

EnviroTalk

Fall 2013

'Survivor: Pacific Salmon' swimming into classrooms

This fall the EnviroChallenger educators will hit the classrooms with a brand new lesson on salmon. This lesson teaches students about the salmon lifecycle, their diet and predators. It describes the dangers salmon are facing and the impact humans have on their environment and population.

Lessons are available for grades 2-8 in public, private and home school classrooms in Tacoma.

EnviroChallenger by the numbers
2012-2013 school year:

- ✿ School lessons taught: 710
- ✿ Students reached: 19,880
- ✿ Community events attended: 35



ARTS ENVIROCHALLENGER

creates a new approach TO AN AWARD-WINNING PROGRAM

Take a solo sock, an eager student, lessons in science and art, and what do you get? An Enviro-creature!

Bits of trash are being transformed into masterpieces by students in grades K-5 while they learn about art, science and environmental stewardship in Tacoma's new Arts EnviroChallenger program.

Based on the highly successful EnviroChallenger program, Arts EnviroChallenger adds art instruction and provides free lessons for younger students in Tacoma Public Schools. The program, based on state learning standards, also aims to improve environmental practices among students and their families.

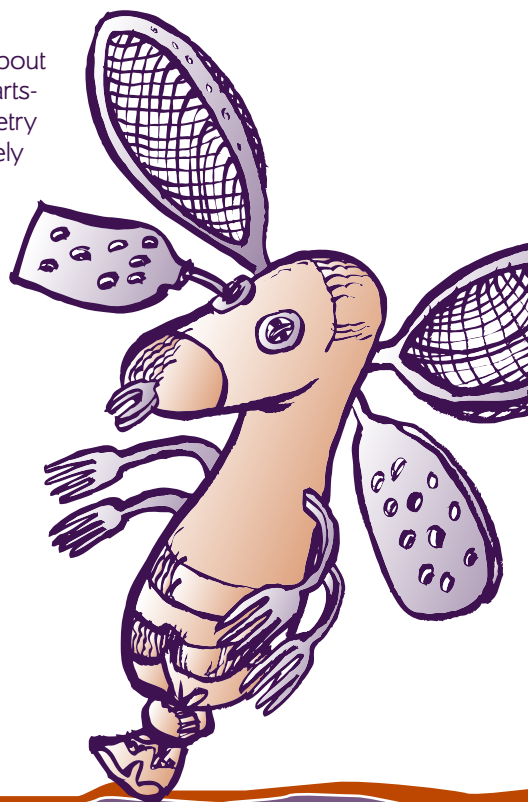
Teaching artists visit classrooms for four one-hour sessions tailored to each grade level. Students help collect some of the materials for their projects – materials generally not recyclable in Tacoma.

The Arts EnviroChallenger program combines science-based lessons about plants, insects and marine life with arts-based lessons about shape, symmetry and creative writing. Students actively engage in their own learning by creating sculptures and collages from recycled materials.

With the blessing of the Tacoma Arts Commission, the program was developed by Environmental Services, the Tacoma Arts Program and Arts Impact, a program of the Puget Sound Educational Service District.

www.envirochallenger.com

Arts Enviro
CHALLENGER
CITY OF TACOMA



Prevent floods in your neighborhood: Keep leaves out of the street

Leaves and yard waste left on streets or walkways can clog storm drains and cause streets and homes to flood.

City of Tacoma residents are responsible for collecting and disposing of leaves and other debris from their property, including the area between their sidewalk and the street.

Wondering what to do with leaves?

- ▶ Use leaves as compost in your garden.
- ▶ Place leaves in your brown yard/food waste container for pickup.
- ▶ Take leaves and yard waste to the Tacoma Landfill (*no additional fee for City of Tacoma residential customers*). Please keep those loads covered!

To report flooding problems:
(253) 591-5585

www.cityoftacoma.org/flood



Soft Scrubber

Try this nontoxic cleaner for your bathtub and kitchen sink. It also works well for shower stalls and laminate countertops.

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup baking soda
- Enough liquid soap or detergent to make a frosting-like consistency
- 5 drops antibacterial essential oil such as lavender, tea tree oil or rosemary (optional)

Directions:

Pour the baking soda into a bowl. Slowly add the liquid soap or detergent, stirring all the while, until the consistency reaches that of frosting. Add oil, if desired. Scoop the mixture onto a sponge, wash the surface and rinse.

source: www.care2.com

www.cityoftacoma.org/greenercleaners



Don't drip and drive!

A leaky car isn't reliable. A little car maintenance can extend the life of your car and save you hassle and money.

A leaky car damages water quality too. When it rains, oil and other toxic fluids that leak from your vehicle get washed into storm drains and travel to streams, lakes, rivers and Puget Sound.

Every year, seven million quarts of motor oil are released into the Puget Sound basin. That's a whole lot of pollution and – with oil averaging between \$5 and \$10 per quart – more than \$53 million of your hard-earned money down the drain.

www.fixcarleaks.org

Need to save up for a car repair?

