

# one person's

# trash

your guide to living, working, and growing green

gwinnettcounty

## Are you recycling all you can?

With the countywide trash program in Gwinnett, unincorporated residents are doing their part to reduce their impact on the environment. Now, *more items than ever can be recycled at the curb*, and residents have recycled more than 60,000 tons of material since the solid waste program's start in July 2010.

60,156

Be a part of the initiative to reduce the need for landfill space by recycling as many items as possible. You can cut out this flyer and place it on your refrigerator as a reminder of the many curbside recyclables.

Remember: Now that you are able to recycle *so many additional items*, if you can't fit everything in the recycling bin provided by your hauler, that's no problem and no extra charge. **You can use additional bins, including your old 95-gallon trash cart, for recycling. Just make sure your bins are clearly marked "Recyclables."** Please note that your hauler can charge you for trash that exceeds your 95-gallon trash bin, but feel free to recycle as much as possible. Extra recycling is no extra charge!

## Recycle to Reduce!

Here's what you can **recycle at the curb** under Gwinnett County's solid waste plan:

### Aluminum

Aluminum beverage containers, aluminum baking tins, aluminum food containers

### Cardboard

Broken down cardboard boxes, pizza boxes

### Glass

Glass bottles, jars

### Junk mail

Discarded mail, greeting cards, envelopes

### Kraft paper

Kraft paper, paper grocery bags, paper shopping and lunch bags

### Magazines

Magazines, shopping catalogs

### Mixed paper

Calendars, school papers, paper carbonless forms

### Newspaper

Newspapers, inserts

### Other paper

Computer papers, old phone directories, paperback books

### Paperboard

Paperboard, paper towel cores, cereal boxes, tissue boxes, toilet paper cores, shoe boxes, soda and beer cartons

### Plastic #1 - 7

#1: Soda and water bottles  
 #2: Milk jugs, juice bottles, butter and yogurt tubs  
 #3: Detergent and household cleaner containers, shampoo and cooking oil bottles  
 #4: Squeezable bottles  
 #5: Syrup, ketchup and medicine bottles, straws, some yogurt containers  
 #6: Disposable plates and cups, aspirin bottles, CD cases  
 #7: Three and five-gallon water bottles, certain food containers

### Steel

Steel food containers, empty aerosol cans, clean metallic lids

gwinnett environmental



sustainability

living, working, growing green

[www.sustainablegwinnett.com](http://www.sustainablegwinnett.com)

# Celebrate Earth Day!



Gwinnett County's Solid Waste & Recovered Materials Division is hosting our Second Annual Earth Day celebration on Saturday, April 13 from 9:00am to 11:00am at Coolray Field, home of the Gwinnett Braves. This free event will feature paper shredding and electronics (\$10 cash charge per TV), tires, and paint collection (limit 5 one-gallon cans per vehicle; dried-up paint is acceptable). The event will also include kids' activities and the opportunity for residents to meet their haulers and learn about Gwinnett County's solid waste and recycling program. Please visit [www.sustainablegwinnett.com](http://www.sustainablegwinnett.com) for details about the event or [www.volunteergwinnett.net](http://www.volunteergwinnett.net) to become a volunteer. We look forward to celebrating with you!

There will be an Earth Day Festival on Saturday, April 20, from 10:00am to 4:00pm at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center, located at 2020 Clean Water Drive in Buford. For details, visit [www.gwinnettechc.org](http://www.gwinnettechc.org).

So many great events are planned for 2013! Visit us at [www.sustainablegwinnett.com](http://www.sustainablegwinnett.com) to learn more about our other events and how you can become involved. You can also visit the website for Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful at [www.gwinnettcbo.org](http://www.gwinnettcbo.org) for additional information on their events and programs.

# Earth Day at Coolray Field

During our First Annual Earth Day event at Coolray Field in April 2012, Gwinnett recycled 14 tons of paper and cardboard, 400 pounds of household batteries, and 6,000 gallons of paint.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 10% of American households purchased paint, which is an estimated 65 to 69 million gallons, much of which is ultimately discarded into the garbage rather than recycled. Can you believe that? That is a lot of paint! This information was included in a study that was recently released at the national meeting of the Paint Product Stewardship Initiative, which brought together paint manufacturers, retailers, recyclers, EPA officials, and representatives from more than two dozen state and local agencies. The goal of the study was to more accurately measure the scope of the leftover paint problem, as well as evaluate potential resources for the production of recycled-content paint. The Initiative is working to find better ways to manage leftover house paint.



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Schelly Marlatt holding the Distinguished Service Award for Waste Reduction that was presented by Keep Georgia Beautiful for outstanding contributions to protect and preserve the environment of Georgia.



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## Spring cleaning?

