

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE October 9, 2015

TO Honorable Members of the Quality of Life & Environment Committee: Sandy Greyson (Chair),
Tiffinni A. Young (Vice Chair), Rickey D. Callahan, Mark Clayton, Philip T. Kingston, B. Adam McGough

SUBJECT **Sanitation Services Bulk & Brush Collection**

On Monday, October 12, 2015, the Quality of Life & Environment Committee will be briefed on Sanitation Services Bulk & Brush Collection. The briefing is attached for your review.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joey Zapata".

Joey Zapata
Assistant City Manager

Attachment

c: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
A.C. Gonzalez, City Manager
Warren M.S. Ernst, City Attorney
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor
Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary
Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge
Ryan S. Evans, First Assistant City Manager
Eric D. Campbell, Assistant City Manager
Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager
Mark McDaniel, Assistant City Manager
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer
Sana Syed, Public Information Officer
Elsa Cantu, Assistant to the City Manager – Mayor & Council

Sanitation Services Bulk and Brush Collection

Quality of Life & Environment Committee

October 12, 2015



Briefing Overview

- Provide an overview of the current collection program
- Discuss challenges with the current program
- Provide information related to other Texas cities
- Discuss bulk and brush week realignments
- Begin a policy discussion on possible changes to the current collection program and the benefits
- Discuss public input and additional analysis steps to guide any recommended changes
- Next Steps

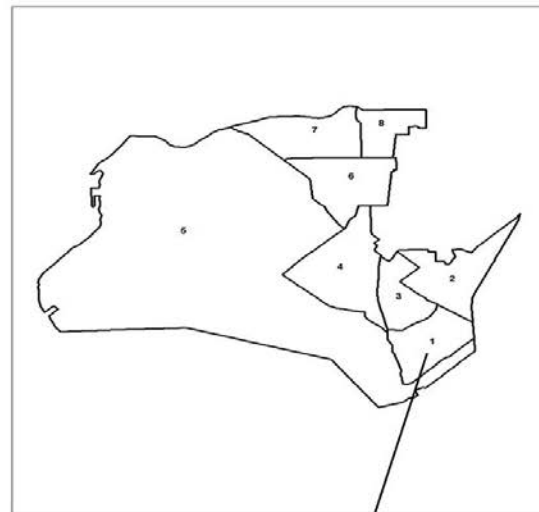
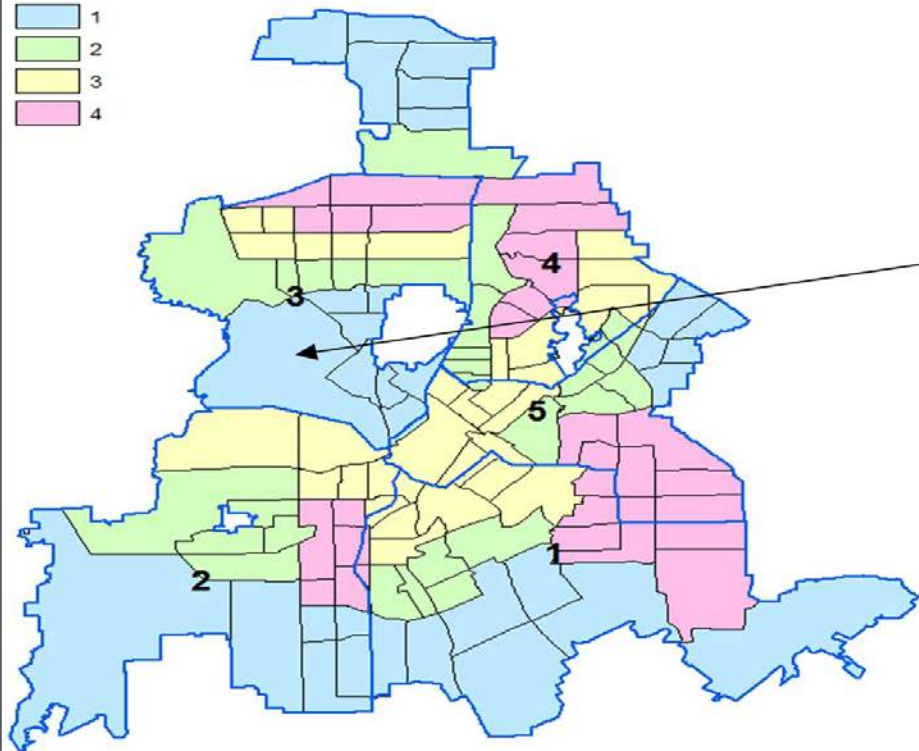
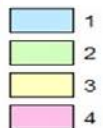
Current Collection Program



Current Collection Schedule

- Bulk & Brush is collected monthly (12 times annually) at approximately 240,000 households
- Areas are divided into four collection weeks per month (Week of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Monday)
- Bulk & Brush may be set out beginning Thursday prior to the scheduled collection week
 - All materials must be set out by Monday morning at 7 am
- Collection is scheduled Monday through Thursday, but depending on volume can extend into the weekend

