

VACUUM LEAF COLLECTION 2021

Environmental Quality & Public Works Committee

October 19, 2021



LEXINGTON



2021 Vacuum Leaf Collection Program

- Streets & Roads will perform leaf collection with operational assistance from Parks and DWQ and a private contractor (Republic Services).
- The private contractor will be deployed in Zone C, which is ~ 25% of the collection area.
- LFUCG Inspectors from the Division of Water Quality accompany the contractor crews. This frees up CDL drivers in S&R to assist with collection.
- Leaf set out is the night before collection starts for each zone. This is either Sunday or Wednesday for all zones.
- Contract allows for contractor assistance in LFUCG collection zones if needed by setting a unit price but must be notified well in advance due to equipment and labor logistics.

Who Receives Leaf Collection?

- Citizens with city trash collection with roll-out carts.
- Approximately 90,000 residential addresses.



Leaf Collection Guidelines

- Leaves should be raked into piles between the sidewalk and the curb, or close to the street if there is no sidewalk.
- Leaves should not be raked into the street.
 - Causes problems for workers, traffic, and clogs storm sewers and drainage ways.
- No limbs, rocks, dead animals, or trash should be in the leaf piles.



Alternative Leaf Disposal Methods



- Gray yard waste container.
- Paper yard waste bags.
- Mulch leaves when mowing.
- Home compost operation.
- Residents can take leaves to Haley Pike Landfill. Free for non-commercial citizens.
 - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
 - 8am-6pm.
 - Open first Saturday of each month, 9am to 3pm
- Private collection



2021 Collection Schedule

BEGIN → Monday, November 8th

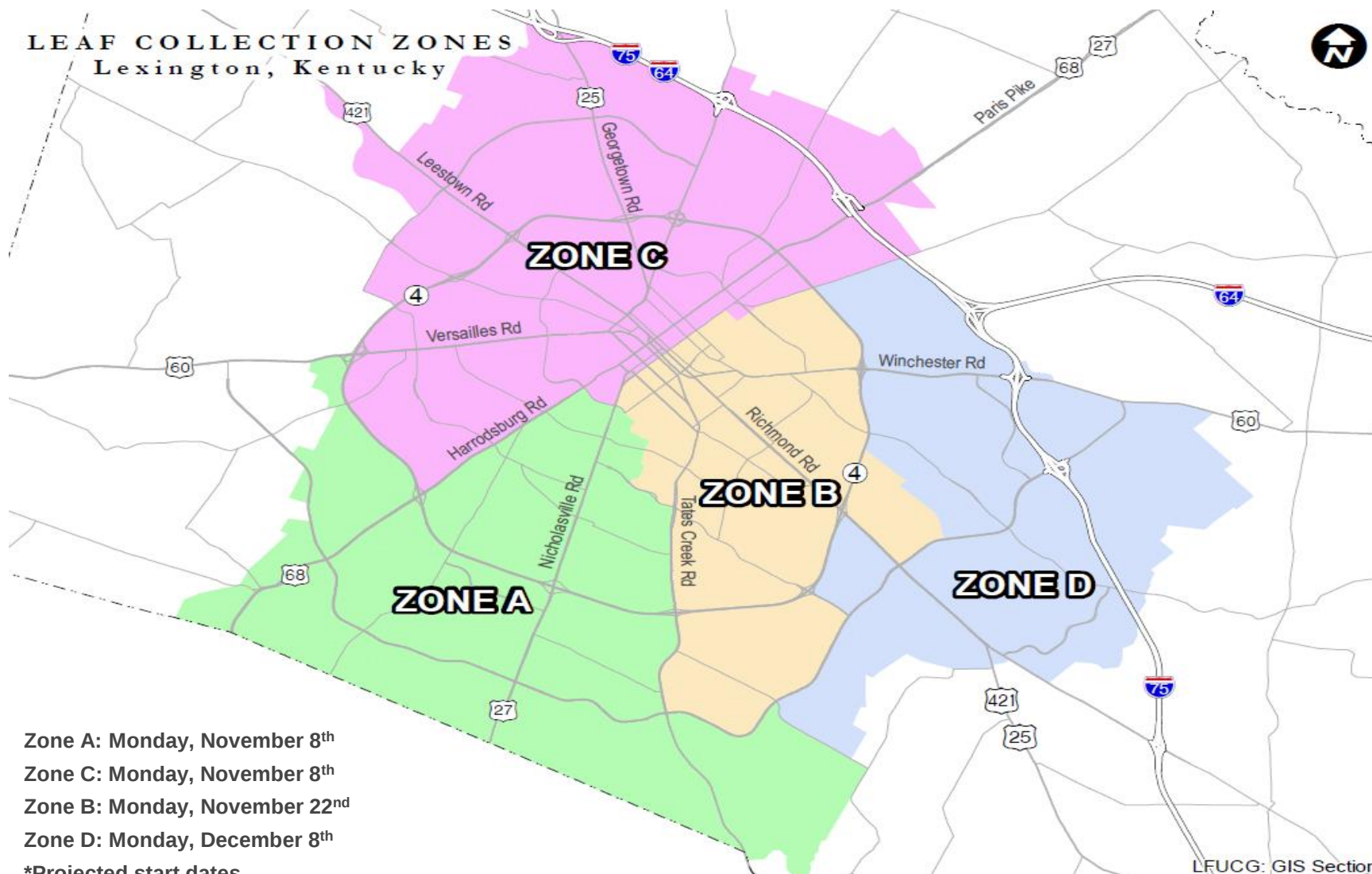
- Zones A1, A2, and contractor zone C1
- Added additional days to calendar for additional collection time in heavy leaf canopy neighborhoods.

