



# Solid Waste Management

**Solid Waste**, or trash, is comprised of commonly discarded items like old clothing, bottles, cans, paper products, product packaging, food scraps, furniture, appliances, etc. According to a 2006 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency report, 4.6 pounds of solid waste, on average, is generated every day by every person in the United States. Prior to recycling / composting of solid waste, the percentage of items discarded are broken down as follows:

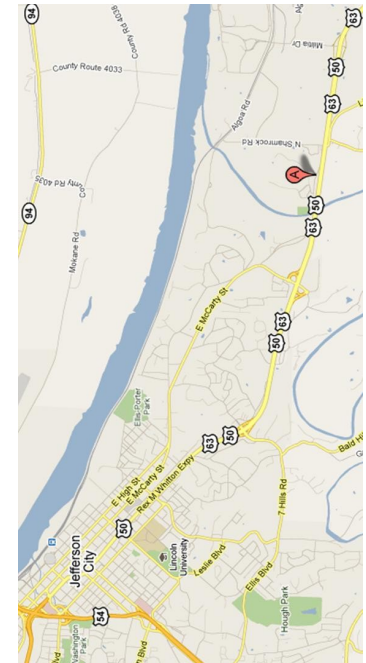
- Paper & Paper Products—33.9%
- Yard Trimmings—12.9%
- Food Scraps—12.4%
- Plastics—11.7%
- Metals—7.6%
- Rubber, Leather and Textiles—7.3%
- Wood—5.6%
- Glass—5.3%
- Other—3.3%

Presently in the United States, 32.5% of the solid waste generated is recovered and either recycled or composted, 12.5% is burned at combustion facilities, and the other 55% is placed in landfills. From a water quality standpoint, the main solid waste items that are of concern are grass trimmings, leaves and tree limbs. Many homeowners use waterways and storm sewers to dispose of their yard

waste instead of mulching / composting it themselves or taking it to the **local site**. When this material is piled on stream banks, it suffocates vegetation and kills the roots that are holding soil in place, resulting in streambank erosion and an elevated silt and sediment load in our waterways. When homeowners dispose of their yard waste in waterways and storm sewers, they create several problems. First, as the material decomposes, oxygen in the water is depleted, harming aquatic species & degrading their habitat. Second, elevated nutrient levels are released into the water, resulting in increased levels of algae and damage to aquatic habitat. Third, when homeowners purposely fill storm sewers and drainage ways with their yard waste, the system can become blocked, leading to potential flooding of area homes. Therefore, the result is that City crews must monitor and clean the drainage system so that it functions properly. The additional labor that is required by City crews costs all taxpayers of the City, and personnel must be diverted from other important work to clean the storm sewer system. The recycling and composting trend is on the increase, due to public educational efforts, as well

## Allied Waste

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Citizen Information Brochures  
May be obtained from the  
Maintenance Department

245 S. Summit Dr. Holts Summit, MO. 65043  
Office Hours: 8am - 5pm, Mon. - Fri.  
(573) 896 - 5600  
<http://www.holtssummit.org>

