/turningthetide.



Sort the Sound

City of Tacoma's Recycle Sorting Game!

Play Now!



Dare to find the legendary SortSquatch in our award-winning waste sorting game!

SortSquatch awaits at TacomaRecycles.org



Sign up to Adopt a Storm Drain!

Join with neighbors to
protect Puget Sound!



Keep your neighborhood clean and
protect Puget Sound. **Sign up today!**



adopt-a-drain.org



Sign up online. Individuals, organizations, and businesses can participate. Visit adopt-a-drain.org to adopt a storm drain in your neighborhood.



Keep your storm drain clear. Use a broom or rake to sweep leaves, trash and other debris off the drain surface year round.



Track your impact. Enter the estimated total of debris you collect into your online account so we can track results.



Lead by example. Let others know about your commitment. Tell them how they can help prevent water pollution.



**Puget Sound
Starts Here**

Sweep up! Rake up! Pick up!

TIP OF THE DAY Kitchen Surface Cleaner

You will need:

- 1 Two spray bottles
- 2 White vinegar
- 3 3 percent hydrogen peroxide

Directions:

Take two spray bottles and fill one with white vinegar and the other with 3 percent hydrogen peroxide (found at drug/grocery stores). Then spray surfaces such as counters or cutting boards with the vinegar and then with hydrogen peroxide. Rinse surface under running water or wipe with a clean wet sponge.



Be Safe:
Label
Contents
on Bottles



ENVIROHOUSE IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The EnviroHouse (3510 South Mullen St.) is now open for walk-in visitors Thursday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Exceptions may be made for schools and organizations for onsite tours when registered in advance. For more information, visit cityoftacoma.org/envirohouse, email ehouse@cityoftacoma.org or call (253) 573-2426.

Workshops continue as live, virtual presentations on some Saturdays and occasional weekday afternoons. To see a list of topics, register for an upcoming free webinar, or find past recorded sessions, visit cityoftacoma.org/workshops.

cityoftacoma.org/EnviroHouse | (253) 573-2426



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Center for Urban Waters
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