



ENVIRONNEWS

Earth News from the

Will County Land Use Department

Resource Recovery & Energy Division

Winter 2016

Lawrence M. Walsh County Executive



FREE BOOKS

Book Collection Event June 3rd-5th 2016 9am-4pm

The Will County Land Use Dept., RR & E is holding their annual book collection event from 9am—4pm June 3rd, 4th, 5th at Pilcher Park Nature Center, 2501 Highland Park Drive, Joliet.

There are two ways for schools to donate books. Small quantities of books can be brought to the Joliet Rialto during the Earth Awards Celebration on Wed. May 18th. Large quantities of school books will be accepted the 4 days prior to the event, by appointment! Call Tim Anderson at 815-774-7897 for an appointment.



Hawks, Owls & Kestrels

Schools can earn a FREE Field Trip to see the Northern Illinois Raptor Rehab & Education at the Rialto Square Theater in Joliet on Wed. May 18th from 10am to Noon.

To attend, schools must fill out and return the Earth Flag Application on page 4. You will be contacted by our Environmental Educator to set up educational presentations at your school.

Requests are filled on a first-come first-served basis.

Help create a better world for people and animals—
Be an Illinois Earth Flag School!



Document Shredding Event

May 21st, 2016 10am - 1pm

Residents allowed 3 bags or file boxes!

On May 21, the Will County Land Use Department, RR & E, will host a shredding event from 10am to 1pm at the University of St. Francis in Lot D at Taylor Street and Plainfield Road. Residents can bring personal documents for destruction. Documents will be shredded on site by ProShred Inc. Residents can watch their documents being shredded by parking in designated spots. No businesses waste or large quantities!

Save Fall Acorns - Grow a Forest

How to start oak trees indoors:

Find an oak tree and watch for fallen acorns in autumn. Soak collected acorns in water for 24 hours. Those that sink are fit for planting. Drain the sunken acorns and remove any acorn tops (little hats). Store acorns in the freezer until you are ready to plant. Plant the acorns between the months of November and February in order to get saplings to sprout before the end of the school year.

To plant acorns indoors, fill an 8 oz. foam cup with soil mixture and leave 1/2 inch from the top of the cup without soil. Pierce the bottom of the cup 4 times with a pencil to create holes for drainage. Bury one acorn per cup just below the soil so the point of the acorn is to the side (not up or down). Water about twice weekly or when soil gets dry. Place cups in a bright spot in the classroom. Viable trees should sprout within 3 months.

After May 15th, take the saplings outside for a few hours each day to acclimate them to the elements. Increase the time outdoors each week. In September, transplant trees to a permanent & sunny spot in the ground. Put a cage with chicken wire around each sapling to keep animals away. Water often.



Teacher Diana Browning, from Reed-Custer Middle School in Braidwood, involves her health class students in a variety of green activities. Each year, the kids plant herbs and vegetables in their two hydroponic towers and compost lunch scraps with sawdust from shop class. The outdoor compost tumbler and growing towers were purchased with funds from the [Gabby Green Environmental Education Grant](#) from Exelon Generation. This year, Mrs. Browning's class planted acorns in cups as part of the Will County Earth Flag Program.

Illinois Tree Facts:

- State tree: White Oak
- Over 250 tree species recorded in Illinois
- Most common tree: Slippery Elm
- Tallest tree on record: N. Red Oak (>150 ft.), Dixon Springs State Park
- Biggest tree on record: Sycamore (31 ft. in circumference, 119 ft. tall, crown 134 ft.), Christian County

20 Native Oak Species:

(White Oak Family) Bur oak, chestnut oak, chinkapin oak, overcup oak, post oak, swamp chestnut oak, swamp white oak, and white oak;

(Red Oak Family) black oak, blackjack oak, cherrybark oak, northern pin oak, northern red oak, nuttall oak, pin oak, scarlet oak, shingle oak, shumard oak, southern red oak, and willow oak.

web.extension.illinois.edu/forestry/

800 Chelsea Kids Recycle, Plant Trees & Learn About Decomposers



Two carefully synchronized days planned by Chelsea gym teachers Matt Dykema, Kay Elam, and Randy Klosowski allowed over 800 students from the Frankfort area to plant trees and learn about recycling and composting.

