



---

## City of Weston Hurricane Irma

### Debris Collection Status

September 20, 2017

---

*The City of Weston will be removing storm debris from public rights-of-way and public properties only. The City will not be entering private rights-of-way or gated communities for removal of storm debris until such time as the City receives approval from FEMA, if such approval is ever granted.*

Below you will find information regarding the current FEMA policy guidelines. This information was offered to all Weston community associations having agreed to emergency access and disaster debris removal agreements with the City at a City Hall meeting with Property Managers and board members in June 2017.

- [Section 1](#) Debris Removal from Private Property (private rights-of-way or in a gated community)
- [Section 2](#) Debris Removal from Single-Family Properties on Public Roadways in Bonaventure
- [Section 3](#) Multi-Family Residential and Commercial Properties
- [Section 4](#) Financial Implications for All
- [Section 5](#) The Bottom Line
- [Section 6](#) Additional Debris Disposal Option
- [Section 7](#) Citywide Residential Bulk Pickup



**The City must meet the following eligibility requirements established by FEMA in order to be reimbursed for debris removal.**

The removal must be in the public interest based on whether the work:

- Eliminates immediate threats to lives, public health and safety;
- Eliminates immediate threats of significant damage to improved property;
- Ensures economic recovery of the affected community to the benefit of the community at large;
- Mitigates risk to life and property by removing Substantially Damaged structures and associated structures and appurtenances.

---

## ***Section 1: Debris Removal from Private Property***

---

### **Debris Removal from Private Property Requires Prior FEMA Approval**

***This applies to any debris on a private right-of-way or in a gated community.***

- If debris on private property is so widespread that it threatens public health and safety or the economic recovery of the community, FEMA may provide Public Assistance funding for debris removal from private property. This debris removal must be in the public interest, not merely benefiting an individual or limited group of individuals within the community.
- Debris Removal from Gated Communities - Debris removal from private residential property within a gated community is not eligible. However, if the debris is placed on a private road within the gated community, debris removal from the road may be eligible in accordance with the eligibility and request criteria listed above.



*Residents on private rights-of-way and in gated communities who desire to have the storm debris on private rights-of-way and in gated communities removed in the shortest time possible, should contact their community association to undertake that task. The City cannot reimburse community associations for debris removal costs in the event that the City were to receive approval from FEMA for reimbursement of the City's costs.*

**DUMPING OF DEBRIS ON PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND PUBLIC PROPERTIES IS A FELONY UNDER FLORIDA LAW AND VIOLATORS ARE SUBJECT TO ARREST AND SEIZURE OF VEHICLES. REPORT UNLAWFUL DUMPING TO 911.**

After a Rapid Impact Assessment of the entire City, including all private rights-of-way and gated communities on September 11, 2017, it was determined that there was no severe structural damage for structural debris and that landscaping damage was not so widespread that it threatened public health and safety or the economic recovery of the community.

The City of Weston HAS submitted a request for approval from FEMA for reimbursement for debris removal from private rights-of-way and in gated communities. An immediate answer is not forthcoming as this will take days, *possibly weeks for a response*. Further, there is no certainty that the City will obtain FEMA approval just because the request was made and it does not appear to meet the criteria.



---

## ***Section 2: Debris Removal from Single-Family Properties on Public Roadways in Bonaventure***

---

The City of Weston will be removing storm debris from public rights-of-way abutting single-family properties (swales). Single-family residential properties abutting public rights-of-way in the Bonaventure community received door hangers detailing the debris removal process, which is detailed below.

Place hurricane vegetative debris in swales, **NOT in plastic bags**. Hurricane vegetative debris in plastic bags cannot be accepted. **Separate** vegetation from any other debris and place in separate piles on the right-of-way.

The Temporary Debris Management Sites will not accept unauthorized debris which includes, but is not limited to: white goods; chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear-contaminated debris; hazardous waste; vehicles; vessels; animal carcasses; garbage (household food waste); household hazardous waste; electronic waste; industrial waste; infectious waste; and sand, soil, mud, and/or sediment.

If hurricane vegetative debris is already in bags, place the bags in your garbage cart for disposal or remove the debris from bags completely, place in piles on swale, and dispose of the bag in your regular garbage.



---

### ***Section 3: Multi-Family Residential and Commercial Properties***

---

Removal of debris from commercial properties, such as industrial parks, golf courses, cemeteries, apartments, condominiums, and trailer parks, is generally ineligible because commercial enterprises are expected to retain insurance that covers debris removal.

