



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Oct. 21, 2009
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2009 CITY LEAF COLLECTION PROGRAM DELAYED BY FREEZE

Fall leaf collection in the City of Missoula was set to begin Monday, Oct. 26. However, the recent early freeze disrupted the normal progression of fall foliage, and many leaves are still on the trees in the Missoula valley.

Because of these events, leaf collection will be delayed for at least one week and then begin according to the schedule below. The schedule will remain the same; areas that are not visited during their scheduled times will be moved to the end of the leaf collection season. For instance, if leaf collection starts Nov. 2, it will start with Area 3 and include Special District #1.

Street Maintenance Superintendent Brian Hensel will evaluate leaf fall at the end of each week. On Fridays, leaf pickup plans will be posted on the City Web site and reported by local news media organizations.

Seasonal leaf fall depends on hormone flow in a tree. How much that process has been disrupted by the freeze and when and whether leaves will fall has yet to be seen, said Ben Carson, the City of Missoula urban forester.

The City's leaf collection flyer with a detailed map and week-by-week schedule will be in the Missoulian newspaper on Wednesday, Oct. 28. You may also look at the map on the City's Web site at <http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/index.aspx?NID=504>

Leaf collecting for Areas 2, 3 and 4 will start Nov. 2 if possible and run through Nov. 27. The even/odd parking arrangement applies in each area during its collection days from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., except for Special Parking District 2 and 3. Specific parking days for leaf collection in each area are:

Area 3: Nov. 3 and 5, park Area 3 vehicles on the odd-numbered side of the streets and Nov. 2, 4, and 6 park on the even-numbered side of streets.

Area 2: Nov. 9, 13 and 19 park Area 2 vehicles on the odd-numbered side of the streets and Nov. 10, 12, 16, 18 and 20 park on the even-numbered side of streets.

- Special Parking District 2, University Area: Leaves will be collected Tuesday, Nov. 17. Parking is prohibited on both sides of the street during collection day from 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Special Parking District 3, University Area: leaves will be collected Tuesday, Nov. 24. Parking is prohibited on both sides of the street during collection day from 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Area 4: Nov. 23, 25 and 27, park Area 4 vehicles on the odd-numbered side of streets, and Nov. 20 park Area 4 vehicles on the even side of streets.

Area 1 of the city will move to the end of the schedule. Special Parking District 1 and the Area 1 odd/even parking schedule are as follows:

- ✓ Park Area 1 vehicles on the even-numbered side of the streets on days with even-numbered dates and on the odd-numbered sides of the streets on odd-numbered dates from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- ✓ On leaf collection day in Special Parking District 1, parking is prohibited on both sides of the street from 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Please note that the Street Division crews use loaders and trucks to pick up piles of leaves on *both* sides of the streets. After piles are picked up, the crews will then sweep the street using the above parking schedule.

To have leaves collected, City residents should rake all yard leaves against the curb line or edge of the road into the parking lane on the shoulder before the collection times for each neighborhood. Please do not rake leaves into the bike lanes. Also, please do not park cars on or around the leaf piles. Please, rake up leaves only. Limbs, trash and other yard wastes delay leaf collection efforts. Also, please don't bag leaves. Bagging wastes residents' time and also slows collection efforts.

By law, trees must be pruned to a minimum of 14 feet over the street to the inside edge of the curb line. If your trees do not meet this requirement they may be trimmed by City staff members to complete the leaf collection program.

The leaf collection program has four main goals: 1) keep city streets clean; 2) help save space at the local landfill; 3) save residents the cost and hassle of bagging leaves; and 4) further Missoula's recycling efforts by helping turn leaves into compost at a local composting operation.

After the annual leaf collection program ends, Street Maintenance Division crews will continue to collect leaves intermittently until the first snow fall. If you miss your neighborhood's scheduled pickup time, please call the Street Maintenance Division at 552-6360 to be placed on a list for another collection time.

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