



Winter 2022

## Trash-Free for the Holidays

Creating a festive holiday around your home often means decorating, the gentle lighting of twinkle lights and candles, kitchen smells of favorite holiday recipes, and wrapping gifts for your loved ones. Most giftwrap is not recyclable, especially shiny, transparent, or glittery papers, and plastic ribbons and bows.



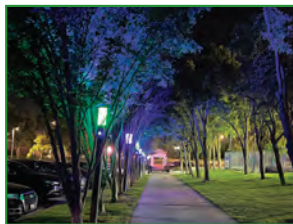
*Happy Holidays!*

- Use what you have! Find colorful pages in magazines, old maps, or use newspaper to wrap packages, and dress up with colorful fabric ribbons.
- Decorative (and reusable) tins, baskets, or boxes can make your gift presentation beautiful.
- Wrap gifts like books in a pretty scarf, bandana, dishtowel, or cloth napkin tied with a simple knot. The wrapping becomes part of the gift!
- Use recycled-content wrapping paper, or paper that is free of shiny foil or glitter.
- Try silk or satin ribbons in place of plastic bows, and keep them in a bin for using again next year.
- Gifting shared experiences like gift cards for a meal out, a puzzling escape room with family and friends, or a weekend in a favorite nearby destination will make memories that last long after the holidays are over.



## Have You Seen the New Lights at Central Park?

The City of San Ramon often lights the City Hall Rotunda to reflect holidays and cultural events occurring in, and around the City. The addition of festive lighting at Central Park has become a San Ramon tradition. To add to the impact made by the lights in the rotunda, colored theatrical gels were added to the pencil lights along the Promenade joining City Hall and the San Ramon Community Center. The theatrical gels were used due to the age of the light fixtures and lack of available power needed to run additional lighting.



As technology is always changing, new lighting options have been found that create desired lighting effects, fit the current pencil light fixture, and eliminate the need to run additional power. These

new light fixtures have been added to both the Promenade between City Hall and the San Ramon Community Center and the Promenade along the tennis courts. Please enjoy the new lighting this Holiday season and take a stroll down one of the promenades on one of our wonderful clear, brisk evenings!

# Spare the Air in the Winter

**D**uring winter months, the primary air pollutant is particulate matter. Particulate matter is made up of microscopic solid or liquid particles. Particles less than 10 micrometers in diameter can cause significant health problems. Fine particles measured under 2.5 micrometers, also known as PM2.5, are considered the most dangerous.

During the cooler winter months, more than one-third of particulate pollution comes from wood smoke. On some days, wood smoke can account for up to 90 percent of particulate pollution in certain areas.

On cold, calm days, wood smoke can become trapped close to the ground by an inversion layer, typically



formed when a layer of warm air acts as a lid over a layer of cooler air. Inversions prevent the air below from rising, which causes pollutants to build up, resulting in a Spare the Air Alert. During an alert, the use of all wood-burning devices is illegal, both indoors and outdoors.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) passed its wood burning regulation in July 2008, making it illegal to burn wood, fire logs, pellets, or other solid fuels in fireplaces, wood stoves, outdoor fire pits, or other wood-burning devices when there is a Spare the Air alert in effect for fine particulate pollution. Now, a Spare the Air alert banning wood burning

can be called for particulate pollution year-round, especially when there are wildfires affecting the Bay Area.

Visit <https://www.baaqmd.gov/rules-and-compliance/wood-smoke> for more detailed information on how to sign up for Spare the Air alerts and the Wood Burning Rule, or call 1-800-HELP AIR or 415-479-4900.

Using a commute alternative to work during Spare the Air days is also encouraged. The City of San Ramon and 511 Contra Costa provide incentives for teleworking, taking transit, carpooling, biking, walking, or vanpooling.