If you have bulky items, such as old appliances, furniture, or mattresses, contact your solid waste hauler to request a "Bulky Item Pickup." Bulky item pickups are included in your solid waste service, but you must call to make an appointment. You can find your hauler's phone number and other contact information at [www.gwinnettcounty.com/portal/gwinnett/Services/SolidWasteDisposal](http://www.gwinnettcounty.com/portal/gwinnett/Services/SolidWasteDisposal) (click on the "Search Hauler" tab).



The Drug Enforcement Administration has scheduled another National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on Saturday, April 27, from 10:00am to 2:00pm, giving you the opportunity to safely dispose of your unwanted, expired, or unused prescription drugs and reduce the risk of prescription drug diversion and abuse.

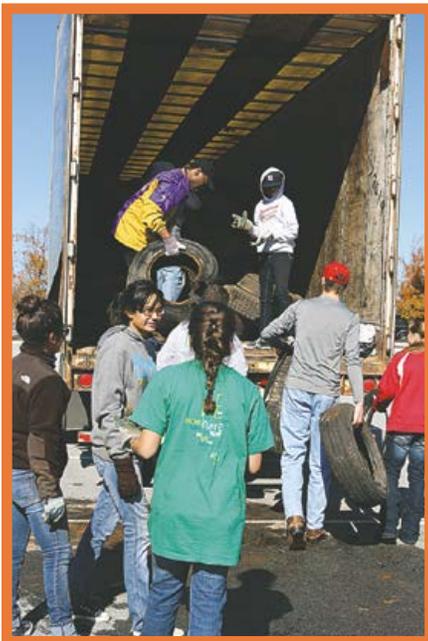
Last October, Americans turned in more than 188.5 tons of unwanted or expired medications for safe and proper disposal at the 5,327 take-back sites in all 50 states and U.S. territories.

Visit the DEA's website at [www.justice.gov/dea](http://www.justice.gov/dea) and click on "Got Drugs?" to find a collection site near you; check back frequently, as collection sites are continuously being added. Call 800.882.9539 if you have any questions.

# What an America Recycles Day!

In November 2012, we celebrated America Recycles Day at Coolray Field. During this one-day event, residents recycled 15 tons of paper and cardboard, 8 tons of tires, and 30,000 pounds of electronics.

Each day, Georgians purchase new electronics and, in the process, scores of computers, TVs, VCRs, CD players, and cell phones become electronic waste (known as e-waste). Unlike aluminum cans, which do not require disassembly, separation, and sorting, e-waste is not composed of just one material, making recycling of e-waste more complex. However, as much as 99% of all materials from electronics can be reused in a different capacity, helping to create new electronic items, plastic components, or wood composites. Recycling e-waste keeps toxic chemicals out of our land and streams and ensures the reuse of valuable resources. To find a location to recycle e-waste near you, please visit [www.earth911.com](http://www.earth911.com).



## Water Conservation Workshops Offered

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) works in partnership with the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's "I'm In" campaign, Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center, and the Gwinnett County Extension Service to promote water conservation. DWR provides workshops on various topics throughout the year that are open to all Gwinnett County residents. Workshops can also be provided for homeowners associations, garden clubs, civic clubs, and other groups by request. Conservation workshop topics include:

- Homeowner H2O: Water Conservation
- Waterwise Landscaping
- Fix-A-Leak
- Rain Barrels

For more information on Rain Barrel Workshops, please contact the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center at 770.904.3500 or Extension Agent Timothy Daly at 678.377.4010. For information about Homeowner H2O, Waterwise, and Fix-A-Leak workshops, please contact Heather Moody at 678.376.6722 or [dwrconserve@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:dwrconserve@gwinnettcountry.com).



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## Peanuts... Naturally

showing at the  
**Gwinnett Environment & Heritage Center**

Charlie Brown is in trouble with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Lucy knows the Earth has 48 suns, and Snoopy and Linus are planting french fries in the garden. These are just a few of the misadventures and explanations gone wrong as the Peanuts Gang explores the natural world. What other trouble will they find?

Peanuts... Naturally, opening in February at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center, takes a light-hearted look at Charles Schulz's exploration of the natural world through Peanuts comic strips, videos, objects, and interactive stations. Visitors get a Peanuts-eye view of the universe, "web of nature," trees, birds, the elements (snow, wind, rain, and clouds), gardening, and Charlie Brown's EPA escapade. More scientifically-oriented interactive stations allow kids of all ages, from pre-school to adults, to learn more about and appreciate the wonders of the natural world.

Schulz, who created the Peanuts comic strip for nearly 50 years, was immensely curious, an avid reader, and took a keen interest in the latest research findings in a variety of fields. It is not a surprise that many of these findings and facts found their way into Schulz's comic strip carefully interpreted through his characters' unique, and sometimes wacky, understanding of their world.

Peanuts... Naturally is organized and toured by the Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center, Santa Rosa, California. It is sponsored locally by the Gwinnett Environmental & Heritage Center Foundation.

