

## 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 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).

### Council-Manager Government

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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

*Changes, Information and Guidelines for 2009*



## Yard Waste Collection Program Changes

On March 16, 2009, the Skokie Village Board authorized discontinuing collection of grass clippings for the 2009 season.

***The Village will continue to pick up brush and yard waste but will no longer pick up grass clippings.***

The policy change was approved to provide both environmental benefits and cost savings to the community. The Village expects to reduce diesel emissions, fuel and the quantity of debris being added to the waste system. Skokie is the first municipality in metro Chicago to adopt this green concept.

The program change offers a number of environmental benefits. The extra fuel consumption and the diesel emissions from the refuse trucks commuting each week to collect grass clippings not only pollutes the air, but also is an unnecessary use of fuel, equipment and manpower. Village staff calculated the greenhouse gas emissions from the Village's yard waste collection activities this past season. Approximately 1,242 gallons of diesel and biodiesel fuel were used. Taking this and other fuel usage information into account, the estimated greenhouse gas emissions of the yard waste collection program were 27,194.98 pounds of carbon dioxide equivalent, or 13.59 tons. By discontinuing the collection of grass clippings, the Village will significantly reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions.

## ***Yard Waste Collection Quick Facts:***

***This year, Skokie residents are asked to just let grass clippings lay on the lawn after mowing.***

- Grass clippings will no longer be collected.
- Skokie residents are asked to mulch their grass clippings by letting them lay on the lawn after weekly mowing. This is known as "grass cycling".
- Grass clippings are mostly water and will decompose within a few days, even without a mulching lawn mower.
- Brush and other yard debris will be collected on Wednesday of each week, by request only, from April 15 through October 15.
- **Beginning in April 2009**, to schedule a collection of brush or other yard debris, residents must call 847/933-3333 by noon on Monday to request collection for the coming Wednesday. This is an automated system and messages can be left 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Residents also can request collection at [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org).
- Residents may call Public Works if they have items for collection prior to the April 15, 2009 start of the Yard Waste Collection program.
- Other yard debris eligible for collection includes bush trimmings, thatch from raking and old flower or vegetable plants. Leaves remaining from fall 2008 also will be collected in spring only.
- Other yard debris, not including grass, will continue to be picked up and must be placed in a 30-gallon kraft paper bag for collection.
- Residents who do not request collection will not receive service.
- Brush should be bundled with string, rope or twine, with branches not exceeding 5 feet in length and 3 inches in diameter.
- The fall leaf collection program begins in mid October and continues through early December, weather permitting.

**Questions? Please call 847/933-8427, check out [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org) for program updates or call the 24 hour automated telephone line for brush pick up, 847-933-3333.**