

Too Much of a Good Thing? – Tales from Tim’s Recycling Bin

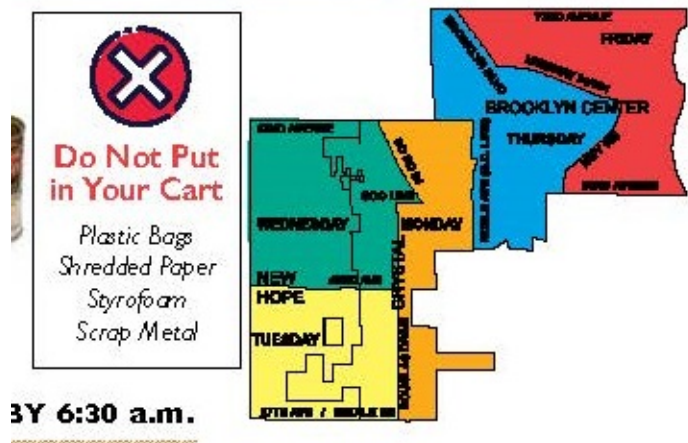
Recently I was at a City Council meeting in one of the other cities that I work for and a Councilmember asked me what new things he could put in his recycling cart. I think my answer took him (and may take you) by surprise. I said I don’t need new stuff. Recycling is not designed so that you can move waste from your garbage to your recycling cart. Recycling provides manufacturers with material they can use to make new products.

If you put things in your recycling cart that you think should be recycled, you may end up contaminating the load. We say if in doubt, throw it out.

Previously the recycling world was focused on what new things we could add to our programs. Now we’re finding that we need to emphasize we want fewer things so that we can keep clean the material we do want. When you received the 2021 Recycling Calendar in the mail, you may have noticed that we added a No column – things people commonly put in their carts that we have either never wanted or no longer want.

Here’s the No list: Plastic Bags, Shredded Paper, Styrofoam, Scrap Metal

I don’t have space to list all the reasons we don’t want these items. But if you want to email me at tim.pratt@brooklynpark.org I’m happy to talk trash with you.



Until next time, recycle the right stuff my friends.