



# CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

750 LAKESIDE DRIVE SE-EAST GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN 49506



## YARD WASTE AND FOOD SCRAPS COMPOSTING SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS

- 1) Eligibility: All properties located in the City of East Grand Rapids.
- 2) Cost: Service is provided by existing city operating property taxes.
- 3) Compliant materials for curbside service:
  - a. Yard waste items include grass clippings, branches, twigs, leaves, weeds, shrub clippings, plants and other natural yard and garden vegetation materials.
  - b. Food scrap items include fruits, vegetables, pits, peels, nuts/shells, bread, grains, pasta, rice, coffee grounds, and other natural vegetation materials.

**\*\*Materials for curbside service are limited to what larger scale composters can process in accordance with State/EGLE permitting regulations and their respective product/process\*\***
- 4) Compliant materials for food scraps drop-off site:
  - a. In order to accommodate additional variety of food scraps and household composting materials, the city also provides a food scraps drop-off site at the Department of Public Works Complex located at 2310 Reeds Lake Blvd.
  - b. Meat, fish, dairy, vegetables, fruit, shells, grains...any and all food waste. Additionally, coffee filters, paper towels, napkins, tea bags, pizza boxes, paper containers, paper plates, shredded paper, cardboard with tape removed and cut into small pieces.
  - c. Items noted are subject to posted modifications onsite as approved by the Director of Public Works to address any processing or regulatory changes.
- 5) Small loose material containers:
  - a. The city does not provide containers for service.
  - b. Small loose yard waste and food scrap materials must be placed in paper bags, or re-usable containers limited in size to thirty-two (32) gallon capacity containers designed to be lifted with no container weighing more than forty (40) pounds. Wheelbarrows, lawn carts and their likeness, not designed to be lifted, are prohibited.
  - c. Containers that are damaged or in poor condition that cannot safely be lifted will not be picked up (Example, handles are broken off).
  - d. The city is not responsible for containers that are damaged due to age, use, and material (Example, a 10-year-old plastic barrel cracks while picked up due to factors noted).
  - e. Ornamental grass may be placed outside of a container, provided it is bundled with twine or natural compostable material.

**\*\*Public Works employees provide service to ~4,000 properties weekly. Weight, container design, and condition are important for safety/health of employees\*\***

- 6) Large yard waste materials:
  - a. Tree limbs, trunks, and stumps shall be cut to a maximum length of six (6) feet and tree logs may not exceed twelve (12) inches in diameter.

- b. Must be placed in the public right-of-way, typically between the sidewalk and street.
- c. Large items placed out for collection will not be picked up on regular collection days because these items require specialized equipment. Public Works crews note larger material locations that need to be picked up on routes throughout the week and return for items with specialized equipment for one, efficient, citywide route, typically on Fridays.

7) Service Routes:

- a. Weekly, Monday through Friday service routes for all ~4,000 properties are noted via a route map approved by the Director of Public Works.
- b. Except for the fall loose leaf pickup program, it is recommended that property owners do not place containers or materials out in the public right-of-way earlier than one day prior to the scheduled day for pick-up.
- c. Holidays. If a collection day falls on an observed city holiday, material will be picked up the following business day. (Example, a holiday falls on a Monday, collection on Tuesday would include Monday and Tuesday routes). Because the Thanksgiving holiday occurs on the fourth Thursday of November and Thanksgiving and the day after are observed city holidays, leaves as well as yard waste and food scrap material shall be placed out on the preceding Sunday. Public Works crews will work outside of normal collection routes during this week to complete five (5) routes in (3) days to the greatest extent possible. If weather and/or amount of material impact service capability during this particular holiday week, service will resume with regular routes the following week.

8) Service types/times:

- a. **Curbside yard waste and food scraps service** shall commence on the Monday of the first full week or April through Friday of the first full week of December each year (Example, Monday, April 6-Friday April 10).
- b. **Fall loose leaf pickup service** shall commence the second full week of October through Friday of the first full week of December (Example, Monday, December 7-Friday, December 11). During this enhanced service, leaves as well as yard waste and food scrap material may be placed without being in containers. Leaves and material should be placed along/adjacent to or in the street without obstructing the traveled portion of streets, bike lanes, sidewalks, other mobility infrastructure or storm sewer catch basin drains. Violations obstructing streets, bike lane, sidewalks and mobility infrastructure regulation will be enforced by the Department of Public Safety. Depending on location and infrastructure present, some properties may require temporary covering/tarping (with weights) of material or placing in authorized containers to minimize impeding upon infrastructure noted.
- c. **Holiday season tree, wreath, or other natural vegetative decoration pickup service** shall commence on Monday of the first full week through Friday of the second full week of January each year (Example, Monday, January 4-Friday January 15). All decorations, lights, wiring, etc. must be removed with only natural material out for pick-up.
- d. The food scraps drop-off site will remain available 24/7/365 for residents who desire to continue food scraps composting outside of curbside service provided unless posted otherwise by the Director of Public Works.
- e. The city stopped accepting drop-off yard waste materials and leaves at the Department of Public Works Complex from licensed contractors and property owners, effective April 1, 2007, due to material coming from outside of the community and associated cost. Licensed contractors are required to place yard vegetation and leaves in accordance with 8)a. and 8)b or dispose of material at an alternative facility in accordance with local, state, or federal laws/regulations.
- f. Outside of service times, material shall not be placed out in the public right-of-way and placed out of general view from streets.
- g. If brief weather conditions occur that are outside of seasonal norms and outside of service parameters, the Director of Public Works may authorize and designate a drop off location at the Department of Public Works at 2310 Reeds Lake Blvd. This drop-off option is limited to residents only, no contractors.
- h. Yard waste service may be enacted outside of the service season due to special conditions that impact the community, i.e. ice or windstorms as determined by the Director of Public Works.
- i. Yard waste and food scraps from properties that are not located within the City of East Grand Rapids are strictly prohibited from being deposited along city streets for pick-up or drop-off site options.
- j. Violation of these rules and regulations as noted in Chapter 21 Section 2.11 is a civil infraction in accordance with Chapter 11, Title I of the city code and applicable state laws and/or suspension or revocation of license from license contractors.