

DATE: Thursday, April 9, 2026

RE: Vergas Yard Waste Facility

TO: Vergas Area Community
Yard Waste Facility Permit Holders

FROM: Bruce E. Albright, Councilman and Streets, Sidewalks, and Yard Waste (SSYW)
Committee Member

For close to a decade, the City of Vergas has operated a recycling site (with the County) and a yard waste disposal site, north of town along County Road No. 17. Last December, we had a large fire at the woody debris site, involving a number of fire departments and loss of a county dumpster. This prompted an immediate closure of the site, and still remains closed today. Since then, the City Council and SSYW Committee has had numerous discussions, including with our attorney, on continued operation of the site. We considered a number of options, the benefits and concerns with each option, and possible corrective actions associated with each. The options included: keeping the site open as is; closing the woody debris disposal for all; or keeping the site open for only Vergas property owners.

At the April special Council meeting, a motion was approved to keep the yard waste site open for another season, with the following modifications:

- Hours for dumping yard waste will be daily between 8:00 AM and 8:00 PM.
- The City reserves the right to close the woody debris disposal should we enter into burning ban restriction placed by the DNR or if the volume of material creates an unsafe situation.
- Disposal of woody debris should adhere to the posted regulations, nothing greater than 6" diameter or 4' in length.
- No commercial dumping.
- The yard waste facility is only open for permit holders. Permits for City landowners are free and for non-residents, the cost will remain at \$65. All permits should be displayed when using the facility.
- No transfer of permits to other users.
- Cameras are in use at the site.
- Violators will be prosecuted.

The City Council and SSYW Committee will review operations of the site this November, and if problems continue at the site, we'll need to again consider other options. These could include gating/fencing of the site, staffing operational hours, and/or increased security. All of which will increase seasonal operational costs.

We truly appreciate your involvement with our recycling program, and we realize the **majority** of people will do the right thing and follow the rules. As always, if you should have questions or comments, or want to report violations, please feel to contact our City Office at 218-302-5996.