

Winter 2023

Three Simple Steps to a Trash-Free Holiday Season

Tis the season to be jolly, a time for coming together with family and friends, and a moment to share joy and warmth. However, the holiday season also tends to generate significant waste, from discarded decorations, an abundance of non-recyclable packaging, to unwanted gifts. The average American produces 5 pounds of trash per day, or 35 pounds each week. During the holidays, that amount increases to 6.25 pounds per person per day, or 43.75 pounds each week.



This year let's plan ahead to consciously celebrate a Trash-Free holiday season. Here are three simple Trash-Free tips:

1. Trash-Free Decorations: Get your creative juices flowing and involve your loved ones in crafting DIY decorations. Why not make a beautiful Popcorn and Cranberry Garland for the holidays? And when the festivities end, simply place the garland in the green organics container!



2. Trash-Free Gift Wrapping: Ditch the traditional wrapping paper and explore Trash-Free alternatives. Consider using post-consumer recycled wrapping paper or repurpose old newspapers or magazines – they can be recycled again later. Cinnamon sticks, dried citrus, sprigs of pine, and dried cloves can make for a pretty gift closure. You can also think outside the box by using mason jars, attractive dishtowels, or baskets to present your gifts in a cute style while reducing waste. Mason jars, fabrics, and baskets can be reused for other household uses.



3. Thrifty Holiday Decor: Shopping for holiday decor can be exciting! Visit your local thrift stores or consignment shops for budget-friendly holiday decor finds. If you're not keen on shopping or want to avoid the holiday crowds, why not swap last year's holiday decorations with a neighbor. It's a fun way to refresh your decor while embracing the Trash-Free holiday spirit.



BONUS TIP - TRASH-FREE GIFTS! Give the gift of an experience. This holiday season, gift friends and family tickets to the movies, the zoo, or a trip to the museum. Many of these gifts can be purchased and reserved online, so there is no need to print out your confirmation on paper.

By following these simple tips, we can all make a waste reduction impact and ensure a more Trash-Free holiday season. Wishing you all a joyful and Trash-Free holiday season filled with memorable moments.

Holiday Service Schedule Christmas Week & New Year's Day Week:

DECEMBER 24-30, 2023					
If your collection day is:	Mon. 25	Tue. 26	Wed. 27	Thu. 28	Fri. 29
Your holiday collection day will be:	Tue. 26	Wed. 27	Thu. 28	Fri. 29	Sat. 30

DEC 31, 2023 - JAN 6, 2024					
If your collection day is:	Mon. 1	Tue. 2	Wed. 3	Thu. 4	Fri. 5
Your holiday collection day will be:	Tue. 2	Wed. 3	Thu. 4	Fri. 5	Sat. 6



After the Holidays: Curious about how to dispose of non-functional holiday lights, old furniture, spent batteries, and various other items?

Questions? Contact ACI at (925) 380-9480 or info@alamedacountyindustries.com.

Visit <https://resource.stopwaste.org/> for more information.

After the Holidays, Make Sure Your Tree is Composted!

SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES:

- Trees should be placed curbside and should not be bagged or wrapped.
- Boy Scouts of San Ramon will be collecting trees on January 6, 2024. Visit <https://sanramonscouts.org/tree-recycling/> to schedule a pick-up.
- ACI of San Ramon will collect holiday trees from January 8 – 12, 2024.

MULTI-FAMILY COMPLEXES:

1. Property Managers of complexes with a large number of holiday trees can request a debris box for collection by contacting ACI at (925) 380-9480 or visiting ACI's website at <https://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; however, approval of designated collection areas by ACI of San Ramon personnel is required. Contact ACI to make arrangements. Please do not block access to your collection carts and/or bins.

ONLY CLEAN GREEN TREES WILL BE COMPOSTED

Make sure stands, lights, and decorations have been removed. Flocked trees and artificial trees cannot be composted and will be collected as garbage.



San Ramon Budget: Make Your Voice Heard!

As the City, our goal is to provide essential public services that our community needs and values. The City's responsible fiscal practices have helped us achieve many great things and earned awards for fiscal prudence. However, with rising operating costs and other fiscal pressures, maintaining a balanced budget has become a growing burden.