Goal:

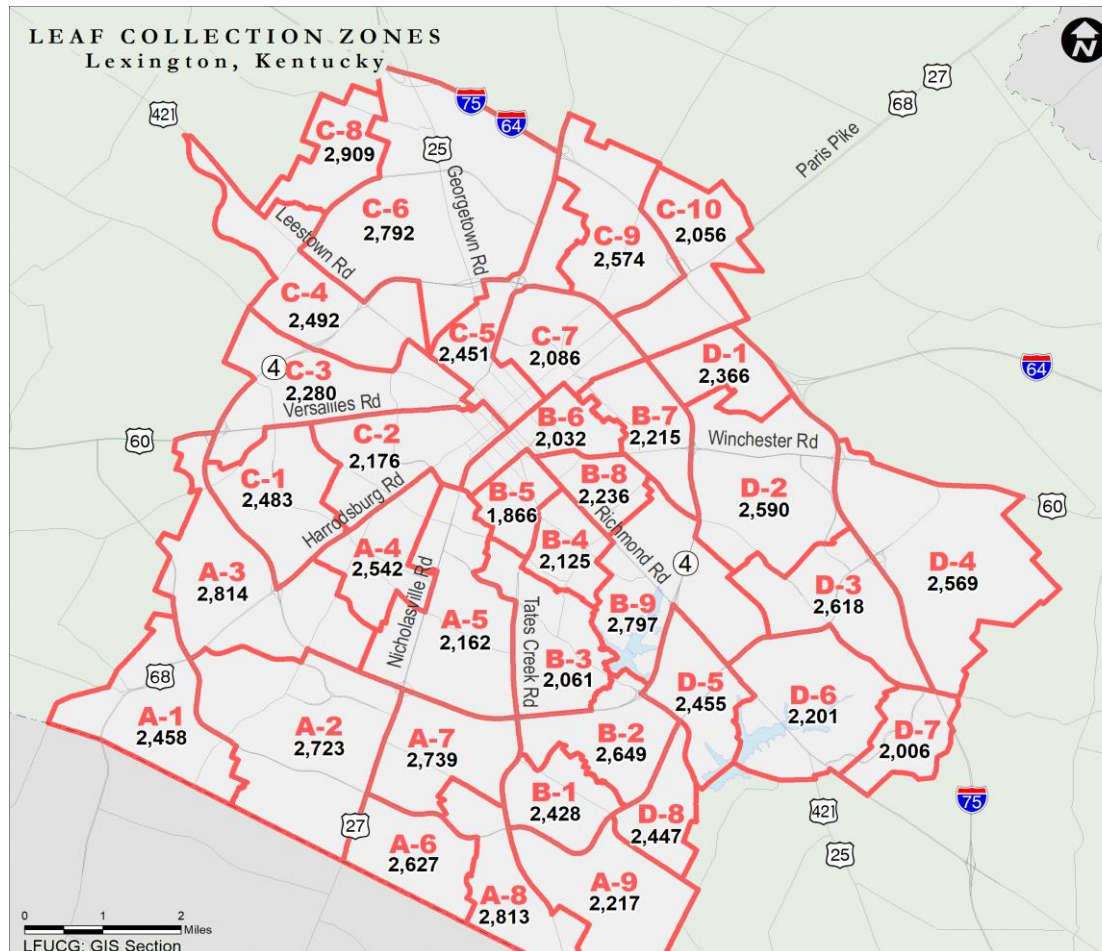
COMPLETE → Tuesday, December 22nd.

