

# Your Community Connection

Vol. 2, 2017

## News from Waste Management's Eagle Valley Recycling and Disposal Facility (RDF)

### Eagle Valley Site Activities

Eagle Valley had a busy spring this year. We all remember the challenging wind events we had earlier this spring. The image below represents a great reminder of why plastic bags should be recycled back at your local grocery store and why NOT to throw them away.



Waste Management does a great job of properly managing the waste we receive every day but with wind events like this it is virtually impossible



to keep plastic bags in the landfill - which is why the effort begins at home with you. Consider reusable shopping bags or be sure to take the plastic bags you get from local merchants back to their locations to be recycled, most provide collection points for them. The environment will greatly appreciate your efforts.



Cell 13 was constructed in May and June of this year. Construction documentation will be reviewed and the new cell permitted by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) so as to begin receiving local area waste for disposal this fall.



The now closed north face portion of Eagle Valley, facing our nearest neighbors, was seeded this spring for final cover with a mix of grass and native wildflowers seeds.

### A home for 10,000 new honey bees

Landfills provide plentiful wildflowers for bees to gather pollen so in our efforts to support challenged bee populations in the U.S., Waste Management installed bees and a new hive at Eagle Valley. Local area resident and apiarist, Michele Arquette,



Meet our new residents - 10,000 bees

offered to be a care giver to the new bees at Eagle Valley. Having bees at the site provides an opportunity for school students who tour the site to learn about the importance of pollinators while also learning how their waste is managed at a landfill, and why it is important to reduce, reuse and recycle.



Orion resident, Michele Arquette places the bees in their new home.

### Eagle Valley Recycling and Disposal Facility

600 W. Silver Bell Road  
Orion, MI 48359

**Telephone**  
248-391-0990  
**Fax**  
248-391-1219

**Please call for current hours of operation as hours may change seasonally.**  
Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Saturday 8 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
**Recycling Hours**  
Recycling drop-off available during normal landfill hours.  
**For tours call (248) 391-0990.**

**LANDFILL CONCERNS HOTLINE**  
1-877-360-8582  
**WM CUSTOMER SERVICE**  
1-866-797-9018  
Please keep these numbers handy.



<http://eaglevalleylandfill.wm.com>

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# Waste Management and Six Rivers Land Conservancy's partnership is for the birds

Further in support of nature and the environment, this year Waste Management teamed up in a successful partnership with the Six River Land Conservancy. From May through July, Six Rivers provided Waste Management with two summer interns who assisted in monitoring



Site Manager, Scott Rowe, installing blue bird houses.

nest boxes installed at Eagle Valley. Wood duck houses and blue bird nest boxes encourage nesting opportunities for these two species who have seen a decline in natural areas for their nesting activities. Nest monitoring during the active spring/summer reproduction season ensures that

invasive species such as European House Sparrows and Starlings are discouraged. "Partnering with Waste Management has been a phenomenal experience for the interns, as well as staff of Six Rivers," stated Danielle Devlin program manager for Six Rivers' involvement in the project. "This effort shows how important attention to natural areas, even small areas, is to wildlife."



Sparrow Egg



Danielle Devlin, Land Protection Director, with summer interns Anne Leone and Nick Kallabat <https://www.sixriversrlc.org/>



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## Why do we litter?

Despite all the signs and warnings about fines for littering – people still do it. Below are images of debris collected right in front of and around a "NO LITTERING" sign. Please educate family and friends against littering.



### Some interesting facts and statistics about littering

1. **Nearly half of Americans admit to littering.** Despite being bombarded with media campaigns that warn about the dangers of littering, many Americans aren't heeding the message. Approximately 43% of people in the U.S. admit to littering at least once. <https://www.creditdonkey.com/littering-statistics.html>
2. Motorists and pedestrians contribute to a combined 70% of all litter over 4 inches, motorists generate 52.2% of litter and pedestrians 17.5%. <https://www.kab.org/resources/end-littering/p/gclid/CICQkf7Q4NQCfZa2wAod-tQJiw>
3. Tobacco products comprise roughly 38% of *all* U.S. roadway litter in overall aggregate analysis.
4. Paper (22%) and plastic (19%) are the next largest percentages of litter on roads and highways.
5. Packaging litter comprises nearly 46% of litter 4 inches and greater. This includes fast food, snack, tobacco, and other product packaging.
6. And 61% of beverage containers 4 inches or greater on U.S. roadways are soft drink and beer containers.
7. Virtually all litter, 97%, found at transition areas (i.e., bus stops) are small items. Confection litter (candy, chocolate, gum, etc.) is the most predominant at 53.7%, and tobacco products second at 29.8%.
8. Litter clean up costs the U.S. more than an estimated \$11.5 billion each year. <https://www.kab.org/resources/end-littering/p/gclid/CICQkf7Q4NQCfZa2wAod-tQJiw>
9. Plastic particles are generally the most abundant type of debris encountered in the marine environment, with estimates suggesting that 60% to 80% of marine debris is plastic, and more than 90% of all floating debris particles are plastic. <https://www.epa.gov/trash-free-waters/epa-published-reports>
10. Pinning down the exact amount of trash that can be found in the world's oceans is difficult. In terms of just plastic litter, conservative estimates put the total amount at roughly 300 billion pounds. <https://www.creditdonkey.com/littering-statistics.html>

This is the 1970's Keep America Beautiful *Crying Indian* ad. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j7OHG7tHrNM>