Accordingly, we have identified a list of essential City needs requiring priority attention in the current challenging economic environment, including:

- **PUBLIC SAFETY:** Rapid response emergency 9-1-1 services, neighborhood police patrols, crisis mental health services, etc.
- **STREETS & ROADS:** Improving pedestrian, cyclist and driver safety, enforcing traffic laws, maintaining quality streets and roads.
- **NEIGHBORHOODS:** Minimizing the impacts of new development on established San Ramon neighborhoods.

- **LIBRARIES:** Maintaining and expanding library hours for improved access.
- **AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** Increasing affordable housing options in San Ramon.
- **SENIOR & YOUTH SERVICES:** Programs and services for our older and younger residents.
- **PARKS & INFRASTRUCTURE:** Maintain City parks and improve aging City facilities / infrastructure.

The City is working hard to address these needs. For example, in September, our Police Department successfully secured a \$5.6 million grant to launch an anti-theft program, establishing a dedicated focus on preventing organized retail theft. We will continue to keep you informed as we find creative solutions to City challenges.

Meanwhile, we want to hear from YOU! Help protect San Ramon's high quality of life and keep our city moving forward. Take our City survey at sanramon.ca.gov/funding.

Thank you in advance for making YOUR voice heard.

Spare the Air in the Winter

During 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 woodburning 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.

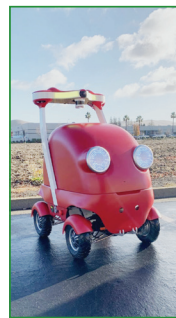
Visit <https://www.baaqmd.gov/rules-and-compliance/wood-smoke> wood-smoke for more detailed information on how to sign up for Spare the Air alerts and the Wood Burning Rule or call 1-800-HELP AIR or (415) 749-4900.

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 on commute alternatives, contact the Transportation Division at (925) 973-2650, or visit <https://511contracosta.org/>.

Autonomous Delivery Vehicle Pilot Program in Dougherty Valley and Westside Neighborhoods

Polar Labs has coordinated with the City to do a pilot test of their autonomous delivery vehicles within the public right-of-way in San Ramon. Currently, they are testing their vehicles along routes within Dougherty Valley and in the Westside Drive area. During testing, the vehicle will travel within the designated



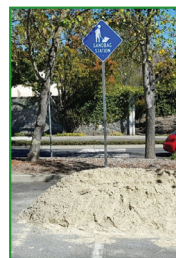
bike lanes autonomously and can be overridden and operated manually by a driver following the vehicle. Routes within the City are approved by the City Traffic Engineer prior to operation, and vehicles are required to follow all traffic laws. In the future, Polar Labs intends to expand their pilot program to include other roadways within the City over the next year.

It is also possible that other companies may conduct similar pilot programs to test autonomous delivery vehicles in the upcoming year.

Sandbag Station

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

1. **Central Park** – located along the Acosta Blvd. 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 Pkwy.)

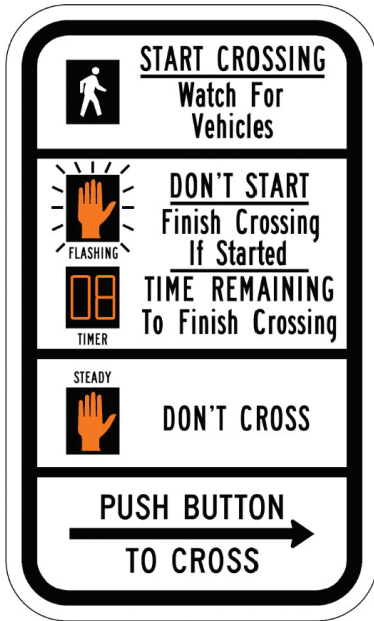
The locations are marked with blue “Sandbag Station” signs inside the above-mentioned parking lots. Sandbag stations are self-monitored, so residents must bring their own shovel to fill the bags.

