

DRWW Lakes Committee Leaf Disposal Survey Summary

Research shows that leaf disposal can be a cost-effective best management practice to improve water quality. Decaying organic materials, like leaf litter, can release excess nutrients into local streams and lakes causing eutrophication and algal blooms. DRWW Members were asked a series of questions regarding their leaf disposal practices in 2025.

Total number of responses: 12

Alana Bartolai, Lake County Health Department

Anna Niedzinski, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission

Rafal Palka, Village of Lindenhurst

Cecylia Wszolek, Village of Lincolnshire

Paul Kendzior, Village of Libertyville

Chris Venatta, Village of Vernon Hills

Heather Galan, Village of Gurnee Public Works

Felecia Hurley, Illinois Department of Transportation

Michael Brown, Village of Lake Zurich

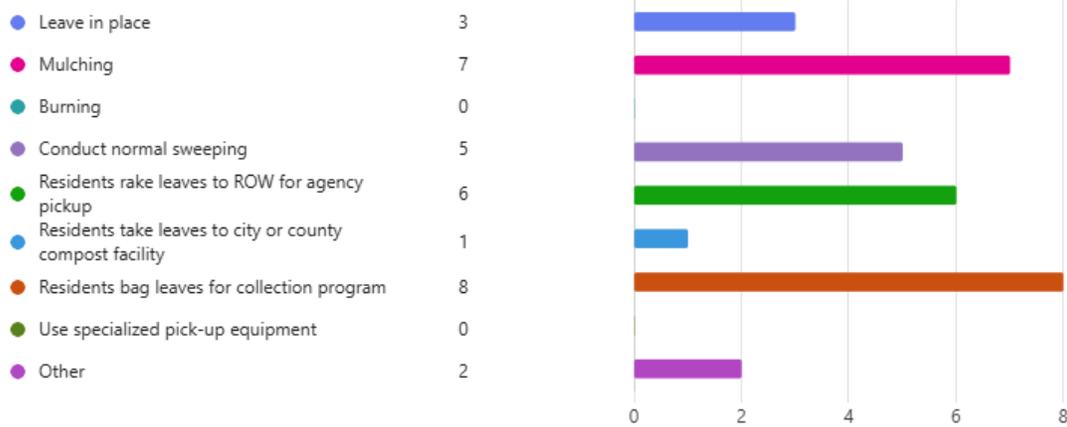
Victor Ransom, City of Zion

Brandon Janes, Village of Deerfield

Peter Riggs, Village of Grayslake

RESULTS

1. *How are organizations encouraging residents to disposed of fallen leaves? (Could have multiple answers)*



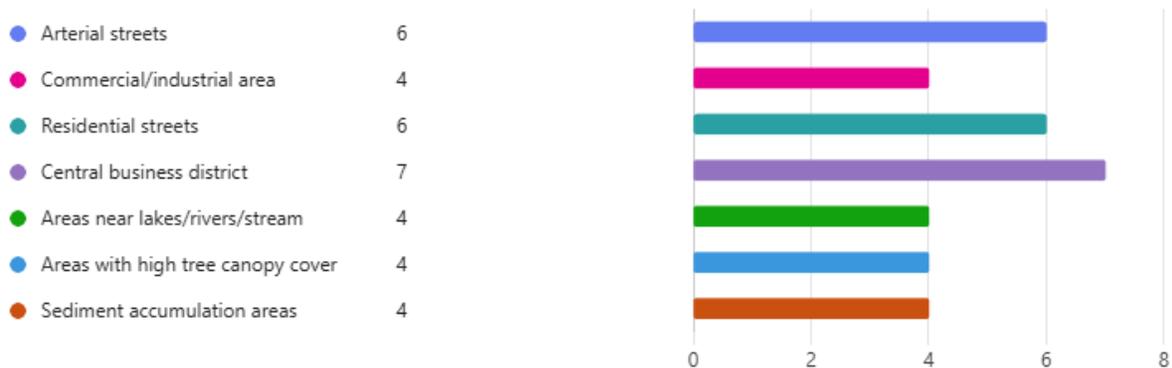
NOTE: No members chose “Use specialized pick-up equipment” and “Burning”

2. *What happens to the leaf detritus collected during the street sweeping program?*

Most members who have a street sweeping program are either sending their detritus to a landfill, composting it, or having a waste collection service pick it up.

3. *The three most common areas being swept multiple times per year were the following:*

- Central business facilities
- Residential streets
- Arterial streets



4. *The two most common reasons members want to start a street sweeping program were the following: 1) Keep materials out of storm system 2) Maintain street or roadway safety*



5. *How are members educating their residents about the importance of leaf disposal?*

Most members are using their websites, newsletters, social media, and handouts to educate the public.