Environmental Activities Calendar

No. 1—Feb. 1

Winter Hours: The Recycling Center will have winter hours from Nov. 1 to Feb. 1: 8 AM - 4:45 PM weekdays; 9 AM - 4:45 PM weekends. Starting Feb. 2, the Recycling Center will stay open 1 hour later each weekday.

Through Jan. 10

NA

Mar. 14—Mar. 20

9 AM to 4:30 PM

Compost Giveaway: Free compost made from your yard waste and food scraps. El Cerrito residents and businesses only. Bring proof of residency and containers. Limit of 5 cubic feet per household. Available while supplies last. Recycling Center, 7001 Schmidt Lane. Questions? Contact City staff at greent@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or 510-215-4350.

Saturday Apr. 18

9 AM to 1:30 PM

2020 Earth Day Work Parties and Lunch: The City celebrates Earth Day with a morning of volunteerism and work parties followed by our Volunteer Appreciation lunch. Register your work party using the form on page 2 or online at el-cerrito.org/earthday. For more information contact earthday@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or call City staff at 510-559-7686.

May 1—May 3

TBD

Sunday May 3

10 AM to 5 PM

Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour: Discover more about the possibilities California native plants offer with a self-guided tour of local gardens. More information at bringingbackthenatives.net.

Saturday May 16

9 AM to 3 PM

Spring Citywide Garage Sale: Keep discs out of the landfill while discovering your community and finding great deals. To register to host a sale, complete the Registration Form in this newsletter or online. Registration due by 4 PM on April 20th, 2020. Visit el-cerrito.org/garagesale for more information or to register your garage sale.

Every Other Month

Jan. 18 Jun. 6

Mar. 8 Aug. 16

Apr. 18 Oct. 23

El Cerrito Green Teams: Join the Green Teams for a bi-monthly clean-up at locations throughout the City. The tentative schedule includes the 6 dates listed at left. For more information about specific events, please contact the Operations + Environmental Services Division at 510-215-4350 or green@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.

1st Wed. Monthly

3 PM to 4 PM

Free Tour of the Recycling + Environmental Resource Center: Join the City for a behind-the-scenes look at the LEED Platinum Certified Recycling Center. Tours at an alternative time can also be scheduled for a fee. For more information call City staff at 510-559-7686.

1st Sat. Monthly

10 AM to 12:30 PM

Baxter Creek Gateway Park Work Parties: Join volunteers and City staff in removing invasive species and restoring native habitat in this jewel on the Ohlone Greenway. Questions? Contact staff at 510-559-7685 or by email at spre@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us.

2nd Mon. Monthly

7 PM

Urban Forest Committee Monthly Meetings: The committee meets on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Hillside Room at City Hall, 10890 San Pablo Avenue. For more information visit el-cerrito.org/109Urban-Forest-Committee.

2nd Tues. Monthly

7 PM

Environmental Quality Committee (EQC) Monthly Meetings: The EQC meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 PM in the El Cerrito City Hall, Council Chambers, 10890 San Pablo Avenue. For more information visit el-cerrito.org/eqc.

Garbage, Green Waste, and Recycling Rates for 2020

Each year in November or December the City Council approves rates for the next year’s garbage, green waste, and recycling collection and post-collection (processing, resale and landfilling) services based on the annual revenue required to run the operations that provide these services. These services are provided by East Bay Sanitary (EBS), Republic Services, and the City’s Integrated Waste Management (IWM) programs—that is, the City’s Recycling Programs and Center.

Solid waste rates in 2020, as shown below, for most customers will increase by approximately 14.9%. The main driver of this increase is the unprecedented and continued declines in recycling revenues and corresponding increases in recyclables transport and processing costs. Other drivers include normal inflation adjustments for all services, the immediate need for the Recycling program to pay back a loan from City’s General Fund, and implementation of new composting and recycling State mandates under Assembly Bill 1826 and Senate Bill 1383. For further details, visit www.el-cerrito.org/CityCouncil to view the Council Agenda Bill for December 17, 2019.

It is important to note that many communities in California are similarly seeing significant increases in solid waste rates due to the downturn in recycling markets and implementation of the new State mandates. Recent solid waste rate increases in Northern California include but are not limited to anticipated increases of 40 to 60% in Petaluma and Santa Clara, 8 to 12% in Santa Rosa, 30% in San Ramon, and over 9% per year for three to five years in Los Altos.

Despite the negative trends in the recycling markets, the City is hopeful that the significant rate increases over the last year will abate in 2021 as the amount due to the General Fund is paid off. The City will also be retiring during the current fiscal year the principal and interest payment debt service for the recycling carts and first generation of recycling trucks purchased when the City switched to single-stream recycling collection in 2009.

