Solid Waste Utility

Nov/Dec 2020

Build Healthy Soil with Leaves and Compost

This fall, get in the habit of raking leaves away from gutters, sidewalks, streets, and storm drains to prevent localized flooding. As leaves are full of nutrients (and free!) they can be used to mulch around garden beds, shrubs, and trees; mulching prevents weeds and builds healthy soil so you can conserve on water and fertilizer later on.

Leaves can also go in a backyard compost bin or curbside organics bin to be turned into compost. Applying compost to lawns or garden beds not only adds nutrients to the soil but closes the loop on organic waste, ensuring that valuable natural resources are reused instead of thrown away. Check out other natural gardening tips and Cedar Grove's Compost Fest discounts available through Nov 1. Happy fall gardening!

Making the Holidays Meaningful

The pandemic has affected many families mentally, physically, and financially. This holiday season, let us use our talents, resources, and creativity to give meaningful gifts, help those in need, and lift each other's spirits. To get started, below are a few ideas.

- Make a fun video or photo book instead of buying a gift.
- Share holiday meals and traditions virtually with loved ones.
- Reuse materials to make cards, gifts, or gift wrap.
- Bake and share holiday goodies with neighbors.
- Donate time, money, or items to a local organization such as REACH, Vision House, or Renton Rotary Food Bank.

Free Holiday Tree Collection After the Holidays

Are you getting a holiday tree this year? Keep in mind that City of Renton residents may compost natural holiday trees for free as long as trees are in 6 ft or shorter sections and are free of lights, decorations, and flocking. Collected trees will go to Cedar Grove for composting.

Apartments and Condominiums: Republic Services will collect trees from a central location as designated by the property manager during the first two weeks of January. Program details will be sent to property managers in invoice messages and robocalls. Flyers for residents will be available on Republic Services' and the City's Solid Waste Utility website in December. For more information, contact 425-430-7398 or jpursell@rentonwa.gov.

Single-family Residences: Place trees next to your organics cart on organics collection day.

Tips for Smaller Holiday Meals

Whether sharing a virtual meal with loved ones, or gathering with immediate family or safe pod, here are a few tips for making smaller holiday gatherings just as special.

- Adjust expectations. Rather than stressing over a big feast, serve a few favorite dishes.
- Unless you love or plan on sharing leftovers, adjust recipes based on headcount.
- It is OK to skip or substitute the turkey, or serve store-bought foods if that is easier.
- Visit Save The Food for tools to help you plan, serve, and store meals so you do not end up with wasted food.

Inclement Weather Guidelines

Do you know what to do if winter weather and road conditions impact your curbside waste collection?
In preparation, review the inclement weather guidelines. For alerts during weather events, visit Republic Services and follow City of Renton on social media.

Online Gardening Classes

Saving Water Partnership (Free)
Tue 10/27, 6pm Drought Recovery and Developing a Resilient Landscape. To register, contact limhoff@rentonwa.gov or 425-430-7287.

Growing Groceries Class Series ($5 Donation suggested)
Wed 10/28, 7pm Planning and Garden Design
Wed 11/18, 7pm Soil and Compost

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