

Every fall the Department of Public Works (DPW) removes loose leaves from the street. The department utilizes a variety of equipment to collect leaves including a leaf vacuum wagon, street sweepers, and end loader tractors. In 2016, the DPW purchased three leaf vacuum wagons (picture below). The new wagons allow for a DPW employee to ride on the wagon and control the vacuum unit that picks up the leaves off the street. In 2015 the DPW collected 1,842 tons and 1,793 tons of leaves in 2016 from the city streets.



Beginning Monday, October 9, 2017, and continuing through Friday, November 17, 2017, City residents are allowed to rake leaf piles into the street gutter for easier and faster pickup by City crews. Under normal conditions, the City ordinance prohibits the placement of debris, including leaves, in gutters. Violation of this ordinance carries a fine. An exception is made during this six-week period and during this period only.

In an effort to provide better service and improved efficiencies, the DPW has divided the City into five sections for leaf collection (one zone for each day of the week). Under this program, the DPW crews will concentrate their efforts within the assigned zone each day.

This program provides advance notice to citizens when the DPW crews will be in a specific area. The Department will make every effort to remove leaves from the entire zone that day. This system will give the residents up to six different times for leaf removal within each zone this season.

Residents are reminded to rake leaves away from the curb, creating space for water to flow properly and prevent flooding in stormwater catch basins. The leaf piles also must be located in areas clear of parked vehicles as it may interfere with the pickup operation. It is crucial not mix branches, sod, and general yard waste with the leaves as these items will clog the equipment.

The DPW utilizes the same trucks and personnel to complete many seasonal tasks. The same trucks and personnel that are working on the asphalt paving crew and concrete crew will be collecting leaves from

the street. These same trucks will then be converted to salt and plow trucks for the winter season. Due to these factors, the DPW only has a short period of time to remove loose leaves from the roadway.

Residents are encouraged to use alternative ways to manage leaf piles. First, the City of Sheboygan asks residents to mulch their leaves into the lawn while cutting the grass. The mulched leaves provide a natural fertilizer for the lawn. Second, residents are encouraged to bag their leaves and bring them to the Recycling Center. These two suggestions will help reduce the huge volume of leaves from the streets and prevent street flooding due to leaves entering the catch basins.

The Recycling Center is one of the most used services offered by the City and the Department of Public Works. In 2016, City of Sheboygan residents dropped off over 2,238 tons of yard waste at the Recycling Center. This year City residents have already dropped off more yard waste, 1,900 tons, than the total tonnage of loose leaves that were collected from the City streets in 2016. The DPW encourages citizens to keep utilizing this service by dropping off leaves at the Recycling Center in conjunction with the leaf collection schedule.

Leaves collected by residents before or after the start of leaf pickup can be brought to the Recycling Center, located at 2026 New Jersey Ave, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday