



Organics Collection Pilot Workshop



Thursday, March 7th, 2013



Rick Eilertson, P.E.,
Fitchburg Environmental Engineer



Tim Bolhuis
Pellitteri Waste Systems

Presentation at Fitchburg Green Thursday Event
Fitchburg Library – March 7, 2013 at 6:30 pm

Presentation Highlights

- 27 Years of Success on the 3-R's
- What's in our Carts, Why Collect Organics?
- Organics Collection Pilot (OCP) Details
- Food Waste Disposers?
- Home Composting?
- OCP Summary
- Upcoming Events





27 Years of Success in the 3-R's

- 1986 - Recycling Committee formed
- 1987 - Recycling Ordinance
- 1988 - Curbside Recycling & Drop Off Centers started
- 1989 - Curbside Yard Waste collection starts
- 1990 - Apartment Recycling & Polystyrene Recycling start
- 1991 to 1996 - Fitchburg wins EPA, U.S., and State Recycling Awards
- 1993 - Household Medical Waste (Sharps) Ordinance
- 1994 - Volume-based Collection begins
- 1996 - Compost Bin Sales start
- 1999 - 1st Solid Waste Sort
- 2003 - Electronics Recycling Events start, Home Composting Workshops, Recycling Drop Off Site
- 2006 - City Cart System starts
- 2007 - Fitchburg Sharps Collection starts at Bergmann's and Walgreens
- 2008 – Recycling Drop Off Site Enlarged
- 2009 – Block Polystyrene Bin at Recycling Drop Off Site, 2nd Solid Waste Sort
- 2010 - Organic Waste Survey
- 2011 - Organics Collection Report completed, MedDrop Box Installed
- 2012 – Organics Collection Pilot starts, 3rd Solid Waste Sort
- 2013 – Organics Collection Pilot Expanded

Recent Updates to the 3-R's



The City of Fitchburg, WI has a proud tradition of encouraging reduction, reuse, and recycling of waste materials. We hope this Recycling Guide will prove useful to you as you consider different options (reduce, reuse, recycle, rethink) for your unwanted items. Reuse and Recycling options and information are constantly changing. We encourage anyone with suggested revisions to contact us at publicworks@city.fitchburg.wi.us or 270-4260 to help us keep this guide current. Updates will be made available at: www.city.fitchburg.wi.us/solidwaste.

LAST REVISED FEBRUARY 12, 2013



What's in our Carts?

2009 Solid Waste Sort (Refuse & Recycling Carts collected from 40 homes)

Recycling Findings (% by weight)

- Actual Recycling Rate = 33%
- Potential Recycling Rate = 48%
- **Recommendations:** Recycling Cart Stickers, Advertise Recycling Guide



What's in our Carts?

Refuse Carts

Refuse Findings (% by weight)

• Food waste = 27%

• Soiled paper = 15%

Total Compostable Organics = **42%**

Goal: Divert Organics from Landfill



What's in our Carts?

2012 Solid Waste Sort (Refuse, Recycling & Organics Carts collected from 40 homes)

Recycling Findings (% by weight)

- Actual Recycling Rate = 41%
- Potential Recycling Rate = 53%
- **Recommendations:** Continue enhancements to Recycling Guide



What's in our Carts?

Refuse Carts (2012)

Refuse Findings (% by weight)

- Food waste = 21%
- Soiled paper = 14%
- Pet Waste = 8%
- Total Compostable Organics = **43%**
- Diapers = 18%

- **Recommendations:** Continue enhancements to Organics Pilot



Why Collect Organics?



