



Dear Resident,

The City of Chicago Heights has been faced with the issue of excessive and unauthorized dumping of tree branches, shrubs and other yard waste throughout the city.

At the June 15, 2015 City Council meeting, two ordinances were approved: one regulating the disposal of yard waste by residents, lawn maintenance or landscape contractors; the second regulating the registration and permitting of lawn and landscape contractors.

The disposal of any yard waste on private property has always been the property owner's responsibility. The ordinances specify the guidelines for disposing of yard waste if the property owner is doing the work or a lawn maintenance, landscape, or tree removal contractor is hired to do work.

What is considered yard waste? Yard waste is defined as lawn clippings, debris from branches or bushes being trimmed, shrub removal and all branches and log pieces from tree removal. The information listed below provides the guidelines for removal of yard waste, including the requirements for disposing of yard waste under the City's current disposal contract.

We ask for your cooperation in observing these requirements for yard waste disposal. The City's ultimate goal in approving these ordinances is to clearly communicate the responsibility we must share to ensure the cleanliness and appearance of our neighborhoods and public spaces throughout the city.

Sincerely,

Mayor David A. Gonzalez

## **YARD WASTE GUIDELINES FOR DISPOSAL**

Landscape contractors or lawn maintenance companies contracted to perform services on private property must remove all yard waste as part of the work they perform. Removal must be done by the end of the day on the day the work is completed.

Individuals (property owner, homeowner, etc.) performing yard work on private property must dispose of yard waste in accordance with the requirements for local garbage collection or through a service provider.

### **REQUIREMENTS FOR DISPOSAL OF YARD WASTE DURING REGULAR WEEKLY GARBAGE COLLECTION:**

- Pick up by the City's current disposal contractor will include pick up of bundles of branches cut into five feet or less in length with no branches greater than four inches in diameter. Bundles mean that the branches are tied and secured with twine, rope, etc.
- Any moderate size of unbundled branches that are approximately three feet wide by three feet high by three feet deep (one cubic yard).
- Yard waste must be placed at the curb in biodegradable paper lawn bags or a lawn tote. Biodegradable lawn bags will be picked up without limit.

### **IF YARD WASTE EXCEEDS THESE REQUIREMENTS, THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED:**

Contact Republic Services for a quote to pick up yard debris that exceeds the guidelines for yard trimmings, pruning, branch or tree trimming. Republic Services representatives are available by calling (708) 385-8252.

Yard totes are a reasonably priced alternative to biodegradable bags and have a larger capacity to hold yard waste. Please contact Republic Services at the number listed above for more information.

Licensed lawn or maintenance contractors will typically perform pick up service and can be contacted for a quote on providing service.