Bulk and Brush Week of Service



Current Collection Criteria

- Essentially, no limitations on volume
 - Chapter 18 states that when quantities are “excessive”, “the director of Sanitation shall determine the amount of brush to be collected”
 - Over the years this has evolved to no limits
- Bulk and brush items can be commingled
 - Tree limbs, brush, and bagged leaves accepted
 - White goods/appliances allowed (except those containing refrigerant)
 - Household furniture and other bulky items accepted
 - Small debris should be containerized
 - No chemicals, paints, rocks, bricks, electronics, construction/remodeling debris, tires; or bagged grass clippings (except from March 15 to April 15)

Collection Method

- Bulk & Brush is collected using “roto-booms” or grapple trucks and truck/trailer combos
 - A typical brush crew consists of 1 roto-boom and 2 truck/trailer combos
 - Districts typically have 4-6 crews for weekly collections
- On Wednesdays, when volumes are high and no regular trash is collected, rear loader refuse trucks may be utilized to collect small set outs and bagged debris



By The Numbers



Bulk and Brush Collection FY 16 Budget

- Annual budget of \$15M
- 115 positions
- 5 Combo Booms
- 26 Roto-booms
- 52 brush truck/trailer combos

Collection Volumes

- Dallas crews collected over 176,000 tons last year and tonnages have been increasing annually over the last four years
 - 0.72 tons per household in Dallas (compared to 0.24 tons in Austin, 0.29 tons in Ft. Worth, 0.42 tons in Houston and 0.24 tons in San Antonio)
- Monthly volumes range from less than 10K tons to greater than 20K tons
- Seasonal storms can create significant volume increases



Matrix of Monthly Volumes

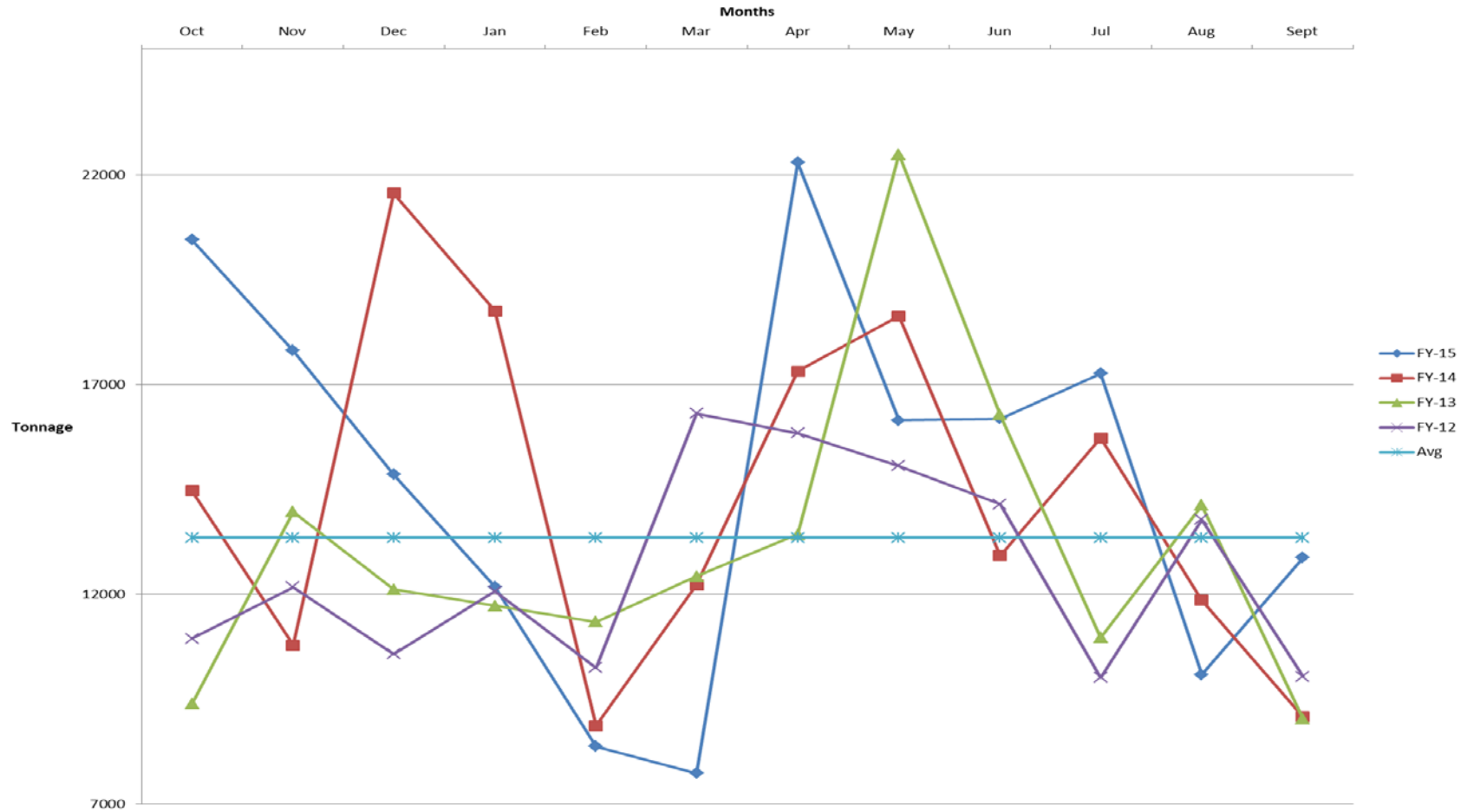
TONS	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	AVG	TOTAL
FY-15	20,455	17,813	14,858	12,183	8,375	7,734	22,300	16,147	16,188	17,265	10,090	12,874	14,690	176,282
FY-14	14,473	10,788	21,567	18,758	8,871	12,227	17,319	18,632	12,925	15,732	11,862	9,082	14,353	172,234
FY-13	9,394	13,970	12,116	11,728	11,343	12,433	13,433	22,491	16,284	10,970	14,127	9,029	13,110	157,319
FY-12	10,950	12,177	10,576	12,071	10,254	16,315	15,847	15,063	14,148	10,020	13,779	10,043	12,604	151,243
4 yr Avg	13,818	13,687	14,779	13,685	9,711	12,177	17,225	18,083	14,886	13,497	12,465	10,257	13,689	164,270

