With spring time coming, we are looking forward to seeing all of the colors of early flowers, of green leaves on our trees, and of a nice green lawn. But we don’t always think about how some of our lawn maintenance issues can impact our environment.

For example, over application of lawn chemicals can result in stormwater runoff that carries toxic levels of chemicals or excessive nutrients in our streams, lakes and groundwater. Many fertilizers can threaten our ecosystem and pose health risks for humans, pets, wildlife and aquatic organisms. It is possible to minimize lawn chemical runoff with actions such as:

**Go Natural:** Consider compost or natural lawn chemical alternatives.

**Landscape with Native Plants:** They require less watering, fertilizers, pesticides, & care.

**Conduct a Soil Test:** To determine type and amount of fertilizer if you use them.

**Follow Label Instructions:** Read labels on lawn chemicals carefully.

**Fertilizer Location:** Use caution on slopes & lawn edges so it doesn’t wash away.

**Let fertilizer dry properly:** Allow time for liquid chemicals to dry and don’t use lawn chemicals before a heavy rainfall.

Lawn care options involved with mowing your grass may also have environmental impacts. Many people will bag their grass clippings and send them to the landfill. An alternative to bagging your grass clippings is to leave them on your lawn. Some are worried that grass clippings cause thatch in your lawn but research by K-State has shown that grass clippings do not cause thatch. In fact grass clippings can serve as a natural lawn fertilizer.

**Some tips to consider when leaving grass clippings on your lawn include:**

- Mow only when your lawn is dry.
- Cut grass regularly.
- Don’t remove more than 1/3 total leaf length on one mowing.
- Maintain a sharp blade on your mower.

Another suggestion for lawn care is to never blow and leave your grass clippings on the street or on your driveway. Grass clippings can then be carried away by rain water into storm drains which will enter and pollute local streams, rivers, and lakes.

Your lawn care can also impact air quality. Lawn mowers are a major air pollutant. You can reduce air pollution by scheduling regular maintenance and oil changes for your mower. In addition, mowing your lawn in the evening is recommended over mowing in the heat of the day.
Residents in Kansas City, Kansas are allowed to apply for a burn permit for the time period of the month of April 2016 and the time period of October 16, 2016 through November 15, 2016 at any of the Fire Stations currently staffed by the Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department. Kansas City, Kansas residents are limited to one 3-day burn permit per burn period that allows for the combustion of one 10 foot by 10 foot or smaller pile of naturally occurring residential organic yard waste generated onsite. If you operate a business out of your home you are classified as a business and cannot participate. Applications must be received and approved at least 24 hours prior to the commencement of burning. Open burning with a permit is allowed between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The resident doing the burning must be at the burning site at all times. Residents shall maintain a copy of the burn permit on site, an adequate water supply and/or fire extinguisher while conducting open burning. In no circumstance shall open burning occur within 15 feet of any building or within 15 feet from any one’s property line. Piling of brush, tree limbs, grass and other organic materials are limited in size to 100 square feet at the base.

Each Burn Permit allows for one organic pile per property, one permit per residential property. (yard waste generated such as tree limbs, leaves, weeds, brush and grass) All organic materials burned within the city limits of Kansas City, Kansas are limited to organic materials and/or burning without a permit shall be subject to Section 1-7 (General Penalty, Continuing Violations) of the general provisions code of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/KCK.

At no time shall wire insulation, tires, rubber products, plastic, automobile products, paper, cardboard, construction chemicals, household chemicals or any other material that normally emits dense smoke, noxious odors or hazardous air pollutants be burned.

At any time, the Fire Chief or his designee may revoke burn permits or ban open burning. Weather conditions (high winds, low humidity) may make open burning too dangerous. Open burning may also be suspended when air pollution “Red Alert” days are declared by the Mid America Regional Council, MARC, and the Unified Government.

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2016 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days Set

The schedule for the Household Hazardous Waste Collection days for Wyandotte County residents has been set for 2016. The site will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the following Saturdays: April 16, May 21, June 18, July 16, August 20, September 17, and October 15. The site is located at 2443 South 88th Street in Kansas City, Kansas. (South on 88th Street from K-32) or (East of I-435 using Woodend exit near Kaw River)

When bringing items to the collection site please label or identify all items. Items accepted include tires (limit of 10 tires and rims need to be removed), motor oil, batteries, antifreeze, degreasers, paints, varnishes, solvents, lawn & garden insecticides/pesticides, and household cleaning products. For additional information call 573-5400.
Yard Waste Drop Off Site Opening for Season

The Unified Government’s Yard Waste Drop Off Site will be **opening** for the season starting on Friday, **April 1, 2016**. The Yard Waste Drop Off Site is located at 3241 Park Drive in Kansas City, Kansas. The site will be open from April 1, 2016 through November on Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. It will be closed on holidays and on weekends with holidays. The yard waste site is closed annually from December through March.