1. Reduces waste disposal costs
2. Saves landfill space
3. Keeps nutrients in "The Loop"



Food Waste Disposers = \$\$\$



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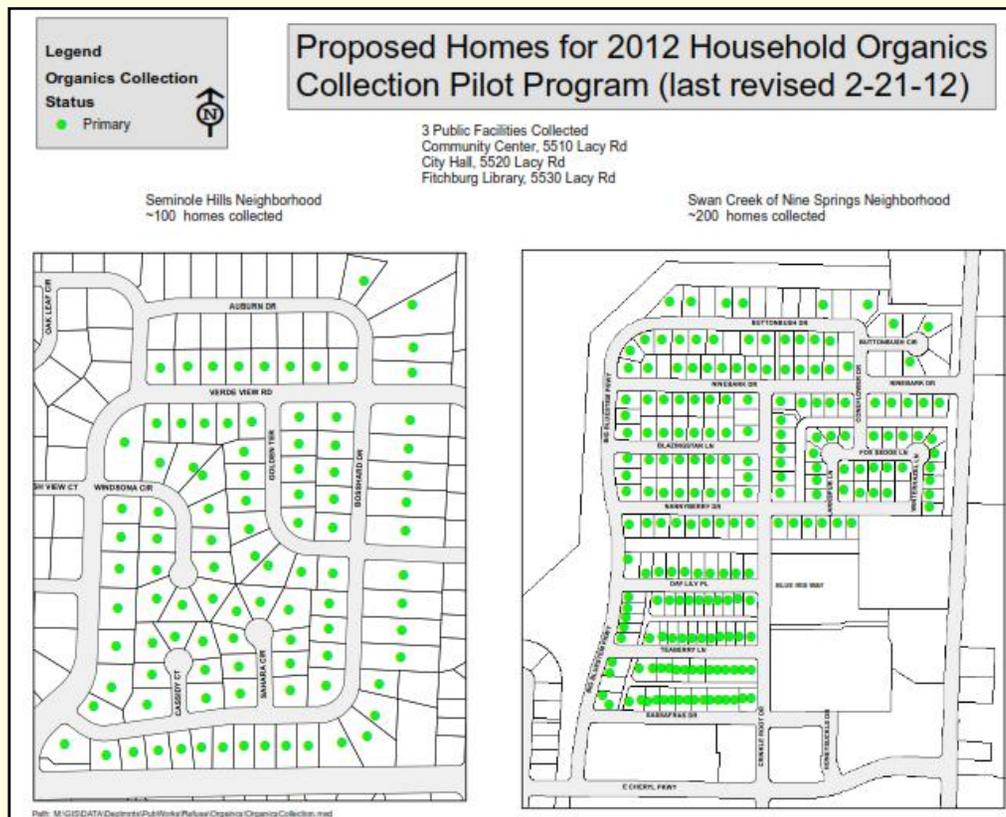
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1. Uses Electricity at Home & WWTP (\$)
2. Uses Water (\$)
3. Can clog home and public sanitary sewer pipes (\$)
4. WWTF needs to dispose of solids (\$)

Organics Collection 2012 Pilot Details

- ~300 Households Invited



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February 3, 2012

Resident
Fitchburg Organics Collection Pilot Area
Fitchburg, WI 53711

RE: Fitchburg's Organics Collection Pilot

Dear Resident,

As you may have read in the January Fitchburg Update, Fitchburg is starting an Organics Collection Pilot beginning on April 3, 2012. Your household is in the area selected for the Pilot. We are excited to begin this Pilot which we hope will lead to a viable way to reduce landfilled waste and at the same time produce a useable product.

A handout detailing the Pilot and describing the Pilot supplies, which will be delivered to you in early March, is attached to this letter. We will be holding an **Organics Collection Pilot Workshop on Thursday, March 8, 2012**, at the Fitchburg Library (5530 Lacy Road, in Meeting Rooms A & B). There will be two presentations to further explain the program and answer any questions. The first presentation will start at 5:30 pm, followed by a "Hands-on" demonstration of the Pilot supplies at 6:15pm. The second presentation will start at 7:00pm and be a repeat of the first.

The City appreciates your participation in this Pilot; however, participation is voluntary. If you prefer not to participate, you may "opt out" of the program by contacting me prior to March 1st. This will allow us to allocate your cart and Pilot supplies to the next interested household.

Since this is a new program, things may change during the Pilot period. We've created a web page (www.city.fitchburg.wi.us/Organics) to help answer questions, and keep participants and other interested residents updated. You can also subscribe to email updates on this program by visiting the above web page and following the steps noted. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please feel free to contact me at rick.eliertson@city.fitchburg.wi.us or 270-4264.

Again, we appreciate your participation and look forward to working with you on the Organics Collection Pilot. Thank you!

