



OFFICE OF MAYOR VIRG BERNERO
124 W. MICHIGAN AVENUE – NINTH FLOOR
LANSING, MI 48933

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, March 27, 2014

CONTACT: Scott House
517/483-4165

City of Lansing to Begin Curbside Storm Debris Collection

(LANSING) – The City of Lansing Department of Public Service announced today that the city’s curbside storm debris collection program will begin on Monday, March 31. In the aftermath of the December ice storm, much of the resulting debris was buried under piles of snow and ice in the right-of-way adjacent to city streets, which prevented an efficient and cost-effective cleanup. Now that the snow and ice has largely melted, work crews will begin debris removal operations across the city.

“We are excited that Spring has finally decided to arrive and allow for our team to begin the daunting task of cleaning up after one of the worst ice storms in the city’s history,” said Public Service Director and Chief Operating Officer Chad Gamble.

Work crews will be deployed simultaneously in multiple locations across the city and will follow the city’s established plow routes. A map is now available at lansingmi.gov/debris that will track the progress of the cleanup effort. City residents can reference the map to see where crews are currently working and what routes have been completed.

All city residents are urged to clean up their yards and place storm debris at the right-of-way for collection as soon as possible to facilitate cleanup operations. Christmas trees are also included in the debris removal program. Debris removal will commence in Plow Routes 1 and 28 (see map) beginning Monday, March 31. Additional routes will be added as the operation is scaled up with additional work crews.

Citizens are also asked to limit on-street parking in active cleanup areas. Work crews will be using heavy equipment and large trucks to remove debris. Cars parked on the street may interfere with curbside cleanup operations.

In certain areas of the city, residents may be eligible for assistance in clearing storm debris from their private property. This aspect of the storm debris cleanup program is funded with federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and is limited by federal rules to qualified areas of the city. If you live in a CDBG-eligible area (see the CDBG map at lansingmi.gov/debris) and need assistance removing storm debris from your yard, please call 483-4071 or email icestorm2013@lansingmi.gov. Please provide your name, address and a telephone number or email address where you can be contacted.

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Private property cleanups under the CDBG program will not be scheduled for a specific date or time. The city will maintain a list of addresses and perform the debris cleanup when work crews are in the area. Funds are limited and will be used on a first-come, first-served basis until they are depleted. Senior citizens and disabled residents are encouraged to apply for this special assistance. **The deadline for including an address within the CDBG-eligible area is Monday, April 21, 2014 at 5:00 pm EST.** A liability waiver from the property owner will be required for the work crew to enter the property.

City residents are asked to adhere to the following guidelines, which will help our crews remove curbside debris in an efficient and cost-effective manner, as well as reducing the risk of injury to workers or pedestrians. When placing tree debris at the right-of-way please:

- Place all material in the right-of-way adjacent to the public road.
- Do not block sidewalks or place debris in the street.
- If possible, cut limbs and brush to not more than four (4) feet in length.
- Place the larger end of limbs toward the street.
- The city will not collect stumps.

Citizens can also drop off storm debris at Washington Park, located at 2700 S. Washington Avenue. A map showing details of the debris drop-off location is available online at lansingmi.gov/debris. The drop-off location will be open from dawn to dusk.

The city has placed all ice storm debris collection information online at lansingmi.gov/debris. Please also do not hesitate to contact us at (517) 483-4161.

Frequently Asked Questions

Are there size limits on tree debris that will be removed?

Residents are requested to cut brush and limbs to four (4) feet in length or less. There is no limit on diameter for this special collection.

How many passes will the city make for this special removal?

The city will make one pass through the entire city. That is why it is important for all storm debris to be placed at the curb as soon as possible. The city *may* revisit areas that were missed or for other extenuating circumstances.

What if I can't get all of the smaller limbs and branches to the curb by this time?

The city's normal residential yard waste pickup program will also begin on March 31st so every property of 4 units or less will have curbside collection every week. Check out the city's website for more information at lansingmi.gov/yard_waste.

Will the city collect storm debris on my private property?

No, except as provided through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program for eligible households. To determine if your household is eligible and to apply for assistance, please refer to the CDBG map and instructions located online at lansingmi.gov/debris.