Rural communities welcome fix-it fairs

*Editor’s note: A modified version of this article recently appeared in the Oregon Family Magazine.*

By Daniel Hiestand, Lane County Waste Reduction Outreach Coordinator

Willa Bauman loves the fix-it fair concept. After all, what’s not to love?

Fix-it fairs are free public events promoting reuse and repair by offering participants the chance to have household items repaired by volunteer fixers. Participants can watch and learn repair skills, discover local repair resources, and extend the life of household items—keeping more stuff out of the landfill while saving money.

Between 2019 and 2022, Bauman helped organize six in-person fairs and three virtual fairs with ToolBox Project and the city of Eugene.

“Fix-It Fairs are a great way to build confidence around simple repairs,” Bauman said. “Learning from the fixers shows how simple most repairs are, which can be an empowering experience.”

Fixer volunteers may possess amateur or professional skills and fix everything from power tools to stuffed animals. Bauman said repairs take an average of 30 minutes, and attendees can only bring items that can be “reasonably” carried in.

But perhaps just as much as the fairs’ financial, educational, and environmental benefits, she loves the communal feel of the events, which bring connection and joy to participants.

“One of my favorite aspects of these events is how they encourage connection across social barriers over the shared goal of repair,” Bauman said.

This year, Lane County is funding and supporting Bauman and ToolBox Project to introduce the fairs to three cities outside of Eugene: Springfield (hosted May 12), Cottage Grove (July 22), and Florence (Sept. 23). Lane County Waste Reduction Program Supervisor Angie Marzano said this new outreach was by design.

“Bringing repair opportunities to rural communities is critical to the county’s sustainability and waste prevention goals to reach underrepresented communities,” Marzano said.

Bauman agrees.

“I live rurally, so I’ve seen how rural communities often don’t have the same resources for building community and growing the conversation around sustainability and ethical consumption,” she said. “We’re hoping that increasing events outside of Eugene will highlight existing repair businesses that already serve these communities while creating one more opportunity for neighbors to meet each other.”

For more information, visit fixitlanecounty.com/calendar

Interested in becoming a Master Recycler? Visit LaneCountyOR.gov/MasterRecyclers or call (541) 682-2059
Household hazardous waste disposal  It's easy. It's free.

Year-round hazardous waste disposal appointments are available weekly at the Glenwood Transfer Station. Schedule online at laneCountyor.gov/hazwaste, or call (541) 682-4120 to make an appointment.

WHAT TO BRING:
- Arts and crafts products
- Car care products
- Cleaners
- Fluorescent tubes
- Lawn and garden chemicals
- Paints and solvents
- Other household hazardous waste

DON'T BRING:
- Asbestos
- Drums
- Electronics
- Empty containers
- Explosives
- Infectious waste
- Pressurized cylinders
- Radioactive waste

Garbage fees
Garbage fees fund all Waste Management programs.
Glenwood: $95.16 per ton with a minimum fee of $13.00.

Discounts  Senior discount per load (60+ years) - $1.00 off.
Recycling discount per load (10 pounds min.) - $1.00 off.

Load your vehicle with garbage first and recycling last so you can easily drop off recyclables first and get the $1.00 recycling discount.

Cover Your Load  It's against the law to litter on Oregon roadways. For more information: laneCountyor.gov/waste