Sincerely,
City of Fitchburg

Rick Eliertson, P.E.
Environmental Engineer

<http://www.city.fitchburg.wi.us/Organics>

Organics Collection Pilot Details

Organics Collection Pilot Handout

Q: Why does Fitchburg want to collect organics separately?

The main reason for a Curbside Organics Collection program is to reduce the amount of waste going to the landfill. Approximately 42% of waste collected in Fitchburg's refuse carts is considered organic and is readily compostable (based on the 2009 Fitchburg Waste Sort). If we can reduce that number to 10% throughout the entire city we will keep over 1,000 tons of trash out of the landfill annually. That will extend the life of the landfills and save a significant amount of money by reducing tipping fees at the landfill. In addition, the organics collected will be turned into a useable soil supplement as stabilized compost.

Q: Why is Fitchburg conducting this Pilot?

This Pilot will help identify issues that need to be addressed before possible expansion City-wide. The information obtained from this Pilot will be very helpful in Fitchburg's efforts to minimize waste disposal costs.

Q: What do I need to do as a Pilot participant?

As a participant of this Pilot, we would like you to separate your organic waste (defined below) from your refuse and put it in a separate Organics cart. Your Organics cart will be collected weekly on the same day as your refuse cart, starting April 3rd. So just set your Organics cart curbside on your refuse collection day.

Q: What Organics Collection Pilot supplies will I receive between March 2nd and 7th?

- 35 gallon brown Cart (on loan from Pellitteri) with "Organics Only" sticker (Figure 1 below)
- 2 gallon kitchen Compost Pail (either Sure-Close in Fig. 2 or Norseman in Fig. 3 below)
- Sample compostable bags (GLAD and/or EcoSafe brands)
- Program literature with further information on the Pilot and the Workshops



Figure 1: 35-gallon "Organics Only" Cart



Figure 2: Kitchen Pail, Option A - Sure-Close



Figure 3: Kitchen Pail, Option B - Norseman

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Q: What "Organics" are allowed in my brown "Organics Only" carts for this pilot?

Fruit and Vegetable scraps
Grains (e.g. bread, bagels, tortillas, etc)
Table scraps, including Meats, Fats, Bones
Dairy products (e.g. milk, cheese, butter, ice cream)
Coffee grounds & filters
Dirty Paper-based items (e.g. paper cups and plates, napkins, paper towels, dirty portions of cardboard pizza boxes)
Pet waste (from dogs, cats, and other pets, including newspaper liners and kitty litter but any bags must be biodegradable.)
Compostable bags (Note: must be appropriately labeled as "Compostable" with BPI and US Composting Council logo)



Q: How is the Organics Collection different from backyard composting?

The Organics Collection includes many more items such as table scraps, meats, fats, bones and pet waste which are not suitable for backyard composting. In addition, for this Pilot, yardwaste should not be put in your brown Organics cart.

Q: What's the timeframe for this Pilot?

You can begin separating your organics as soon as you receive your Organics cart, but the first organics collection will be on Tues., April 3rd. The Pilot will continue at least through the end of December 2012.

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Organics Collection Pilot Details

What Can go in the Carts

- Fruit and Vegetable scraps
- Grains (eg. bread, bagels, tortillas, etc)
- Meats, Fats, Bones
- Coffee grounds & filters
- Soiled Paper Items (eg. Soiled napkins, paper towels, pizza boxes)
- Pet waste (currently can include kitty litter)



What Can't go in the Carts

- Non-Compostable Plastic bags
- Dirty diapers (this may change during the course of the Pilot)
- Other household refuse or recyclables

Organics Collection Pilot Details

- Where do I put the supplies?
- How do I use the supplies?
- Calling the Superkids Hotline 270-4264
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=LgTwDOckvoo



