

Neighbor

Neighbor to Neighbor – Waste Management
is Committed to Keeping You Informed

Volume 1, Number 1 October 2004

Welcome!

Welcome to the first edition of the Neighbor newsletter about the Williamson County Landfill.

This newsletter is being published by Waste Management of Texas, Inc. (Waste Management), which operates the Williamson County Landfill, in cooperation with Williamson County. The Landfill is located in Precinct #4, which is home to Commissioner Frankie Limmer.

Williamson County and Waste Management plan to provide information to residents and businesses in the surrounding community about the landfill and its operations and expansion plans. We hope you will let us know if this information is helpful.

Stay Tuned

The next issue of Neighbor will provide an overview of the Williamson County Landfill and its environmental control systems, including liners systems, groundwater monitoring, storm water controls, and litter prevention.

Cover Your Load

Waste Management recently partnered with Don't Mess with Texas to remind area residents to "cover your loads" when bringing debris in trucks and trailers to local landfills.

Texas Department of Transportation estimates that nearly one billion pieces of litter accumulate on Texas highways each year.

To help prevent windblown or "accidental" litter, Waste Management distributed Don't Mess with Texas bumper stickers, window decals and litterbags to all vehicles that came to the Williamson County Landfill on Saturday, July 17.

Covering your load is not only the right thing to do, it's the law, says Landfill Manager Bubba Smith. The Texas Transportation Code, as well as Waste Management, requires vehicles be properly equipped to prevent loose material from escaping by blowing or spilling.

Smith and Steve Jacobs, Central Texas Landfill Operations Manager, also delivered the "cover your load" message to residents through media interviews with local television and radio stations.

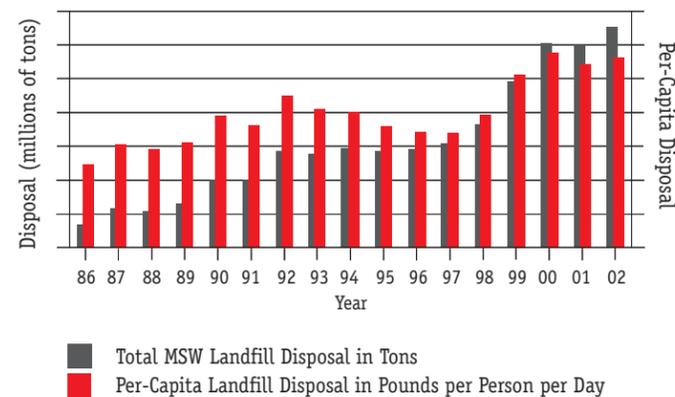


Central Texas Landfill Operations Manager Steve Jacobs is interviewed by Austin's ABC-TV affiliate, KVUE-TV, where he demonstrates the proper way to securely cover a trailer of debris to prevent accidental litter.

Some Facts about Texas Landfills

Municipal solid waste (MSW) landfills, including the Williamson County Landfill, are regulated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

- There are about 190 active MSW landfills in Texas that dispose of 29 million tons of trash each year.
- There have been more than 700 MSW landfill closures since 1986, most due to the more stringent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Subtitle D requirements for landfills.
- The largest single waste type disposed of in landfills is commercial waste followed by residential waste and construction and demolition (C&D) debris.
- Seventy-five percent of all Texas landfills serve one to five counties. The Williamson County landfill receives approximately 90 percent of its waste from Williamson County.
- The TCEQ estimates that Texans dispose of 7.3 pounds of trash per person each day.



Recycle Your Old Computer for Free

Waste Management, with Keep Austin Beautiful and Simon Malls, hosts an electronics recycling event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Lakeline Mall, on Saturday, October 9.

Computer monitors, CPUs, scanners, printers and other computer-related hardware will be accepted for free. There

is a limit of five items per car. TVs will be accepted, for a fee of \$10 (\$20 for TVs larger than 27").

Waste Management's Recycle America Alliance has been conducting e-cycling events for about five years and has collected more than 1.3 million pounds of e-waste.

