

# LEOH Trip

August 21, 2019

## Waste Management Recycling, Christ Church Cathedral, and Buffalo Bayou Park Cistern

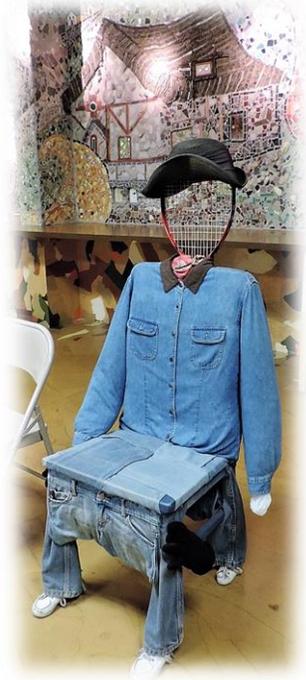


Our first stop: the **Waste Management** facility on Gasmer, to learn the do's and don'ts of proper recycling.

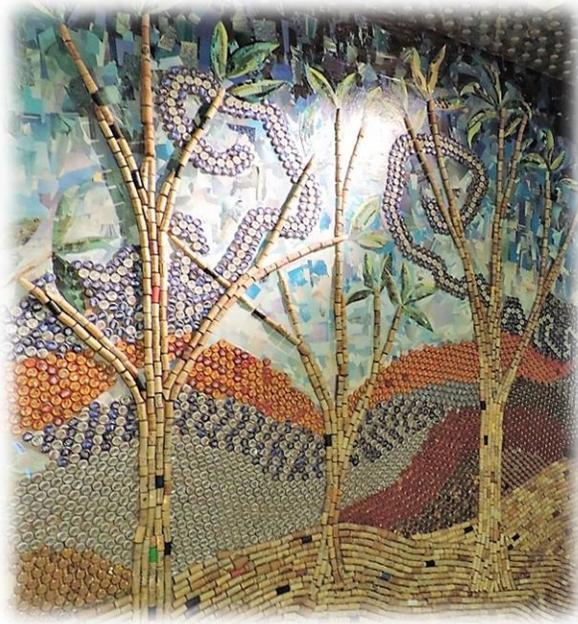
WM handles upwards of 15 million tons of recyclables a year.



Sherrell Cordas was our recycling guide. Those of us who thought we were fairly savvy about recycling had a lot to learn!



Before Sherrell's presentation, we admired many items, including these chairs, all made from recycled items by Texas designer and builder Dan Phillips. Note chairs made from a cabinet; aluminum can pop tops; electrical outlets (an electric chair!); red decoupage; and denim.

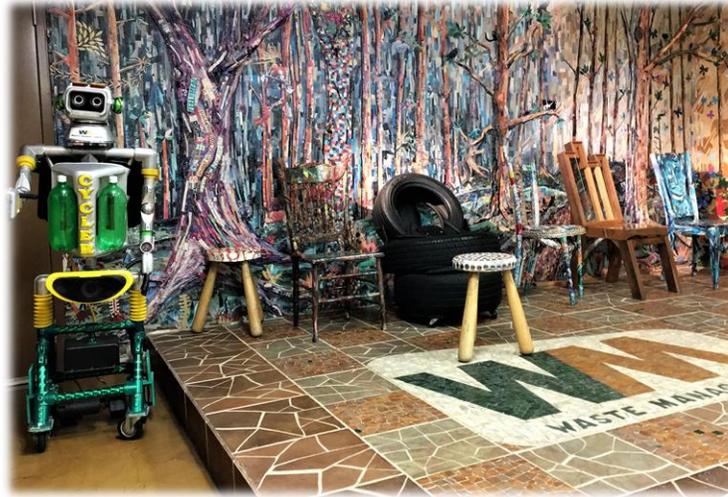


How about a wall mural entirely of corks?

Or a wall covered in decouped strips of paper?

Or a robot made with some plastic bottles?