Extremely High

Slightly Above

Within or Below

Matrix of Monthly Volumes



Matrix of Weekly Volumes

2014					
SANITATION DISTRICTS	WEEK 1 TONS	WEEK 2 TONS	WEEK 3 TONS	WEEK 4 TONS	TOTAL
1	9,148	8,023	7,470	11,593	36,234
2	9,390	9,097	7,080	7,685	33,252
3	7,386	6,805	7,857	8,669	30,717
4	12,747	7,305	9,873	8,783	38,708
5	9,682	6,715	5,872	11,054	33,323
TOTAL					172,234

Bulk and Brush Set Outs



Brush Set Outs



Bagged Leaf Set Outs



Illegal Set-Outs or Illegal Dumping?



Collection Challenges



Current Collection Challenges

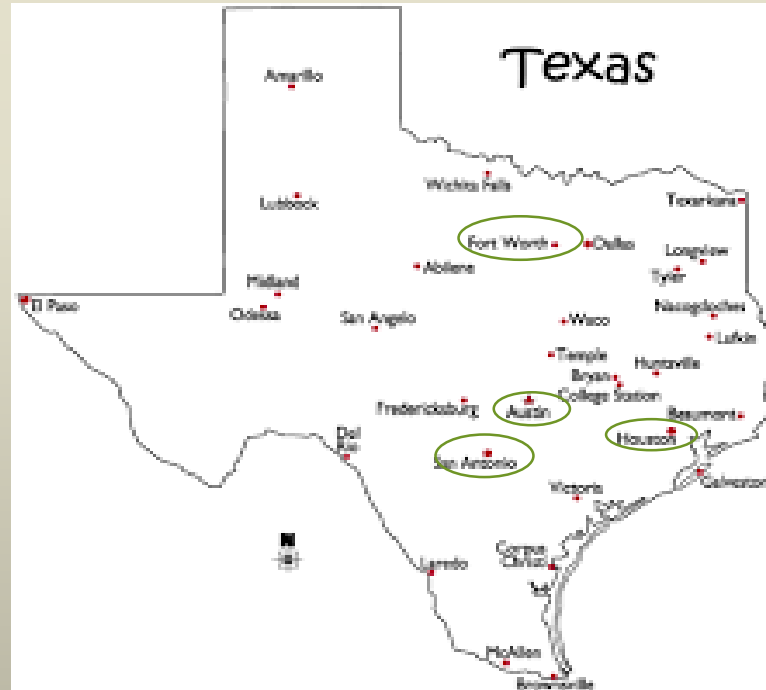
- Volumes vary dramatically monthly and slows on-time collection
- Material may be sitting out for 7 - 10 days before collection
- Bulk and Brush is commingled and the organic matter cannot be separated for diversion or reuse
 - Potentially 40-60% organic material

Current Collection Challenges

- There are few restrictions on set out volume and frequency
 - May encourage some homeowners to utilize the City's bulk and brush service for non-residential use
 - May encourage non-resident illegal dumping
 - All customers are paying for those who frequently set out large volumes
- Landscaping companies often utilize the City's collection service for their residual disposal
- Frequent set outs are often "junky" and contribute to blight
- There is some confusion when months begin on Tuesday or Wednesday
 - Set-outs begin a week earlier than scheduled



What are other major Texas cities doing?



Other Major Texas Cities

- Austin (193,000 households)
 - 2X per year bulk and 2x per year brush (restrictions)
 - Weekly yard waste (restrictions)
 - 46,000 tons collected annually (0.24 tons/household)
- Ft. Worth (207,000 households)
 - Monthly bulk (10 CY limit)
 - No monthly brush, but weekly yard waste (restrictions)
 - 61,000 tons collected annually (.29 tons/household)

Other Major Texas Cities

- Houston (380,000 households)
 - Alternating bulk and brush months (8 CY limit)
 - Weekly yard waste (restrictions)
 - Landscape contractors required to haul their waste
 - 160,000 tons collected annually (0.42 tons/household)
- San Antonio (340,000 households)
 - 2X per year bulk and 2x per year brush (8 CY limit)
 - Piloting weekly organics collection (roll-cart)
 - 80,000 tons collected annually (0.24 tons/household)

