

# A Greener El Cerrito

News from the City of El Cerrito Operations + Environmental Services Division

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www.ecenvironment.org | 510-215-4350

## Proper Disposal of Medications & Sharps



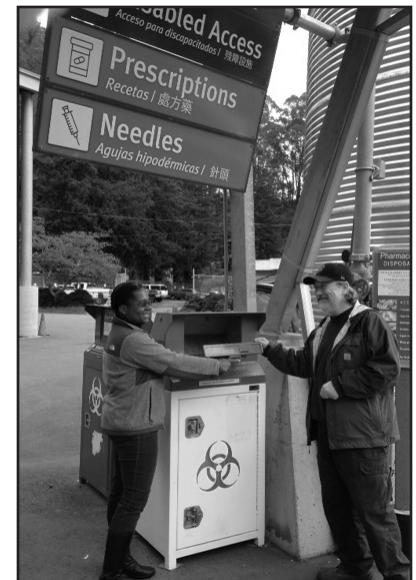
Medicines (pharmaceuticals) should not be poured down the drain or flushed down the toilet. Wastewater treatment plants are not designed to remove these substances, which are harmful to the environment and which may end up in lakes, rivers, the bay, and our drinking water.

Used sharps (needles, syringes, and lancets) pose a danger to sanitation workers and the general public, potentially exposing them to infection, pathogens and viruses. It is illegal to place sharps in the trash and they should not be placed in your blue garbage, grey recycling, or green organics bins.

Sharps and unwanted or expired medications should be disposed of properly by taking them to the El Cerrito Recycling Center (7501 Schmidt Lane) or to another authorized sharps and pharmaceuticals drop-off location.

At the El Cerrito Recycling Center, loose pills must be in a sealable plastic bag (such as a Ziploc). Empty plastic pill bottles and lids can

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## 2017 Solid Waste and Recycling Rates

**Residential Solid Waste Services** include weekly collection of recycling (grey cart), green waste (green cart), garbage (blue cart); limited free on-call collection of larger quantities from your home; free access to the regional Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility and to most services at the El Cerrito Recycling + Environmental Resource Center. Additional recycling carts are available at no extra cost. **Commercial Solid Waste Services** include collection of recycling (grey cart), green waste (green), garbage (blue) and most services at the El Cerrito Recycling + Environmental Resource Center. Additional recycling carts are available at no extra cost.

Garbage Container Size	Residential Service	Commercial / Multi-Family Service
20 Gallon	\$34.28 per month	\$34.28 per month
35 Gallon	\$45.44 per month	\$45.44 per month
64 Gallon	\$91.23 per month	\$91.23 per month
1 Cubic Yard (at once weekly pickup)	NA	\$308.10 per month
2 Cubic Yards (at once weekly pickup)	NA	\$599.98 per month
Green Waste Collection (35 / 64 gal)	One 64 gal cart included in residential service Extra 64 gal cart is \$53.20 per month	35 gal is \$27.51 per month per weekly pickup 64 gal is \$53.20 per month per weekly pickup