Material preparation for recovered items WITH A FEE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appliances (All sites, EXCEPT Sharps Creek)</th>
<th>UNITS CONTAINING REFRIGERANTS ONLY. MUST BE EMPTY. Air conditioners, freezers, heat pumps &amp; refrigerators. DO NOT cut cords or drain refrigerants.</th>
<th>$22.00 each. Some appliances accepted for free as scrap metal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concrete (Glenwood Only)</td>
<td>Grocery cart-sized chunks or smaller (max. 10 cys). Rural sites — accepted as garbage.</td>
<td>$95.16 per ton $13.00 min.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rural $45.00 per cy $22.50 min.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Propane tanks (All sites, EXCEPT Sharps Creek)</td>
<td>Maximum size, 5 gallons. Propane &amp; single-use helium cylinders. NO other gases or cylinder types.</td>
<td>Up to 5 gal — $4.50.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 lb camping size — free.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tires (All sites, EXCEPT Sharps Creek)</td>
<td>Vehicle tires ONLY. Limit 10 per day. Maximum 20&quot; rim diameter. No heavy duty or off-road tires. No more than 10 tires accepted. No commercial-purpose tires. State law prohibits disposal of tires in the landfill.</td>
<td>Up to 20&quot; rim diameter — $3.00.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Up to 20&quot; rim diameter with wheel — $4.00.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Wood waste &amp; Yard waste (Glenwood, Cottage Grove &amp; Florence ONLY)</td>
<td>Wood waste: Broken furniture, painted wood, particle board, pallets, wood with nails or screws. NO Formica, foam core or plastic coated, treated wood, non-wood laminates, mixed materials, railroad ties, hardware bigger than your thumb. NO bags. THESE ARE GARBAGE.</td>
<td>Glenwood &amp; Florence Scales $84.70 per ton. ($9.00 minimum charge.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yard waste: Grass, brush, leaves, garden debris &amp; limbs up to 12&quot; diameter. Unload loose (no bagged material).</td>
<td>Cottage Grove &amp; Florence (non-commercial) Less than 1 cy: $9.00. 1 cy to 3 cy: $17.50  Over 3 cy: $9.00 per additional cubic yard.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Wood waste and yard waste must be greater/equal to 50% of the load AND must be placed in the recovery area.

Hazardous waste from businesses?
Services are available by appointment for a minimal fee for conditionally exempt small quantity generators (CEGs), defined as businesses that generate less than 220 pounds of hazardous waste per month. For more information, visit laneCountyor.gov/hazwaste or call (541) 682-4120.

Transfer Station Hours April 1 - September 30

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cottage Grove</td>
<td>Wed - Sat</td>
<td>8am - 6pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creswell</td>
<td>Wed - Sat</td>
<td>8am - 6pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florence</td>
<td>Mon - Sat</td>
<td>8am - 6pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glenwood</td>
<td>Mon - Sat</td>
<td>8am - 6pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>9am - 5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Pass</td>
<td>Fri &amp; Sat</td>
<td>9am - 5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marcola</td>
<td>Wed - Sat</td>
<td>8am - 6pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McKenzie Bridge</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>9am - 5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oakridge</td>
<td>Wed - Sat</td>
<td>8am - 6pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rattlesnake</td>
<td>Wed - Sat</td>
<td>8am - 6pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharps Creek</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>9am - 5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swishome</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>9am - 5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veneta</td>
<td>Mon - Sat</td>
<td>8am - 6pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vida-Leaburg</td>
<td>Wed - Sat</td>
<td>8am - 6pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walton</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>9am - 5pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Asbestos disposal done right

Asbestos that is disturbed in a demolition or remodeling project can become airborne and pose a danger to you and others. For information about asbestos and asbestos abatement, visit Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) at lrapa.org, email asbestos@lrapa.org or call (541) 736-1056.

Disposal of asbestos-containing materials at landfill

Lane County accepts asbestos-containing building materials for disposal by appointment at Short Mountain Landfill ONLY. Loads must be prepared and labeled per federal law before being delivered to the landfill. Please call (541) 682-4120 before delivery for details, hours of operation, and pricing.

Stormdrain Cleaning Assistance Program

Lane County announces the creation of a Stormdrain Cleaning Assistance Program (SCAP) in partnership with Gibson Steel Basins. SCAP will provide parking lot catch basin cleaning services to businesses for a flat fee ($65) per catch basin. The flat fee will cover cleaning to remove debris from the sump portion of the drain and proper disposal and cleaning directly adjacent to the stormdrain. Stormdrains require regular cleaning to remove pollutants and prevent flooding. Private businesses are responsible for the maintenance of stormdrains on their property. The program will be offered annually in the fall and spring. For more information, contact Angie Marzano: Angie.Marzano@lanecountyor.gov.