Other Major Texas Cities (drop off sites)

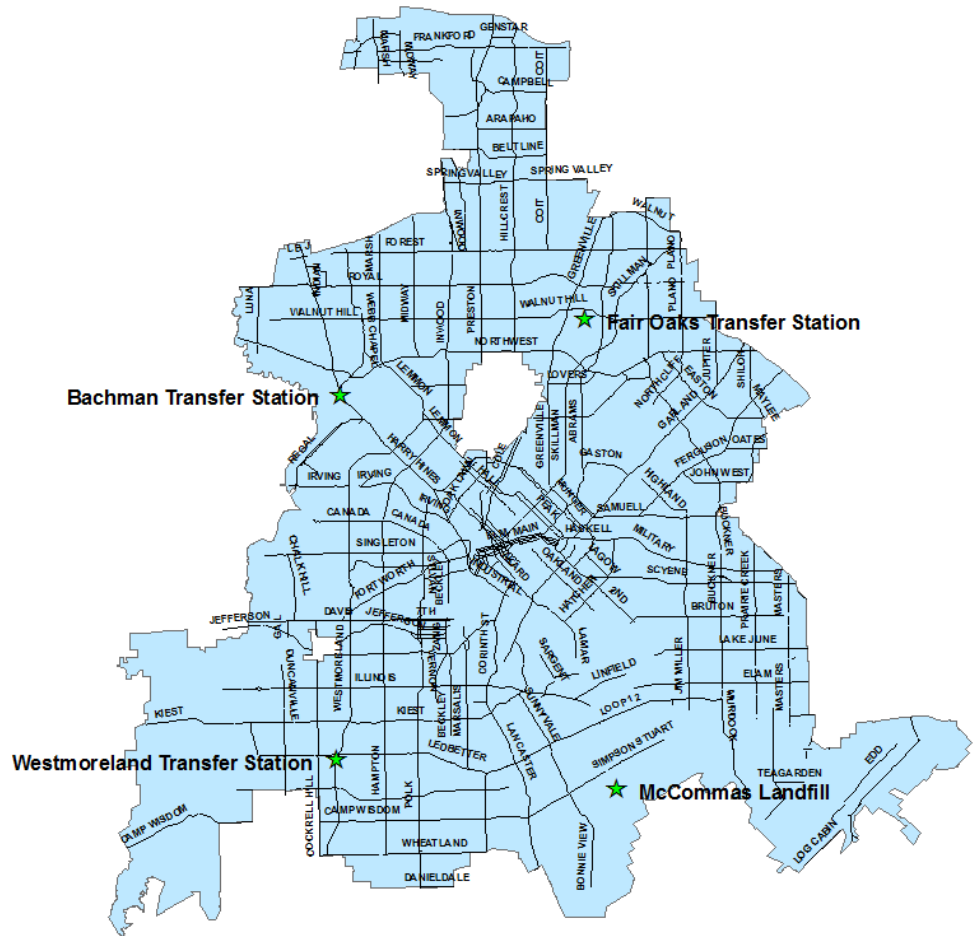
- Austin
 - 1 drop off location
 - Open 40 hours/week (Monday thru Friday 8-4)
- Ft. Worth
 - 3 drop off locations
 - Open 59 hours/week (Monday thru Friday 8-6, Saturday 8-5)
- Houston
 - 6 drop off locations
 - Open 45 hours/week (Wednesday thru Sunday 10-7)
- San Antonio
 - 4 drop off locations
 - Open 40 hours/week (Tuesday thru Friday 8-5, Saturday 8-12)

Dallas Bulk and Brush (drop off sites)

