



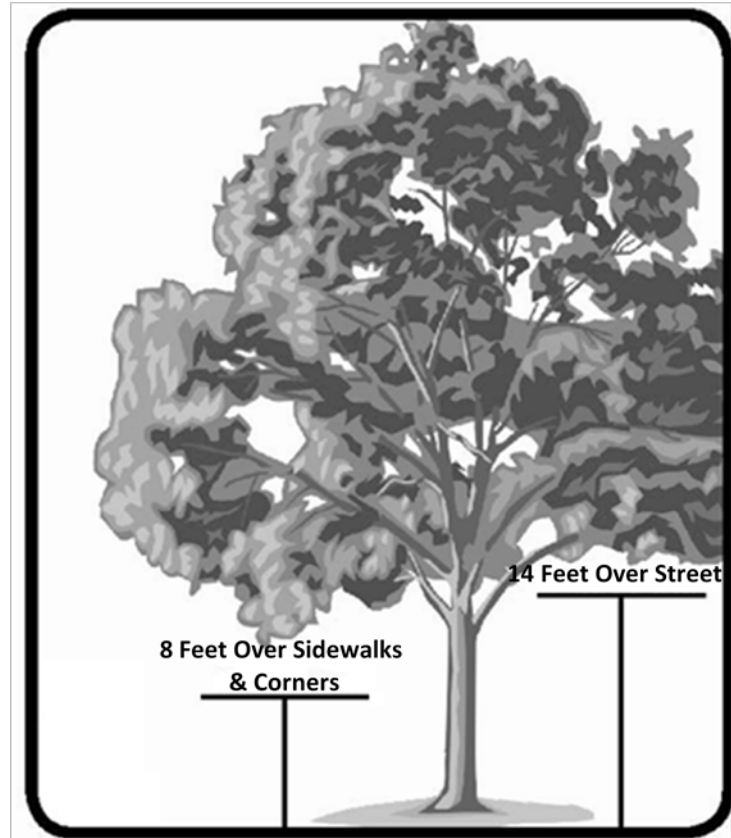
STREET SWEEPING

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Why is street sweeping important?

Street sweeping has two primary benefits. The first benefit is the collection and removal of paper, leaves, and other visible debris that collect in the curb gutters. This debris can obstruct stormwater facilities, causing localized flooding during heavy rains. The second benefit is less noticeable which includes the removal of particles and other hazardous waste products left by passing vehicles. Street sweeping is an effective method of removing both the large and microscopic pollutants that collect on city streets.

The City's street sweeping program is only part of the solution to water pollution. Residents can help by being aware of how their actions can contribute to or help solve the problem. For instance, over watering can wash pollutants from yards and driveways into the street and storm drains. These pollutants include pesticides, fertilizers, motor oil and yard clippings.



Can I leave my yard debris in the street?

No. It is the responsibility of residents to keep their neighborhood streets free of excessive yard waste and other debris. Leaving yard waste and other debris in the street can clog the storm system during heavy rains and cause flooding problems which could possibly damage homes in your neighborhood. If you see a clogged storm drain, please use a rake to clear the problem or call 360-263-7665 to report flooding. For safety reasons, avoid stepping into the puddle itself.

What should I do with my leaves and other yard debris then?

- Your garbage service provider can provide a yard debris container for an additional monthly fee.
- Compost your leaves and yard debris and use it as mulch in your garden.
- Yard debris may not be burned.

Our street sweeper needs your help...

- Move vehicles off the street.
- Remove basketball backboards and trash cans.

- It is not possible to sweep the streets and curb gutters if trees or other vegetation is overgrown. All vegetation must be at least: 1) Eight (8) feet above the entire sidewalk for pedestrian safety 2) Fourteen (14) feet above the street and gutter to avoid damaging sweeping equipment.

Many of La Center's streets and sidewalks are lined with trees and shrubs, which enhance our homes, neighborhoods, and community. While these are valuable assets to our properties and City, they can also pose serious potential safety hazards. Sidewalks overgrown by trees and shrubs can:

1. Force pedestrians to use the street or find an alternate path to avoid interference from low limbs and overgrown shrubs.
2. Present potential physical injury hazards to pedestrians.
3. Block vision for drivers and pedestrians at intersections.
4. Cause damage to the sidewalks from roots and tree trunks.

Untrimmed trees and shrubs that abut a street can obstruct street signs, block drivers' vision, damage vehicles, prevent vehicles from parking or stopping next to the curb, and force taller vehicles to drive down the center of the road. All of these have the potential to cause or contribute to accidents and serious injuries.