

Regional Clean-up Day

The Washtenaw County Department of Planning and Environment, in partnership with Augusta Township, will be hosting a Regional Clean-up Day on Saturday, June 3rd from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event will be held at Lincoln High School – 7425 Willis Road – in Augusta Township.

Items which will be accepted from Washtenaw County residents include: traditional recyclable materials such as glass, plastic, cardboard, paper, and scrap metal, freon-containing appliances such as refrigerators, freezers, and microwaves, household hazardous materials, used motor oil, antifreeze, batteries, electronic equipment, and old tires.

Residents can bring up to 4 tires for free. A \$1 donation will be requested for each additional auto tire and \$5 per tractor tire. Residents are also welcome to bring one of the following items for free: television, washer, dryer, freon-containing appliance or computer. A \$10 donation will be requested for each additional item. The Augusta Township Fire Department will also be on hand to replace your unusable smoke detectors with new ones. Business and out-of-county residents are restricted from attending. For more information, 734-222-6874.

Aquatic Invasive Species Awareness Week

Also on June 3rd, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality will be kicking off its third annual Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Awareness Week. Running from June 3-11, the purpose of AIS Awareness Week is to encourage people to prevent the introduction and spread of AIS into our waters.

AIS are non-native organisms that threaten the diversity and abundance of native species and the ecological stability of impacted waters. Over 160 AIS have been introduced since the 1800s. 1/3 of those have been introduced since the mid-20th century, jeopardizing the commercial and recreational value of our lakes and streams now more than ever. Visit www.miseagrant.umich.edu/ais for information on the most prolific of these species.

With over 11,000 lakes and 36,000 miles of streams throughout Michigan, it is natural that most of us will be spending time in the water this summer. Because it is difficult to know where AIS have been introduced, it is important to follow a few simple steps every time you leave the water to prevent aquatic hitchhikers from attaching to your clothing, boats, or water equipment and making their way to another body of water:

Remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals from boats, trailers and equipment; wash and dry thoroughly before transport. Do not release plants or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water. Learn to recognize aquatic invasive species, and report any unusual plants or animals to your local fisheries station. Visit <http://www.protectyourwaters.net/> for more detailed information on how to prevent aquatic hitchhikers. For more information on Aquatic Invasive Species Awareness Week, visit: www.michigan.gov/deq.

Submitted by:

Joanna Smither, Program Assistant
Washtenaw County Planning and Environment
Phone: 734-222-6874
Email: smitherj@ewashtenaw.org
Website: <http://recycle.ewashtenaw.org>