



## COLLIN COUNTY

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Date: January 29, 2020  
To: Commissioners Court  
From: Jon Kleinheksel *K*  
Re: Monthly Free Trash Day at Melissa Landfill

Since August 2018, the Citizen Free Trash Day at the NTMWD landfill in Melissa has been suspended. Officials felt the monthly event would compromise safety during TXDoT's reconstruction and expansion of SH121 near the facility. Now that construction is near completion, County and NTMWD officials have discussed the program to evaluate its impact and summarized their findings below.

- Prior to reconstruction, citizen vehicles were staged in a single column along the shoulder of the highway. While not an optimal solution, this arrangement was at least manageable. Now, however, the shoulder has been replaced with a second lane and shoulder which negates the possibility of queuing the vehicles in a single file line outside the entrance without shutting down a lane of traffic for a distance of at least a mile from the facility. Melissa PD recognizes this proposal poses a major safety hazard and requested the landfill to investigate other solutions. Currently, landfill officials have no alternate plan to stage the 800+ vehicles visiting the facility on "Free Saturday".
- Normal operations at the facility include numerous NTMWD trucks and member city solid waste trucks disposing their loads in a coordinated fashion. Attempting to stage hundreds of private vehicles inside the facility would create a chaotic and untenable situation resulting in numerous delays and extensive wait times.
- Our first person accounts and analysis reveal that approximately 50% of the citizens patronizing the event were contractors hoping to circumvent the fees associated with bulk disposal. Many vehicles arrived with trailers full of construction or landscaping materials.
- With the exception of the first couple months following suspension, County and landfill staff no longer receive inquiries regarding the status of the program. This development suggests residents are finding other alternatives for their solid waste.

- Both County and landfill staff perform litter control and have not noticed an appreciable increase in litter activity (NTMWD staff limited to 2 mile radius of landfill entrance). PW staff believe the efforts of CSCD probationers and the Environmental Deputy have maintained pace with the current illegal dumping activities.

Today, residents have more access to solid waste facilities than ever before. Most large cities offer at least monthly bulk pickup in addition to their weekly waste collection service. McKinney residents, which represented the largest segment of the event's participants (25%), are able to dispose at any NTMWD facility up to 2x per month in addition to 12 times per year for bulky waste pickup. In the rural areas, private operators offer regular solid waste collection services to most residents.

We can only conclude that although the program was an admirable gesture for County citizens, the County has grown and developed, adding more solid waste options for residents thus rendering the program unnecessary. For these reasons and the persistent safety concerns inherent with staging massive numbers of private vehicle traffic at the entrance on the highway, we recommend permanently suspending the program.

Public Works requests Commissioners Court's consideration and approval to terminate the monthly Free Trash Day at the NTMWD landfill on SH121. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me and I will respond accordingly.