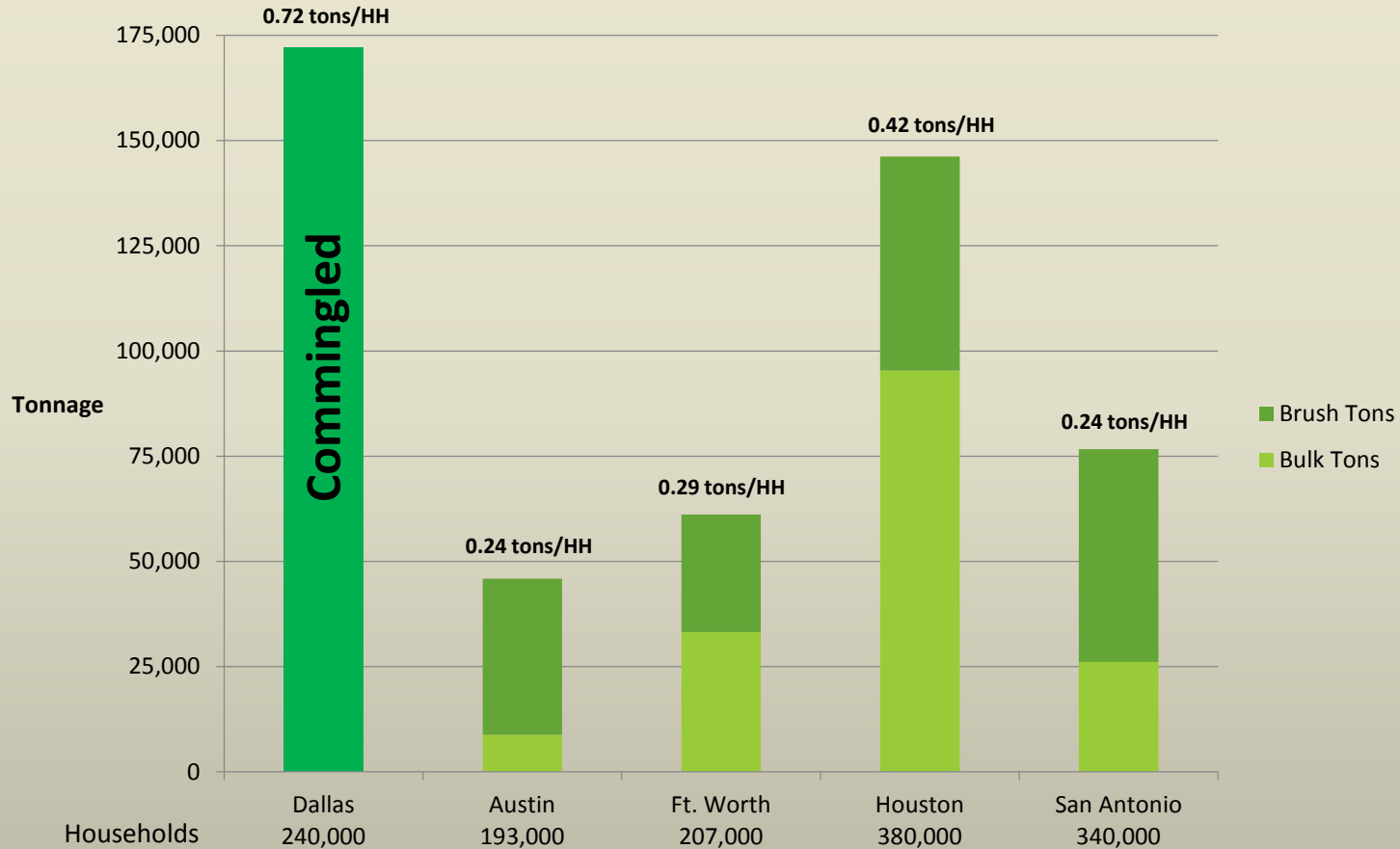
- Residents may bring bulk and brush debris to the City's landfill or 3 transfer stations for disposal
 - McCommas Bluff Landfill (Monday - Saturday)
 - Monday-Friday 5:00am – 8:00pm, Saturday 6:00am – 4:00pm (85 hours/week)
 - Bachman Transfer Station (Monday - Saturday)
 - 7:30am - 5:00pm (57 hours/week)
 - Southwest and Fair Oaks Transfer Station (Wednesday & Saturday)
 - 7:30am – 5:00pm (19 hours/week)

Note: Residents free, but limited to less than 15ft. trailer

CITY OF DALLAS SANITATION SERVICES DISPOSAL LOCATIONS



FY14 Comparison of Other Texas Cities



Boundary Realignmentments



Bulk & Brush: Boundary Realignment

- Several weeks have disproportional household counts
 - Brush collection weeks need to be realigned and balanced to optimize route collection efficiency
 - Disproportional house counts, tonnage collected, combined with haul distance create inefficiencies

