



A Sustainable Lake Bluff...

Stops and Shops Sustainably

Shopping results in a large amount of avoidable waste.

Although you might not think much of it, shopping for groceries and household essentials results in a **lot** of avoidable trash that can't be easily dealt with in a sustainable manner. Plastic bags and wraps used as packaging are not easily recycled because they entangle recycling equipment... but they easily find their way into our natural areas and Lake Michigan.

Plastic shopping bags are a threat to natural ecosystems. They clog waterways and entrap animals. An errant bag could even cause an animal to choke or suffocate. Waste bags are also a major money sink due to the large amount of time and manpower spent picking them up. It can take generations for plastic products to fully degrade in nature, and all the while they continue to endanger plants and animals.

While plastic shopping bags are a visible and easily avoidable source of plastic pollution, other packaging materials from the grocery store - like wraps, bottles, and can holders - also threaten wildlife and are frequently found littering natural areas.

Be Part Of The Solution

- Plastic bags, like plastic water bottles, can be easily replaced by environmentally friendly reusable shopping bags. **Bring your own bags!**
- You can ask for paper bags and choose products that use paper packaging that is easier to recycle.
- If you do have to use plastic materials, make sure you dispose of them properly. Thin plastic can't be machine sorted and belongs in the garbage.
- Make sure you secure your garbage cans to prevent waste from flying away.