



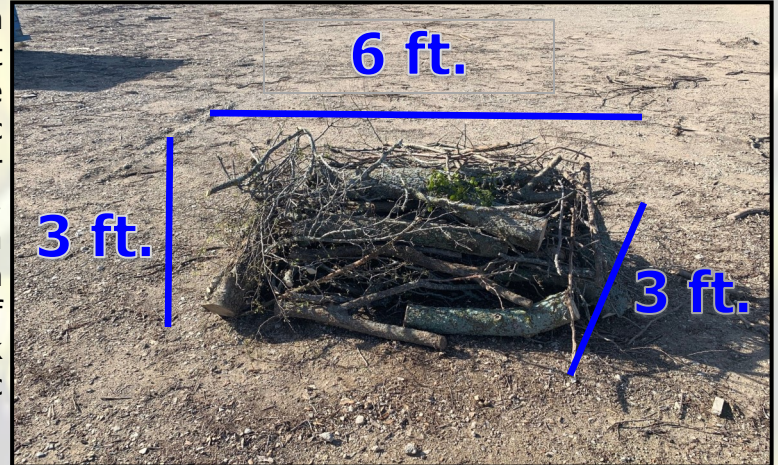
ROCKWALL CITY NOTES

A Monthly City Publication

April 2020

Temporary Changes Coming for Bulk Trash Service

With schools and businesses temporarily shutting down amid the coronavirus threat, and more people staying at home, Rockwall residents have begun to generate more garbage to be picked up each week. In fact, Republic Services reports a 30% increase in the volume of regular trash being picked up on a weekly basis. For that reason, the company has shifted the role of some drivers from brush pick up to help accommodate the increase in volume, and is now temporarily limiting the amount of bulk trash and brush each residence can put out for pick up. Volume, until further notice, is limited to 54 cubic feet, which is demonstrated by the picture here.



Leaves, grass clippings, and other yard waste must be placed at the front curb for collection with bulk trash and brush. Republic also asks that residents use trash bags for residential garbage for the safety of their workers. Bulk trash and brush collections will occur on Wednesdays of your zone's designated week. Republic will resume the previous schedule and volume for bulk trash and brush pick up as soon as possible. Please check your schedule at Rockwall.com to determine your next bulk service.

Spring



Flushable Wipes are Not Truly Flushable

Recent events have caused a temporary shortage of toilet paper, which has led to an increase in the sales of flushable wipes and other alternative paper products. These items pose a serious risk to the City's sanitary sewer system. The massive clog in the picture here was removed from a lift station that pumps wastewater to one of the treatment plants. The blockage is made up of about 80% flushable wipes combined with twigs, sticks, a plastic soda bottle, feminine hygiene products, and even a pair of underwear.

These require the City's wastewater crews to shut down the pumps and manually remove the blockages in order to prevent wastewater from backing up into houses, businesses, and the environment. Here are a few things that are NOT FLUSHABLE:

- "Flushable" wipes / wipes of any kind
- Paper towels or napkins
- Diapers, hair or hygiene products
- Trash and debris

Out and About in Rockwall



Shape Your Future: Census 2020

Most residents should have received their Census 2020 invitation. You can complete the survey online, by phone and by mail. It only takes a few minutes, and it helps determine how more than \$675 billion dollars of federal funding are spent on important community programs such as Head Start, school lunches, roads, and so much more. For more information, please visit rockwall.com or 2020census.gov.



Mayor Speaks to Local Students

Before RISD's Spring Break, while students were still in school, Mayor Jim Pruitt visited Dobbs Elementary to speak to a group of third graders. The lively discussion was part of the students' current curriculum covering local government. Students' questions covered a full range of city services, such as: where does water come from before I turn on my tap?, who fixes the potholes?, and how many parks do we have in Rockwall?



Find the Guitars Around Town

The Art in Public Places project, which installed five larger than life guitars all around town is complete. The project is especially fitting because Rockwall has been named the *Free Live Music Capital of North Texas*. The guitars were hand painted by five local artists and erected in prominent hot spots, including The Harbor, San Jacinto Plaza, Cain's Corner Park, Harry Myers Park, and Rockwall City Hall (pictured above).



Staying Occupied While "Staying at Home"

The Rockwall Parks and Recreation Department has created a series of videos to help residents stay occupied while "staying at home." The videos offer suggestions about various projects to help families make the most of their time together, have fun, and even make lasting memories. Some of the activities involve going outside to play, while others are for rainy days inside. Suggestions include painting rocks, playing ping pong, sidewalk chalk or shaving cream art, blowing bubbles, and hop scotch. You can find these videos on Facebook and at playrockwall.com.

Love Your Landscape: Creating the Perfect Lawn

First and foremost, lawn and landscape maintenance should be fun! Here are some tips to make your neighbors jealous... by helping you create the perfect lawn. Spring is the best time to get started as your lawn wakes up for the year. The four basics for a healthy lawn are: mowing, fertilization, weed / insect control, and watering.

Mowing:

- Scalp your lawn to remove dead grass and expose the green grass coming out of dormancy
- Begin bi-weekly mowing, yes we should mow a minimum of twice per week
- Mowing height: Bermuda grass 1" to 1.5" & St. Augustine 2" to 3"
- Mow your lawn in a different direction each time to prevent scalping

Fertilization:

- First application of fertilizer in March / April depending weather
- Apply 1 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of lawn

Weed / Insect Control:

- Weeds struggle in a perfect lawn. Pull any weeds by hand
- Post emergent herbicides can help control excessive weeds
- Insects can impact your lawn care. If your lawn suffers, don't assume it's a lack of water, scout for insects and treat as needed

Watering:

- Record rainfall this spring has precluded a need to water, but the summer months are just around the corner. You should apply 1" of water per week; preferably apply 1/2" in two separate cycles spread out during the week. If it rains, there is no need to water, which helps conserve this natural resource.

