Yard Waste Solutions

There are a number of solutions for dealing with your grass clippings, leaves, tree branches and trimming, including: grasscycling, backyard composting and local community composting programs.

Parkland County encourages its residents to reduce their waste through grasscycling and backyard composting. If this is not a practical solution for you, yard waste can be disposed at one of the following Parkland County waste disposal facilities. Note: charges may apply.

Location	Material	Charges
Parkland County Transfer Station	grass/leaves	no charge
	tree trimmings	no charge
Kapasiwin Transfer Station	grass/leaves	yes - pre-paid voucher required
	tree trimmings	yes - pre-paid voucher required
Seba Beach Transfer Station	grass/leaves	yes - pre-paid voucher required
	tree trimmings	yes - pre-paid voucher required
Keephills Transfer Station	grass/leaves	yes - pre-paid voucher required
	tree trimmings	yes - pre-paid voucher required
Tomahawk Transfer Station	grass/leaves	yes - pre-paid voucher required
	tree trimmings	no charge
Moon Lake Transfer Station	grass/leaves	yes - pre-paid voucher required
	tree trimmings	no charge

Vouchers are available in two denominations:

- $35.00 - up to 3/4 ton pick-up truck load
- $2.00 per bag

Vouchers can be purchased at the following locations: Parkland County Services Building, Tomahawk Services Building, Seba Beach Village Office, Wabamun Village Office, and Parkland County Transfer Station.

For more information,contact:

Parkland County
53109A HWY 779
Parkland County, AB T7Z 1R1
Phone: 780-968-8888
Toll free: 1-888-880-0858
Fax: 780-968-8451

Public Works
Solid Waste Services:
Phone: 780-968-8448

www.parklandcounty.com

PARKLAND COUNTY
Where Opportunity Awaits

June 2009

Yard Waste Solutions

A guide to managing grass clippings, leaves and tree trimmings in Parkland County

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Backyard Composting

There are a number of ways to reduce your impact on the environment. Composting and recycling bio-degradable materials is great for the environment, your family, and the community.

The Composting Process

Composting is the natural process of microorganisms feeding on the moist materials in the compost heap. This feeding frenzy heats up the heap and encourages bacteria, fungi and insects to feed on the organics. All of this feeding causes the materials to decompose.

It is important to stir or turn the pile occasionally to add oxygen and to discourage harmful bacterial and foul smells. When all the materials has been decomposed, the temperature of the pile will drop and the worms will move in - signaling to you that your compost is ready to use.

A compost pile will work best if you layer brown and green organics. Browns are usually dry and include dry grass clippings, leaves and coffee filtres. Greens are fresh and moist and include vegetable peelings and fresh grass clippings. It is also important to keep the pile slightly damp or moist.

What is Composting?

Composting is the recycling of household indoor and outdoor organic materials such as leaves, grass clippings and vegetable scraps.

All organic material naturally turns back into a nutrient rich soil when composted properly and can used in your yard to improve the texture and fertility of the soil. This is an extremely beneficial process as it reduces the amount of waste that enters the landfills.

Organics that are sent to the landfills do not break down in a natural fashion, but instead compound and generate poisonous greenhouse gasses like methane into the air.

What to Compost

- Fruit and vegetable scraps, over-ripe fruits and vegetables
- Rice, pasta, stale bread
- Coffee grounds and filters, tea bags
- Paper napkins and towels
- Dryer lint, hair
- Yard organics such as plant trimmings, grass clippings, leaves

What NOT to Compost

- Meat, fish or bones
- Dairy products
- Oils, fats or grease
- Sauces
- Ashes
- Plastic or other non-biodegradable products
- Pet waste
- Wood (unless its untreated and shredded)

Grasscycling

About 20 per cent of the waste entering landfills comes from our yards. Instead of throwing out grass clippings, why not recycle them by leaving the cuttings on the lawn? This is called grasscycling.

Why grasscycle?

- It keeps your lawn and garden healthy and reduces the amount of yard waste entering landfills.
- It eliminates bagging and raking clippings.
- It acts as a slow release fertilizer.
- It prevents moisture from evaporating from the soil.

How do I grasscycle properly?

- Sharpen your lawn mower blades to prevent lawn damage.
- Mow the lawn every four to five days during peak growth periods of spring and summer.
- Maintain a grass height of five to 7.5 centimetres (two to three inches) to help insulate the lawn against heat.
- Mow the lawn when it’s dry, and cut no more than 2.5 cm (one inch) in height per mowing.
- Consider a mulching mower when you upgrade your equipment.