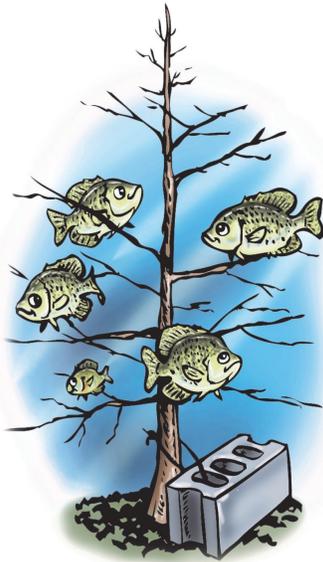


Hello, neighbors.

What are you going to do with your Christmas tree? Folks with artificial trees box them up for the next 10 months or so. End of story. But if you have a real tree ... what?

Here are some solutions.

## Sink it



There are few better natural habitats for fish than trees, and your evergreen is no exception. Properly placed, it will give cover for small fish species for years. According to the Missouri Department of Conservation (*which provided the fishy image at left*):

Since bass, bluegill and crappie typically spawn in shallow water, MDC recommends tying the tree to a cement block and submerging it at a depth of 4 to 7 feet. This gives emerging fish easy access to the cover. No need to cut it up; the entire tree is best for creating fish structure. First, remove all traces of decorations, tinsel or garlands.

MDC usually takes donated trees to its managed lakes and ponds, but will not do so this year because of, you guessed it,

Covid-19. For other options to aid wildlife, visit the following URL:

<https://mdc.mo.gov/newsroom/mdc-foresters-suggest-ways-recycle-live-christmas-trees-after-holidays-0>

If you are a hardy soul and have a canoe or kayak, you can plunk your tree in the Stonewater lake. Just remember: Remove all decorations and anchor it.

## Have it mulched

Jefferson County will take your tree and recycle it if you bring it to one of the following locations through mid-January:

- Crystal City Municipal Park in Crystal City
- Jefferson County Courthouse lower parking lot, Hillsboro
- Sunridge Park, 8093 Tower Road, north of Hillsboro
- Pleasant Valley Nature Preserve, Highway PP and Byrnes Mill Road, High Ridge

## Have it picked up

Herculaneum trash hauler Waste Connections will collect discarded Christmas trees on Friday, Jan. 8, according to a Facebook post by Herky Mayor Bill Haggard. Place trees curbside with the trunk end to the street. Trees must be free of all decorations and placed curbside by 7 a.m.

Remaining trees will be collected by Herky Public Works on Monday, Jan. 11, again without decorations and curbed by 7 a.m.

**Trees discarded after Jan. 11** can be taken to the boat launch site at Brown Street and Joachim Avenue. Trees will be shredded to mulch.

## Last word

If you are really late in taking down your tree, Waste Connections will haul it off during its bulk pickup run the fourth week of January. For more information, visit the following URL:  
<https://www.wasteconnections.com/our-services/residential-yard-waste>

**Have a happy and SAFE New Year.**