Crosswalk Safety – A Shared Responsibility

Whether you're a pedestrian, a driver, or a cyclist, ensuring the safety of those crossing the street is a community effort. By promoting a culture of safety and respect on the roads, we can reduce collisions, injuries, and fatalities. Let's all do our part to make our streets safer for everyone.

For PEDESTRIANS, here are some valuable tips to keep in mind:

- **Obey Traffic Signals:** Push button and cross only on a **WALK** signal. Green signal is only for vehicles. Start when **WALK** indication is on. If there is a countdown timer, it indicates how much time is left to finish crossing. Flashing hand means finish crossing, but do not start. Steady hand indication means do not cross.



At intersections where there is a flashing warning lights system, wait and assess the traffic on both sides of the roadway to decide when to press the button to turn on the warning lights. Wait for traffic gaps or the end of the platoon of vehicles before

pressing the button. Ensure motor vehicles have adequate time to see the lights, react from a distance, reduce speed, and yield.

- **Look Both Ways:** Before crossing, always look left and right to ensure no vehicles are coming, or blind-sided by the yielding vehicle in the next lane. Make eye contact with drivers in each lane, whenever possible.
- **Stay Visible:** Wear bright or reflective clothing, especially in low-light conditions. Make yourself as visible as possible to drivers.
- **Avoid Distractions:** Put away your phone, remove your headphones, and stay focused on the road when crossing. Distracted walking can be as dangerous as distracted driving.

DRIVERS play a vital role in crosswalk safety. Being aware of these tips can help protect pedestrians:

- **Yield to Pedestrians:** When approaching a crosswalk, slow down and be prepared to stop. Always yield the right-of-way to pedestrians in the crosswalk.
- **Stay Patient:** Wait for pedestrians to clear the crosswalk on your side of the roadway before proceeding.
- **Avoid Distractions:** Stay focused on the road and avoid using electronic devices.
- **Right Turns:** When making right turns, ensure there are no pedestrians crossing in your blind spots.
- **Left Turns:** When making left turns, yield to oncoming traffic and check for pedestrians in the crosswalk or are about to start crossing the roadway before proceeding with your turn.



- **Obey Speed Limits:** Adhering to speed limits in areas with crosswalks is essential. Higher speeds reduce your reaction time and severity of injury and fatality in a crash increase exponentially.

BICYCLISTS should also be cautious when approaching crosswalks. Follow these guidelines to ensure safety:

- **Dismount and Walk:** When using a crosswalk, dismount your bicycle and walk it across.



- **Signal Your Intentions:** Use hand signals when approaching a crosswalk to let both drivers and pedestrians know your intentions.
- **Observe Traffic Laws:** Bicyclists must follow the same traffic laws as drivers. This includes obeying traffic devices at crosswalks.

By adhering to these tips, pedestrians, drivers, and cyclists can work together to create safer streets and reduce the risk of collisions at crosswalks.

Stay safe and remember - crosswalk safety is a shared responsibility!

Winterization of Irrigation Pump Stations

Did you know that the City of San Ramon operates and maintains over 100 irrigation pump stations Citywide? It is very important to service our irrigation pump stations. Irrigation pump stations are no different than your car. Without periodic preventative maintenance, its longevity will decrease. The pump station is a vital component of every irrigation system; think of it as the heart of your irrigation system. It draws water from the water meters feeding our irrigation mainline to water the City parks, turf, shrubs, trees, and street landscapes. These hard-working machines need routine maintenance and care. During the winter season when irrigation systems are usually shut down, City irrigation staff services our irrigation pumps. These routine maintenance tasks include



thoroughly cleaning the enclosure, greasing the motor and pump bearings, and replacing failed parts like cooling fans, pressure sensors, and other miscellaneous items. Without routine maintenance, our irrigation pumps would fail when we need them the most, which is during the summer months.

What Does Winter Mean for the Landscape?

As days get shorter and leaves begin to fall, it goes without saying winter is just around the corner. For some this means cozy nights inside next to the fireplace; however, it's also the time to start preparing your landscape to weather the winter.



Tips To Follow This Winter:

Irrigation: Reduce irrigation or turn it off completely if rainfall is adequate.

