

## Inappropriate use threatens city recycling program



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Christa Wright, Contributing Reporter

Hastings resident Adria Neudeck enjoys a day at Fish Hatchery while simultaneously putting the correct materials in the correct bin.

The City of Hastings teamed up with Les's Sanitary Services to provide recycling bins throughout town.

Recycling is a way for people to do their part in creating a clean environment and protecting the earth. Benefits of recycling include the conservation of natural resources, reducing the size of landfills and cutting back on the amount of pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

City officials would like to ask the residents and visitor to pay closer attention to which bin they put their garbage in and which one they put their recyclables. The intention of these recycling bins is to keep recyclable materials out of landfills.

"We provide the recycling bins for people," said City Manager Jeff Mansfield. "Please put the trash in the trash cans and the recyclables in the recycling bins."

Once the garbage contaminates recyclables collection, the items can no longer be recycled and must be thrown in a landfill. If people have suggestions on how to make recycling easier, Mansfield said the city is open and willing to listen to suggestions.

"It really ruins it for everybody when people throw garbage into the recycling bins because we just have to throw all of that into the landfill," said Bill Sweeney of Les's Sanitary Services.

Both Les's Sanitary Services and the City of Hastings will be putting an effort into making it clearer what items go into recycling bins by putting more information on the bins themselves, but the residents and visitors are going to have to meet them halfway to help bring Hastings closer to a cleaner environment.