



Public Works Department: Recycling Center

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For Immediate Release

Date: December 29, 2025

Subject: Holiday Tree Drop-off

Note: Please repeat through January 12, 2026

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 Manitowoccountywi.gov for additional information.



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. 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 with the 'Tree for a Tree' Program. City of Manitowoc residents may receive a voucher for a free deciduous tree when they bring their natural Christmas tree to the Basswood Compost Site. There are a limited number of vouchers available on a first come, first serve basis with a limit of one per address to City of Manitowoc residents. Participants must come to the Recycling Center Main Office, open Monday through Friday between 7am and 4pm, before dropping off their tree. Participants will need to complete and sign a form at the main office. Vouchers will be mailed to qualified City of Manitowoc residents in March with instructions for pickup. Vouchers will be redeemable April 24 to May 22 for deciduous seedlings known as 'whips', which are about 3-4 feet tall, 2-4 years old, and ready for planting. A total of 75 vouchers will be issued and choice of species is on a "first come, first serve" basis. 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.