

Summer 2015

CARLTON COUNTY RESOURCE AND RECYCLING NEWSLETTER

Volume 9, Issue 3

Tour of WLSSD's Materials Recovery Center

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The Carlton County Solid Waste & Recycling Advisory Committee toured the Materials Recovery Center, located off of Rice Lake road in Duluth. The Materials Recovery Center, or MRC, is operated by the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District (WLSSD). The MRC collects certain types of material with the goal of making it available for reuse or recycling, which keeps it out of the landfill. They have designed a facility that is capable of allowing patrons to carefully separate their materials at the site. The separated materials, such as scrap metal and tires, are then available for contractors to take as a product for reuse or recycling. Materials like clean wood, clean concrete, yard equipment, and clean furniture have a reduced fee because it is considered "recoverable" material. At the MRC there is a special Reuse Area for recovered material. The Reuse Area at the MRC is a place where patrons can take home these materials for free! Common reuse materials include doors, windows, furniture, bicycles, lamps, exercise equipment, and much more. One visit per day is allowed and visitors may take two items per day. For more detailed information on fees, acceptable materials, and the reuse program, visit www.wlssd.com

The SWARA Committee toured the Materials Recovery Center in Duluth in July. Back row: Del Provost, Alison Cole, Jack Ezell, and Randy Crestik. Front row: Karola Dalen, Shannon Judd, Julie Salmon, and Elaine Lindell.





SWARA Committee member Julie Salmon finds a treasure at the MRC Reuse Area.

Carlton County Zoning & Environmental Services Awarded a GreenCorps Member

Minnesota GreenCorps, coordinated by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), began in September 2009. The program places AmeriCorps members with host organizations around the state to assist communities and local governments in addressing a variety of statewide needs, aiming to:

- Reduce solid waste and increase recycling in Minnesota communities.
- Reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) and other air pollutants.
- Reduce water runoff and improve water quality.
- Assist community members to take eco-friendly actions.
- Increase community resilience and build local capacity to respond to the threats of climate change.
- Train new environmental professionals.

Zoning & Environmental Services was chosen to host a Minnesota GreenCorps member for the 2015 -2016 program year. The GreenCorps member will start in September of this year and work full-time for 11 months. The member's focus project would be the newly formed Carlton County School Recycling & Waste Reduction Grant Program.

Eurasian Water Milfoil found in Bear Lake near Barnum

(Released June 22, 2015)

Aquatic biologists from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) have confirmed the presence of Eurasian watermilfoil in Bear Lake near Barnum in Carlton County.

Following an initial report by a DNR fisheries crew doing survey work on the lake, further inspections were made by DNR aquatic biologists to confirm the extent of growth. The nonnative, invasive aquatic plant was discovered in multiple survey locations around the small lake. The plants were mature and were growing near shore in water depths of two to nine feet. The lake will be designated as an infested water and the public access will be signed to alert boaters.

Eurasian watermilfoil can form dense mats of vegetation and crowd out native aquatic plants, clog boat propellers, and make water recreation and navigation difficult. If local residents experience problems with access due to Eurasian watermilfoil, there are options for control, according to Richard Rezanka, DNR aquatic invasive species specialist. "Homeowners interested in managing small areas of submerged watermilfoil can pull it by hand, but large-scale mechanical removal or hiring a professional herbicide applicator requires a permit," Rezanka said. Homeowners should consult and understand the laws for aquatic plant removal before they begin any removal project. Removing aquatic plants may impact habitats for fish and other animals. Guidance on shoreline management and aquatic plant removal is available on the DNR website at www.dnr.state.mn.us/shorelandmgmt/apg/regulations.html.

Once watermilfoil is established, it is unlikely to be completely removed because it reproduces easily through a process called autofragmentation – whereby a small fragment of broken vegetation can start a new plant. "It's as if you were cutting the lawn, but each piece of grass clipping produces a new plant," Rezanka added. Boaters who use Bear Lake are urged to be extra thorough when looking for and removing aquatic plants from their boats, trailers, nets, anchors and other equipment. It is unlawful in Minnesota to transport aquatic plants or prohibited invasive species on roads or to launch watercraft with them attached.

More information about aquatic invasive species, how to inspect water equipment, and a current infested waters list are available on the DNR website at www.mndnr.gov/invasives/index_aquatic.html.

Identification

EWM typically has 12-24 leaflet pairs. Northern watermilfoil, a similar native plant only has 5-9 leaflet pairs. When pulled out of the water, EWM will collapse around the stem unlike Northern which usually remains rigid.



Protect your waters



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**

mndnr.gov



****New as of July 1, 2015****

- Cardboard recycling is now offered at all Carlton County staffed recycling centers.
- Office paper is now accepted at the Transfer Station recycling shed
- The green donation boxes for household textiles (clothing, blankets, shoes, etc) have been removed from the Transfer Station and all staffed recycling sheds. The boxes were owned by Disabled American Vets (DAV). Contact the Resource & Recycling Coordinator for a list of convenient locations in the county. 218-384-9178.

**Carlton County
Household Hazardous
Waste Facility**

Carlton Co. Transfer Station,
1950 Highway 210, Carlton

***OPEN FOR THE
SEASON***

through Saturday,
October 10th, 2015

Open Tuesdays *AND*
Saturdays
8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Carlton County
Recycle Center Hours**

**Year-Round Hours for all
Staffed Recycling Centers**

Wednesday: 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Thursday 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Friday: 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Staffed Recycling Center Locations

Barnum (Behind Fire Hall)
Carlton (County Highway 1)
Moose Lake (Next to Arena)
Esko (Next to Town Hall)
Perch Lake (Next to Town Hall)

STAFFED SHEDS:

Glass Jars and Bottles, Plastics #1 thru #7, Tin Cans, Aluminum Cans, Newspapers, Magazines, Box Board, Cardboard, and Office Paper

UNSTAFFED SHEDS (BLACKHOOF, CROMWELL, HOLYOKE, KETTLE RIVER, MAHTOWA, WRIGHT):

Glass Jars and Bottles, Plastics #1 thru #7, Tin Cans, Aluminum Cans and Newspapers

TRANSFER STATION:

Glass Jars and Bottles, Plastics #1 thru #7, Tin Cans, Aluminum Cans, Newspapers, Magazines, Box Board, Cardboard, Office Paper, Car Batteries, Medical Sharps, Used Motor Oil and Filters, Antifreeze, Food Waste, and Scrap Metal.

Carlton County Transfer Station

April 1 - October 31

**Monday - Saturday:
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

