



## Public Works Department: Recycling Center

Jon A. Reisenbuechler, Operations Manager

*JonReisenbuechler@manitowocountywi.gov*

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PO Box 351 • 3000 Basswood Road • Manitowoc WI 54221-0351  
Phone: 920.683.4333 • Fax: 920.683.5030

### For Immediate Release

**Date:** December 28, 2021

**Subject:** Holiday Tree Drop-off

**Note:** Please repeat through January 11, 2022

Manitowoc County residents and businesses may drop off their natural holiday trees at the Basswood Compost Site from 7am to 4pm Monday through Friday, and Saturdays from 8am - noon. Please remove all ornaments, tinsel, lights, stands and storage bags from trees before dropping off. If your tree is more than 6 feet long, please cut it in half.

The Basswood compost site is located at 3000 Basswood Rd. Please call 920-683-4333 or visit [Manitowoccounty.com/recyclingcenter](http://Manitowoccounty.com/recyclingcenter) for additional information.

According to the National Christmas Tree Association around 29 million natural trees are sold over the holidays. Many of these trees are recycled once their holiday usefulness is over.

Used natural trees can be chipped and turned into wood mulch. Mulch is used for groundcover and erosion control in landscaping projects and trails. Another popular use is for constructing wildlife habitat. If properly placed in a backyard these holiday conifers provide shelter and protection for songbirds during the winter. Placed in loose piles at the edge of a woodland these trees help many wildlife including birds, small mammals and even the animals that depend on them for food. Many sportsmen will construct these brush piles to attract small game such as rabbits or to create hunting blinds. Carefully placed piles on the ice in lakes can be used to create fish habitat once the ice melts and the trees sink to the bottom. Be sure to check for local restrictions and warnings about invasive organisms before building fish or wildlife structures.



Holiday trees that have not been mulched may be taken for free from the Manitowoc County Basswood Compost Site.

The Manitowoc County Recycling Center is assisting the City of Manitowoc Parks and Forestry Division to distribute vouchers for their 'Tree for a Tree' Program. Throughout January, City of Manitowoc residents will be able to receive a voucher for a free deciduous tree when they bring their natural Christmas tree to the Basswood Compost Site. Participants must come to the

Recycling Center Main Office, open Monday through Friday between 7am and 4pm, before dropping off their tree. There are a limited number of vouchers available on a first come, first served basis with a limit of one per household to City of Manitowoc residents. Vouchers are redeemable at the Silver Creek Nursery from April 15 to May 15 for deciduous seedlings known as 'whips', which are about 3-4 feet tall, 2-4 years old, and ready for planting. The Tree for a Tree program is part of an urban forestry grant through the WDNR to help regain some of the urban tree canopy that will be lost due to the Emerald Ash Borer.