

Environmental Activities Calendar

Nov. 1— Feb. 1	Winter Hours	Recycling Center 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	Last Day for Free Christmas Tree Pick-Up: Christmas trees will be picked up free of charge as part of your green waste pick up on your scheduled collection day through the second week of January by East Bay Sanitary. Flocked trees will be taken for a \$20.00 fee. Please call 510-237-4321 for more information or to schedule a pick-up.
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, 7501 Schmidt Lane. Questions? Contact City staff at green@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	7th Annual Hillside Festival: Enjoy El Cerrito's 7th Annual Hillside Festival, designed to showcase the natural and cultural beauty in El Cerrito's Hillside. Event details TBD at ectrailtrekkers.org .
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 discards 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.
1 st 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.
1 st 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 spree@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us .
2 nd 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/109/Urban-Forest-Committee .
2 nd Tues. Monthly	7 PM	Environmental Quality Committee (EQC) Monthly Meetings: The EQC meets on the 2 nd 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 .

10890 San Pablo Avenue
El Cerrito, CA 94530
green@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us



A Greener El Cerrito

News from the City of El Cerrito Operations + Environmental Services Division

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 this 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

Residential Solid Waste Services include weekly collection of recycling (gray cart), green waste (green cart), and garbage (blue cart); limited free on-call collection of larger quantities from your home; free access to the regional Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility and to most services at the El Cerrito Recycling + Environmental Resource Center. Additional recycling carts are available at no extra cost. **Commercial Solid Waste Services** include collection of recycling (gray cart), green waste (green), garbage (blue) and most services at the El Cerrito Recycling + Environmental Resource Center. Additional recycling carts are available at no extra cost.

Garbage Container Size	Residential Service	Commercial / Multi-Family Service
20 Gallon	\$44.72 per month	\$44.72 per month
35 Gallon	\$58.60 per month	\$58.60 per month
64 Gallon	\$116.37 per month	\$116.37 per month
1 Cubic Yard (weekly pickup)	NA	\$395.42 per month
2 Cubic Yards (weekly pickup)	NA	\$774.61 per month
Green Waste Collection (weekly pickup)	64 gal cart included in residential service Extra 64 gal cart is \$69.57 per month	35 gal is \$35.97 per month 64 gal is \$69.57 per month One Cubic Yard is \$266.50 per month

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? _____

EARTH DAY Get involved!



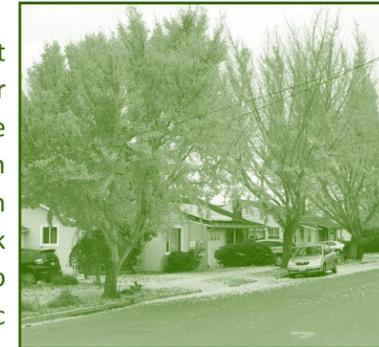
www.el-cerrito.org

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)**.



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.

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.

Planting Public Trees

Requests for public tree planting may be made to the Tree Program Manager and will be assessed and prioritized based on the chronological order of the request, planting site conditions, and available City resources. Public Trees shall be selected from the City Tree List and species will be approved by the Tree Program Manager based on the specific planting location. Requests for tree plantings shall be completed by the City, only with an approved City Tree Care Agreement from the requesting party, which may include irrigating and weeding each tree for the three-year plant establishment period.

For more information on the Tree Program Standard Operating Procedures or to make a request for tree pruning, planting, or removal, please contact maintenance@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us, 510-215-4369. For specific questions relating to the new ordinance and the City Tree Program, or to find out more about the El Cerrito Urban Forest Committee, contact the City's Tree Program Manager at spree@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us or 510-559-7685

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 Lauretean 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: _____



Garage sale maps, locations, and listings available May 7th, 2020 in print and online at el-cerrito.org/garagesale

El Cerrito 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.