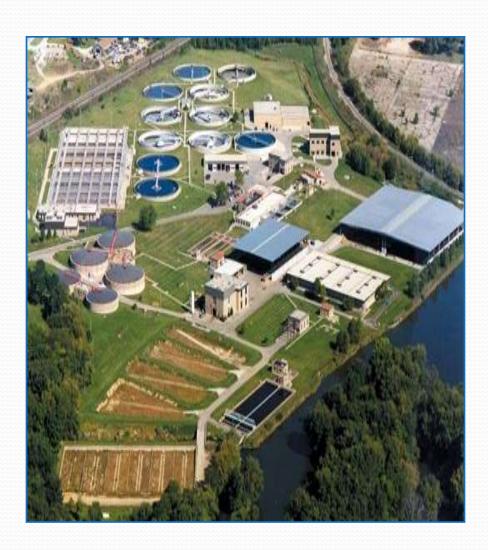
Fox Metro Water Reclamation District Medication Disposal Program

Fox Metro Water Reclamation District



- Fox Metro, originally the Aurora Sanitary District, began construction in 1927.
- The original plant was designed to treat up to 8 mgd of wastewater and served only the community of Aurora.
- Fox Metro now serves the communities of Aurora, North Aurora, Montgomery, Oswego, Sugar Grove and areas of Yorkville and Batavia.
- Fox Metro serves a general population of about 250, 000 people and treats an average of 32 mgd.
- Fox Metro consistently removes 98% of the common pollutants found in the raw sewage entering the plant.

Why Start a Medication Disposal Program?

What's in your

The Tribune finds trace amounts of drugs Water? The Tribune finds trace amounts of de and chemicals—including auti-soloure medication and a liefton ingiredient—in lake Michigan delicities. in Lake Michigan drinking water.

By Michael Hawtherns and Alaska Dejakto fluts

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Discarded pills are ending up in our waterways

Bob

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you are concerned with se quality of our waterays, one week's headlines can be more frightening than the next.

The most recent concern for our waterways comes from

an unlikely source. Environmentalists are scrambling to identify the many pathogens and invasive species that are flooding our waterways, threatening native species and posing environmental risks. Yet, the problems are not always caused by criminal champing of ballast water. Nor are the breats always from some exotic place or

from alien species.

nois-Indiana Sea Grant report that some 4,600 tons of pharmaceuticals and personal care products are dumped every year in the U.S. alone. Many of these end up in our waterways, having been flushed down the drain or discarded in landfills.

Among the many chemicalbased items of modern convenience every household uses, must may be biodegradable and harmless. Yet some can but dendly

Maybe not to you and to me, but to the other creatures depending upon our waterways for their survival.

The U.S. Geological Survey, according to Sea Grant, checked water below wastewater treatment plants in some 30 states and found "at least one pharmaceutical in 80 percent of 139 streams."

*Unwanted drugs are typically thrown in the trash or flushed down the toilet," according to Susan Boehme, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant coastal sediment specialist. But, pharmaceuticals thrown in the trash can leach from flushed drugs can kill bacte-

flushed into our sewers by well-meaning people who are simply trying to dispose of meds which have passed their expiration date, are no longer sectul or belonged to a family member who has moved or died.

Some communities have es

tablished pharmaceutical col-lections sites which accept expired or unwanted meds and incinerate them, the safest way to dispose of them. Most, however, are dealing with more overt concerns regarding waterway pollution so the housebold threats

are unchecked. Recycling of sort-FootCurrents: ed waste products, prison you think of it neemed so unlikely

just a few years ago. Who was going to wash out bottles and cans and out them in separate containers for pickup?

A brilliant marketing campaign targeted that demographic which had the most to gain - and, the most to lose it the culture couldn't get a grip on the problems posed by overflowing landfills. The

Commercials depicting youngsters encouraging their parents and older siblings to sort and recycle made the point cutely, and pretty soon we were all sorting our garbage. Today, it's just a routine

part of our chores.

