

Update on Doc Mock Park

By Elizabeth McKay, PUHS

In February, PRT included an article about the plan to renovate Doc Mock Park. Here's the latest...

In the next few months there will be soil testing and a site analysis taking place. A Roles and Responsibilities Meeting took place on February 18 between the Patagonia Youth Center, the Tree & Park Committee, The Nature Conservancy and Borderlands Restoration.

The Town Of Patagonia will be submitting quarterly reports, communicating with Arizona Forestry, purchasing needed supplies for the project, and extending the waterline to Doc Mock Park.

Borderlands Restoration will be conducting meetings, going over existing site plans, site analysis, coming up with some water infiltration designs, and keeping track of volunteer hours.

Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center with the help from Landscape Architect student Mary McKay, will test physical attributes of the soil with the youth and manage youth/adult volunteer hours. The involvement of students through the Patagonia Youth Center will help meet the volunteer hours needed to fulfill the grant requirements.

The Nature Conservancy will coordinate invasive species removal and the Patagonia Tree & Park Committee will provide a park and tree management guide. Plans for the park have quickly progressed and we are looking forward to the park being ready for the public soon.



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RECYCLING OPPORTUNITIES DURING EARTHFEST

SATURDAY, APRIL 18 is an opportunity to dispose of some of these items during the sixth Annual EARTHfest Patagonia event.

ELECTRONICS: Bring your old computer CPUs, computer flatscreen monitors, printers, scanners, cell phones, etc. to Cady Hall between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.. Ed Schaefer and Terry Plympton of Better Bytes will once again be collecting these items

and taking them to recycling facilities in Tucson.

HAZARDOUS ITEMS: Bring your household hazardous waste items, such as old paint, antifreeze, oil, lightbulbs, batteries, and pesticides, to the Town Park area across from the public rest rooms on 4th Avenue between 8 a.m. and noon. The Patagonia Regional Business Coalition is coordinating the collection of these items.

Mindful Waste Disposal

By Carolyn Shafer

What do a malfunctioning computer, an old paint can, and a leftover bottle of prescription medication have in common? They are all items that should be disposed of carefully. Why? Because if these items are not disposed of properly they contaminate the water and the soil and ultimately poison the food and water we consume, resulting in disease and illness.

Americans generate 1.6 million tons of household hazardous waste per year. The average home can accumulate as much as 100 pounds in the basement, garage, and storage closets. Dumping these items on the ground or down the sink or sending them off to the landfill is typically illegal. Recycling and proper waste disposal give us a way to combat this threat to our health and to our natural resources.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, recycling one million laptops saves energy equivalent to the electricity used by more than 3,500 US homes in a year. For every 1 million cell phones recycled, 35,000 pounds of copper, 772 pounds of silver, 75 pounds of gold, and 33 pounds of palladium can be recovered.

Flushing old medications down the toilet is known to disrupt biological systems when the toxic mix of drugs enters our water systems. Safe disposal of unused prescription drugs and over-the-counter medications is regulated by the US Drug Enforcement Administration. While the law was recently revised to allow certain pharmacies to participate, there are no facilities in Santa Cruz County or Pima County that offer this service. The closest place to drop off unused prescription drugs and other legal medications is at the Nogales Police Department. There is a locked container inside the lobby accessible 24 hours, seven days per week.

For the protection of our children and our environment, please dispose of hazardous waste items mindfully.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25: The Patagonia Regional Business Coalition will coordinate its second pickup of nonhazardous trash and debris. If you are interested in volunteering to help with this event (people, trucks, trailers welcome), contact Charlie at the Patagonia Gas Station (394-2363).

Seven Days a Week: Bring your leftover prescription drugs and unused over-the-counter medications to the Nogales Police Department at 777 N Grand Avenue.