Students saw a presentation on recycling & composting and held red wiggler worms and cool recycled products. Later, teams of 5 students performed 1 step each in planting acorns that will grow into bur oak saplings. The teams were provided written instructions on how to care for the trees once back in their homerooms and beyond.

The two days were filled with awesome hands-on experiences!



Electronics Recycling Program Changing

After taking in over 4.4 million pounds of residential electronics in 2015, the County's recycling contractor canceled the collection contract due to a number of factors. Current changes in the way recyclers service sites resulted in the sites being required to pack collection trucks. This increase in staff time, need for equipment and space to store semi-trailers has resulted in many partner sites regretfully being unable to continue in the program. Of the 13 sites operating in 2015, three have agreed to remain open and undertake the additional work pending County Board approval.

The cost of the new contract is significant and the board will vote on Feb. 18 to consider this expense. Please visit www.willcountygreen.com to see additional options for residential electronic recycling.

Energy Summit Spurs Green Team

The October Energy Summit for Will County Schools was a big success as school personnel learned how to set controls in their buildings, get free energy audits, and teach energy lessons in the classroom. To view the Energy Summit

Type this URL into your browser:

<https://youtu.be/SOduwQO6ThI>

Keep the charge going and

Join our School Green Team !

Custodians and Maintenance Managers—be a part of this informal and fun group. We will share energy ideas, problems, and pitfalls in order to save energy and money in our school buildings!

Call Joan O'Keefe at 815-774-3354
for meeting dates

It's Easy to be an Illinois Earth Flag School

Your School Completes 4 Mandatory Tasks for Yearly Recognition

1. Recycle Paper (Paper Retriever 216-409-9920) and 1 additional material (ink cartridges, cans, plastic bags);
2. Use Both Sides of school papers/photocopies whenever possible;
3. Complete and Return this form inviting Will County to speak to 1 grade level or 1 club;
4. Perform 1 or More activities from the list below:

- Collect shoes, clothing, or books & deliver to our Will County Spring collection events in May & June;
- Start an earth or environmental club at your school;
- Compost a portion of lunch scraps in an outdoor bin or indoor worm farm. We provide the worm farm;
- Perform at least 2 waste-free lunch days during the school year;
- Host a recycled art fair to showcase student reuse projects;
- Join the TREX Recycling Challenge at trex.com/recycling/recycling-programs/ & participate from Nov.15 to April 15. Please report your monthly numbers to SHICKS@trex.com;
- New**—Grow trees in the classroom. We deliver seeds/seedlings during our visit to your school;
- New**—Plant and Maintain a school garden learning about nutrition, pollinators, and native plants; **OR**,
- New**—Teachers Attend Energy Summit 10/20/15 for Schools earning 2 Contact Hours. Only \$10
Go to www.pdaonline.org to register.



By April 1ST, 2016, send us a brief paragraph & photo describing the tasks you are working on. In the same document, RSVP with the number of teachers/students who will attend the FREE Earth Awards Celebration (see info at bottom of page).

District# _____ School Name _____

School Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Contact Person _____ Phone Number _____

Contact E-Mail _____ Grade level for Will Co. presentation _____

Preferred date for presentation:

Choice #1 _____ Choice #2 _____ Choice #3 _____

Approximate number of students involved in presentation? _____ How many presentations? _____

Our school wants a worm farm delivered during educational presentation! (Check if Yes) _____ No special form needed

Our educational presentations can be a min. of 30 minutes or a max. 50 minutes. We can see small groups or do assemblies. Your school must provide a laptop & projector and dim lit room for our PowerPoint presentation.

Principal's Signature _____

Return this form ASAP by fax: 815-722-3410 email: to jokeefe@willcountygreen.com phone 815-774-3354

Earth Flag Party!

All participating schools are invited to attend an Earth Awards Celebration on Wed. May 18th, 2016—10am to Noon—at Rialto Square Theater, in Joliet.

Earth Flags are awarded to first year schools and ribbons each additional year. Raptor Rehab Education will educate students!