Organics Collection Pilot Details





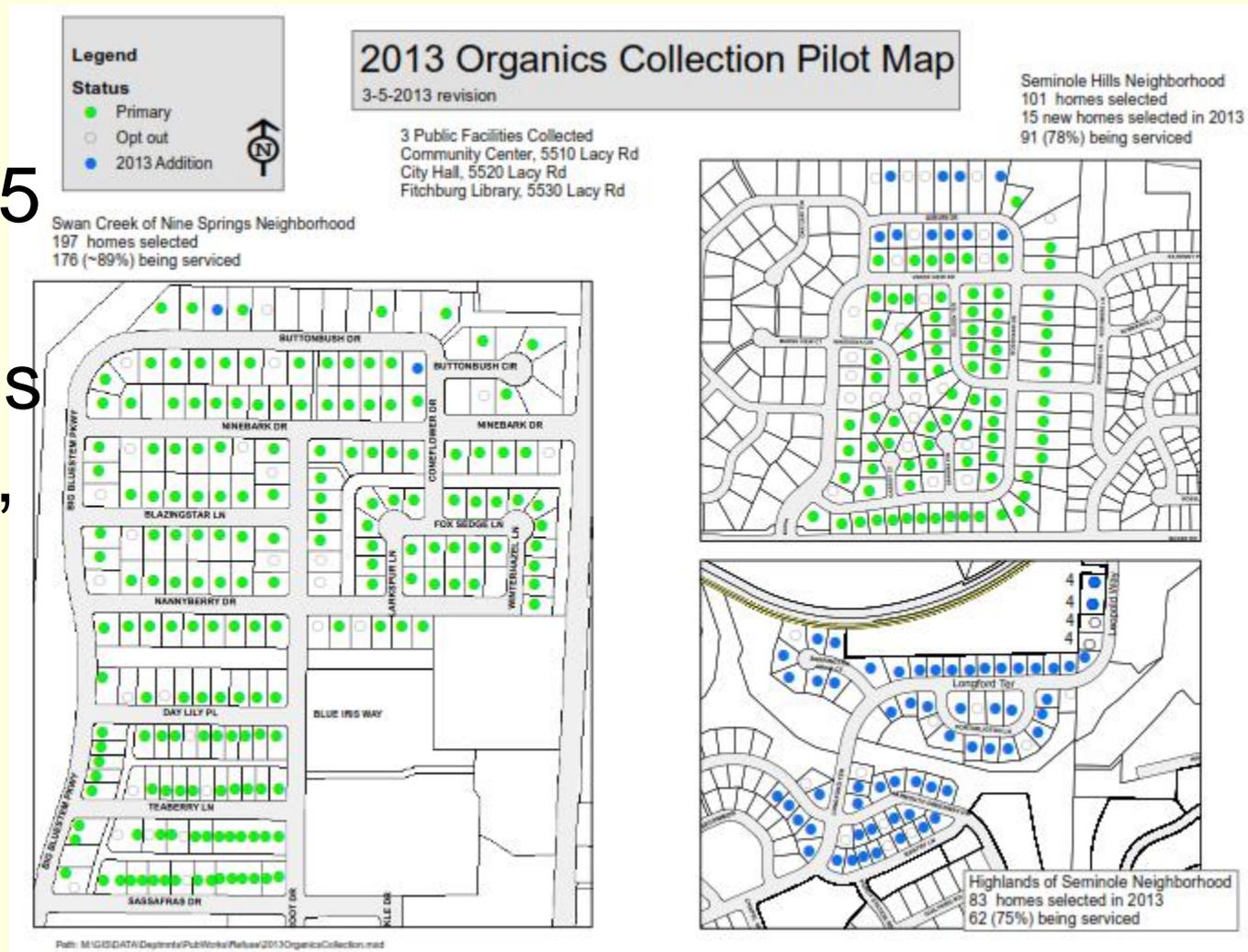
2012 Collection Pilot Tonnage

Tonnage Collected (April – Dec. 2012)

- Organics = 26.8 Tons
- Refuse = 117.5 Tons
- Based on 2012 Waste Sort Percentages, Here's what the numbers could have been if everyone sorted perfectly
- Organics = 105 Tons
- Recyclables = 100 Tons
- Refuse = 40 Tons

Organics Collection in 2013

Adding ~75
more
households
on April 2,
2013





2012 Collection Pilot Survey Summary

Concerns Expressed in the Survey

- Availability of compostable bags
- Odors and cleaning of cart
- Pests and animals
- Lack of space for organics cart and kitchen pail