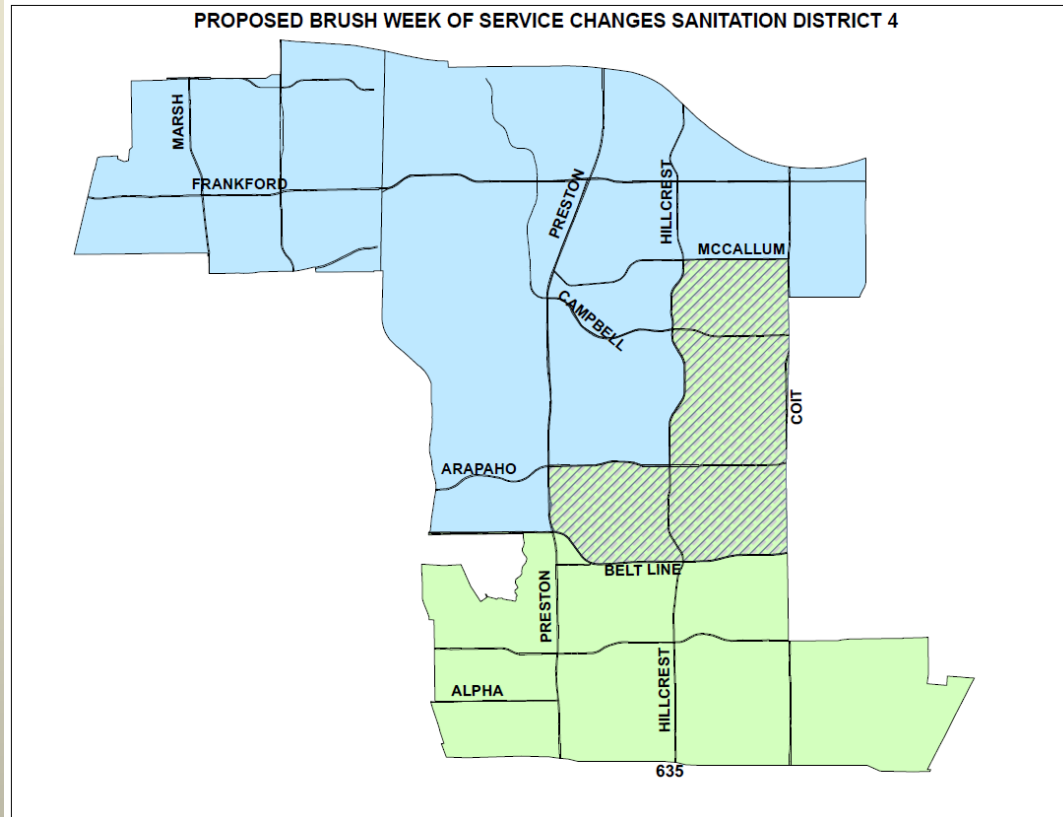
Approximate Bulk/Brush House Count By Sanitation District								
	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Total	Average	Low	High
D1	13,582	9,187	9,604	12,125	44,498	11,125	9,187	13,582
D2	18,574	14,841	9,669	10,134	53,218	13,305	9,669	18,574
D3	10,403	8,067	9,797	10,465	38,732	9,683	8,067	10,465
D4	19,737	9,428	14,015	13,913	58,756	14,689	11,091	19,737
D5	11,545	9,779	9,418	18,997	48,076	12,019	8,116	18,997
Total	73,841	51,302	52,503	65,634	243,280	60,820	51,302	73,841

Examples

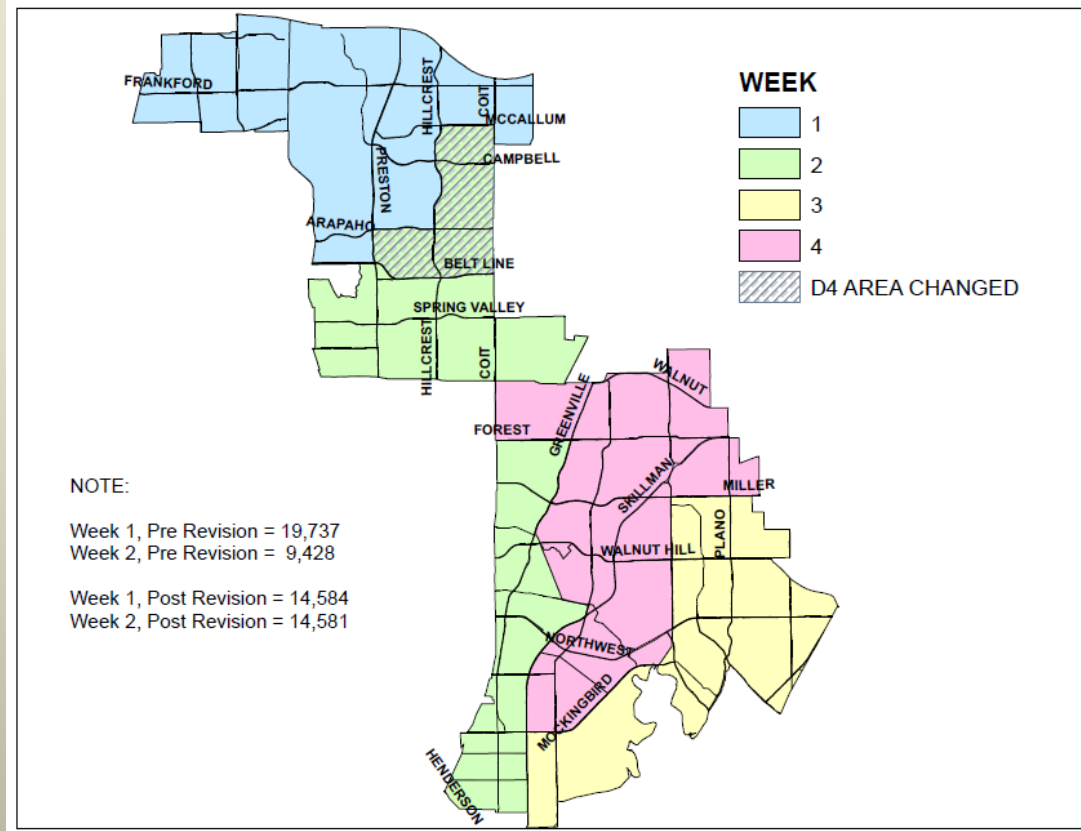
Bulk & Brush: Boundary Realignment

- Far North Dallas Week 1 and 2 boundary realignment notification will begin this fall (Oct-Dec.) with a realignment start date beginning January 2016
 - Approximately 5,000 homes will be moved from week 1 to week 2 to balance house counts
 - After balancing there will approximately 15,000 homes in each week
 - Notifications will occur via door hangers, e-mails to affected neighborhood associations and homeowner groups, as well as notices utilizing Nextdoor, Facebook, Twitter, Sanitation's website and other methods as needed
- Other boundary realignments anticipated for summer of 2016
 - Other boundary realignments could affect multiple weeks and will require more planning and outreach
 - Utilize lessons learned from first realignment
 - Target start in July 2016 during a historically lower volume month