*For more information, contact the Transportation Division at (925) 973-2650, or visit <https://511contracosta.org/>.*

## Annual Sports Field Renovations

**T**his winter, the Public Works Department will work on the annual sports field renovations at several Park sites. All sports fields are closed from November 1<sup>st</sup> to February 1<sup>st</sup>, with some fields remaining closed until March 1<sup>st</sup>. Minor renovations at most sites are scheduled annually, with the scope of work determined by staff. A typical baseball infield renovation consists of: verifying base anchor and pitching mound locations; assessing the condition of the pitching mound and home plate and replacing, if necessary; straightening grass sidelines by trimming; and adding sod. Staff also ensures the grass is level with the playing field, verifies the radius of the infield arc, and adds sod to

define the edge, as needed. The amount of infield material at each site is assessed and added to maintain a safe playing surface. Sports turf is aerated and de-thatched, after which seed is added and topdressed.



Old Ranch Park

Central Park Soccer Field #1

Windemere Ranch Cricket Field

Athan Downs Baseball Fields

PARK NAME		RENOVATION TASKS PLANNED
<b>Athan Downs Park:</b>	4 Soccer and 4 Baseball Fields	Aerate, add seed, then topdressing Renovate Turf baseball fields Renovate Cricket Pitch
<b>Memorial Park:</b>	Baseball Field	
<b>Old Ranch Park:</b>	Soccer Field	
<b>Rancho San Ramon Park:</b>	Grass Soccer Field	
<b>Central Park:</b>	Baseball Field #1 & #4	
<b>San Ramon Sports Park:</b>	Soccer & Baseball Fields	
<b>Windemere Ranch Middle School:</b>	Cricket Pitch	
<b>Central Park:</b>	All Soccer Fields	Aerate, de-thatch, add seed, then topdressing

## Conservation is Key to Reduce Costs and Help our Environment

The City of San Ramon's Public Works Department uses a variety of tools to help conserve and save money. In our Parks and Landscaping, we use Calsense irrigation controllers, which operate using Evapotranspiration (ET). Probes in the soil read the moisture level. If the soil is too dry for the plant material, the system turns on the water. Conversely, if the soil contains enough moisture for the plant material, the system does not turn on the water. We are also working to renovate landscaped areas using drought tolerant plant material and replacing overhead spray irrigation with drip or bubbler irrigation, where appropriate.



In the City's facilities, and when the facilities are occupied, we set the thermostats to PG&E's recommended settings. In the summer, A/C thermostats are set to 78°. Studies indicate that 78° is the lowest temperature for conservation efforts, and that every degree above 78° represents an approximate increase of 2% savings on cooling costs.



In the winter, the furnace thermostats are set to 68° or lower. Why 68°? Anything above 68° increases energy use by 3%-5%. When the facilities are not occupied, the units are turned off so we are not heating or cooling an empty space. The City also tries to conserve when it comes to lighting. The City uses motion detection devices in office spaces and in some of our newer facilities. These systems have been fine-tuned so that when an office or room is unoccupied, the lights turn off automatically.

## After the Holidays, make sure your tree is composted!

### MULTI-FAMILY CUSTOMERS:

**ACI of San Ramon will collect holiday trees at no additional charge January 9-13.**

**Clean green trees will be composted. There are 2 collection methods:**

1. Complexes with a large number of holiday trees can request a debris box for collection. Contact ACI at 925-380-9480 or visit ACI's website: [www.sanramonrecycles.com/holiday/](http://www.sanramonrecycles.com/holiday/) for more information & a form to reserve your debris box.



2. Complexes can designate a collection area for trees during the month of January. Approval of designated collection area by ACI of San Ramon personnel is required. Contact us to make arrangements. Please do not block access to your collection carts and/or bins.

### SINGLE FAMILY CUSTOMERS:

**Clean green trees will be composted.**

- Boy Scouts will be collecting trees January 2-6.
- ACI of San Ramon will collect holiday trees January 9-13.

**Make sure stands, lights, and decorations have been removed.**

- ◆ Trees should be placed curbside, and should not be bagged or wrapped.
- ◆ Flocked trees and artificial trees should be placed in the trash, and will be not composted.



### Holiday Service Schedule

#### CHRISTMAS WEEK & NEW YEAR'S DAY WEEK:

There are no changes to the collection schedule this year due to both holidays falling on the weekend.

