

## 2016-2017 Christmas Tree Recycling

### Organizational Meeting

- Program is more than 20 years old
- About 20,000 trees are collected, with an estimated weight of 300 tons.

1. Introductions and sign in
2. Staffed Days: 10am - 4pm  
January 7 and 8 (Saturday and Sunday)
3. A contractor will be doing the work this year, Soil Dynamics Composting Farm.
4. Discussion of Christmas tree recycling and site operation (*all the common sense things*)
  - Pull trees with stands attached to a group behind the pile.
  - Look for and remove other unwanted material (wire, ornaments etc.)
  - Pull off bags of trees already in pile and as they come, ask people "**Can you help us out by taking home your bag?**" *The litter barrels get full fast.*
  - Stack the pile of trees higher when the volunteers arrive and throughout the day.
  - Flocked trees are **OK**
  - Tinsel (icicles) are **OK**
  - Rope tinsel is **NOT OK**
  - Wreaths and roping are **NOT OK** -- Take home and place in trash. *Don't dispose of them in the litter barrels that are at the drop-off sites.* These are the same rules since the very first year. Citizens need to learn.
  - Weather cancellation -- very unlikely, but call Paul at 402-679-8932. If you feel it isn't safe to go, don't.
  - Give any found ornaments back to their owner or to a city employee who will hold onto them in case anyone calls about the missing ornament.
  - Dress warm, lots of layers.
  - Be safe with portable heaters.
  - Bring a knife or scissors to cut twine. A hammer can help pull off a stand that is stuck.
  - Use the trees as a windbreak. Stand on piles of needles for insulation from the ground.
  - Don't be afraid to direct traffic and maintain a safe traffic pattern.
  - Call 911 if anyone is belligerent and a City employee is not around.
  - The trees are free for the taking if people want them for their pond, or want to remove the disposable stands to be re-used.
5. Discussion of sites
  - Zoo's parking lot, near 13th and Bob Gibson Drive. Was not staffed last year.
  - 156 & F seems to be feast or famine but usually needs 3 or 4 volunteers per shift. I'll request to do a better job plowing.
  - Tranquility -- same pile location to the north. Request roping off the paved lot. Should have 6 volunteers per shift.
  - The contractor will **not** have a dumpster at Tranquility. Instead they will provide ongoing service to empty the litter barrels.
  - Sarpy county landfill grinds the trees in Sarpy County.
  - Trees will be ground up and trucked away at the same time, so the mulch is generally not available.
  - Disposable "wire" tree stands are there for the taking as are any trees may want for fish habitat in their pond.
6. Assign sites
7. Curbside tree collection in Omaha? Omaha in 2012 began year-round yardwaste collection, but this means that Christmas trees must be cut down to 4 feet, trimmed up and bundled as brush. A lot of work, so it's easier to bring to a collection site.

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