

The City of Portage Annual Spring Cleanup program includes **separate dates** for the collection of **brush and bagged leaves** and **household materials**. The Brush and Bagged Leaf collection is detailed on this page, while the collection of household materials is detailed on the next page. Please contact the Streets and Parks Maintenance Division at 329-4444 or visit the city website at [www.portagemi.gov](http://www.portagemi.gov) for further information.

## Brush and Bagged Leaf Collection

## April 6 – May 1

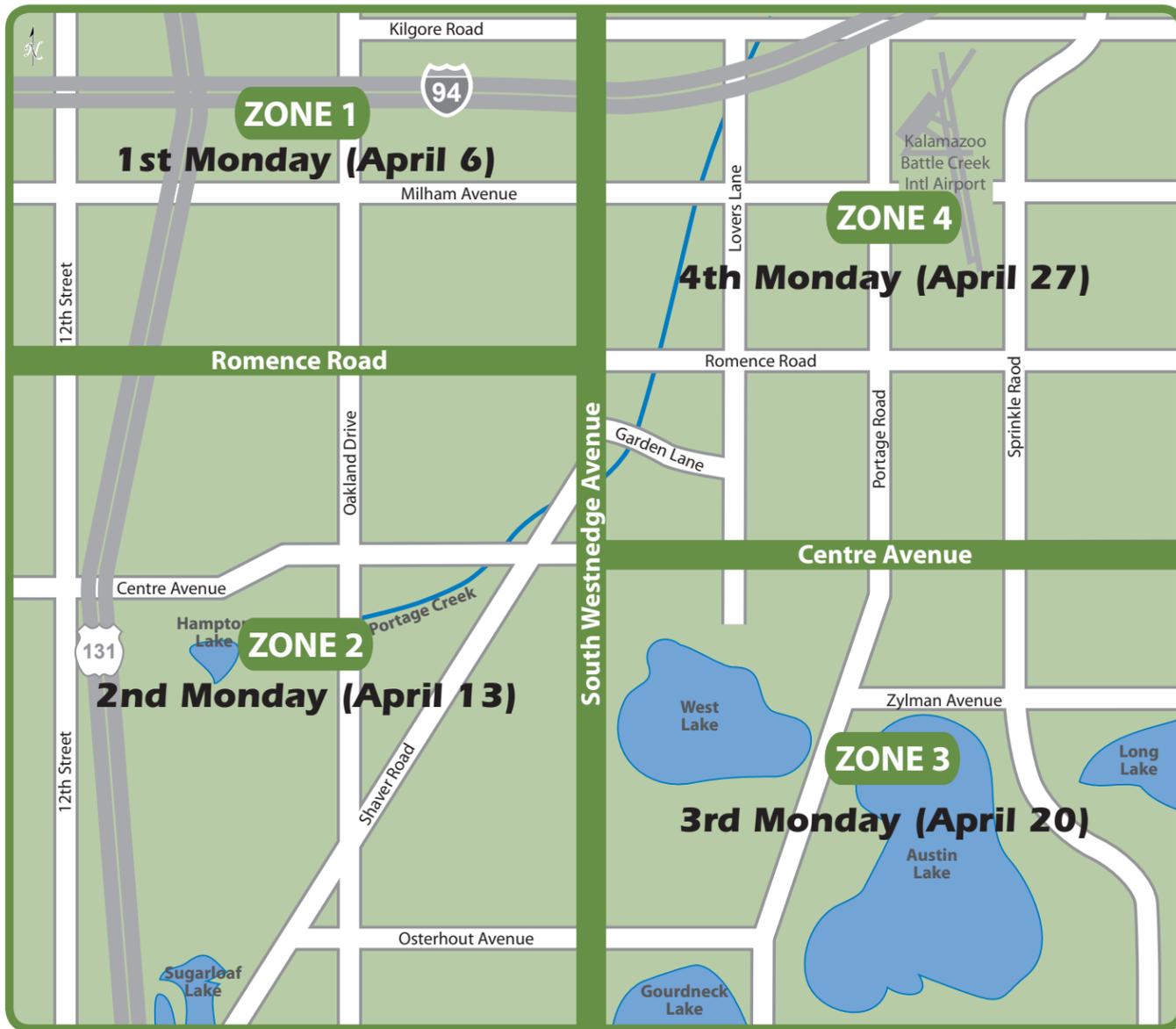
Bagged leaves, including ornamental grasses, will be collected in **April** as part of the Quarterly Curbside Brush Collection program. The map below indicates when materials may be placed at the curb. All materials should be at curbside no later than 7 a.m., **but not more than 72 hours prior to your designated Monday**. Residents are reminded that materials may not be collected on Monday; however, each zone will be cleared of materials by the end of the designated week.

