



## NEWS RELEASE

City of Chico

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October 19, 2016

### LEAF PICKUP PROGRAM BEGINS OCTOBER 31, 2016

City of Chico Public Works Department will officially begin the annual leaf collection program on **Monday, October 31, 2016 and it will end on Monday, January 2, 2017. The commercial leaf pile collections will end on Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>.** The purpose of the program is to collect leaves from City street trees in the public right-of-way to prevent clogged storm drains and potential flooding, and to help keep the roadway and bike lanes clear. It is not intended for leaves and yard waste generated from trees in private yards, back yards, alleyways, or in the unincorporated areas.

As required by the Chico Municipal Code, property owners of commercial and multifamily properties larger than a triplex and/or landscapers servicing such properties **cannot** place leaves in the public right-of-way and are asked to use one of the following methods to recycle leaves:

1. Use the containers from the curbside green waste recycling program; or
2. Take leaves to the City's compost facility (***During leaf season, the gate fee for commercial generators will be waived for loads of leaves only and discounted fees will be charged for mixed yard waste loads***); or
3. Deposit leaves only at any of the nine (9) City-designated drop-off sites located throughout the City. Enforcement action will be taken for illegal dumping of prunings, trash, or other materials at these sites.

For private yard waste, the City encourages residents to use the curbside yard waste recycling program available from one of the two waste haulers, Recology Butte Colusa Counties, or Waste Management, or to take it to the City's compost facility on Cohasset Road, north of Eaton Road. The facility is open Tuesday through Saturday from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Additional information about the City's compost facility can be obtained at 530-624-3529, or on the City's website at [www.ci.chico.ca.us](http://www.ci.chico.ca.us).

The City does not attempt to maintain a set schedule to collect residential leaves. City crews begin service at the southerly end of the city, west of Highway 99, and will progress northerly in a clockwise direction until the entire City is serviced. The process is then repeated.

When using the leaf collection program, city residents are advised that:

- Leaves should be raked, piled, or placed in rows in the street near your property, but at least 1 foot away from the curb to allow water drainage.
- Piles should not exceed four feet in height and should **not** be placed in bicycle lanes, or block storm drains or drainage areas.
- Leaves should not be placed in plastic bags, or in any other type of container.
- Limbs, prunings, grass clippings, and trash will **not** be picked up by City of Chico and should not be placed with the leaves or on any City street.
- After January 2, 2017, residents will be responsible for their own leaf disposal and cannot place leaves in the public right of way.
- Street sweeping in residential areas is suspended during heavy leaf drop period from November to January each year.

Information regarding the City's residential leaf pickup program and the alternative commercial landscaper/property owner program can be obtained at 894-4205 between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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