

Important Reminders About Urban Wildlife

Residents may notice wildlife in area parks, neighborhoods and open spaces during certain times of the year as the animals seek out new sources of water, food and ground cover. Wildlife that are common to our region includes rabbits, possums, armadillos, hawks, coyotes, bobcats, skunks, snakes and other small animals. If these animals find food, water and protection from the elements, they may not leave the area. The following precautions can help people and wildlife safely co-exist:

- Never intentionally or unintentionally feed wildlife. Keep pet food and water inside. Put trash bags in cans with a secured lid.
- Never allow your pets to run free. Small pets are easy prey for coyotes. Walk your dog on a leash and keep cats inside at all times; not only is it the law, but it will keep your pet safe. Accompany small children and pets outside, even if your yard is fenced.
- Keep your property well-lit at night, especially when you go out with your dog for the last potty break before bed. Bring dogs inside at night.
- Trim hedges and keep underbrush cleaned out from around your yard so the wildlife do not have a hiding place. Close off crawl spaces under porches, decks and sheds. Wildlife use such areas for resting and raising young.
- Do not approach wild animals. If you see a coyote, make loud noises to scare them away. Loud whistles, portable air horns and vehicle horns can be effective. You can even carry an umbrella that you can open and close rapidly to scare them away.

It is not necessary to report wildlife that are acting appropriately and non-aggressively. If you sense that an animal is behaving abnormally or aggressively, please report it to Animal Services at 817-427-6570.

Christmas Tree Recycling

The City of North Richland Hills and Republic Services are offering a Christmas tree recycling program for residents starting Dec. 26, 2022.

Bare Christmas trees can be dropped off Dec. 26 - Jan. 3 at Green Valley Park at 7701 Smithfield Road or at the parking lot on the north side of the BISD Plaza located at 6351 Boulevard 26. Please place trees in the marked dumpsters. In order for trees to be recycled, they should be free of tinsel, ornaments, bags, plastic and stands. Mulch from the recycled trees will be available for residents to pick up at the two drop-off locations Jan. 5 - 9, while supplies last. Please bring your own container and shovel to load the mulch.

If you're unable to take your tree to one of the drop off locations, you can put it on the curb on one of your regular trash collection days; however it will go to the landfill and will not be turned into mulch. Trees larger than 5 feet should be cut in half before placing them on the curb.

If you have questions, please contact Neighborhood Services at 817-427-6650.

Holiday Recycling Tips

To help you recycle more this holiday season, please remember these tips:

- Most wrapping paper, tissue paper and paper gift bags are recyclable. Those with foil, glitter, ribbons or bows cannot be recycled.
- Greeting cards and envelopes are recyclable, as long as they do not contain foil or glitter or other decorations.
- Cardboard boxes should be flattened and placed in your recycle cart. Cut larger boxes into smaller pieces so they fit loosely inside the cart. Overstuffed carts may not empty completely. Boxes left next to recycle carts will be collected with trash and won't be recycled. If you have more than will fit, save it for the following week.
- Styrofoam packaging is not acceptable in curbside recycling carts.
- Christmas lights, extension cords, garland, wreaths, tinsel and other decorations are not recyclable.
- Visit www.recyclingsimplified.com for more tips from Republic Services.

Properly Dispose of Leaves, Other Yard Waste

Did you know that blowing or sweeping leaves, grass clippings, or other yard waste into the street or down the storm drain can cause flooding? Yard waste that is swept or blown into a nearby storm drain can clog the storm drain and keep water from draining through. The City of North Richland Hills asks that you properly manage your yard waste by leaving it on the lawn.

Grass clippings left on the lawn can provide up to 25% of your lawn's total fertilizer needs, and leaves contain 50% to 80% of the nutrients a plant extracts from the soil and air during the season. To keep these nutrients where they can nourish your lawn, use the mulch setting on your mower or compost grass clippings and leaves for use in flower beds.

Yard waste that is left in a street or blown into the storm drain will eventually be washed into nearby creeks, streams, rivers and lakes. This can deplete the oxygen level in the water, which is harmful to aquatic life. Chemical fertilizers used on the lawn can also harm aquatic life.

Leaves, grass clippings and other yard waste can also be bagged and placed on the curb for pick up on your normal trash collection day. If you have a large number of bagged leaves, they may not all be picked up by the garbage company at once. The remainder will be picked up on your following collection day.

If you hire a company to care for your lawn, please educate them on proper disposal of your yard waste. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Neighborhood Services at 817-427-6663.

New Business Spotlight

Class 101 MidCities

9292 Huntington Square #200, 817-663-2262
www.class101.com/midcityestx

Jireh Hair Braiding

7640 NE Loop 820 #104, 469-336-0252

Orozco Construction

8216 Boulevard 26, 214-875-6829
www.ozcoconstructions.com

**Support local businesses.
Shop NRH!**

Upcoming Events

Holiday Closings

Don't forget, City Hall and other non-emergency offices will be closed for Christmas and New Year's on **Dec. 26 and Jan. 2**. We'll also be closed on **Jan. 16** in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. To view holiday hours for all city facilities, please visit the calendar on our website at www.nrhtx.com.

This year, there will be no changes to the residential garbage and recycling collection schedule for Christmas, New Year's or MLK Day. Collections will take place on your normal days.

Holiday Lights on Hawk Ave

Take a stroll down Hawk Avenue by the NRH Centre and NRH Library to enjoy thousands of twinkling lights, the city's 46-foot-tall Christmas Tree and other holiday scenery. The lights will be on **nightly through Jan. 2**. The area provides many opportunities for your holiday photos, so don't forget your camera!

Grease Recycling Collection

Don't pour cooking oil and grease down the drain where it can clog pipes - recycle it instead. The NRH Public Works Department will collect used cooking oils and grease for recycling **Jan. 3 - 6**. Containers holding discarded cooking oil and grease must be made of plastic and have a screw top lid. This program is for residential kitchens only and excludes commercial users. Petroleum products are not accepted. Please call 817-427-6440 to arrange a pick up or get more information.

Polar Plunge at NRH₂O

We're freezin' for a reason! Recruit your friends, bring a costume and brave the cold water. NRH₂O Family Water Park is hosting the annual Polar Plunge, benefiting Special Olympics Texas and local athletes on **Saturday, Feb. 4**. Please visit <https://www.sotx.org/polar-plunge> to get more information and sign up.

NRH Senior Center Activities

Did you know, the NRH Senior Center offers a wide variety of activities and classes for persons age 55 and up? Located at 6000 Hawk Ave. on the west side of the NRH Centre, the Senior Center is the ideal spot to gather with friends and neighbors looking for recreation, health and social activities. To learn more about the Senior Center, stop by Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. or give them a call at 817-427-6695.