# Environmental Activities Calendar

<b>Dec. 24 - Jan 2</b>	Winter Holidays & Christmas Tree Pick-Up	<b>Holiday Schedule:</b> The Recycling + Environmental Resource Center will be closed on December 24, 25, and 26; will close at 12:30 PM on December 31, 2016; and will be closed on January 1 and 2, 2017. Curbside collection of recycling, green waste, and garbage will occur as normally scheduled. <b>Christmas Trees</b> will be picked up free of charge on the regular greenwaste day <u>through January 13, 2017</u> . Questions? Contact East Bay Sanitary at 510-237-4321.
<b>1st Sat. Monthly</b>	10 AM to 12:30 PM	<b>Baxter Creek Gateway Work Parties:</b> Join volunteers and City staff in removing invasive species and restoring native habitat in this jewel on the Ohlone Greenway. Questions? Contact staff at 510-559-7685, <a href="mailto:spree@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us">spree@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us</a> .
<b>2nd Mon. Monthly</b>	7 PM	<b>Tree Committee:</b> Come to the regular monthly meetings of the City's Tree Committee, which works on maintaining the health of El Cerrito's urban forest. The Tree Committee meets monthly on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7pm, El Cerrito City Hall, Hillside Conference Room, 10890 San Pablo Avenue. For more information: <a href="http://www.el-cerrito.org/treecommittee">www.el-cerrito.org/treecommittee</a> .
<b>2nd Tues. Monthly</b>	7 PM	<b>Environmental Quality Committee (EQC) Monthly Meeting:</b> Join El Cerrito residents in working to improve environmental quality in El Cerrito! The EQC meets monthly on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 PM, El Cerrito City Hall, Council Chambers, 10890 San Pablo Avenue. For more information: <a href="http://www.el-cerrito.org/eqc">www.el-cerrito.org/eqc</a> .
<b>1st Wed. Monthly</b>	3 to 4 PM	<b>Recycling + Environmental Resource Center Free Monthly Tour:</b> Interested in a behind-the-scenes look at the LEED Platinum Certified Recycling Center? Tours are the first Wednesday of each month at 3 PM. (Alternatively scheduled tours are also available for a fee.) The Center is located at 7501 Schmidt Lane in El Cerrito. Questions? Contact City staff at 510-215-4350.
<b>Sat. Jan. 14</b>	10 AM to 12:30 PM	<b>Green Team - Del Norte Area Clean-up:</b> Help keep trash from polluting the creeks and the bay and present visitors with a positive first impression of the city. Wear a hat and bring water. <b>Meet at the Ohlone Greenway at Hill Street.</b> Heavy rain cancels this event. Sponsored by the Environmental Quality Committee. Questions? Contact City staff at 510-215-4350.
<b>Sat. Jan. 21</b>	12 PM to 2 PM	<b>Creekside History Stroll:</b> Join an easy walk along Cerrito Creek, from El Cerrito Plaza towards the Bay. Focus is on the natural history of the creek and its changes over the years. Other topics are Native American settlements, the early settlement of Rust, the dynamite factory that was alongside Albany Hill, and more. <b>Meet at Creekside Park, Cerrito Creek at Santa Clara Ave.</b> Presented by El Cerrito Historical Society, El Cerrito Trail Trekkers, Friends of Five Creeks and the Environmental Quality Committee. Questions? Contact City staff at 510-215-4350.
<b>Sat. Feb. 25</b>	10 AM to 1 PM	<b>Green Team - Motorcycle Hill Work Party:</b> Learn about the days when hundreds of motorcycles zoomed up Blake Street into the Hillside Natural Area. Help El Cerrito Trail Trekkers, Friends of Five Creeks, and the Environmental Quality Committee remove invasive Scotch broom and complete the Motorcycle Hill Trail. <b>Meet at the foot of Motorcycle Hill, corner of Blake St. and Ganges Ave.</b> If it rains, meet on March 4. Questions? Contact City staff at 510-215-4350.
<b>Mar. 18 - Mar. 24</b>	9 AM to 4:30 PM	<b>Compost Giveaway:</b> Free compost made from your yard waste and food scraps. El Cerrito residents and businesses only. Bring proof of residency and containers. Limit of 5 cubic feet per household. <b>Available while supplies last.</b> We will have a shovel available; however, you may want to bring one. Recycling Center, 7501 Schmidt Lane. Questions? Contact City staff at 510-215-4350.
<b>Sat. Apr. 8</b>	10 AM to 12:30 PM	<b>Green Team - Cerrito Creek Spruce-up:</b> Join the Environmental Quality Committee at the El Cerrito Plaza to help spruce-up this part of Cerrito Creek and its nearby tributaries. <b>Meet at The Junket, 235 El Cerrito Plaza, near Trader Joe's.</b> Heavy rain cancels. Questions? Contact City staff at 510-215-4350.
<b>Sat. Apr. 22</b>	11 AM to 3 PM	<b>2017 Earth Day Work Parties and Volunteer Lunch:</b> The City celebrates Earth Day with a morning of volunteerism and work parties, followed by socializing at our volunteer appreciation lunch. Register your work party using the form on page 3 or online at <a href="http://www.el-cerrito.org/earthday">www.el-cerrito.org/earthday</a> . For more information or suggestions for potential work projects, contact <a href="mailto:earthday@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us">earthday@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us</a> or call City staff at 510-559-7686.
<b>Sat. May 20</b>	9 AM to 3 PM	<b>Spring Citywide Garage Sale:</b> Find great deals, while keeping waste out of the landfill and getting to know your neighbors. <b>Deadline for registering to host a garage sale is April 14, 2017 at 4 PM.</b> Registration form is on page 3 or on-line at <a href="http://www.el-cerrito.org/garagesale">www.el-cerrito.org/garagesale</a> . For more information call City staff at 510-559-7686.

## Volunteer for El Cerrito's Annual Earth Day Celebration

### Earth Day April 22, 2017 Citywide Work Parties from 9 AM to 12 PM

Volunteer Appreciation Lunch from 12 PM to 1:30 PM  
El Cerrito Community Center - 7007 Moeser Lane  
For more info: email [earthday@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:earthday@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us) or call 510-559-7686.

Earth Day Volunteer Registration forms are due by April 1, 2017.  
Online form also available at [www.el-cerrito.org/earthday](http://www.el-cerrito.org/earthday)

Operations + Environmental Services Division – Earth Day  
10890 San Pablo Avenue | El Cerrito, CA 94530

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have an idea for a work party or project that you would like to be involved in?  
Do you have any suggestions for potential work projects?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## EARTH DAY Get involved!



