

# Free Organic Mulch Available

It's almost time to plant trees and prepare gardens and the City of Tulsa has free organic mulch to help gardeners protect trees and other plants.

Mulch adds vital nutrients back to the soil, suppresses weeds, regulates soil temperature and retains moisture. Mulch can be used under beds of shrubs, trees, annuals, perennials and ground covers. In addition, mulch may also be used in problem areas, such as deep shade or droughty sites where plants may be difficult to maintain. A wide range of organic and inorganic materials may be used as mulch. In an effort to reduce waste, try using organic mulch as this material is more environmentally friendly and adds a natural look to the garden. Lawn clippings provide an excellent source of organic mulch as grass is 90 percent water and decomposes quickly, becoming almost invisible within a few hours after mowing. Pine needles, leaves and yard waste may also be used as organic mulch.

As you prepare for the upcoming planting season, consider using organic, home-grown yard waste for mulch. In doing so, you will not only recycle nutrients back into your landscape but also reduce your overall household waste.

Tulsa residents can dispose of grass clippings, tree trimmings and other green wastes through their normal refuse-collection service. See details at:

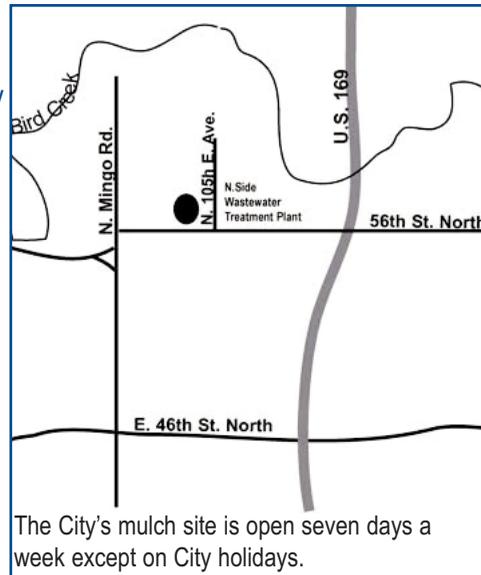
[www.cityoftulsa.org/city-services/refuse/residential-service/green-wasteyard-waste-pick-up.aspx](http://www.cityoftulsa.org/city-services/refuse/residential-service/green-wasteyard-waste-pick-up.aspx).

Residents may also dispose of yard waste at the City's Green Waste Facility site where much of the material is converted into organic mulch.

## Free Mulch & Firewood Available

Tulsans can pick up free mulch for gardening and landscape projects by going to the City's mulch-processing site at 10101 10401 E. 56th St. North. The site is open seven days a week, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., excluding City holidays. For more information about the City of Tulsa Green Waste site, please contact 918-591-4325.

Firewood can also be picked up there, free of charge, when available.



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## Sales Tax Rebate Available to Qualified Tulsans

This is the fourth and final year for the \$25 sales tax rebate from the 2008 Fix Our Streets program. Eligible Tulsa residents need to submit applications to the City of Tulsa by April 15, 2014. Applications will be available beginning Jan. 1.

The sales tax rebates will be distributed in 2014 according to eligibility in 2013. Tulsa residents may qualify for rebates either by age - 65 years or older for any part of 2013 - or through income eligibility for the Oklahoma Sales Tax Refund or Oklahoma Earned Income Tax Credit. It is recommended that residents who qualify both by age and income use age as their eligibility for faster processing.

Other requirements for the rebate:

- Recipient must have lived within the Tulsa city limits for at least one year prior to application.
- Recipient must be the family member who contributed the greatest share of income for his or her household.
- Rebates are limited to one per household.
- Residents can obtain forms in several ways, including:
  - At City Hall, 175 E. 2nd St. - Street Level Cashier and City Clerk
  - By request from the Customer Care Center, (918) 596-2100
  - Go online to: <https://www.cityoftulsa.org/salestaxrebate>

The City of Tulsa will send rebates to recipients after the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety has verified age eligibility and/or the Oklahoma Tax Commission has verified income eligibility. This process will begin after the April 15 tax filing deadline and will take several months beyond that. Some Tulsa residents may not receive their rebates until the fall of 2014.



# Flood Hazards Reduced But Not Gone

In the 1970s and '80s Tulsa County had the most federal disaster declarations in the nation. In 1984, a flash flood caused \$180 million in damages and 14 deaths.

Tulsa has made tremendous progress since then. Dozens of flood-prevention projects have been completed, and more are planned and under way. Tulsa has established a comprehensive flood mitigation program that is cited as a national model.

Overall, the risk of flooding has been substantially reduced - but not eliminated. Because of its climate and location, Tulsa can never be considered 100 percent floodsafe. Inevitably, Tulsa will flood. Spring is our most vulnerable time.

The Tulsa Stormwater Drainage and Hazard Mitigation Advisory Board conducts meetings to hear citizens' ideas on flooding and drainage problems, and concerns related to other natural hazards.

## Tulsa's Floodplains Useful

Many local floodplains have been preserved for recreation and as wetland wildlife habitat. Detention areas throughout the city serve as athletic fields and walking trails when they are not storing stormwater. Some areas were planted with special water plants and grasses to improve their natural functions of wildlife habitat and filtering nutrients and impurities from water. While natural floodplains are inviting during sunny weather, they can be treacherous during heavy rainfall. Avoid entering these areas when flooding is occurring. Ice skating on icy detention ponds also should be avoided since the ice is usually too thin to support human weight safely.

Tulsa is located in one of Oklahoma's most scenic areas. But many locations within the city suffer repeated flood damage when torrential storms strike. Some such areas are not in a designated floodplain.

Flood insurance is available for all Tulsa property owners and can be purchased from the same agents who provide other casualty insurance. Approximately 30 percent of all flood insurance claims are from properties outside the floodplain. Tulsa's Class 2 CRS rating entitles Tulsans to purchase flood insurance at a 40 percent discount over the national rate.

The accompanying map shows Tulsa's creeks and rivers which periodically have flash floods. The flash floods usually have high velocities and are extremely dangerous. Flood damages have occurred at various times along the Arkansas River and numerous creeks, including Valley View, Flat Rock, Dirty Butter, Bird, Coal, Mingo, Haikey, Fry, Vensel, Fred, Joe, Hager, Nickel, Mooser, Cherry-Red Fork, Perryman, Crow, Elm, Park View, Oak, Harlow and Bigheart.

Find out more about recreational opportunities in floodplains, or about flood insurance and flood safety by contacting the City's Customer Care Center or by visiting the City of Tulsa's web pages at: [www.cityoftulsa.org](http://www.cityoftulsa.org). The Customer Care Center can be reached by phone at (918) 596-2100. Many City resources and much helpful information can be found by browsing the City's website:

[www.cityoftulsa.org](http://www.cityoftulsa.org)