**Contact us: (925) 380-9480**

# What Is My Flood Risk?

Parts of San Ramon are in a Flood Zone. Residents should be aware of their flood risk. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) publishes Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) that delineate flood zones in the City. Areas designated as Zone “A” or “AE” are estimated to have a 1% chance or greater of being flooded every year. This includes areas near South San Ramon Creek, where some properties suffered flood damage in the Sunny Glen area during the winter of 2002. Your mortgage lender may require you to purchase flood insurance if your property is located in one of these zones. Regardless of your property’s proximity to the flood zone or your mortgage requirements, you are encouraged to obtain flood insurance. You may be in an unmapped flood prone area. If you have flood zone insurance, check to ensure you have contents coverage as well.

## Protect yourself and your property

- During a flood, stay away from flood hazard. Do not walk or drive through flood waters.
- Protect your property from flood damage by ensuring adequate drainage around your home; elevating electrical panels, furnaces, water heaters, and appliances; and moving essential items and valuables to upper floors.
- Build responsibly. Check with the City Building Division before you build, alter, or grade your property.
- Keep our creeks and drainage system functioning by keeping leaves, trash, and debris away from storm drain inlets. If you see an area that is a flood risk from a clogged storm drain inlet, down tree, or flooded roadway, contact our Public Services Division at (925) 973-2800.



## What is the City doing to reduce my flood risk?

- Maintenance of drainage infrastructure (storm drain inlets, pipes, and creeks)
- Enforcement of the City’s Floodplain Management Ordinance
- Outreach to residents, lenders, and insurance agents
- Assistance in determining flood zones and reading FIRMs

By performing these annual activities and participating in the Community Rating System (CRS), FEMA has awarded the City a CRS Class rating of 6, which provides residents up to a 20% discount in their flood insurance premiums. For more Flood Plan Management information, visit FEMA’s websites at [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov), [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov), [msc.fema.gov](http://msc.fema.gov), or contact City staff at (925) 973-2670.

# Sand Bag Stations

In preparation for the upcoming rainy season, the City of San Ramon have placed sand and sandbags for residents to use at the following sites:

- 1) Central Park – located along the Acosta Boulevard main entrance
- 2) Athan Downs Park – located on Montevideo Drive (nearest cross street is Davona Drive)
- 3) San Ramon Sports Park in Dougherty Valley – located on Sherwood Way (nearest cross street is East Branch Parkway)
- 4) Fire station at Fircrest Lane and Alcosta Boulevard – One pallet of filled sandbags

The locations are marked with blue “Sandbag Station” signs inside the above-mentioned parking lots. Sandbag stations are self-monitored, so residents must bring their own shovel to fill the bags.



# What is Integrated Pest Management (IPM)?

The City of San Ramon is committed to safe and effective pest management within its public buildings, parks, open space, landscapes, and rights-of-way, and utilizes an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to promote the least toxic solutions for both pests and pesticide problems.



Dandelion



Ground Squirrel



Aphid



White Grub



Powdery Mildew

## What is IPM?

IPM is a way of managing pest problems by using a variety of methods and reducing pesticide use. As the name suggests, IPM integrates a range of biological, cultural, mechanical, and chemical options to respond to pest problems and targets to manage pests since elimination is not practical.

## How does an IPM program work?

### ■ Monitors and Identifies Pests

Identify the problem(s). Not all pests require control. Accurately identify the pest so that appropriate control decisions can be made.

### ■ Sets Action Thresholds

Before taking any pest control action, set a threshold or point at which pest populations indicate that control measures must be taken. The presence of some pests does not in itself necessarily require action.

### ■ Implement Prevention Methods

As a first line of pest control, try to prevent pests from becoming a threat by using habitat manipulation, biological controls, modification to cultural practices, and pest resistant varieties.

### ■ Evaluate Control Method

Once preventive methods are no longer effective, evaluate a proper control method for both effectiveness and risk. Less risky methods such as nontoxic or organic options are chosen first, working progressively towards targeted spraying of pesticides as a last resort.