Free composting workshops on tap

For beginning to experienced composters, these hands-on workshops will cover the basics of how composting works, which materials to use, and the different methods and types of compost bins available. Workshops are led by knowledgeable backyard composting information specialists.

For more information about composting and gardening, visit the OSU Extension Service-Lane County Master Gardener Plant Clinic (996 Jefferson St., Eugene), call (541) 344-0265, or email lanemg@oregonstate.edu.

All compost workshops are on Saturdays from 10 a.m. - noon.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 9</td>
<td>River House Compost Education site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 23</td>
<td>OSU Extension Service-Lane County Master Gardener Plant Clinic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 7</td>
<td>GrassRoots Garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 21</td>
<td>OSU Extension Service-Lane County Master Gardener Plant Clinic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 4</td>
<td>BRING</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Construction, demo recycling options

Lane County requires all loads of construction and demolition materials measuring six cubic yards or more to be separated for recycling or delivered to EcoSort, a materials recovery facility. Contact EcoSort in Glenwood next door to the Lane County Transfer station (3425 E. 17th Ave.) or call (541) 726-7552.

This requirement applies to Glenwood and Short Mountain ONLY. Loads that DO NOT contain the targeted recyclable materials can be disposed of as usual. Targeted materials include:

- Cardboard
- Metal
- Recoverable wood
- Rubble
- Yard debris

These materials are recyclable at the Glenwood Transfer Station and other facilities in the community. Visit lanecountyor.gov/recycle to find recyclers and lanecountyor.gov/constructionwaste for more information about this rule.

Earth Machine—Available at BRING 4446 Franklin Blvd.

Worm Factory Basic—Visit naturesfootprint.com Use discount code LANECounty at check out.
Recycling at Lane County Transfer Stations

**Mixed Recycling**
Accepted at all sites

- **PLASTICS**
  - #1 and #2 plastic bottles, jugs and plastic jars
  - PAPER,
  - Junk mail, magazines, newspaper, paper bags, paper egg cartons

All recycling must be empty, clean and dry.

NO plastics 3-7, plastic bags or wrap, lids, caps, pumps, glass or garbage.

---

**Recycle Materials Below Separately**

- **Antifreeze**
  - HOUSEHOLD ONLY. MAXIMUM 15 GALLONES.
  - Store in container with secure lid.

- **Auto Batteries**
  - Lead-acid batteries.
  - Remove contents, flatten boxes. Brown paper bags accepted.

- **Concrete**
  - **P**

- **Electronic waste**
  - MAXIMUM 7 ITEMS PER VISIT. TVs, computer CPUs, monitors, printers, tele, phones, stereo, VOIP, DVD players.

- **Fluorescent lamps**
  - **P**

- **Motor Oil/Filter**
  - HOUSEHOLD ONLY. MAXIMUM 15 GALLONES.

- **Rechargeable Batteries**
  - All rechargeable & single-use batteries EXCEPT alkaline batteries.

- **Scrap Metal**
  - All items 75% metal or more. Remove all bags, oil & other liquids. Drums, barrels & other containers must be large, sturdy

- **Sharps (Needles)**
  - HOUSEHOLD ONLY. Pack securely in red, rigid, sealed container (red laundry detergent bottles OK).

- **Tires**
  - (passenger & light truck)

- **Wood waste**
  - **P**

---

Materials Below are Accepted as Recycling at Designated Transfer Stations

- **Sharps Creek** does not accept any of the materials below for recycling.

---

**Questions About Recycling?**
Download the WasteWise app at lanecountyor.gov/recycle