2020 Solid Waste and Recycling Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Residential Solid Waste Services</th>
<th>Commercial / Multi-Family Service</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20 Gallon</td>
<td>$44.72 per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 Gallon</td>
<td>$58.60 per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64 Gallon</td>
<td>$116.37 per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Cubic Yard (weekly pickup)</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Cubic Yards (weekly pickup)</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Waste Collection (weekly pickup)</td>
<td>64 gal cart included in residential service Extra 64 gal cart is $69.57 per month</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Volunteer for El Cerrito's Annual Earth Day Celebration

Earth Day April 18, 2020

Work Parties from 9 AM to 12 PM (Citywide)
Volunteer Appreciation Lunch from 12 PM to 1:30 PM
El Cerrito Community Center - 7007 Moeser Lane

Register online at www.el-cerrito.org/earthday or mail by April 1st to: Operations + Environmental Services Division – Earth Day 7501 Schmidt Lane, El Cerrito CA, 94530

For more info email earthday@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or call 510-559-7686.

Name: ___________________________________________________________
Address/Worksite Location: _______________________________________
Phone: _________________________________________________________
Email: _________________________________________________________

Do you have any suggestions for potential work projects? __________________

_____________________________ ________________________________
_____________________________ ________________________________

Citywide Garage Sale Registration Information

HOST A GARAGE SALE!
Turn your old stuff into treasure! Register now to host a garage sale at your home, church, or school during the Spring Citywide Garage Sale. Registration fees cover the cost of advertising and promotion, which includes posting your sale in the garage sale brochure, classified ads in newspapers and online.

Spread the word about the Garage Sale!
Make your event fun and enjoyable by providing prizes or other enticements! For more information contact Laurenten Brazil in the Operations + Environmental Services Division at lbrazil@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or 510-559-7686.

Garage Sale Registration Form
Spring 2020 El Cerrito Citywide Garage Sale
May 16, 2020 | 9 AM to 3 PM
Registration forms are due by April 20th at 4 PM
Mail or drop-off form, along with a non-refundable $18 registration fee made payable to the City of El Cerrito, to: Environmental Services Division - Citywide Garage Sale 7501 Schmidt Lane, El Cerrito CA, 94530

Name: ___________________________________________________________
Street Address/Sale Location: _______________________________________
Nearest Cross Street: _____________________________________________
Phone Number: _________________________________________________
Email Address (please provide an email address, especially if you would like the opportunity to review your listing prior to publication): ________________________________

Sale Description: Maximum of 20 words describing the items for sale and any other details about the sale: __________________________

El Cerrito’s Tree Program Overview and Update

In June 2019, the El Cerrito City Council adopted a Public Tree and Shrub Ordinance with the primary objective of protecting and managing trees on Public property. The creation and adoption of this ordinance was a culmination of efforts by the City’s Urban Forest Committee and City staff to clarify issues relating to Public Trees and to allow the City to qualify for Tree City USA status. Below are some highlights from the Ordinance relating to pruning, removing, and planting Public Trees.

Pruning Public Trees
An Encroachment Permit is required for anyone other than the City to perform work on public trees. A person who performs tree work or hires contractors to perform work on public trees is liable for associated damages from both permitted and unpermitted work. Residents may prune a street tree limb that is less than one inch in diameter, adjacent to their property, only as necessary for purposes of egress clearance, and if such action otherwise complies with all requirements of the El Cerrito Public Tree and Shrub Ordinance (ECMC Chapter 13.28).

Removing Public Trees
The City does not remove public trees unless a tree poses a public safety hazard, is otherwise in poor or declining health, or creates infrastructure damage that cannot effectively be remedied without tree removal. The City does not top or lower the crown of public trees for view enhancement but may reduce tree height to mitigate a safety hazard. Topping or heading back creates potential tree hazards, increases pest and disease susceptibility, weakens the tree, and increases the cost of tree maintenance. The City may authorize the pruning or removal of a street tree by a private person, adjacent to their property, at the person’s own expense, if the removal or pruning meets City established criteria, and it has been deemed a lower priority for action by the City. Such activities by a private person may be completed only after receiving a City Encroachment Permit, which will include specific required conditions and may require mitigation measures.

El Cerrito’s Recycling Center ReUse Station

Drop off your reusable clothing and household items! The Eco Salvage station is now located at the El Cerrito Recycling Center. The station accepts many household items for reuse, including clothing and accessories, linens, small electronics, kitchen goods and other housewares, small furniture, tools, and sporting goods. Items must be clean and in good working condition. Eco Salvage is the city’s contracted partner. They provide trailer staff and sell reusable goods at thrift stores in California. Proceeds benefit the City of El Cerrito.

Questions? Contact us: green@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or by phone at 510-215-4350.