### How should I prepare my brush/leaves?

- ◆ Branches 4 feet in length or longer are preferred
- ◆ Branches must be less than 3 inches in diameter
- ◆ Stack in neat piles at curbside
- ◆ Do not cut up Christmas trees
- ◆ Leaves and ornamental grasses must be in biodegradable paper bags (see details at bottom of page)

### What will NOT be collected?

- ◆ Brush/branches generated from the removal of a tree which is greater than 4 inches in diameter at its trunk
- ◆ No parts of a whole tree removal will be collected, including brush/branches from the tree
- ◆ Brush/branches generated from a professional tree removal service
- ◆ Grass clippings, flowers, weeds, garden materials
- ◆ Firewood
- ◆ Lumber/timber/building materials/railroad ties
- ◆ Roots or tree stumps
- ◆ Loose leaves
- ◆ Leaves bagged in plastic bags



## Portage Recycles!

**All leaves must be placed in biodegradable paper bags for the 2015 Bagged Leaf Collection. Leaves in plastic bags will not be collected!**

The City of Portage requires the use of biodegradable paper bags for the Bagged Leaf Collection. Biodegradable paper bags decompose with exposure to the elements, allowing for total recycling of both the bag and the leaves packed inside. Composting, an organic process in which exposure to the atmosphere and moisture is necessary, cannot be accomplished with plastic bags. In addition, leaves in plastic bags cannot be deposited in landfills due to federal laws prohibiting recyclable yard waste in landfills. **The use of plastic bags or decomposing plastic bags for the 2015 Bagged Leaf Collection is prohibited.**

Biodegradable paper bags are easy to fill. They are designed to self-stand, accept both dry and moist leaves and are less likely to break open. **Please limit bag contents to 50 pounds or less.** Biodegradable paper bags are available in the lawn and garden departments of most major household/grocery retail outlets, home improvement centers, nurseries and hardware stores. Certain major retail outlet centers participate with the city in this total recycling program by offering discount coupons for the purchase of biodegradable paper bags. See coupons at right redeemable at various local stores.



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# Spring Cleanup

# April 20 – May 21

Each spring, the City of Portage conducts the Spring Cleanup Program, giving residents the opportunity to reduce household clutter and get rid of unwanted household materials by placing them at curbside for pickup. This year the program will run from April 20 to May 21.

The map below indicates the scheduled pickup date for each neighborhood. Arrows on the map show which side of the street will be picked up when a boundary line falls between different dates. Collection dates are also available at [www.portagemi.gov](http://www.portagemi.gov). Neighborhood collection occurs only once during the Spring Cleanup Program, so it is important to place items at the curb by 7 a.m. on your scheduled pickup date! **Materials may be placed at curbside up to three days prior to your scheduled pickup date.**

The Spring Cleanup Program does not take place at apartment complexes or manufactured home communities.

**Don't forget about recycling!** The city recycles a substantial amount of metal collected during the Spring Cleanup Program. Citizens are encouraged to recycle items such as plastic, glass, paper and cardboard by taking part in the weekly Curbside Recycling Program. Recycling is also available at the Republic Services drop-off facility at 3432 Gembrit Circle (just off Cork Street), Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

## Reminders . . .

- ◆ The City of Portage has no responsibility for items removed from the curbside by private parties.
- ◆ Materials may be placed at curbside up to 3 days prior to pickup date.
- ◆ Collection will occur only once in each zone.
- ◆ All items at the curb will be collected – please watch children's toys.
- ◆ Please separate trash and metals at the curb.

## What Items WILL Be Collected?

- ◆ Bed springs and mattresses.
- ◆ Metal – piled separately – will be collected.
- ◆ Old appliances, including washers, dryers, stoves, TVs and hot water heaters will be collected.
- ◆ Lawn/yard equipment must be drained of oil and fuel.
- ◆ Other items must be bundled, bagged or boxed. Each package should weigh less than 50 lbs.

## What Items WILL NOT Be Collected?

- ◆ Animal waste
- ◆ Brush or leaves (see reverse page)
- ◆ Household garbage
- ◆ Gas or fuel containers
- ◆ Large auto parts
- ◆ Paint and chemicals
- ◆ Railroad ties
- ◆ Computers and monitors
- ◆ Tires
- ◆ Sand, gravel or sod
- ◆ Broken concrete
- ◆ Scrap building materials from demolition, new construction or remodeling
- ◆ Refrigerators, air conditioners and dehumidifiers

It is the responsibility of Portage residents to dispose of the above materials properly. The City of Portage participates in the Kalamazoo County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program. Residents are encouraged to call the HHW Hotline at 373-5211 for information regarding hazardous waste drop-off disposal.

If you have any questions about the scheduled pickup date for your neighborhood, or need information regarding materials and preparation for the program, please call the Streets & Parks Maintenance Division at 329-4444.  
**2015 Spring Cleanup information is also available online at [www.portagemi.gov](http://www.portagemi.gov).**