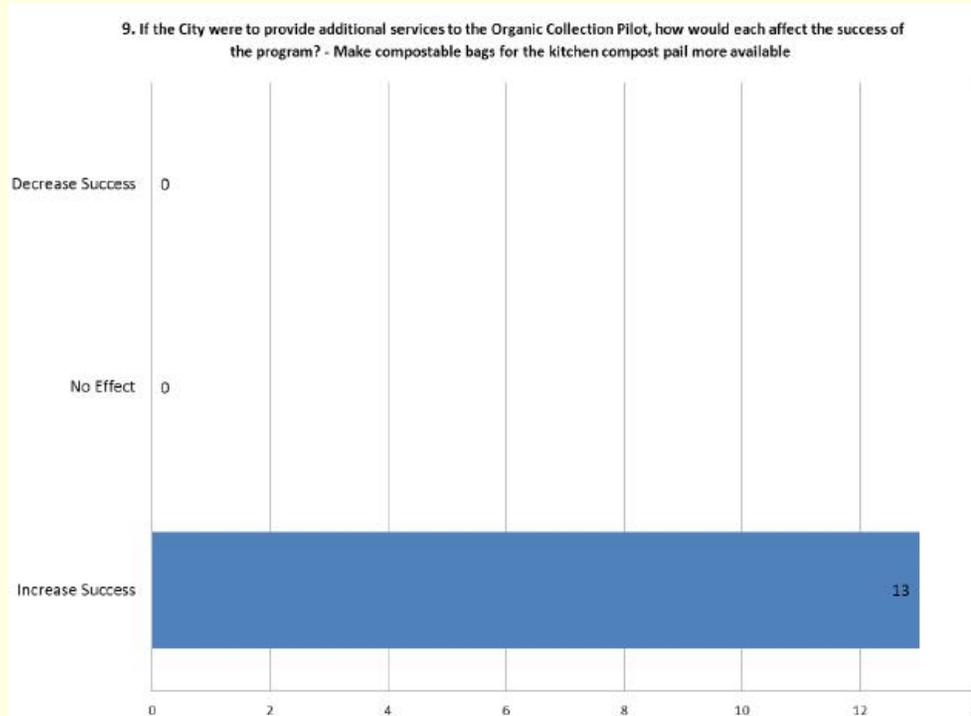
2012 Collection Pilot Survey Summary

Suggestions

- Advertise locations for compostable bags
- Pick up every week; especially during the summer
- More marketing/education: newsletter articles, e-mail, information packet, website, social media
- Promote home composting



Next Steps: Outreach on Compostable bag options



Organics Collection Pilot Supplies

Where to obtain compostable bags.

Target:

- Seasonally available (March-September) at all area Target locations.
- Bag to Nature brand.

Copps:

- Available at most Copps locations. Including Copps @ Cahill Main and Copps @ McKee Road.
- Large garbage (13 gallons) size.
- Bag to Nature brand: \$5.99/box, 15 bags/box

Woodman's West:

- Small kitchen countertop (2.6 gallons) size available.
- Glad brand: \$3.99/box
- 20 bags/box

Whole Foods:

- Small kitchen countertop (3 gallons) size available.
- If You Care brand: \$5.99/box, 30 bags/box

Willy Street Co-op East:

- Small kitchen countertop (3 gallons) size available.
- Bio-Bag brand: \$4.99/box, 25 bags/box

Online:

- www.target.com
 - Bag to Nature (3 gallons) Kitchen Bags, 100-pack
 - \$14.99
- <http://fresh.amazon.com/>
 - EcoSafe Compostable Bags (2.5 gallons) Mini Kitchen Organics, 25-pack
 - \$6.06
- <http://walmart.com/>
 - Glad (2.6 gallons) Compostable and Biodegradable Small Kitchen Bags, 20-pack
 - \$5.17

For more information please visit:
<http://www.city.fitchburg.wi.us/Organics>

Or contact:
 Rick Eilertson at 270-4264 or rick.eilertson@city.fitchburg.wi.us

Next Steps: Home Composting





Upcoming Events

**April 2 - Organics Curbside Collection
Expansion Starts**

**May 4 - Home Compost Bin and Rain Barrel
Sale**

Other Ideas for Events?

