

## Did You Know?

A normal weekly grass cutting creates no aesthetic odor or other turf nuisance problems? Since grass is 75% water, the grass will quickly decompose and nourish the lawn with nitrogen; thereby less artificial or chemical fertilizer is needed. This is a common practice with golf courses and arboretums.

## For Further Information

More program details will be announced in coming weeks; residents are encouraged to see future editions of *NewSkokie* or the Village web site, [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org), for updates. The May 2009 edition of *NewSkokie* will include information about rebate programs for residents who purchase battery or "people-powered" lawn mowers. The rebates and discounts included in the programs are offered by private firms, not the Village.

The Village has strong anti-dumping ordinances, and violators will be ticketed. Also, garbage and recycling containers that contain grass clippings, branches or other yard debris will not be collected as state law prohibits landfilling these materials.

**For more information, please contact the Public Works Department at 847/933-8427 or visit [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org).**

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**For more information, please contact the Public Works Department at 847/933-8427, visit [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org) or call the Village's 24 hour automated telephone line for brush pick up at 847/933-3333.**

# Village of Skokie



## Yard Waste Collection Program

*Frequently Asked Questions*

## ***Yard Waste Collection Program - Frequently Asked Questions:***

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### **Does this change affect all yard waste?**

No, this change only affects grass clippings. The Village will continue to collect bush trimmings, spring clean up items and branches when properly bagged or bundled.

### **Why did the Village choose to discontinue collecting grass clippings?**

Grass clippings are biodegradable. The collection and disposal is very costly, both for the Village and the environment, and only a small percentage of the community utilizes the service.

### **How does leaving grass clippings on the lawn help the community and the environment?**

By handling your own grass clippings at home, you can help the community by reducing the costs the Village must pay to collect and process these materials and at the same time, have a healthier lawn and a healthier environment.

### **Will there be a leaf collection program in the fall?**

The Village of Skokie will continue to provide the annual fall leaf collection beginning in mid-October, weather permitting.

### **Will leaving grass clippings on my lawn make my lawn look bad or unsightly?**

No, when cut properly, clippings are often unnoticeable. Grass clippings decay quickly and disappear within a day or two.

### **Will this cause damage or make my lawn turn brown?**

No, grass clippings will supply nutrients to the soil which will improve the overall quality of your lawn. Leaving grass clippings on your lawn will make it look healthier.

### **Do I need a mulching mower?**

No, any mower can be used to return grass clippings to the lawn, provided you mow regularly.

### **Do grass clippings cause thatch build up?**

No, research has shown that grass roots are the primary cause of thatch. Small amounts of thatch are actually beneficial, serving as mulch, preventing water evaporation and soil compaction.

### **Does leaving clippings on the lawn spread disease?**

No, improper use of water and fertilizer are the primary causes of lawn disease. By recycling nutrients back into the soil, it also reduces water evaporation for the lawn and helps keep the soil cooler.

### **Are there any alternatives to leaving grass clippings on my lawn besides municipal collection disposal?**

Yes, grass clippings make an excellent addition to a backyard compost pile.

### **I have a landscaper, does this change affect me?**

Yes. It will be your responsibility to notify your landscaper of this disposal change and to insure that these bagged materials are removed properly.

### **What if I still choose to bag my clippings?**

You will be required to contact a landscaper for disposal options.

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