

Treecycling Program

The Dallas Park and Recreation, Forestry Division continues to progress in sustainable park maintenance standards with its Treecycling Program that diverts wood chips from the landfill. A trommel sorts wood chips into two piles, one with bigger pieces and one with smaller pieces. The bigger pieces are used as tree grove mulch and smaller pieces used for landscaping beds.

In fiscal year 2024-2025, 580 cubic yards were processed and used as mulch for soft trail, “Branching Out” Tree Planting events, trail respite, planter beds, and used to address cracking in soil due to drought conditions. The program not only reuses resources but saves money. In fiscal year 2024-2025, **580 cubic yards** of mulch produced had a savings of approximately **\$17,400**. Since the program was started, **1,080 cubic yards** of mulch were produced with a savings of approximately **\$32,400**.



The program has the following goals:

- Goal 1: Divert 100% of materials generated by forestry operations from landfill (waste diversion).
 - 100% of wood chips are diverted from the landfill
- Goal 2: Recycling 100% of materials generated by forestry operations to be used in parks.
 - In July 2022, fifty cubic yards of wood chips were processed by the trommel. Park Maintenance, District 6 used the processed materials for horticulture beds and placed around trees.

- In fiscal year 2023-2023, 260 cubic yards of wood chips processed and the processed material was used in horticulture beds and placed around trees. Material bins were constructed for mulch storage and compost production.
- In fiscal year 2023-2024, 580 cubic yards were processed and used as mulch for soft trail, mulch for “Branching Out” Tree Planting events, trail respite, planter beds, and used to address cracking in soil due to drought conditions.
- In fiscal year 2024-2025, 740 cubic yards of wood chips were processed and used as mulch for “Branching Out” Tree Planting events, planter beds, and used to address cracking in soil due to drought conditions.
- Goal 3: Generate savings from the program to be used to further advance the program and cover costs of capital equipment needs.
 - To expand the Treecycling program, in 2020, the department applied for and was awarded the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Solid Waste Diversion Grant in the category of Source Reduction and Recycling. The \$200,000 award was used to purchase a trommel to sort wood chips into compost and mulch.
 - In fiscal year 2021-2022, the trommel was delivered to Bekay Service Center and refresher training for the trommel was conducted.
 - In fiscal year 2023-2024, Cost Savings of the Treecycling program were estimated:
 - The Treecycling program produced **580 cubic yards** of mulch which was a savings of approximately **\$17,400** for FY2023-2024.
 - Since the program was started, **930 cubic yards** of mulch were produced with a savings of approximately **\$27,900**
 - In fiscal year 2024-2025, Cost Savings of the Treecycling program were estimated:
 - The Treecycling program produced **740 cubic yards** of mulch which was a savings of approximately **\$22,200**.
 - Since the program started, **1,660 cubic yards** of mulch were produced with a savings of approximately **\$49,800**.