

DISPOSAL OF TREE LIMBS AND TRUNKS

Alternatives to Burning

1. “Leave them where they lay: That is how forests recycle. Fallen trees are important to wildlife and bird habitat. They also become “nurse” logs, serving as a protected place for new trees and plants to grow.
2. Large acreage of lawn with many trees – consider retuning the outlying 1/3 to 1/2 of the property to natural forest. This is what Mother Nature intended, especially in the rural areas of the county.
3. Chipping is one method of disposing of larger branches. Chippers can be purchased or rented, but be advised that they require careful use and safety equipment. Check with landscaping companies; some will bring a chipper to the site if there is an adequate amount of material for chipping. Chipped wood may be used as mulch around trees, shrubs, and perennial flowers or to create pathways. Chipped material can also be added to the compost pile.
4. Pruning trees on a consistent basis will lessen the amount of dead or fallen branches. Pruning new growth in a timely fashion will also allow for smaller bundles of branches that can be used as fire kindling or taken to a drop-off site.
5. Firewood is a commodity that many are will to work for. Many people with wood-burning fireplaces are willing to cut up fallen trees, as long as the wood is not rotten and is good fireplace wood. Smaller branches and twigs are excellent kindling for use in the home fireplace.
6. Many local tree companies and/or landscaping services companies provide assistance with removal of fallen trees or large branches.
7. Transport yard waste to one of two composting facilities in Winnebago Count. In the northern part of the county, you may take your yard waste to Leaflan, located at 6711 West St. Lawrence Road in Beloit. Leaflan charges \$30 for a permit for access for the entire yard waste season. For more information, call 608/364-1909. In the southern part of the county, you may take your compost to Rock River Valley Compost, located at 6200 Baxter Road in Cherry Valley. This facility accepts grass, leaves and branches no larger than 6 inches in diameter not to exceed four feet. Rock River Valley Compost charges 2.5 cents a pound with a minimum \$10.00 charge (up to 400 lbs). For either location, you may haul in garbage cans, biodegradable bags, in the back of your own truck. No plastic bags are allowed at either place.