

## Spring street sweeping begins soon

Written by

Wednesday, 20 March 2013 16:21

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Weather permitting, an annual rite of spring in Minneapolis begins Tuesday, April 9. That's when Public Works crews will start a comprehensive sweeping of all city streets and alleys to clean up the dirt and grime the melting ice and snow leaves behind. Beginning Monday April 8, drivers should watch for temporary "no parking" signs along these roadways to avoid a ticket and tow.

From April 9 through May 3, sweepers will take care of all 1,000 miles of city streets and parkways. To make sure the sweepers can do the best job possible, temporary "No Parking" signs will be posted at least 24 hours in advance to make sure streets and parkways are clear of parked vehicles. Residents need to follow street sweep parking rules or they may have their cars ticketed and towed to the Minneapolis Impound Lot.

In the two weeks before the comprehensive street sweeping begins, crews will be out sweeping parkways around town as needed. As with the case with the citywide street sweeping, temporary "No Parking" signs will be posted at least 24 hours in advance of the parkway sweeping.

- **"No Parking" signs** – Crews will post "No Parking" signs at least 24 hours before sweeping any streets. Parking will be banned from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on the day a street is swept. The "No Parking" signs will be removed as soon as possible after a street has been completely swept to allow people to resume parking. Drivers should not park along these streets until these temporary "No Parking" signs are removed.

- **Phone calls to residents** – In addition to the "No Parking" signs that will be posted the day before sweepers come through, the City will make about 3,500 automated phone calls each evening to let residents know their street will be swept the next day.

- **Interactive Web tool** – Folks can use a tool on the City's Web site to find out when the sweepers are coming through their neighborhoods. Go to [www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/streetsweeping](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/streetsweeping) and click on "street sweeping schedule lookup," to find out which week a street is scheduled to be swept. The weekend before that week, they can revisit the Web site to find out which day of the week the street is scheduled to be swept.

- **Videos** – Street sweeping is explained in English, Hmong, Somali and Spanish as part of the City's "Did you know..." series of short videos that can be viewed at [www.YouTube.com/cityofminneapolis](http://www.YouTube.com/cityofminneapolis)

and on City cable channels 14 and 79. Residents who have friends or neighbors who speak these languages are encouraged to share links to the videos.

- o English: See how and why Minneapolis sweeps streets and what you can do to help keep streets and waterways clean in this video from the Minneapolis "Did you know..." series.

- o Spanish: Vea en este video de las series "Sabia Usted" como y porque Minneapolis barre las calles y limpia las vias fluviales.

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o Somali: Ka daawo fiidyowga taxanaha... ee Minneapolis ee loo yaqaan "Ma Ogtahay" siyaabaha iyo sababaha minneapolis jidadka ay u xaaqido oo ogow sidii aad uga caawin lahayd ilaalinta nadaafada jidadka iyo biyo mareenada.

o Hmong: Yog xav paub ntxiv, sais nroog Minneapolis cov tshooj xov xwm hu, "Koj pos paub."

### **Clean streets mean a healthier environment**

Minneapolis is known for its sparkling lakes and waterways, and we want to keep it that way. That's why protecting and enhancing our environment is one of the City's top priorities. Street sweeping is one way we work to protect our environment because it keeps leaves and debris from clogging our storm drains and polluting our lakes and rivers. It also helps keep our neighborhoods clean and livable.

Minneapolis streets are swept completely curb to curb once in the spring and once in the fall.

Residents should not push leaves, grass clippings, or other debris into City streets – it's bad for our lakes and waterways and it's against the law. Anything that goes down a storm drain flows directly into our lakes and river, and decomposing plant material in the water encourages the growth of harmful aquatic plants and algae.