



# **MEMORANDUM**

## **PARKS AND RECREATION**

**To:** Robert Diaz, Director of Parks and Recreation

**From:** Mark Moffeit, Parks Superintendent

**Date:** February 19, 2026

**Subject:** Rose Rosette Eradication Plan

**CC:** Tara Bradley, Parks Planner

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### **Background**

Rose Rosette Disease is a viral infection that severely deforms rose plants, causing excessive thorn growth and other symptoms. It spreads through windborne mites, making eradication challenging. This disease impacts both public and private gardens in Farmers Branch.

### **Why Action Is Needed**

The disease has aggressively spread in our rose garden over the past year. Staff have previously worked to remove this disease by eliminating infected plants, but it continues to damage plant health and aesthetics.

### **Eradication Strategy**

Our goal is to eliminate Rose Rosette through comprehensive control measures, including removing the infected existing roses and introducing a variety of blooming perennial plants.

### **Action Steps**

1. **Remove infected Roses**



Picture from UTIA Institute of Agriculture

- Extract infected rose bushes from the garden.
- 2. **Control Measures**
  - Plant a variety of blooming perennial plants in place of roses to break the disease cycle and mitigate the spread of mites.
- 3. **Monitor & Reassess**
  - Conduct site evaluations at **12 months** and **24 months** to confirm eradication progress.
- 4. **Future Planning**
  - Explore and introduce rose varieties with higher resistance to Rose Rosette after the two-year period.



Picture from UTIA Institute of Agriculture

## Timeline

- **Phase 1 (Immediate):** Remove infected roses and plant a variety of blooming perennial.
- **Phase 2 (Year 1):** First reassessment.
- **Phase 3 (Year 2):** Second reassessment and decision on replanting roses.

## Success Metrics

- Zero signs of Rose Rosette after two years.
- Healthy reintroduction of resistant rose varieties if rose rosette has been eradicated.

\*Picture Credit: <https://content.civicplus.com/api/assets/da5a6d32-8e30-4bec-934d-71929547a353?cache=1800>