



## Memorandum

**Memorandum No:** 22-145

**Date:** December 6, 2022

**To:** Honorable Mayor and Commissioners

**From:** Greg Chavarria, City Manager   
Greg Chavarria (Dec 6, 2022 13:20 EST)

**Re:** Status of the City's Debris Management Sites

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The City of Fort Lauderdale maintains pre-positioned contracts for disaster debris management, debris removal, and debris monitoring. These contracts provide direct and immediate support to the City in the event of impacts related to human-caused or natural disaster such as a tropical storm, tornado, or hurricane. In addition, the City has State-permitted, pre-positioned temporary Debris Management Sites (DMS) to facilitate clean-up efforts following such an event. These DMS are critical to the expedient removal, processing, and final disposition and disposal of debris generated. This memo describes the impact of recent City property sales and public/private partnerships on the City's permitted DMS and debris management capacity following a major tropical storm event.

To provide some historical context for the City's debris management requirements and past practices, following Hurricane Irma, which impacted Fort Lauderdale as a category 1 hurricane in September 2017, City debris contractors collected and disposed of nearly 460,000 cubic yards (9,269 truckloads) of storm-generated debris. This debris was hauled to 3 of the City's permitted DMS: the Compost Plant, Holiday Park, and Lockhart Stadium. The City's DMS were the first to open in Broward County following Hurricane Irma and allowed contractors to collect debris as quickly as possible following the storm event. These City-run DMS allowed for hauling contractors to remove debris throughout the City's neighborhoods, dump it quickly, and return for additional loads. This created invaluable efficiency by eliminating both excessive travel time to DMS that may be located further away and waiting time to dump loads at DMS that were heavily used by other cities. Additionally, DMS are used to reduce the volume of debris collected - specifically, chipping or grinding vegetative debris before hauling for final disposition or disposal. During Irma, more than 400,000 cubic yards of vegetative debris was reduced to 110,000 cubic yards of mulch that was hauled away for disposal. Recovery efforts were completed November 19<sup>th</sup> following 67 consecutive days of debris removal.

By comparison, Hurricane Ian was a category 4 hurricane that made landfall near Cayo Costa on the southwest Florida coast September 28<sup>th</sup> of this year. Charlotte County, which is just north of Cayo Costa, has estimated roughly 3,800,000 cubic yards of debris (or 79,200 truckloads) were generated as a result of Hurricane Ian, largely along its coastal, urban corridor. Debris removal is expected to continue until March 2023. Charlotte County has approximately 113,500 homes and a population just shy of 195,000 residents. Fort

Lauderdale, with almost 182,000 residents and 75,000 homes, is similarly coastal with a dense downtown corridor. Debris estimates for a similar category 4 storm event in Fort Lauderdale could reach 12,000,000 cubic yards.

Currently, the City of Fort Lauderdale holds permits through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for DMS at the locations and estimated debris capacity below:

- Holiday Park 350,000 cubic yards
  - Mills Pond Park 1,330,000 cubic yards
  - Snyder Park 525,000 cubic yards
  - Wingate 385,000 cubic yards
- Total debris capacity: 2,590,000 cubic yards (category 2 hurricane event)*

DMS permits for the locations below have been or will be revised/canceled as noted:

- Compost Plant (2018- Permit canceled due to sale of property)
- Lockhart Stadium (2020- Permit canceled due to Inter Miami CF contract)
- Snyder Park (Permit may be revised/canceled due to contract with My Park Initiative, LLC for development of pickleball facility)
- Wingate (Permit will be canceled due to contract with Fort Lauderdale Studio initiative, LLC for development of movie studio complex)

When permits for Snyder Park and Wingate are cancelled, the City will have 1,680,000 cubic yards of local debris management capacity available.

The City participates along with 24 other municipalities/agencies in an Interlocal Agreement with Broward County for the use of County-run DMS sites. Broward County has 3 primary locations: South SR 441 in Davie, the Broward Sanitary Landfill east of US 27 and 2780 N. Powerline Road in Pompano Beach. There are 4 secondary sites available at County-owned parks in Pembroke Pines, Cooper City, Coconut Creek, and Plantation. The County, at its sole discretion, chooses which locations to open and make available.

The City's contracted debris vendor is charged with identifying additional sites available for DMS permitting. Should the City have a storm event that requires the use of DMS, possible temporary locations would be identified and attempted to be permitted to move materials as quickly and efficiently as possible. However, with the loss of the City's permitted DMS sites, Fort Lauderdale will be more dependent and need to compete with neighboring municipalities for the use of County-owned DMS. This will be less efficient and result in longer clean-up periods following future storm events.

c: Anthony Fajardo, Assistant City Manager  
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