The Yard Waste Drop Off Site will accept only yard waste such as grass clippings, garden trimmings, leaves and branches. Recyclable materials such as paper, plastic, glass, cardboard, and aluminum are not accepted.

During operational hours, residents with a load of grass clippings, garden trimmings, leaves or branches can load them up and take them to the Yard Waste Drop Off Site at 3241 Park Dr., Kansas City, Kansas. The Yard Waste Drop Off Site cannot accept stumps and logs larger than 12 inches in diameter or items more than four feet in length. Wyandotte County residents will need to show a proof of residency such as a driver’s license. Commercially generated material will not be accepted.

**Other alternatives for handling yard waste include:**

**Yard Waste Drop Off at Deffenbaugh Landfill:**

Wyandotte County residents can also take their residential yard waste to the Deffenbaugh landfill in Johnson County free of charge with proof of residency. Deffenbaugh’s landfill is located at 17955 Holiday Drive in Shawnee, Kansas. Residents with a load of grass clippings, garden trimmings, leaves or branches can load them up and dump them in a designated site at the landfill without paying a tipping fee. Deffenbaugh cannot accept stumps, logs larger than 12 inches in diameter or items more than four feet in length. Commercially generated material will not be accepted.

**Yard Waste is Taken with Weekly Trash:**

Residents in Kansas City, Kansas can also dispose of yard waste in their regular weekly trash pickup. Leaves and grass clippings must be bagged and not in excess of 50 pounds per bag. Tree limbs must be tied in bundles not more than four feet long and not in excess of 50 pounds.

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Dr. Thomas R. Burke Technical Education Center

6565 State Avenue, Kansas City, Kansas 66112

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**The 11th Annual**

**2016**

**WYCO Ethnic Festival**

Saturday, April 16, 2016

11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

KCKCC Athletic Field House

7250 State Ave., KCK

* Free Admission
* Free Parking and Free mint tea and water
* Ethnic Food available for purchase
APRIL 2016

April 1, 2016 ~ Rosedale Development Association (RDA) will be hosting “The Land We Live On,” its second annual historical exhibit.
1401 Southwest Blvd.
Kansas City, KS, 66103

April 6, 2016 ~ Good Neighbor: Orientation
Are you a New Neighborhood Leader? Thinking about becoming a New Leader? Starting a New Neighborhood Group? Need a Refresher?
Neighborhood Resource Center
4953 State Avenue in the meeting room
5:30-7:30 p.m. To register, please call (913)573-8737 or email liveableneighbor@wycokck.org.

April 16, 2016 ~ Sister Souljah—Talk & Book Signing
Wyandotte High School Auditorium
2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. 2501 Minnesota Avenue KCK

April 23, 2016 ~ Barnyard Babies
National Agricultural Center & Hall of Fame
630 Hall of Fame Drive
Bonner Springs, KS 66012
913-721-1075

April 25, 2016 ~ Good Neighbor Training—
The topic will be Business Licensing/NRC E-Link
Neighborhood Resource Center
5:30-7:30 p.m. To register, please call (913)573-8737 or email liveableneighbor@wycokck.org.

April 28, 2016 ~ Livable Neighborhoods Meeting
Neighborhood Resource Center
4953 State Avenue in the meeting room
8:30 a.m.

radish

A KCK Lecture & Discussion Series on (In)Equality
facebook.com/radishkck
radishkck@gmail.com
Join us Saturdays 10:11am
At the library, 2nd Floor
625 Minnesota Ave
KCK, KS 66101

MARCH 26
Criminalizing Mental Illness: The Prayed Safety Net
Area 9
Physical Health Inequality in Wyandotte
Area 23
Housing Inequality: The Problem of Affordability

APRIL
9
Bolt on Our Backs: Race & Reparations
28
Organizing for Environmental Justice

What if equality wasn’t considered radical?

I LEARN AMERICA
One High School, One School Year, Five New Americans

Saturday, April 9
2-5:30 p.m. | Atkins Auditorium
Film: 50 minutes
Discussion and Q&A to follow

Reserve FREE program tickets at the Info Desk, online or by phone
816.751.1278
See full description and details at nationskck.org

In LEARN AMERICA, five resilient immigrant teenagers come together over a year at the International High School in Los Angeles and struggle to learn about and get comfortable with their new land.

The Nelson Atkins Museum of Art
45 & Oak Street, Kansas City, Missouri

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