Place cardboard under your car when it's parked so you catch any drips. (Cardboard stained with automotive fluids should be placed in the garbage.)



Enviro Q&A

Q. At the end of the season, I drain the gas out of my lawnmower. How can I dispose of it?

A. Take it to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility at the Tacoma Landfill, 3510 S. Mullen St.

Fuels are processed at the end of the day, not immediately, so you'll have to stop by the next day to pick up your container.



DID YOU KNOW?

Smart shopping is the best way to reduce food waste:

- Make a list with meals in mind.
- Buy what you need when you need it.

When you get home:

- Store new items at the back of your refrigerator.
- Use older food first and enjoy leftovers while they're still fresh.
- Eat what you buy.

Food scraps can be recycled in your yard waste container.

RESOURCE GUIDE

FALL 2013



Solid Waste Management

Solid Waste Management (garbage, recycling, yard/food waste)		www.TacomaRecycles.org
General Solid Waste questions	591-5543	
Recorded Solid Waste Information Line	565-5955	
Call-2-Haul	573-2468	www.cityoftacoma.org/call2haul
Hazardous waste	591-5418	www.cityoftacoma.org/hazwaste
Landfill scalehouse	593-7724	

Surface Water Management Wastewater Management

Sewer backups & Street flooding Street sweeping	591-5585	www.cityoftacoma.org/sewerbackup www.cityoftacoma.org/flood www.cityoftacoma.org/streetsweeping
Billing questions	502-2100	
Leaf disposal		www.cityoftacoma.org/leaves
TAGRO	502-2150	www.tagro.com
General Surface Water and Wastewater questions	591-5588	www.cityoftacoma.org/surfacewater www.cityoftacoma.org/wastewater

Environmental Services (solid waste, surface water, wastewater)

www.cityoftacoma.org/environmentalservices

EnviroHouse	573-2426	www.cityoftacoma.org/envirohouse
Email listserv		www.cityoftacoma.org/environews
Twitter		www.twitter.com/CityofTacoma
Facebook		www.facebook.com/CityofTacoma

When calling any of the utilities, please have your account number available. It is the first thing you will be asked and allows us to quickly access your information. Your account number is located at the top of your utility bill.



Answer key for puzzle in the summer issue:

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

Voters to decide Proposition 1

This fall, voters will decide a ballot issue that would provide funds for basic street maintenance improvements and safety upgrades, allowing the City to coordinate the timing of street repairs with water and sewer improvements.

Your wastewater, surface water and solid waste rates won't be affected. The tax applies to natural gas, electric and phone utilities only.

Citizens can exercise their right to vote in the Nov. 5 election by registering online at vote.wa.gov by Oct. 7, 2013. Contact the Pierce County Auditor's Office, (253) 798-7430, if you have questions about voter registration.

Pack a WASTE-FREE LUNCH for school or work

Whether you're headed to the classroom or the office, you can stop throwing away money and resources by packing a waste-free lunch.

Consider these reusables:

- ✂ Forks, spoons and other utensils you can wash and reuse
- ✂ Cloth napkins – or try a fun bandana as a napkin
- ✂ Water bottles or other refillable drink containers
- ✂ Reusable lunch containers, such as a lunch tote or bento lunch box
- ✂ Multiple-use bags and wraps for sandwiches and snacks

After lunch, recycle:

- ✂ Aluminum cans
- ✂ Glass bottles
- ✂ Paper bags
- ✂ Food scraps

Check online for lots of suggestions on waste-free lunches.

When the STREET SWEEPER is coming...

Tacoma's street sweepers prevent leaves, yard waste and contamination from entering local waterways through storm drains.

When the street sweeper is headed your way, please do your part:

- ✂ Move vehicles off the street between 7 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.
- ✂ Remove garbage, recycling and yard/food waste containers from the street.
- ✂ Trim low-hanging branches and bushes near the street to provide sweepers with complete access. The full street must be clear of obstructions up to a height of 14 feet above the ground.

Watch for a postcard in the mail or check the online schedule to find out your next street sweeping date.

(253) 591-5585

www.cityoftacoma.org/streetsweeping



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. A key to this word search will be featured in the next issue of EnviroTalk.

1. City of Tacoma residents are **responsible** for collecting and disposing of leaves and other debris from their property.
2. The new EnviroChallenger lesson teaches students about the salmon _____, their diet and predators.
3. _____ shopping is the best way to reduce food waste.
4. Watch for a _____ in the mail to find out your next street sweeping date.
5. Most gardeners think Aged _____ Bark from TAGRO is more attractive than traditional beauty bark.
6. You can stop throwing away money and resources by packing a waste-free _____.
7. Students in grades K-5 learn about art, _____ and environmental stewardship in the Arts EnviroChallenger program.
8. Maintenance can extend the life of your car and save you hassle and _____.



Answers: 1. RESPONSIBLE, 2. LIFE CYCLE, 3. SMART, 4. POSTCARD, 5. BLACK, 6. LUNCH, 7. SCIENCE, 8. MONEY

Please see p. 3 for answers to puzzle in last issue.



