

We know that, amidst the Governor's Stay-at-Home order, folks are aching to leave their houses so badly so that they are doubling down on their yardwork just to spend some time outside. This is something we applaud. We all love nice-looking, well-maintained yards.

We also love the personnel in the Solid Waste Division of our Public Works & Utilities Department. We applaud them, too, for their collective do-what-it-takes attitude, especially during the COVID-19 crisis.

How are these two things related, and how does it affect our residents? Pay attention, this could get a little bit tricky.

Everyone's collective cleanup efforts while staying home has produced an extreme increase in yard waste volumes, so much so that our trusty personnel have been sending more than twice as much yard waste to the landfill than usual. That increase means that the trucks we have collecting yard waste fill up twice as fast, which in turn means they have to make twice as many trips to the landfill to dump their contents.

Makes sense, yes? But wait, there's more.

Twice as many trips to the landfill means twice as much time on the road making that particular trip. That additional travel time translates into our crews being roughly two-to-three days behind the normal yard waste collection schedule. That's bad enough, but the county landfill's closure on Saturdays complicates things even more – that means that now we can't use Saturday collections to make up for the lost time, as we would normally do.

So we said all that to say this ... we are asking residents to be patient as we strive to catch-up on yard waste collection. We love their freshly-cut grass, but there are only so many crews and trucks we have to come and take away the clippings. We'll get to everyone's house, and when we do, we will admire the work they have done. We are asking them to return the favor by appreciating our work, too – we're working hard to keep delivering the service they expect, even in the most challenging of conditions.

Stay home and stay safe.