May work until Friday, December 31st if needed.

Completion date is subject to change based on weather and collection totals.



Leaf Collection Sub-zones & Cart Count



Service area is divided into zones A – D, each with 8 to 9 subzones.

Each quadrant is assigned one to two weeks of leaf collection. Sub-Zones have been configured based upon trash cart count of around 2,500.

* Number below zone ID is the approximate number of carts in the zone.



Start Time

- Weather always unpredictable. Possible snow in November and December.
- Trees need cooler temperatures, shorter days, and water to drop leaves.
- Starting date picked to collect the maximum number of leaves in one pass and to minimize conflicts with weather response.
- *Complements* gray yard waste container, yard waste bags, and manual collection. **No longer the primary means of disposal.**



Leaf Collection Logistics

- One round of collection for each zone.
- Division will not be collecting Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of Thanksgiving week but traditionally collection occurs in zone C on Friday and Saturday.
- All division activity except emergency pot hole repair suspended.
- Not able to hire and retain more than 50% of authorized seasonals workers (40 positions). Labor shortages expected to continue this season.
- Covid protocols and sanitation.
- Street sweeping will be suspended.
 - Except in the [Downtown](#) and [University of Kentucky](#) areas. The first Wednesday and Thursday of the Month.
 - 4 Sweepers follow leaf crews when possible for a cleaner more thorough finish.

2021 Extended Hours of Collection

- Monday through Friday - 8:00AM to 6:00PM.
- Saturday - 8:00AM to 4:00PM.
- Shift length extended to make up for lost time during deployment, dependent on weather and daylight.
- Collection will be suspended for snow removal and emergencies requiring a response from Streets and Roads.





Communication Plan

- LFUCG website, including an interactive map
www.LexingtonKY.gov/Leaves
- Social Media (**Facebook, Instagram & Twitter**) ads and posts
- **311 Alerts**
- Posts on **Next Door**
- **At Your Service** newsletter
- Paid mass marketing ads (streaming video services, radio)
- Print ads in local publications
- News release
- LexTV
 - Lexington Now & bulletin board

Interactive Map

- An interactive web map will be used to provide citizens with access to timely information regarding leaf collection.
- Citizens will be able to:
 - Locate their address within leaf collection zones.
 - View up-to-date schedules of when leaves will be collected in their zone.
 - Citizens will set leaves out the **Sunday or Wednesday** prior to their zone collection start date. They will get this information from the interactive map.

Questions?



LEXINGTON



Thank You!

To our partner Divisions for a successful team effort!

Environmental Services, EQPW Commissioner's Office,
Fleet Services, Geographic Information Services, LexCall,
Parks, Public Information Office, Waste Management,
& Water Quality.