



## CITY OF CASTLE HILLS

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Our Dearest Residents,

Mother Nature often packs quite a punch. The hail storm this week was a strong reminder of this. Now we are in clean up phase. We are asking for everyone's assistance in getting Castle Hills back to our beautiful spring look. Just a reminder that you cannot dispose of leaves, brush or other materials in the streets, alleys, or vacant lots per Section 36-35. Solid Waste. Accumulation and dumping prohibited.

Placing of trash, brush, cut grass or weeds, debris or physical matter of any kind in, or on, any natural or artificial drain, drainage ditch, drainage easement, or stream, creek, or channel whatever in the city, or to permit the introduction of any such material into any such drain is a prohibited per Section 38-119. Throwing trash in drains prohibited.

Lastly, the City of Castle Hills is a stormwater utility and as mandated by EPA and TCEQ the city must regulate non-storm water discharges. Leaves, grass clippings, and other organic materials are considered pollutants when they are introduced into the stormwater system. This system leads to the area tributaries, creeks and rivers. Per Sec. 16-111 yard waste is prohibited from being discharged into the stormwater system.

Why is this such an issue? Brush, leaves, even grass clippings can block stormwater flows and can increase the potential for flooding. Just as importantly, organic material that enters the waterways decomposes and this process results in low concentrations of dissolved oxygen in the water causing fish kills. We must act locally as to not negatively impact the waters as far away as the Gulf of Mexico. The Code of Ordinances provides for both civil and criminal penalties if necessary.

Help us to keep the Castle Hills' charm by not blowing leaves off of your property. Unfortunately, the weather forecasts are predicting copious amounts of rain over the weekend and into next week. Batten down the hatches as we might be in for another rough ride.

Rest assured that Public Works is ready with barricades if flood waters rise, Castle Hills' dispatchers are just a phone call away 24 hours a day, and police and fire are always at the ready to assist with emergencies. City staff are on standby to help as needed. We stand ready to serve.