I remember an era when the travelers in the autom ahead of you on a two-lane. northwoods road would simply pitch their paper bags filled with chicken bones or other porhage out the window. Finished nibbling on burch enroute to your favorite vacation destination? Throw it out the elde window without a second thorought

As absurd as that practice right seem today, disposing of old pharmaceuticals or

NAME OF WORLD WINGS OF

Why Start a Medication Disposal Program?

Protect water quality



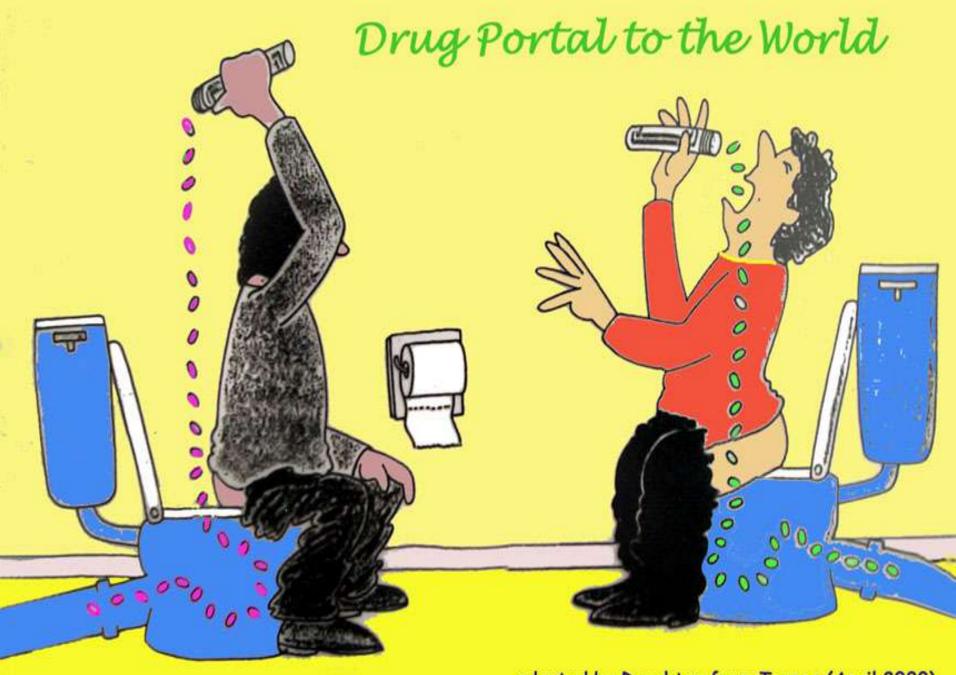


How?? Pollution Prevention

- Give people a proper disposal method and make it convenient.
- Permanent collection sites.
- One day collections through out the year.







adapted by Daughton from Ternes (April 2000)

Developing a Medication Disposal Program

- Fox Metro worked with the IEPA to develop their drug take back program.
- Fox Metro would provide the containment vessel and be responsible for promoting the service.
- IEPA would provide containers for disposal and be responsible for all disposal costs.
- Fox Metro needed to submit a written plan that outlined how the pharmaceuticals would be stored until pickup/disposal by IEPA.



Regulatory Challenges



DEA Regulations

- Controlled drugs
 - Vicodin
 - Morphine
 - Ritalin, etc.
 - CAN only be returned to a law enforcement officer

Developing a Medication Disposal

Program

- Fox Metro purchased a containment unit (mail box) at a cost of \$800.00.
- A sign was placed on the containment unit identifying it as the disposal vessel.
- The vessel was placed in the lobby of the Fox Metro administration building.



Promoting the Fox Metro Medication Disposal

- •A press release was submitted to a local paper.
- Placed wording on the back of the wastewater billing.