Presentation Summary

- 25 Years of Success on the 3-R's
- What's in our Carts, Why Collect Organics?
- Organics Collection Pilot (OCP) Details
- Food Waste Disposers? no.
- Home Composting? YES!
- Upcoming Events



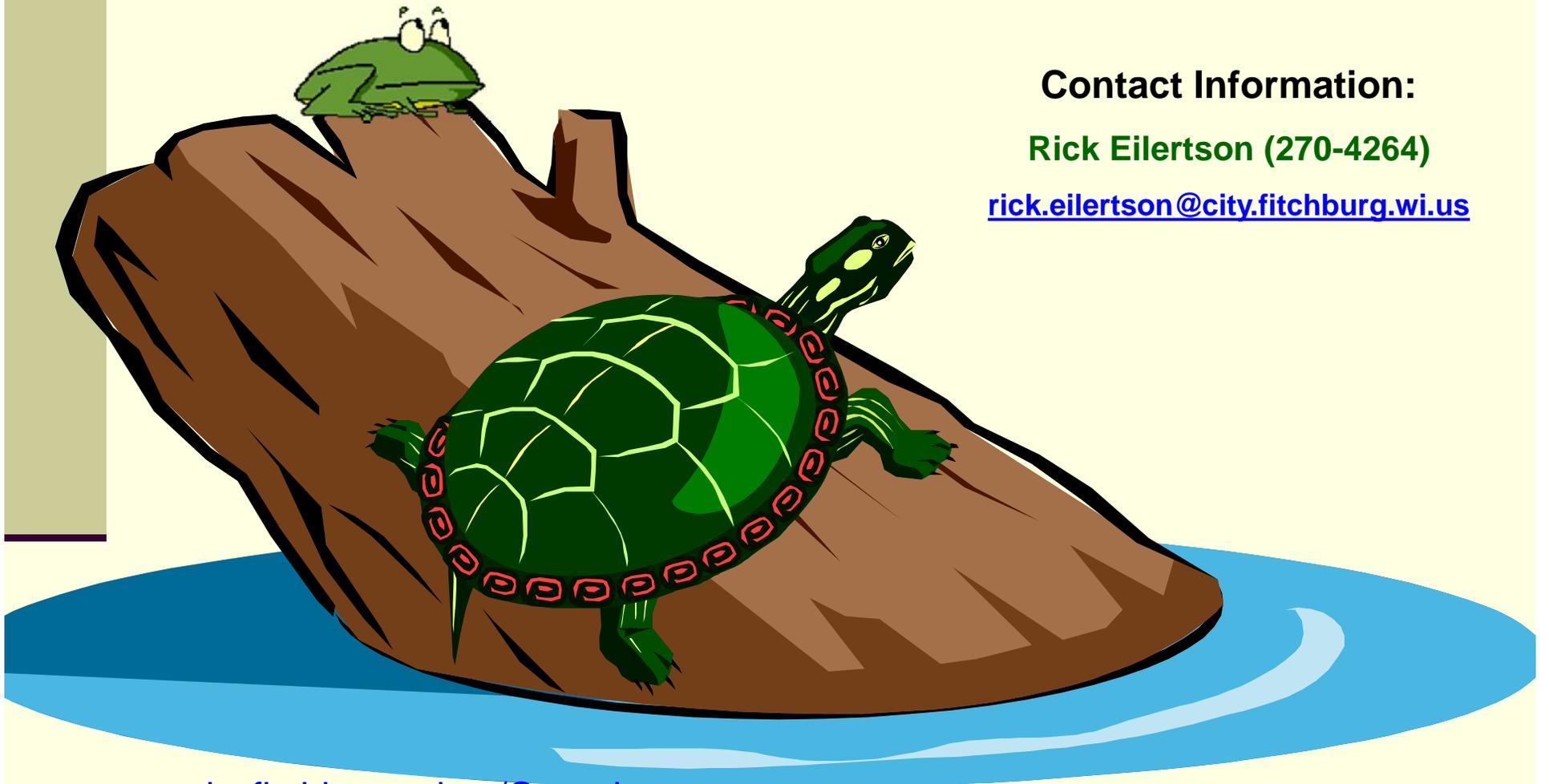


Questions?

Contact Information:

Rick Eilertson (270-4264)

rick.eilertson@city.fitchburg.wi.us



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