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# Sustainability and Recycling

## E-Newsletter

December 2023

### **Pine for Perch**

The City of Helena, in partnership with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, and Boy Scouts of America-Troop 214, host an annual program called “Pine for Perch.” This program uses recycled Christmas trees to improve and preserve perch habitat in Canyon Ferry Lake. Each year, an average of 11 tons of trees are brought to the Helena Transfer Station, with an additional 300-400 collected by Boy Scout Troop 214. Since the program's inauguration dating back to the 1990s, over 70,000 recycled Christmas trees have been dropped into Canyon Ferry Lake.

With the help of several volunteers, the collected trees are strung together 50 at a time, on a steel cable and then weighted down with a concrete cinder block base. A helicopter then drops each string of trees into Canyon Ferry Lake near the Silos Recreational Area.

Residents can bring their trees to the City of Helena Transfer Station anytime after Christmas, and beginning in January sanitation crews will be picking up trees that have been placed in alleys or boulevards for collection. Visit the [City of Helena](#) website, for more information on pickup schedules.

Boy Scout Troop 214 will also be picking up trees on December 30th and January 6th. [Click this link](#), to register for a pickup. Please remember to remove all decorations from the trees!



## All I Want for Christmas is... Cardboard

The holiday season is upon us! The months that you have spent shopping and meticulously wrapping gifts will soon come to an end.. As kids and adults alike gather around the tree on Christmas morning, their hearts will delight at the sight of colorfully wrapped boxes topped with bows. Shrieks of joy will fill the air, as wrapping paper is ripped to shreds in hopes of revealing the long-awaited gift they asked Santa for. The excitement of a new toy or game is followed by the realization that you now have to haul the boxes they came in, out to the trash.

Did you know? In 2022, the recycling drop-off sites, located throughout the community, and the City of Helena Transfer Station, saw an additional 21 tons of cardboard dropped off, from November to December.

This holiday season, we ask that instead of throwing large cardboard boxes in your residential trash cans, please dispose of them in the blue “cardboard only” recycling bins located at the Transfer Station, and throughout the Helena Valley Community.

For more information on cardboard recycling check out this short [video](#) or visit the [City of Helena's Recycling Webpage!](#)



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### Citizen Conservation Board

The City of Helena has several established advisory boards and committees. The Citizen Conservation Board was created to recommend, report on, and monitor sustainability measures undertaken by the City of Helena. The current vacancies are as followed:

- One citizen to serve as a Citizen at Large. Term expires February 28, 2026.
- Two citizens to serve as a Citizen at Large. Interim Term expires February 28, 2024.

If you or someone you know is interested in serving on the Citizen Conservation Board, follow the link below to apply! You must be a City resident to participate, and the deadline to apply is Thursday, December 21st at 4 pm.

[View the City Website for more information, or to Apply!](#)