

Park Rapids Lions Club - Trex Plastic Bag Recycling Project Sept., 2021

COLLECTION SITE INFORMATION

RECYCLE YOUR PLASTIC BAGS AND PLASTIC FILMS

As part of its mission of service to the community, the *Park Rapids Lion's Club* has chosen to provide a service to the residents and small businesses in the Park Rapids area that will enable collection for recycling of plastic shopping bags, bread bags, dry cleaning bags, bubble wrap, plastic e-commerce shipping bags and other similar film plastics. These are the plastic materials that are NOT currently accepted for recycling by the Hubbard County Solid Waste and Recycling program, and since residents have only two other locations to recycle these bags - Coborn's Grocery and Walmart stores- this will provide additional opportunities for the recycling of these plastic film materials.

The program will begin in mid-July and will run through the end of the year when they expect to have collected 500 pounds of plastic bags & films. At that time the Lion's club may choose to extend their collection service. Many thanks to Coborn's Grocery store, since they are making this project possible by serving as the consolidation point for the Lion's Club collection.

In case you were wondering: A 55 gallon bag full of these smaller bags and other materials weighs only about 5-6 pounds when compacted. So that means a lot of bags will be collected, about 40,500 shopping bags!

WHAT MATERIALS ARE ACCEPTED?

- Plastic shopping bags and Produce bags
- Ice bags (must be dry)
- Bread bags
- Cereal box liners and cereal bags
- Case overwrap (from around water bottles, etc.)
- Dry cleaning bags
- Ziploc and other reclosable bags
- Softener salt bags
- Wood chip bags
- Bubble wrap & Shrink wrap

All plastic must be clean, dry and free of food and other residues.

WHAT MATERIALS are *NOT ACCEPTED*?

- Pop, water and any other plastic bottles or materials
- Dirty, food-soiled, or wet bags
- Paper bags
- Plastic containers that make a "crinkly" sound (like a crushed pop bottle)
- Cash register receipts
- Anything not on the list of acceptables. When in doubt, throw it out!

WHERE? Participating public collection sites in the Park Rapids area.

Business sites:

Amish Oak
Bella Caffe/Third Street Market

Area Houses of Worship:

Calvary Lutheran Church
Riverside United Methodist Church
St. Peter's Catholic Church

WHY PARTICIPATE?

- **Plastic bags and films are an increasing part of our waste stream.**
- **These materials are a constant source of litter**, causing harm to birds, animals and marine life that mistake them for food sources and are a source of pollution in our lakes, rivers and other water bodies and across the landscape in general.
- **Plastic bags *CANNOT* be recycled through regular county recycling programs.** This is due to the fact that these bags clog the machinery, causing shutdowns at the recycling facilities which Hubbard County's recycling program uses for recycling the other recyclable materials such as pop /water bottles, laundry detergent bottles, aluminum and steel cans, glass and papers.
- **These plastic bags and films are recyclable only when collected separately from regular recyclables.** Many people want to recycle them, but opportunities are limited.
- **You can do your part and recycle these items properly and conveniently** through this Lions program. Thanks to Coborn's Grocery store for helping to make this project work by taking the bags collected at these locations and recycling them with the bags and film that the store already recycles through Coborns and the NEXTREX program.

HOW IT WORKS

- **Business participates at the level they choose. No cost to you.**
 - Internal collection only or allow public to drop off clean bags at their site
 - Your Business name listed on Hubbard County Recycling website as a participating drop off location for these specific materials only.
- **Weekly pick up by Lions Club team member. (work out pickup time with Lion's member)**
- **Large clear bags provided by Lions for your consolidation of bags/ films.**
- **Poster/ signage provided by Lions for your site**
- **Lion's Club member will pick up at your location and will be your main contact.**
- **Program goes through the end of 2021, possibly longer if interest continues**
- **Lion's members are partnering with Coborn's Grocery store and the Nationwide *NexTrex* program. Your bags will be picked up and taken to the Coborn's store to be recycled through this program.**

LIONS CLUB PLASTIC BAG RECYCLING CONTACTS:

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Video links to share for education;

Learn How Your Recyclables Can Become A Composite Deck With NexTrex®
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZDNFXtMu6M0&list=PLV4bBr1Ca3JB49YYVJnN7y_Nkh5dwXit9&index=7

Recycling Association of MN [RAM Snag Those Bags v1](#)

All plastic must be clean, dry and free of food residue and sales receipts