

Cart It to the Curb

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Over the years, members of the community and I have written about the problems with illegally dumping yard debris onto the parklands and HOA properties. Most of the time, people in adjacent properties either throw the refuse over the fence or walk it in a few steps before dropping it, which is bad enough. We've had a couple of incidences, especially near the Royal Lake Park side entrance by the Gainsborough Drive/Claridge Court intersection, where somebody loads up the debris, wheels it into the park, and dumps it in piles (as pictured) and/or spreads it along a short length of trail. This practice is a terrible idea, especially since the debris is full of non-native invasive weed seeds, smothers existing plant life, and burdens Shane's Creek's already burgeoning nutrient load. Volunteers and Park Authority staff have spent time and resources removing this rubbish. Keep the forests clean—kindly wheel such yard waste only up to your curb for garbage collection; a big “thank you” to those already doing so.



Figure 1. Among the problem with this unsightly pile of recent debris, it contained non-native invasive seeds. The total, spread-out mess required five large trash bags to clean up.

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