Or...a ceiling covered in vinyl records and CD's!



We observed employees through the windows (no photos allowed) as they did the hard work of sorting items moving along conveyor belts. There are numerous sorting steps to ensure final items to be recycled are acceptable.

Employees must wear full protective equipment to ensure their safety. Think of them as you toss items into your recycling!

## Did You Know?

- The average American creates almost 4 ½ pounds of waste every single day.
- 262 million tons of waste were created in the U.S. in 2015. How much will it be in 2019?
- Packages and containers continue to increase (think Amazon, for example).
- Plastic waste is the worst, because so many products are made with plastic of some type, and so little is recycled. For example: 69% of plastic bottles do **NOT** get recycled.
- Recycling right means NO shredded paper, NO plastic grocery bags, NO food or liquids, NO styrofoam, NO mattresses, tires, garden hoses, etc.
- Yes, obvious non-recyclable items are put in recycling bins every day. About 1 in 4 items, to be exact. Shredded paper is actually a no-no, so place in your regular trash.
- Non-recyclable plastic grocery bags can actually tangle in and stop the recycle truck machinery.
- Liquids can make a soggy and non-recyclable mess of the entire truck contents.

## What Can We Do?

- Follow the recycling mantra of “**Recycle Often, Recycle Right**”. Recycling saves space in landfills, reduces greenhouse gas, saves energy, and reduces the need for non-renewable resources.
- Return plastic grocery bags to the store for re-use; better yet, use your own reusable bags.
- Rinse out items as needed, then replace lids/caps and be sure the items are dry on the outside.
- Only buy what you need and use.
- Use more durable items.
- Check packaging for recyclability.

Find out more at [wm.com](http://wm.com), or [scordas@wm.com](mailto:scordas@wm.com)