Proposed Far North Dallas Realignment



Proposed Far North Dallas Realignment



New Program Policy Considerations

Policy Change Options

- Place volume restrictions on set outs
 - Most Texas cities limit set outs to 8-10 CY
 - Charge for over limit set outs
- Change frequency of bulk and/or brush collections with volume restrictions
 - Examples:
 - Monthly brush collection and limited “on call” bulk collection (e.g., 4 times per year)
 - Alternating monthly collection (bulk one month, then brush the next)
 - Quarterly collections (twice annual bulk and twice annual brush) with weekly yard waste collection

Policy Change Options

- Provide separate collection times for bulk and brush so that organic material can be diverted or beneficially reused
 - Requires citizens to place grass clippings and leaves in compostable or paper bags
- Consider changing the early set out day
 - Currently Thursday of the preceding bulk/brush week
- Require landscaping companies to haul off their residual waste

Policy Change Options

- Add more conveniently located and accessible drop off locations
 - In areas with limited access to disposal
 - 1-2 acres sites that accept bulk and brush type items only (furniture, brush and yard trimmings, appliances, tires, remodeling debris, etc.)
- Increase enforcement to verify legitimate set outs
- Potentially plan a phased in program
 - Start with volume limits (8-10 CY)
 - Phase in collection frequency changes with separate bulk and brush collection months

Potential Benefits of Changes



Potential Benefits of Changes

- Reduced number of days that material sits out on the curb
- Bulk or “junk” items would be set out less frequently
- Restrictions would reduce the overall volume of material and “overuse”
- Limited volume and collection days should discourage non-residential set outs
- Convenient drop off options for out of cycle disposal needs
- Potential cost savings
- Less vehicle utilization and emissions

Potential Benefits of Changes

- Neighborhood drop off locations could limit illegal dumping in the neighborhoods
 - Many Texas cities utilize drop off locations to limit illegal dumping
- Organics (trees, brush, leaves and grass) can be diverted from the landfill and/or beneficially used
 - It is estimated that 40-60% of the over 170,000 tons collected annually could be diverted from the landfill or beneficially reused
 - This diversion is needed to meet our Zero Waste Goals
 - Could increase overall diversion rate by as much as 16%

Other Considerations and Input

Things to consider for policy discussion

- Any significant program changes will require substantial public outreach and education
- Program changes would require equipment and personnel changes
- Diverting brush and yard trimmings will require the development of a mulching and/or composting program (internal or contracted)
 - Will require additional cost, but this could be offset by a modified/reduced collection program
 - Collection will require the use of compostable or paper bags (Kraft bags)
- Changing brush collection frequency can significantly impact response after storm events
- Chapter 18 ordinance changes will be required

Impacts of no changes (maintain status quo)

- Additional crews and equipment may be needed to more consistently finish collections by Thursday
 - Additional fee requirement
- Development of a far north transfer station should be considered to meet demand
 - Identify a commercial/industrial area that would be acceptable
 - TCEQ permitting required
- Organic material would not be separated and diverted or beneficially reused
 - This would prevent the City from reaching its Zero Waste goals

Public Input and Data Gathering

- In order to provide Council with additional information staff could gather public input on program options and current citizen utilization
 - Develop a citizen survey and develop a survey link
 - Promote via paid advertisements, the City's website, Nextdoor, Facebook, Twitter, and existing e-mail list
 - Collect voluntary surveys from residents utilizing the City's new City Hall on the Go!
 - Perform an automated phone survey
 - Utilizing a 1 800 call in number
 - Perform a statistical "in the field" survey to capture typical residential usage

Next Steps

- Receive input from Committee on program options and policy considerations
- Begin Far North bulk/brush week realignment and public notification for a January 1, 2016
 - Additional realignments targeted for July 2016
- Implement a plan to receive public input and gather data related to average customer needs
- Research other options identified from this briefing

Appendix

Example – Austin Large Brush Requirements (twice yearly service)



Example – Fort Worth Bulk and Brush limitations (10 CY - monthly)