Removal of debris placed on the public right-of-way from commercial properties is not eligible unless preapproved by FEMA, and such preapproval has not been obtained.

**DUMPING OF DEBRIS ON PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND PUBLIC PROPERTIES IS A FELONY UNDER FLORIDA LAW AND VIOLATORS ARE SUBJECT TO ARREST AND SEIZURE OF VEHICLES. REPORT UNLAWFUL DUMPING TO 911.**



---

## ***Section 4: FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR ALL***

---

If the City of Weston were to do a citywide collection, it would most likely not get reimbursed by FEMA, as the storm's impact to the City does not appear to meet the criteria for FEMA to cover the expense.

- **Some have suggested 'use City reserves, that is what they are for'**  
Municipal reserves must be replaced for the next storm and they are your city tax dollars - meaning your taxes will have to increase to replenish the expended reserves.
- **Why do reserves need to be replaced?**  
The cleanup of Hurricane Wilma cost \$17 million.  
Reimbursement from FEMA took 22 months.  
Contractors want payment every 15-30 days.

Utilizing reserves and not replenishing them immediately leaves the City vulnerable as there is the very real possibility of multiple storms in any given year, and the next year.

Replenishment of funds, if not being reimbursed by FEMA, comes from taxation of property owners. It would take two fiscal years before the City could raise the ad valorem millage rate to replenish the reserves, thereby exposing the City, and residents, to insufficient funds to be able to respond to a significant event during that time.



---

## ***Section 5: The Bottom Line***

---

- a) Private rights-of-way and gated communities are not eligible for FEMA reimbursement at this time;
- b) To be cleaned up in the shortest amount of time, it is recommended that the community association perform the clean-up at its expense with the landscape contractors it has in place;
- c) Residents can also utilize their regular twice weekly garbage service to assist in debris collection by using any empty cart space for vegetative debris. If your cart is partially empty, let a neighbor place debris in your cart.
- d) Clean-up of public rights-of-way is expected to take much longer than in past storms because of the competition for limited resources due to the extent of damage in Florida from Irma and in Texas from Harvey. Completion of storm debris removal is expected to take months.



---

## ***Section 6: Additional Option for Debris Disposal***

---

**The Broward County Landfill** is located at 7101 S.W. 205 Avenue (Sheridan Street just east of U.S. 27).

This is a landfill that charges a fee based on the amount of debris deposited. Debris delivered in passenger vehicles (pick-up truck bed of 6' or less) is \$10 per vehicle.

For additional disposal rates and fees please visit:

<http://www.broward.org/WasteAndRecycling/SouthwestRegionalLandfill/Pages/Default.aspx>

Regular hours of operation: Monday – Saturday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Facility is closed on Sundays.





---

## **Section 7: CITYWIDE RESIDENTIAL BULK PICKUP**

---

**October Bulk Pickup: The Regular Pickup Dates are listed but will likely take much longer to complete due the volume of debris.**

### **Residential Curbside Bulk Waste Collection Service:**

**On regular garbage collection date: Wed., Oct. 18 / Thur. Oct. 19 / Fri. Oct. 20**

Bulk Waste must be generated by the customer and at the Residential Curbside Service Unit wherein the Bulk Waste is collected. The contractor shall pick up Bulk Waste, not to exceed six (6) cubic yards per Residential Curbside Service Unit. Residents are encouraged to also dispose of vegetation in regularly scheduled garbage cart collection each week a little at a time.

**The Bulk Pickup does not include HOA common areas.**

Bulk Waste shall mean those wastes that may require special handling and management including, but not limited to: White goods, furniture, equipment and other similar items including materials resulting from minor home repairs. It shall include all types of palm fronds and any vegetative matter resulting from normal yard and landscaping maintenance below 6" in diameter. It excludes contractor-generated waste.

### **Residential Containerized Bulk Waste Collection Service (Multi-Family Units with Dumpsters)**

**Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>**

Bulk Waste must be generated by the customer and at the Residential Containerized Service Unit wherein the Bulk Waste is collected.

**Bulk Pickup does not include HOA common areas.**

Bulk Waste shall mean those wastes that may require special handling and management including, but not limited to: White goods, furniture, equipment and other similar items including materials resulting from minor home repairs. It shall include all types of palm fronds and any vegetative matter resulting from normal yard and landscaping maintenance below 6" in diameter. It excludes contractor-generated waste.