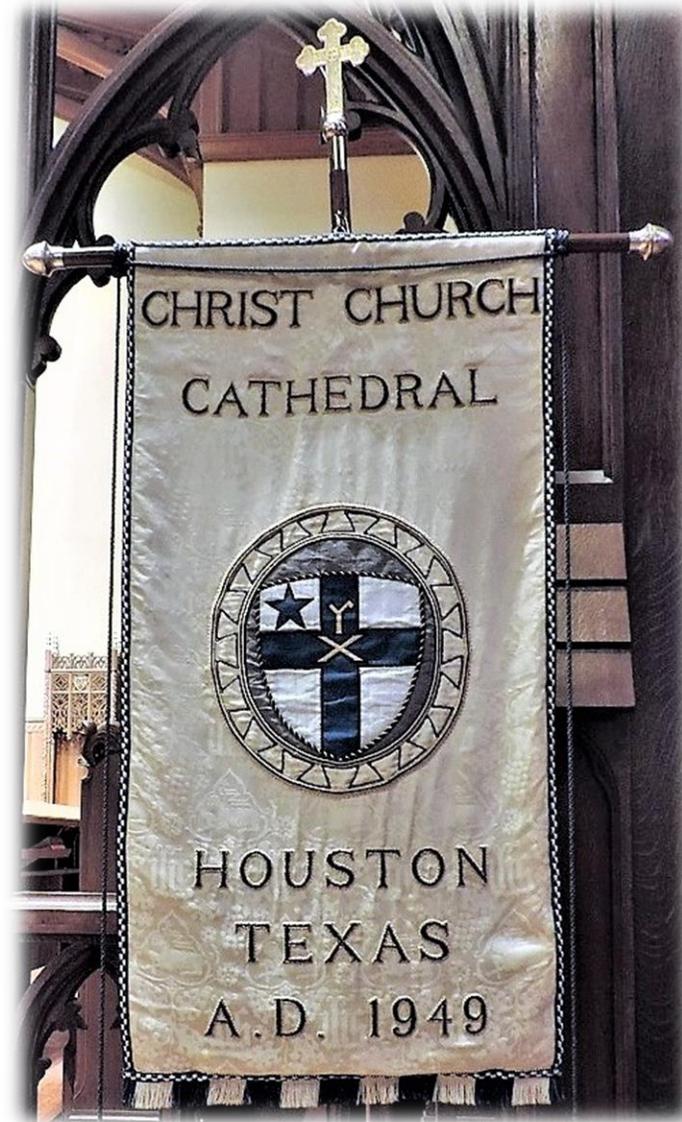


**All aboard for our next stop:**  
 Lunch at *Treebeard's in the Cloister*, located within Christ Church Cathedral's social hall.  
 Our bus driver, Cheryl Buck, ensured we made it to and from our destinations safely.

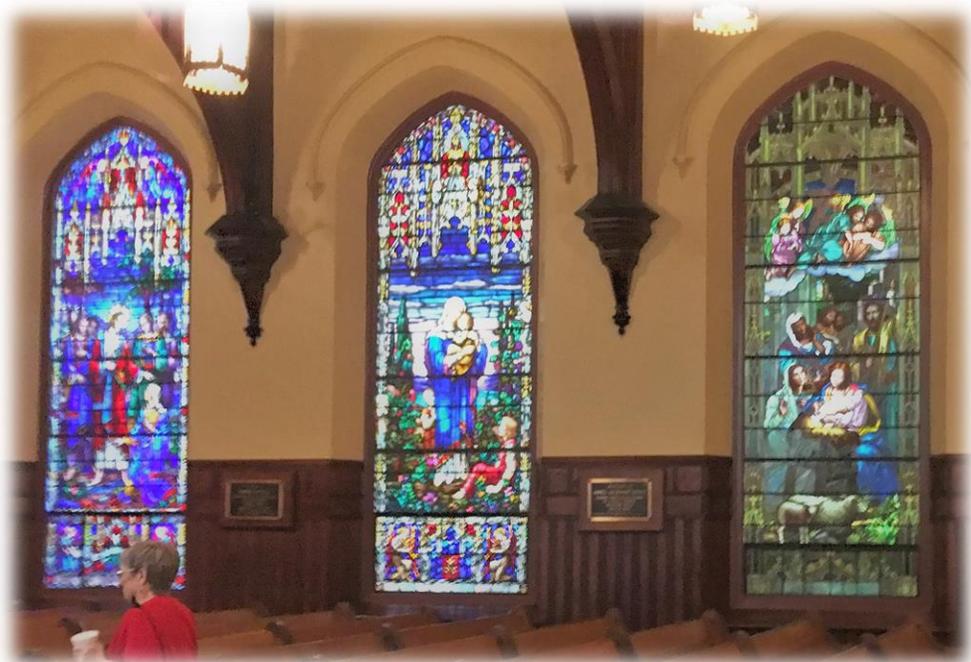


*Treebeard's* offers a wide variety of yummy selections in a cafeteria style setting. It has been providing meals here since 1981.





Before entering the cathedral, we enjoyed the beautiful views of the courtyard. Once inside, we were in awe of the beautiful architecture and stained glass.





Christ Church was founded in **1839**. It was the first church in Houston, when Houston was the capital of the Republic of Texas. The church has enlarged, while remaining on its original site. Over the years, it has served many religions and races. In **1938**, an adjacent building caught fire. Flames reached the chancel in the church, with the roof collapsing over the altar. A Roman Catholic fireman sprayed water on the rood screen, determined to save it. He was successful, and in the picture above, our tour guide points to the screen, which has only minor charring on the altar side. In **1949**, Christ Church, the mother to many Episcopal churches in Texas, became the cathedral church during the centennial celebration of the Diocese of Texas.

Find out much more at [christchurchcathedral.org](http://christchurchcathedral.org)

Last stop:  
**Buffalo Bayou Park Cistern**



The Cistern, located on Sabine Street, was built in 1926. It acted as a water reservoir for drinking water and for fire suppression for several decades.



