

**CITY OF NAPERVILLE
MEMORANDUM**

DATE: October 2, 2025

TO: Doug Krieger, City Manager

FROM: John Rutkowski, Acting Director of Public Works

SUBJECT: Bulk Curbside Leaf Collection Program

Purpose:

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information regarding the City's annual Bulk Curbside Leaf Collection Program scheduled to begin on October 20.

Background:

The Department of Public Works (DPW) is responsible for the proper disposal of leaves citywide and provides two leaf disposal options for residents:

1. The Free Bagged Leaf and Yard Waste Collection Program. Between Nov. 3 and Dec. 12, stickers are not required for all yard waste, including leaves, that are placed in 32-gallon paper yard waste bags or clearly labeled cans/carts. The leaves are collected by the City's refuse collector, Groot Industries, on a resident's normal garbage collection day.
2. The Bulk Leaf Collection Program. This program is administered by DPW personnel with contractor assistance. DPW collects approximately between 50,000 and 60,000 cubic yards of leaves during the six-week program, depending on weather and early leaf drop. The collected leaves are disposed of in an environmentally appropriate way to be compliant with Illinois EPA regulations.

Discussion:

The City's Bulk Curbside Leaf Collection Program provides every neighborhood with three collection opportunities each year. This year's cycles begin on Oct. 20, Nov. 3 and Nov. 17. For example, residents should rake leaves into the street by 6 a.m. on Oct. 20, for the first collection cycle. Crews will collect leaves in front of each home once during each two-week collection cycle. The program concludes on Nov. 26, pending weather or other unforeseen circumstances. To participate, residents rake leaves into the street next to the curb in front of their house, avoiding storm drains, at the beginning of each leaf collection cycle.

After curbside leaf collection ends, street sweeping will begin (weather-permitting). Residents will be instructed to dispose of late falling leaves through the bagged leaf program.

Staff will not pick up leaves after the three collection cycles are complete. Continuing the program into December impedes the department's ability to prepare for winter operations, as the same equipment and personnel are used for leaf collection and winter operations.

Communication:

DPW has worked with the Communications Department to ensure that residents have clear, action-oriented messaging about the leaf collection program and its requirements. This program will be communicated using a media release, articles in the *Connected* printed city newsletter, social media posts, Naper Notify notifications, and the City's website.

The program's interactive map allows residents to track the program's progress. This map will be updated on the [leaf collection webpage](#) daily. In addition, the ArcGIS webpage Leaf it to Us shares insights into logistics and data about the leaf collection program to explain improvements that have been made to the program since its inception.

Recommendation:

I recommend that this information be forwarded to the City Council through the Manager's Memorandum.