Medical Disposal Program

Fox Metro is now accepting expired or unwanted over the counter and prescription medications for proper disposal. Medications can be dropped off at the:

Fox Metro Water Reclamation District 682 Route 31, Oswego Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Please make sure that any medications kept in their original containers have all personal information removed. Needles, sharps, IV bags, thermometers and controlled substances cannot be accepted. This program was created for the disposal of medication for individuals and Fox Metro will not accept retail or whole business medication for disposal. If you have questions regarding the program please contact Debra Ness at 630-301-6820 or dness@foxmetro.dst.il.us.

Promoting the Fox Metro Medication Disposal Program

 Articles written about the program ran in the local paper.

The Beacon News Sunday, December 28, 2008 05

VALLEY VOICES

New way to dispose of old medications

Terri

environmental events, it occurred to me to review my gift. list to Mother Earth.

There appears to be an abundance of green gifts for sale that we can purchase - and lots of things to donate - but the gift of our time is a very meaningful legacy we can give to those we love as well as to our natural world for a greener and better future. As I reflect back, my time this your that was spent at my passion for a cleaner and healthier planet did have tangible benefits to the trees, wetlands and wildlife. Howev er, my major gift recipient this year has been our beautiful and elegant Fox River.

This magnificent waterway has been a faithful and benevolent friend, providing beauty and sevenity, is lifegiving to our wildlife and provides much of the local population with clean water for our everyday use.

I am pleased to share with you the good news that the dedication and effort of many - including myself have come to fruition, and you will be seeing a brand new blue logo and a new mailbox-like container in the lobby of the Fox Metro Water Reclamation District. Please don't drop your greeting cards and bill payments, as this receptacle is the first in this area as an ongoing collection site for the disposal of unused prescription and over the counter medications.

Earlier this year, stunning news came to the forefront that expired or unwanted medicines were being found and are a source of pollution in wastewater. Unfortunately, our sewage treatment plants and septic systems are not designed to deal with drugs, and these pollutants can be released into streams, lakes and groundwater, affecting fish and other wildlife. Chemicals also are released into our waterways via runoff from commercial animal feeding operations and aquaculture and from fields where manure and biosolids have been ap

You might imagine that any substance safe enough for humans and pets to ingest wouldn't harm the environment, but this just isn't true. Creatures that live in these habitats may be continuously exposed to these sub-

stances for long periods and will suffer harm from the cumulative effects.

There is no statewide proram to deal with this probiem. However, our Fax River community promptly stepped up and formed FoxFresh, a safe-disposal medication take back program whose partners and sponsors include Fox Metro Water Reclamation District, Kane County Health Department, The Compounder, Illinois-Indiana

Sea Grant, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Kane County Police Department, Aurora Police Department, Kane County Solid Waste, Sierra Chib-Valley of the Fox and Prairie Rivers Network.

In addition to the new drop-off site there also will be a series of one-day pharmaceutical collection dates. The next scheduled event is from 8 a.m. to I p.m. April 4 at the Aurora Transportation Center.

So how we all help? When we think about all the hormones, cardiac meds, chemo meds, caffeine and nicotine it is overwhelming. So much of it enters the system via excretion after ingestion, and there isn't much that can be done unless we want to spend \$400 million to retrofit our sewage treatment plants.

But we can change the way we get rid of our unused meds by no longer using the ancient and outdated method of disposal into the sewer system. via flushing and sink drains and by taking some time to tell a friend.

As we begin the new year by purg ing our medicine cabinets, please safely store and bring in your unused and expired meds for appropriate disposal. Ultimately we will be giving the gift of a better place for all to live.

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Websites

www.foxmetro.dst.il.us



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"Giving Water A Second Chance"

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Mission Statement

Through leadership, innovation, and teamwork, provide quality wastewater treatment and maintain air standards to ensure a healthy environment for future generations at the best value for our community.

Public Notices

NEW Medication Take-Back Program

The Medication Take-Back Program allows residents of the Fox Metro Water Reclamation District service area to bring their old, unwanted prescription and over the counter medications in to be properly disposed - for FREE!

Click here for more information and a list of accepted

medications.



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One-day collection



Successful?





Questions??