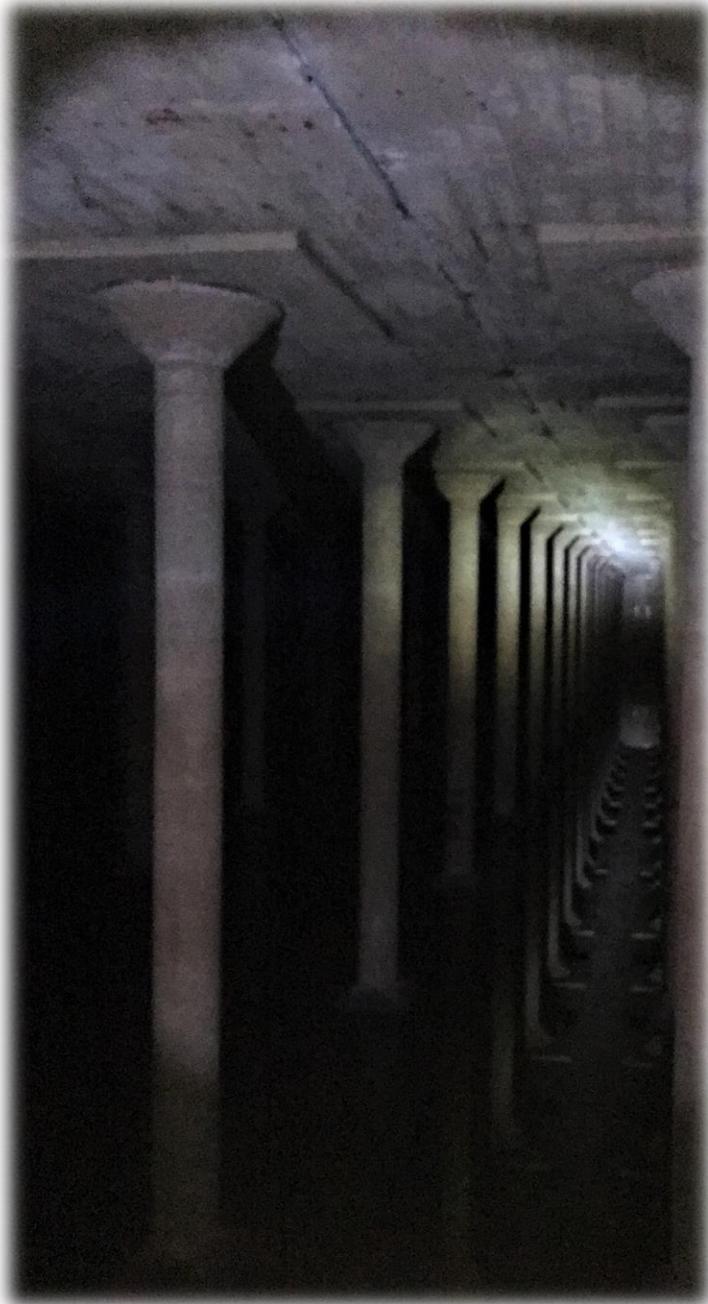
We gathered inside a waiting area to begin our tour.



An irreparable leak closed the cistern in 2007. A few years later the cistern was slated to be demolished. Around the same time, the Buffalo Bayou Partnership was developing the Buffalo Bayou Park project. They were delighted to “discover” the cistern, a round structure with 221 25-foot tall columns. It was repurposed to include a walkway with railings, and it is open for tours that periodically include art installations.



Our tour guide Rose led us completely around the cistern, explaining its history and pointing out features along the way.



The cistern can hold 15 million gallons of water at capacity. It has an 8-inch thick concrete roof and tapered concrete walls that range from 8 inches at the top to 18 inches at the bottom.

The cistern has a very quiet, serene atmosphere. This changed when our guide had us shout in unison. We enjoyed the shouting as well as the 17-second echo. Find out more about the cistern and Buffalo Bayou Park at

[buffalobayou.org](http://buffalobayou.org)