Fall home & garden workshops

All workshops are open to Tacoma and Pierce County residents.
Schedules are subject to change.

Advance registration is required and space is limited.

ENVIROHOUSE WORKSHOPS

September

14 10:30 a.m.	Yard Waste & Worm Bin Composting
15 1:30 p.m.	Planning & Planting a Winter Garden
21 10:30 a.m.	Rain Gardens: Planning to Planting
21 1:30 p.m.	Organize, De-clutter, Repurpose, Recycle
22 1:30 p.m.	Rain Barrels: How to Make & Maintain
28 10:30 a.m.	Natural Daylight: Solatube DIY demo

October

5 10 a.m./noon/2 p.m.	Ductless Heat Pump: Advantages & Incentives
12 10:30 a.m.	Yard Waste & Worm Bin Composting
19 10 a.m./noon/2 p.m.	Bright Ideas, Smart Lighting: CFLs & LEDs at Home
26 10:30 a.m.	Demystifying the Art of Tree Selection
26 1 p.m.	Tree Planting Done Right

Location: EnviroHouse at the City of Tacoma Landfill, 3510 S. Mullen St., Tacoma, 98409

Register online at www.cityoftacoma.org/envirohouse or call (253) 573-2426.

EDIBLE GARDEN WORKSHOP SERIES

Sept. 21 10 a.m. - noon	Composting
Oct. 19 10 a.m. - noon	Putting the Garden to Bed

Location: TAGRO Office, 2201 Portland Ave., Gate 6, Tacoma, 98421

Register by calling (253) 798-4133 or online at www.piercecd.org/communitygardens

GALLUCCI LEARNING GARDEN WORKSHOPS

Wednesdays through Oct. 9, 5 - 7 p.m. at the Gallucci Learning Garden

Location: S. 14th and S. G St., Tacoma, 98405.

Visit www.galluccilearninggarden.org for more info or call (253) 256-5116.

More information about the **Community Gardens program** and educational opportunities: www.piercecd.org/communitygardens

IT'S TIME FOR

Aged Black Bark!

Aged Black Bark, a new product available through TAGRO, is a low-nutrient ground cover and weed barrier. It can also be incorporated into soil to increase the amount of organic matter.

So what is Aged Black Bark? It's similar to traditional beauty bark, but it's ground finer – and it's black – so most gardeners think it's more attractive.

This new product is available for \$26 a yard, plus delivery.

For a high-nutrient product to give your lawn or garden a boost, try TAGRO Mix or TAGRO Potting Soil. You'll get better results, help reuse community resources and protect the environment.

TAGRO premium soil products are available year-round for pickup or delivery at the Central Treatment Plant:

2201 Portland Ave., Gate 6,
Tacoma
(253) 502-2150
www.tagro.com



Join the COMMUNITY GARDEN HARVEST TOUR

Saturday, Sept. 7

Celebrate the harvest season and community gardens in Tacoma and Pierce County

Events:

- ✿ **Self-guided tour:** Maps can be picked up at King's Books, 218 St. Helens Ave., or downloaded at www.cityoftacoma.org/communitygardens.
- ✿ **Bike tour:** Choose a shorter, kid-friendly ride or tackle a 10-mile tour. Both leave at 10:15 a.m. Helmets required.
- ✿ **Bus tour:** 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The tour is free, but seats are limited; pre-registration is required.

Both the bike and bus tours will leave from and return to the Community Garden Program office at Wright Park, adjacent to the basketball court inside the park. The nearest intersection is South Yakima and Sixth Avenue.

Gardeners and tour participants are invited to gather afterward for refreshments from 1-3 p.m. at Wright Park.

To register or for more information, visit www.piercecd.org/communitygardens_events or call (253) 306-3457.

EnviroTalk

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We want to hear from you:
EnviroTalk@cityoftacoma.org



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City of Tacoma
 Environmental Services
 747 Market Street, Room 408
 Tacoma, Washington 98402-3769

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Garbage & recycling Holiday collection schedule



If your regular garbage, recycling or yard waste collection day falls on these holidays or the days following the holiday, your collection will be one day late during that week only.

Holiday	If your regular pickup day is...	Your pickup day will be...
Veterans Day	On regular schedule	
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, Nov. 28 Friday, Nov. 29	Friday, Nov. 29 Saturday, Nov. 30
Christmas Day	Wednesday, Dec. 25 Thursday, Dec. 26 Friday, Dec. 27	Thursday, Dec. 26 Friday, Dec. 27 Saturday, Dec. 28
New Year's Day 2014	Wednesday, Jan. 1 Thursday, Jan. 2 Friday, Jan. 3	Thursday, Jan. 2 Friday, Jan. 3 Saturday, Jan. 4

For more information:

- Recorded message specific to the upcoming holiday: (253) 565-5955, press 2
- Collection calendar with holiday schedule specific to your home: TacomaRecycles.org/collectioncalendar



If you need this information in an alternative format, please call (253) 591-5051. People with hearing or speech impairments may contact us through Washington Relay Services, 1-800-833-6388 (TTY or ASCII).