## Why is IPM Good?

- Reduces risk use and exposure to chemical pesticides
- Environmentally friendly and protects beneficial populations
- Prevents resistance from developing in pests
- Cost-effective

## What Can You Do To Help Promote IPM?

- Identify the insect or disease and make sure it is serious enough to merit treatment.
- Maintain proper sanitation around your home and garden. Pests are attracted to areas that provide shelter, food, and water.
- Tolerate plants that have beneficial insects on them.
- Grow plants that are less susceptible to pests or diseases.
- Mulch landscapes to reduce weeds, maintain proper soil moisture, and improve fertility.
- Use chemical pesticides only as a last resort.



## San Ramon Performing Arts Series

The San Ramon Performing Arts Series will host two national touring performers at the Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center in 2023. The Marshall Tucker Band will take the stage on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. The rock band has been performing since 1972 and has been tearing up live stages both big and small all across the globe ever since.

On Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 PM, 80's pop icons Taylor Dayne and Sheena Easton invite the ladies to sing and dance along to some of their biggest hits during their Ladies Night 2023 Tour. Taylor's groundbreaking debut single "Tell It To My Heart" turned her into an overnight international star in 1987 and Easton's was the first, and still the only artist to have top five records on five major Billboard charts, including "Strut", "Sugar Walls", and "U Got The Look".

*These two shows are sure to be crowd pleasers. To purchase tickets or for more information visit [SanRamonPerformingArts.com](http://SanRamonPerformingArts.com).*



City of San Ramon  
7000 Bollinger Canyon Road  
San Ramon, CA 94583  
(925) 973-2500

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**WINTER EVENTS CALENDAR**

**JANUARY**

Jan 13  
San Ramon Arts Foundation Friday  
Foreign Film: The Devil's Backbone\*

Jan 28  
San Ramon Historic Foundation  
Crab Feed\*



Jan 29  
San Ramon Performing Arts Series:  
The Marshall  
Tucker Band \*



**FEBRUARY**

Feb 11  
San Ramon Senior Center  
Foundation Cupid's Bingo\*

Feb 11  
Open Space Advisory Committee  
Hidden Lake Hike



Feb 18  
Lady K and the Kings of Swing:  
Winter Ball & Dance Party\*

Feb 24  
San Ramon Arts Foundation Friday  
Foreign Film: Portrait of a Lady on  
Fire \*



**MARCH**

Mar 3  
San Ramon Arts Foundation Friday  
Foreign Film: A Hijacking\*

Mar 10  
San Ramon Symphonic Band  
Concert: Song & Dance\*



Mar 11  
San Ramon Performing Arts Series:  
Ladies Night with Taylor Dayne &  
Sheena Easton\*

Mar 17  
San Ramon Community Chorus St.  
Patrick's Day Concert

Mar 24  
San Ramon Arts Foundation Friday  
Foreign Film: Salaam Bombay!\*

\*These events require registration or ticket purchase.

For more information, please visit: [www.SanRamon.ca.gov/parks](http://www.SanRamon.ca.gov/parks) or call (925) 973-3200.

**Contact Information**

**City Council**

David E. Hudson, *Mayor*  
Sridhar Verose, *Vice Mayor*  
Mark Armstrong, *Councilmember*  
Scott Perkins, *Councilmember*  
Sabina Zafar, *Councilmember*  
City Council ..... 973-2530  
City Manager ..... 973-2530

**Department Services**

Building ..... 973-2580  
Business License ..... 973-2510  
City Clerk ..... 973-2539  
Economic Development ..... 973-2554  
Engineering ..... 973-2670  
Human Resources ..... 973-2523  
Parks & Community Services ..... 973-3200  
Passport Services ..... 973-2539  
Planning ..... 973-2560  
Police ..... 973-2700  
Public Services ..... 973-2800  
Transportation ..... 973-2650

**Facilities**

Alcosta Senior & Community Center ..... 973-3250  
Dougherty Station Community Center .... 973-3200  
Dougherty Station Library ..... 973-3380  
Dougherty Valley Aquatic Center ..... 973-3335  
Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center.. 973-3343  
Permit Center..... 973-2574  
San Ramon Community Ctr & Central Park .. 973-3200  
San Ramon Library ..... 973-2850  
San Ramon Olympic Pool ..... 973-3240

[www.sanramon.ca.gov](http://www.sanramon.ca.gov)