

## YOU'VE COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE!

Trash <u>should</u> go to a transfer station and ultimately by recycled or converted to energy. It should not be allowed to remain where it can be washed into our wetlands and waterways, either directly or via the catch basins and pipes of our stormwater system.

Our waterways — Little River and the Parker River — are home to countless organisms that are part of the food chain of which we human Newbury residents are on top. Trash can be deadly to these creatures. For example creatures that eat jellyfish (such as sea-turtles.. ) will mistake a clear plastic bag for a jellyfish, and eat it, choke, and die. But the story gets worse. The turtle's carcass will probably decompose in about two or three months, while the plastic bag won't break down for ten to twenty years, thus having an opportunity to kill more turtles and other sea creatures for years to come.

This is only one example. There are similar stories for many other sorts of household trash. So please do your best to assure that your trash ends up here, and not in our waterways.

The following are the approximate time periods it takes to break down various items of trash:

Newspaper

6 weeks

Cigarette butts

1-15 years

Aluminum cans

80-200 years

Plastic Bottle

450 years

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