

Springfield Reporter

Continuing a Century-Old Hometown Tradition September 10, 2024 • Vol. 50 No. 36



Tracey Craft, Town Library Adult Services Coordinator and Tracy Obremski, Technical Services Librarian, enjoy the benches outside their work place.

Rotary Benches Popping Up All Over Town

By Martin Cohn, Springfield Rotary

As a reward for Springfield residents collecting more than a ton of thin film plastics for the Trex Thin Film Plastics Challenge, the Trex Company provided the Springfield Rotary Club with two outdoor benches that were placed at the Springfield Town Library.

The Rotary Club entered the Trex Thin Film Plastics Challenge in February of 2023 on behalf of the Springfield community, placing a Trex Bin in the Springfield Town Library. In addition, thin film plastic was collected at McGee CDJR of Springfield, Springfield GMC, Springfield Hospital, Bibens Ace Hardware, Springfield Family Center, and the Springfield Food Co-op. Two other businesses outside of Springfield, Factotum Designs and McGee Office Products, also participated. Since that time, Springfield residents have been avidly pitching in to recycle their share of thin film plastics, diverting over 6,143 pounds (i.e. over three tons) of thin film plastics from the waste stream.

The Challenge is part of the Trex Recycling Program, aimed at encouraging the public to recycle their grocery bags, bread bags, produce bags, cereal bags, ice bags,

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case overwrap, bubble wrap, dry cleaning bags, Ziploc and other resealable bags, and similar bags and wrap for other objects. If the sponsoring group's participants collect 1000 pounds of thin film plastics, Trex will send the group a Trex Outdoor Furniture 48" Yacht Club Bench. Trex does not manufacture the benches, they are a purchased gift for meeting the minimum requirement in the program. The plastic that is turned in is being upcycled into Trex decking (www.trex.com). The benches are part of the Trex branded furniture line through Polywood (www.trex-furniture.com). Polywood uses milk jugs and water bottles to manufacture their furniture.

These are the seventh and eighth benches that has

been donated. The first two can be found at The Common, the third at the Park Street School overlooking the Kingsbury House, the fourth at the North Springfield Bog Trailhead, and the fifth and sixth at the bus stop on Main Street.

Volunteers from the Springfield Rotary Club and from the Springfield Town Library collect and weigh the bags, report the bags' weight to Trex, and deliver the bags to Trex's closest participating drop-off retailer location, Shaw's Supermarket in Springfield.

The Trex Bin will remain in place at the Springfield Town Library. The Springfield Rotary Club has partnered with Friends of Springfield Town Library, the Union Park Neighborhood Association, the Black River Action Group, and Springfield On The Move (SOM). Working with the Green on Main, Springfield Rotary Club has launched another Challenge to earn an additional outdoor bench for the Springfield community.