



The Place to Be

Derby News Update

April 2013

Issue 45

Keep Trees Alive During Drought

Celebrate Trees at the Arbor Day Celebration on April 25

Did you know that a healthy tree is naturally drought resistant? In times of extreme drought however, a thorough soaking of the root system once a week will increase overall health. Soak the soil to a minimum depth of 12 inches, out to and beyond the drip line (the outermost circumference of a tree canopy where water drips from and onto the ground.) Use a soaker hose or drip irrigation to minimize runoff and maximize your effort to keep your tree alive and healthy



photo by Bill Fales

Avoid watering established trees at the base of the trunk, and don't plant flowers around the base of your tree.

More information on tree and landscape

care visit, www.ksre.ksu.edu/drought.

If you're interested in learning more about Derby's trees, you're invited to attend the Arbor Day Celebration on April 25 at 6:00 p.m. at Madison Avenue Central Park, 512 E. Madison.

The city will be giving away drip irrigation buckets, which are perfect for watering trees.

Tim McDonnell, Kansas Forest Service Community Forestry Program Coordinator, will speak on the City of Derby's 20th year as a Tree City USA Recipient, and what that means. He will also talk about the value of trees, even in drought situations. There will be educational booths and information on lawn and landscape watering and tree care.

Public Works will have its heavy equipment on display for kids to explore, and participants can make their own planters with seeds to take home.

We Want to Hear From You!

Listening to Derby

a Community Forum sponsored by the Derby City Council

Thursday, May 2 at 6:30 p.m.
Derby Welcome Center

Mayor Dion Avello and the Derby City Council will host "Listening to Derby," a community forum on Thursday, May 2 at 6:30 p.m. at the Derby Welcome Center, 611 Mulberry (between City Hall and the Senior Center). Derby residents are invited to attend and, if desired, address the City Council with questions, concerns, or opinions on issues affecting the city or issues before the Council.

Several issues that the Council will work on in the next six months include:

- The 2014 budget
- How to finance improvements to Nelson Drive near Patriot Avenue



The Derby City Council listens to residents speak at the 2012 community forum.

- Third year of drought; possible water restrictions and price increase for heavy users
- How to meet the needs of the city's growing population of senior citizens
- How to respond to new mandates from the state legislature

Your ideas about these issues and any other issues of concern to you can be discussed at this community forum.

Upcoming Events

Citywide Garage Sale

May 16, 17 and 18

Registration begins April 15

Coordinated by Crime Stoppers of Derby

Residents can register at most banks in Derby. For \$10, residents receive a garage sale sign and listing on *The Derby Informer's* garage sale map.

Questions? Contact Fred Wilken at 788-1705 or Linsey Cutsinger at 351-9900.

Water Wise Spring Lawn & Tree Seminar Series

Sponsored by the Derby Parks & Urban Forestry Board

May 6, 13, and 20 at 6:30 p.m.

Derby Public Library Community Room
Free and open to the public!

Kite Festival

May 18 from 1:00-4:00 p.m.

High Park, 2801 E. James

1:30 p.m. Derby Walks 1-Mile Run/Walk

2:30 p.m. Remote Control Helicopters

Sponsored by the Derby Recreation Commission

Celebrate spring in Derby with a new community event! Enjoy kite clubs showcasing their skills and introducing you to the world of kite flying. Bring your own kite and join in the fun with your family.

Hands-on activities include kite demos, kite making, face painting, balloon artist, and candy drop. Concessions, booths, vendors, and music will also be provided.



www.derbyrec.com



Make a Plan for Watering Lawn

How much water does a lawn need?

In general, turf grasses need about 3/4 inch to 1 inch of water per week to maintain green color and active growth. During the summer months, you should allow lawns to slow down in growth or even let the lawn go dormant. Here are a few guidelines for a healthy lawn:

• **Decide beforehand.**

Before drought conditions arrive, decide to water lawns consistently throughout the season or let lawns go dormant. Do not rotate back and forth - don't let the grass turn brown then apply enough water to green it up, then let the grass go dormant again. Breaking the lawns dormancy drains large amounts of food reserves from the plant.

• **When is it time to water?**

The first few warm days of summer do not automatically mean it's time to water lawns. Allowing lawns to start to go under mild drought stress increases rooting.

• **Water as infrequently as possible.**

Thoroughly water when you do water so moisture soaks down to the roots. Exceptions to this rule are for newly seeded/sodded lawns and lawns that have not yet rooted into the soil. Otherwise, avoid frequent waterings that promote shallower root systems.

• **Water early in the day if possible.**

Water early in the day when lawns are

normally wet from dew. Avoid midday watering due to evaporation and at night due to increased chances of disease. The exception is during extremely hot weather and when nighttime temperatures don't go below 68 degrees. Then it is better to water in the late afternoon or early evening.

• **Spread water uniformly across the lawn.**

Sprinklers vary in distribution patterns and require spray overlap for uniform coverage. Placing coffee cans or similar containers on the lawn can help measure water application rates. Avoid flooding areas and watch for excessive runoff on heavy clay soils and slopes.

• **Conserve water.**

To help conserve water, mow your lawn at a higher than normal height, avoid applying an excess of nitrogen as warm weather approaches, limit traffic, improve turf rooting, control thatch and soil compaction, and avoid using pesticide on drought-stressed lawns. Don't allow water to hit the driveway or drain into the street.

2013 Tree List & Planting Guide Available!

The Derby Parks & Urban Forestry Board would like to share its annual Tree List & Planting Guide with you. You can find it at the following link on the City's website - www.derbyweb.com

• **Avoid overwatering.**

Use a rain gauge to measure how much water you're applying. Overwatering does more than deplete the water supply; it also makes plants prone to pests and adds to stormwater runoff, which pollutes our creeks. By operating a watering system correctly, you can reduce water bills, insect and disease problems, and maintenance requirements.

• **Don't water after fertilizing and if rain is in the forecast.**

To reduce the possibility of fertilizer washing into creeks and rivers, don't water heavily after fertilizing. Use light waterings to allow the fertilizer to be absorbed by the soil. Also, if heavy rains are in the forecast, hold off fertilizing until the heavy rains have passed. Keep track of rainfall for the week. Don't apply more water than necessary. The guide of about 1 inch of water per week is only a guide.

www.americanlawns.com

Spring Reminders

Tall Grass and Weeds

If your grass grows taller than 10 inches, it is a violation of City Code and you could receive a citation. Property owners are responsible for maintaining easements and rights-of-way that abut their property. If you have questions, contact a Code Enforcement Officer at 788-0301.

Trash Removal

Your trash must be removed weekly and placed in an approved container. Trash containers should be placed at the curb no earlier than 2:00 p.m. the day before the scheduled pick up and removed from the curb no later than 9:00 a.m. the day after collection. Containers should be stored behind the front face of your house (not in your driveway). If you recycle, make sure you sign up for rewards at www.recyclebank.com.

Chip Site Hours Change

Beginning April 1, the Chip Site at High Park is open from 7:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8:00 a.m. to noon on Saturdays (closed on holiday weekends).

Free mulch is available to Derby residents, and must be loaded by individuals.

New Business Hours

City Hall, Welcome Center & Municipal Court

Monday through Thursday
7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Friday
7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Senior Center

Monday through Thursday
7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Friday
7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Derby Dash

Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

On Fridays when school is not in session and during the summer months when school is on break, the Derby Dash is available 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