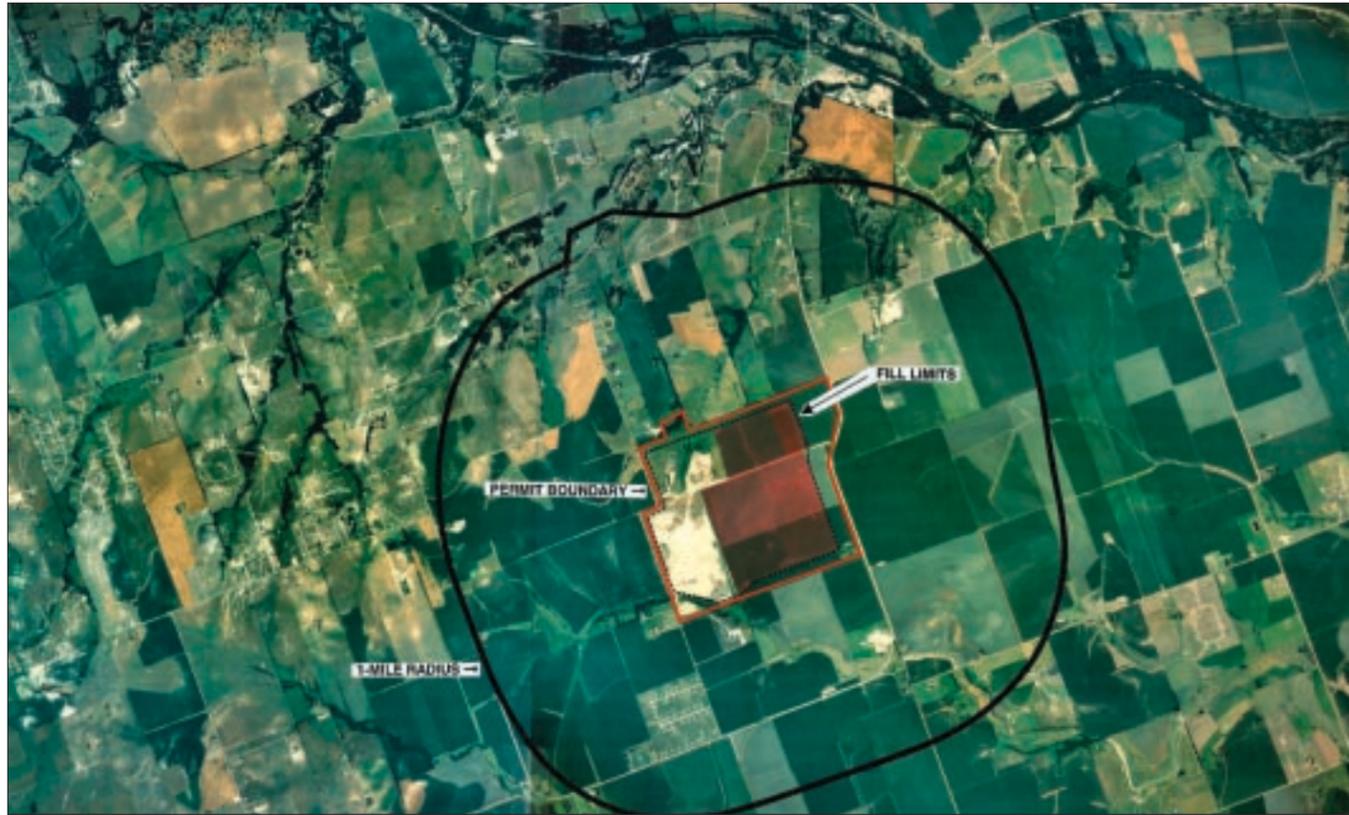


Williamson County Landfill

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Williamson County Landfill



Questions and Answers

Q. Why is the expansion needed now?

A. Williamson County continues to be one of the fastest-growing counties in Texas and it's important to ensure we have the appropriate infrastructure in place to accommodate such growth. The expansion is part of the Commissioner Court's long-term plan to provide environmentally safe and affordable waste disposal for its residents and businesses.

