



Fall Leaves and Street Sweepers

It's fall and we have all enjoyed the changing colors of trees for this year. Now is the time to deal with everything that has fallen as the trees get ready for winter.

1. Leaves are a safety hazard. There is no way of knowing the road conditions under the leaves, thus bicyclists that use this route are forced to go out into the driving lanes to pass this obstacle.
2. Leaves can block storm drains. Try watching a storm drain inlet covered in leaves in a rain storm. It only takes a few leaves to back up the water into a large puddle. This creates nuisance flooding and can potentially cause an additional safety hazard. It can even lead to property damage.
3. Water quality can also be affected by the accumulation of decayed leaves in storm drains. Storm water is not treated before it is discharged into Utah Lake, the Provo River or our groundwater, so the concentration of nutrients in the leaves have the potential to contribute to algae blooms.

What can we do to remove leaves and keep ourselves safe and stormwater quality protected?

1. Rake and bag up leaves and dispose of in your residential dumpster
2. Mulch leaves into garden beds or mulch lighter amounts of leaf debris into your lawn
3. City of Orem sweeper operators work overtime in the late fall to get all leaves in public streets swept up and removed so that storm water can drain appropriately when snow/rain comes.
Please do your part to help Orem stay clean, safe, environmentally conscientious, and help out our dedicated storm water staff.

To read more about our street sweeping operations you can visit <https://orem.org/sweeping/>