

**Beginning in April 2022, the City of Columbus will update its annual street sweeping program to ensure an equitable approach to cleaning debris and pollutants along curbed streets before they reach local streams and harm water quality.**

The update coincides with the renewal of the city's Municipal Separate Storm System, or MS4, permit, required by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. Most areas of the city have separate sanitary and storm sewer pipes. Storm sewer discharges to streams, rivers and lakes with no treatment.

The Ohio EPA recognizes street sweeping as a pollution prevention practice. Sweeping helps to improve water quality. It addresses two pollutants of concern — sediment and phosphorous — affecting local watersheds, including the Olentangy River, Big Walnut Creek and Big Darby Creek.

The Department of Public Service performs the city's street sweeping operations, from April through October. The focus is environmental, to prevent pollution from entering our waterways and to advance the city's sustainability goals.

The permit renewal process has given the city an opportunity to develop a data-driven approach to street sweeping.

The city's annual Litter Index, completed by the Division of Refuse Collection, scores the amount of litter and debris on all city streets. Based on this data, sweeping will be prioritized on residential and arterial streets in high debris zones to prevent pollutants from entering storm sewers and harming water quality.

### **EFFECTIVE APRIL OF 2022:**

- **The city will sweep all curbed streets at least two times during street sweeping season each year.**
- **Current signage posted to restrict parking during street sweeping dates/times will be removed in all areas except in the University District. Signs with posted parking restrictions will remain and be enforced there to allow for effective sweeping.**
- **If needed, temporary signage for street sweeping notification may be installed in areas where on-street parking demand impacts the ability for optimal sweeping to occur.**

The street sweeping program may continue to be refined as the city determines additional data collection that further identifies areas of high surface pollutants impacting our waterways.

Residents may sign up to receive advance notice of when their street is scheduled for sweeping at <https://www.columbus.gov/publicservice/streets/Street-Sweeping>