



# news release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **New, Improved Leaf Program Hits the Streets in Eugene**

A new and improved fall 2009 leaf program is up and running in Eugene, where weather conditions and a growing urban forest have created an early and heavy leaf drop.

The City's formal leaf collection program begins Nov. 2, although crews are already working to clean priority bike lanes. Here's the schedule for the first round of collections: Nov. 2 to Nov. 11 -- central and west Eugene; Nov. 9 to Nov. 30 -- north Eugene; Nov. 30 to Dec. 18 -- southeast Eugene; Dec. 14 to Dec. 24 -- southwest Eugene. Unimproved streets are collected during the second round, which will begin in late December.

The 2009 operational changes to the decades-old program are intended provide a reasonable level of leaf collection services to local residents, keep leaves out of waterways, minimize the leaf-related flooding incidents, and find viable alternatives that protect the safety of cyclists. Property owners can help by not placing leaves in designated bike lanes and by not placing leaves in the street until the weekend before collection is scheduled in their area.

Additionally, the City worked with local cyclists to identify approximately 25 miles of priority on-street bike lanes in Eugene and has purchased equipment and increased the frequency of sweeping on these streets with a goal of keeping high priority routes as clean as possible. Several additional maintenance workers have been assigned to leaf duty, with a primary focus on cleaning and inspecting priority bike routes and communicating with residents if leaves are creating problems.

The City also has created a new web site at [www.eugene-or.gov/leaf](http://www.eugene-or.gov/leaf). The web site includes an interactive, map-based form so residents can report problems with leaves in bike lanes. The information is fed into the Public Works maintenance management system so crews can quickly evaluate and respond to problems. The web site also includes an automated map that shows where priority bike lanes have been cleaned in the past several days. There's also an online form to request home delivery of leaves.

In addition to the web site, the Public Works Department has a leaf program hotline at 541-682-5383. Residents also can call Public Works Maintenance at 541-682-4800.

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