Q. How will the expansion impact neighbors?

A. The expansion is designed to have minimal impact on neighbors. The property for the expansion is immediately adjacent to the current landfill and was purchased in the mid-1990s specifically for this use. There will be sufficient acres of buffer area around the landfill.

The Williamson County Landfill is operated safely and in compliance with stringent state and federal environmental laws. It is both the County's and Waste Management's intent to meet or exceed environmental requirements designed to protect groundwater and surface water.

Q. Will the expansion impact Mustang Creek?

A. Mustang Creek is located south of the landfill property and will not be included in the expansion. Storm water will be controlled and routed into storm water detention ponds before discharge to Mustang Creek within authorized limits.

Q. Does the landfill impact drinking water?

A. The landfill and the expansion area are not over any existing water sources used for drinking water.

Q. Will the expansion mean more truck traffic?

A. Preliminary studies of traffic patterns with the expansion suggests there should be minimal impact because FM 1660 is being re-routed east of the City of Hutto and Chandler Road is being built along the south boundary of the landfill, away from existing subdivisions.

Q. With the expansion, how large will the Williamson County Landfill be?

A. The landfill, with the expansion, will consist of a total of approximately 500 acres, but at any one time, only 10-15 acres will be "active" areas receiving trash. As landfill units are filled to capacity, they are capped and closed and then seeded with grass. The Williamson County Landfill will be of similar size to many landfills, but certainly will not be the largest.

Q. Under the expansion plans, how tall would be the landfill be?

A. The existing landfill is currently 70 feet above ground. The TCEQ rules require that all landfills have sufficient slope to promote drainage for proper management and control of storm water runoff. As a result, some sections of the expansion area will be approximately 150 feet high, with the average height likely to be around 100 feet.

Q. Does Williamson County encourage recycling?

A. Absolutely. The landfill presently separates and reuses wood and brush waste and Williamson County Commissioners recently approved the construction of a recycling center at the entrance of the landfill facility, expected to open sometime in 2005.

Dear Neighbor,

The Williamson County Landfill, located off of Highway 1660, is owned by Williamson County and has been permitted since 1981. The County has contracted with Waste Management of Texas since the mid-1980s to operate the facility. The facility currently consists of 202 permitted acres of land and accepts, on average, 600 tons of municipal solid waste a day. The landfill does not accept hazardous wastes.

In the mid-1990s, Williamson County purchased approximately 485 acres around the existing landfill for the expressed purpose of expanding the landfill to meet the waste needs of the growing population in Williamson County and surrounding counties.

During the last three years alone, the population has grown by nearly 22 percent. Leander, Cedar Park, Round Rock and Georgetown are among the top 100 fastest-growing cities in the United States.

As a result of this growth and expectations for continued population increases, the Williamson County Commissioners passed a resolution in 2002 supporting an expansion of the landfill to ensure long-term, environmentally safe waste disposal for its residents and businesses.

As a result, the County instructed Waste Management to prepare a land use application, the first step in the permit process with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). This was filed in July 2003.

The next step will be to submit the technical filing which will include detailed plans for the groundwater monitoring, storm water management, gas collection and extraction, litter prevention and odor control systems, among other things. This should be submitted before the end of the year.

The permit process will include opportunities for public comment. TCEQ will hold a public meeting at 7 p.m. on October 11 at the Hutto Primary School Cafetorium to explain the project and encourage public input on the plans.

Waste Management, as the landfill operator, intends to be a good corporate neighbor and will continue to meet or exceed environmental protections, as it has done for the past 15+ years.

Frankie Limmer
Commissioner Pct #4

Steve Jacobs
Waste Management
Central Texas Landfill Operations Manager

Williamson County Landfill

- The Williamson County Landfill is a MSW landfill that accepts non-hazardous household, commercial and special waste, as well as construction and demolition debris.
- The landfill consists of 202 permitted acres of land.
- With a population of more than 290,000, Williamson County generates – each day – more than 2 million pounds of trash, or the equivalent of more than 1,000 tons per day.
- The landfill accepts on average approximately 600 tons of trash daily – more than 90 percent of which is generated in Williamson County.

