

For Immediate Release

Fall Leaf Program Includes Environmentally Friendly Suggestions Update from the City of Cambridge Public Works Team

Cambridge, Ontario. October 10, 2008...Loose leaf pick up programs for residents in Cambridge will begin in November. While the City is providing traditional pick up services, staff is encouraging citizens to consider mulching or composting their leaves as an environmentally friendly alternative.

“The benefits of mulching or applying composted leaves to grass and gardens are widely accepted,” says Ed Kovacs, Commissioner of Transportation and Public Works. “University research indicates that the practice of mulching leaf litter into existing vegetation benefits the soil and plants.”

What Happens to the Leaves in Cambridge?

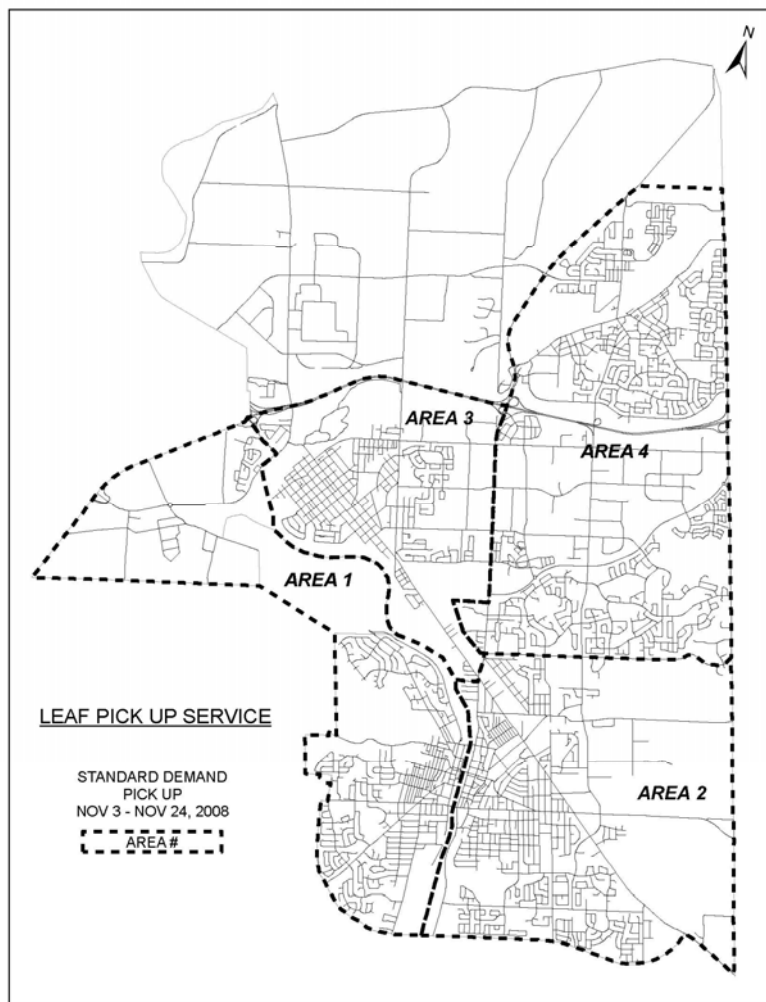
The City of Cambridge picks up the leaves and takes them to a regional landfill site. These truckloads of community leaves are contributing to the free compost program which makes available composted products to community residents twice per year.

Another environmental conscious element of the program includes deliveries to local farms. Roughly 15 percent of Cambridge’s leaves go directly to farms that have registered with the region to participate in the specialized recycling program. “Tilling the leaves in the farm land is a great way to add nutrients to the soil,” says Phil Dechene, Director of Public Works for Cambridge. Nearby farmers have arranged through the region to directly receive truckloads of leaves from the City of Cambridge.

Traditional Loose Leaf Pick Up Schedules

According to Dechene, things appear to be on schedule this year in terms of the weather, which means the fall leaf pick up program slated for residents will operate according to traditional pick up times in November. “This has not been the case in the past two years as unusual weather conditions resulted in rescheduling the leaf pick programs,” he added.

The City starts the leaf collection services by deploying vacuum truck units to selected heavily treed areas of Cambridge. For the purposes of this program, the City of Cambridge is divided into four large areas which are identified in the map below with cutoff times for curbside leaf pick up. The full program for the public kicks off on November 3rd and runs through to November 24th. If changes to the program are needed, updated communications will advise community residents. More information is available online at www.cambridge.ca or by calling 519.621.0740.



Community Schedule Details
 Area 1: West of Grand River, including Blair & Preston Heights
 November 3rd
 Area 2: South of Avenue Road, east of Grand River
 November 10th
 Area 3: North of Grand River, west of Hespeler Road
 November 17th
 Area 4: North of Avenue Road, east of Hespeler Road
 November 24th

More Info on Regional Programs

People wishing to know more about programs in composting may call the Region of Waterloo Program Coordinator, Clark Reichert, at 519.883.5150 ext 8423 or email rclark@region.waterloo.on.ca or visit www.region.waterloo.on.ca.

The City of Cambridge is one of the fastest growing areas in the country. It is strategically located astride highway 401 in Southwestern Ontario, part of Canada's Technology Triangle. In 2008, the population reached over 125,000 people. With a multicultural mix and a strong foundation of support services, Cambridge has a diverse economic base with leading industries in manufacturing, automotive, high technology, pharmaceutical, business and financial services and hospitality/retail. The Corporation of the City of Cambridge is an employer with a work environment that offers the opportunity to provide service to the community through creativity and innovation, and with opportunities for career growth and advancement. Based on the 2007 BMA Management Consulting Inc Municipal Study, the City of Cambridge is one of only four municipalities in the province that is debt free.

For more information on the area or the corporation visit www.cambridge.ca
 The City of Cambridge press room is located at <http://www.cambridge.ca/article.php?sid=176>
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