## El Cerrito's Citywide Garage Sale Registration Information

### HOST A GARAGE SALE!

Turn your old stuff into treasures! Register now to host a garage sale at your home during the Spring Citywide Garage Sale. Registration fees cover the costs of advertising and promotion, which includes posting your sale in the garage sale brochure, and classified ads in newspapers and online.

**Spread the word about the Garage Sale!** Make your event fun and enjoyable by providing prizes or other enticements! Help advertise your event by using NextDoor, craigslist.org, etc.

**For more information contact Laureteen Brazil in the Operations + Environmental Services Division at [lbrazil@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:lbrazil@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us) or 510-559-7686.**

### Find Good Bargains!

Garage sale maps, locations, and listings will be available May 11, 2017.

Check [www.el-cerrito.org/garagesale](http://www.el-cerrito.org/garagesale) or at one of the newstands at:

**El Cerrito Recycling Center (7501 Schmidt Lane) and Community Center (7007 Moeser Lane).**

### Fall 2017 El Cerrito Citywide Garage Sale May 20, 2017 | 9 AM to 3 PM REGISTRATION DUE BY 4:00 PM ON APRIL 14, 2017

Mail or bring form, along with a non-refundable \$16 registration fee, to Environmental Services Division - Citywide Garage Sale  
10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito, CA 94530:

**Online form also available at [www.el-cerrito.org/garagesale](http://www.el-cerrito.org/garagesale).**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address/Sale Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Nearest Cross Street: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

*Email Address (please provide an email address, especially if you would like the opportunity to review your listing prior to publication):*

Sale Description: Maximum of 20 words describing the items for sale and any other details about the sale (e.g., fundraiser for a specific charity, snacks available). Descriptions will be repeated verbatim in the listing so please use good grammar.

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## Proper Disposal of Medications & Sharps *(continued from page 1)*

be recycled as hard plastics. Pills in foil or plastic blister packs can go directly into the pharmaceuticals bin, without removing them from their packs. Liquid and powder medicines, separately bagged, are also accepted. Sharps must be in a sturdy plastic container with a screw-on lid (i.e., a designated home sharps container).

The Pharmaceuticals bin and the Sharps bin are always locked, so please see a yard attendant or come into the Recycling Center Office for assistance. Never dump or leave sharps and pharmaceuticals unattended at the Recycling Center. This poses a danger to both staff and the general public.

## Only Rain Down the Storm Drain

**D**id you know that up to 80% of all storm water pollution in the Bay Area is the result of common residential practices? Here are a couple of clean-water pointers to consider as you maintain your yard this winter and spring.

### Never Put Yard Waste in the Storm Drains

Now that the trees are dropping their leaves and the rainy season is upon us, it is a good time to remember that only rain should go down the storm drain. As you tidy your yard, sidewalks, and gutter, never put yard waste and fallen leaves into the storm drain.

Even though leaves and yard clippings are biodegradable, their presence in our storm drains not only can create a flooding hazard, it can also create harmful conditions for aquatic life. When organic matter such as yard waste decays in water, the breakdown process removes oxygen from the water. Oxygen is necessary for the health of all aquatic species, from small microorganisms to fish. Essentially, decomposing organic matter in our waterways robs aquatic life of oxygen and can suffocate them.

### Use Fewer Household Herbicides and Pesticides

Evidence shows that a growing number of commonly purchased and applied pesticides and herbicides are ending up in our waterways. You might think that farmers are responsible for pesticide problems, but more than half the pesticides causing water quality

problems are used in urban areas by residents, home gardeners, and pest control professionals in and around homes, institutions, and businesses.

If you use pesticides, use them sparingly, follow the instructions on the label, and avoid applying these products on a windy or rainy day. Better yet, try to keep your garden healthy and your home pest-free without resorting to chemical pesticides and herbicides. Applying pesticides treats the symptoms, not the cause of pest problems.

### What You Can Do:

- Keep yard waste and leaf litter out of the gutter pan and away from storm drains.
- Properly dispose of your yard waste in your green waste bin. By composting your yard waste, you will be returning valuable nutrients to the soil.
- If you have unwanted or leftover pesticides (or any other chemicals), do not pour them in ANY drain inside or outside your house. Do not put pesticides in the trash. Instead, take them to the City's regional household hazardous waste collection facility. See resource list below.
- Learn about ways to manage home and garden pests in a way that helps protect our water and our environment. See resource list below.

### List of Resources:

- **Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Facility**  
101 Pittsburg Ave, Richmond; 1-888-412-9277.  
Free residential drop-off for West County residents. Open every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 9AM to 4PM.
- **Our Water - Our World Fact Sheets**  
[www.ourwaterourworld.org](http://www.ourwaterourworld.org)  
Resource for Bay Area consumers to find and use less-toxic products in their homes and gardens.