Clean-up: Do a general clean-up of the landscape to prevent pests/pathogens from overwintering.

Mulch: Add mulch to landscape beds to cover bare soil. This reduces soil erosion, prevents weeds, and protects roots from winter chill.

Drainage: Correct problems with low or poorly drained areas in the landscape.

Soil: Avoid walking or using equipment on wet soil to prevent compaction and poor aeration.

Weeds: Regularly inspect and remove winter annual weeds before they flower, taking care to remove roots completely.

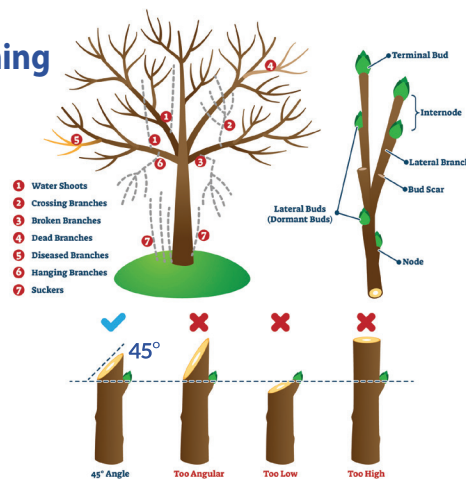


Prune: Winter is a great time to prune many trees, shrubs, perennials, and ornamental grasses. Hold off on roses or tender plants which might still be susceptible to freeze damage. Wait for March or until after most hard freezes have passed. Oaks should only be pruned during the dormant season.

Frost: If a frost is predicted, water your plants ensuring the root zone moist but not overly saturated. Cover frost-tender species with a frost cloth, burlap, drop cloths, or sheets.

Winterize Tools: Inspect, clean, and sharpen your garden tools. Store them in a dry location. Proper maintenance will allow you to get a jump on spring.

Tree Pruning





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

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WINTER EVENTS CALENDAR

JANUARY

January 9

Poetry Open Mic
Dougherty Station Library

January 20

Puppet Art Theatre
Dougherty Station Library

January 27

Master Gardeners: Growing Microgreens
Dougherty Station Library

January 27

San Ramon Historic Foundation Crab Feed*
San Ramon Community Center

FEBRUARY

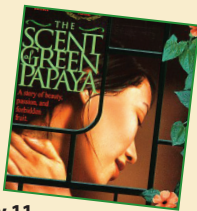
February 2

Friday Foreign Film: Rashomon presented by the San Ramon Arts Foundation*
Front Row Theater



February 9

Friday Foreign Film: Scent of the Green Papaya presented by the San Ramon Arts Foundation*
Front Row Theater



February 11

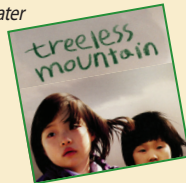
OSAC Speaker Event: Things Learned on the Trail with Susan Alcorn
San Ramon Community Center

February 16

Friday Foreign Film: In the Mood for Love presented by the San Ramon Arts Foundation*
Front Row Theater

February 23

Friday Foreign Film: Treeless Mountain presented by the San Ramon Arts Foundation*
Front Row Theater



February 24

Rockin' Bingo presented by the Senior Center Foundation*
Alcosta Senior & Community Center

February 27

Traveling Reptile Show
Dougherty Station Library

MARCH

March 2

Party in the Park
San Ramon Community Center

March 8

San Ramon Symphonic Band: Spirit of Mexico Concert*
Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center

March 9

OSAC Hike: Rolling Hills Trail
Meet at the Dougherty Station Community Arts Center



March 9

Teen Job Fair
Alcosta Senior & Community Center

March 15

San Ramon Community Chorus St. Patrick's Day Concert
Front Row Theater



March 16

San Ramon Academy of Music Info Night
Front Row Theater

*These events require registration or ticket purchase.

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

Contact Information

City Council

David E. Hudson, *Mayor*
Mark Armstrong, *Vice Mayor*
Scott Perkins, *Councilmember*
Marisol Rubio, *Councilmember*
Sridhar Verose, *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 Arts 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