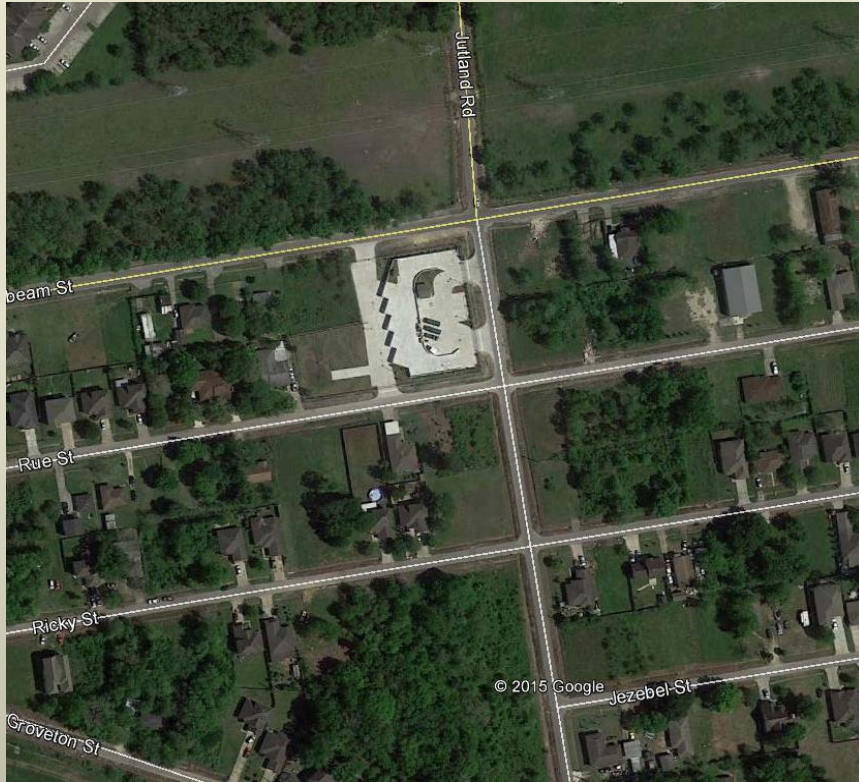


Note: Limit for monthly bulk collection and limit for weekly brush (excluding bags and bundled trimmings)



**San Antonio
Neighborhood Drop Off**

Houston Neighborhood Drop Off



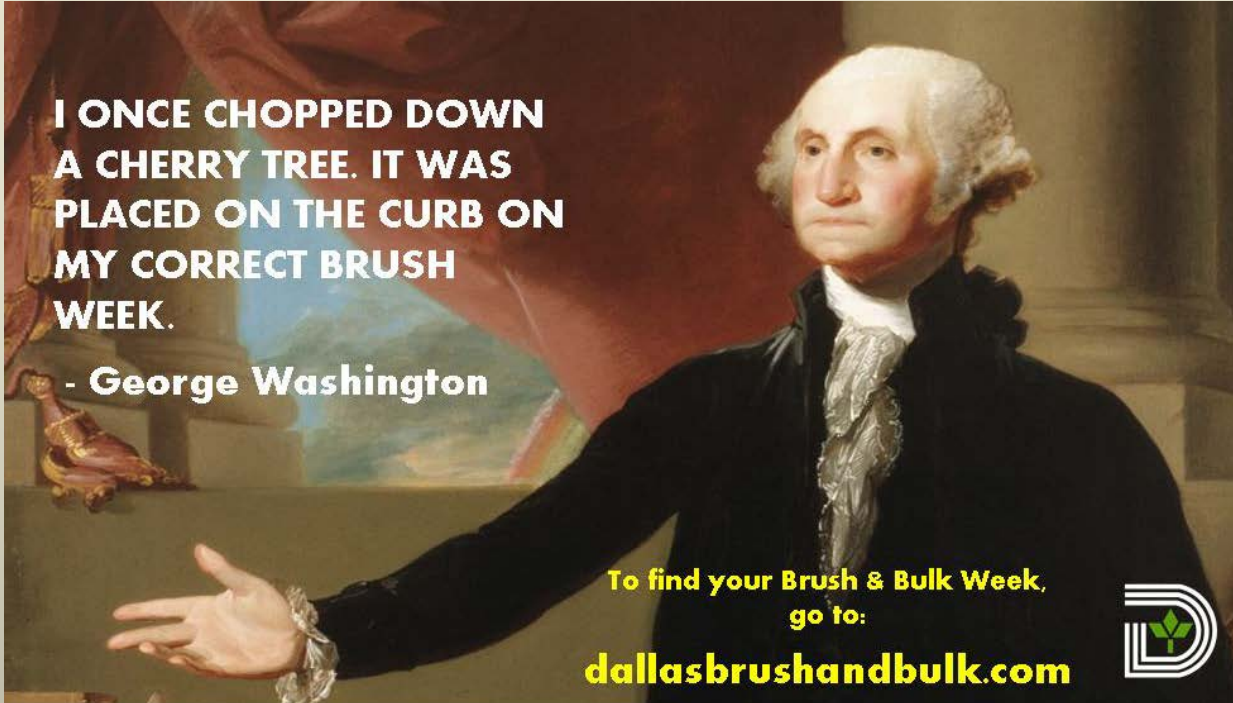
Example - Compostable and Kraft Bags



How do citizens get information about their bulk and brush week?

- Updated webpage & established a domain (dallasbulkandbrush.com)
- Convenient calendars for each collection week on website (in printable pdf format)
- Bulk & Brush collection calendar sent to all residents in Water bill inserts (December)
- Facebook and Nextdoor
- Advertisements (newspaper, digital banners & emails)
- Radio (WRR)

How do citizens get information about their bulk and brush week?



**I ONCE CHOPPED DOWN
A CHERRY TREE. IT WAS
PLACED ON THE CURB ON
MY CORRECT BRUSH
WEEK.**

- George Washington

To find your Brush & Bulk Week,
go to:

dallasbrushandbulk.com