**February 2, 2013**  
until  
**April 28, 2013**

For more information, please contact Jason West  
at 770.904.3542 or [walter.west@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:walter.west@gwinnettcountry.com)



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# Dealing With Yard Trimmings



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In the past, most yard trimmings have either been landfilled or burned. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and numerous private industry sources estimate that yard trimmings comprise up to 15% of the waste entering landfills in the United States. Since landfill space is limited and numerous options for reducing, reusing, and recycling yard trimmings exist, the Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act sets a 25% disposal reduction goal. The Act requires all local governments in the state to place restrictions on handling yard trimmings generated or disposed of in their jurisdictions.

In Gwinnett County, collection of yard trimmings is an optional service that residents may arrange with their designated hauler and pay for directly.

It includes collection of grass clippings, leaves, brush, shrub and tree prunings, nursery and greenhouse vegetative residuals, Christmas trees, and maintenance trimmings (other than mining, agricultural, and silvicultural). The Gwinnett County Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Services Ordinance of 2010 places the following restrictions on the handling and disposal of yard trimmings:

1. Yard trimmings must be separated from solid waste by Gwinnett County residents at the curb prior to collection.
2. All materials must be placed at the curb in suitable receptacles, such as sturdy paper bags (not plastic bags).
3. Limbs less than 4" in diameter and under 3' long must be tied in a bundle weighing no more than 50 pounds.
4. Stumps, roots, stubs with intact root balls, and treated wood are not allowed.

We encourage you to consider the following options to receive additional benefits from the reuse of yard trimmings:

- Yard trimmings can be ground into mulch to use in erosion control and landscaping. Any surplus mulch produced can be sold or given away to neighbors.
- Yard trimmings can be piled together and composted for reuse in your yard. The organic matter from your yard will break down into rich mulch that you can use in gardening.

If mulching and composting are not for you and you elect not to receive yard waste service from your designated hauler, you can take your yard debris to a yard waste landfill.

For additional information on yard trimmings collection, please visit the Gwinnett County Solid Waste and Recovered Materials Division website at [www.sustainablegwinnett.com](http://www.sustainablegwinnett.com) or call us at 770.822.7141.

## Online Resources

Environmental Protection Agency:

[www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/rrr/composting/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/rrr/composting/index.htm)

Composting Council: <http://compostingcouncil.org>

Georgia Environmental Protection Division:

<http://gaepd.org>

Gwinnett County Solid Waste and Recovered Materials Division:

[www.sustainablegwinnett.com](http://www.sustainablegwinnett.com)

Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful: [www.gwinnettcleanandbeautiful.org](http://www.gwinnettcleanandbeautiful.org)

Gwinnett County Cooperative Extension Service:

[www.gwinnettextension.org](http://www.gwinnettextension.org)

## Put your recovered materials to work!



Beginning January 1, 2013, all commercial waste haulers will offer recycling collection to their customers. This is a great opportunity to increase your business' sustainability efforts.



### reduce

your waste stream  
and energy use

### reuse

materials that would  
otherwise go into  
the waste stream

### recycle

your recovered  
materials



Contact your waste provider to set up service. For additional information about the Gwinnett County recycling program, visit [www.sustainablegwinnett.com](http://www.sustainablegwinnett.com) or call 770.822.7141.



## Summer Camps Coming Up

Looking for something fun and exciting for your kids to do this summer? Check out the many science, nature, and history themed camps offered at the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center and its historic sites around Gwinnett County. Explore the outdoors, connect with the environment, and relive the past! Camps are offered for children and youth from ages 2 to 13. For detailed offerings, pricing, and registration, please visit [www.gwinnettEHC.org](http://www.gwinnettEHC.org).

## Join Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful and help create America's greenest, cleanest community!

Thousands of citizens will join Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful's mission to make Gwinnett America's greenest, cleanest community! The first step toward achieving this goal is to participate in Keep America Beautiful's Great American Cleanup, the nation's largest community improvement program.



For more than 30 years, Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful has inspired the caretakers of our future by building strategic alliances among citizens, businesses, civic organizations, and government that motivate everybody to roll up their sleeves and produce real results on the ground, where it counts.

To get more information about how you can get involved, visit [www.gwinnettcleanandbeautiful.org](http://www.gwinnettcleanandbeautiful.org) or call 770.822.5187.

The Gwinnett County Solid Waste & Recovered Materials Call Center Representatives can be reached from 8:00am to 5:00pm Monday through Friday, with the exception of holidays, at 770.822.7141. You may also reach us via email at [gcsolidwaste@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:gcsolidwaste@gwinnettcounty.com).

Our office will be closed in observance of Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day; however, your trash hauler will collect garbage and recyclables as regularly scheduled. If you have questions about holiday collection, contact our Division or feel free to contact your hauler directly.