

Ordinance #2023-13

AN ORDINANCE BY THE MUNICIPALITY OF PRINCETON REGARDING THE LEAF, BRANCH, AND LOG PROGRAM, AND AMENDING CHAPTER 19 OF THE “CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY, 1968.”

BE IT ORDAINED by the Princeton Council as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 19 of the “Code of the Township of Princeton, New Jersey, 1968” (“Township Code”), entitled “Streets, Sidewalks, Bike Lanes and Shared Use Paths,” is hereby amended by updating section 19-1A.3 within article IA (concerning the leaf, branch and log removal program) to read as follows (additions are underlined; deletions are [bracketed]):

Sec. 19-1A.3 Leaf collection schedule and requirements.

- (a) The municipality [will]shall collect leaves along [residential] roadways and streets [between the months of March and December]during the spring and fall each year and such other times that may be deemed necessary by the deputy administrator of engineering and infrastructure operations. The [director of infrastructure and operations]deputy administrator of engineering and infrastructure operations shall determine the leaf collection schedule annually, specifying [type of pick up (loose vs. bagged) and] frequency of collection, and may also amend said schedule as may be necessary, subject to the approval of the administrator.
- (b) Leaves shall be left for collection as follows:

(1) Leaves [must]shall be placed in one pile[s] (referred to as "loose leaves") or in biodegradable paper bags (referred to as "bagged leaves").

(2) Requirements for collection of loose leaves:

a. Loose leaves shall be left out for the municipality's collection by placing one[the] pile[(s)] on the paved roadway adjacent to the curb or the beginning of the paved roadway immediately adjacent to your property and extending no more than three feet from the curb or if there is no curb, no more than three feet from where the paved roadway begins.

b. The single permitted pile of loose leaves shall be no greater in size than three feet in width and three feet in height. It shall not extend beyond the width of the individual property frontage.

[b]c. Loose leaves shall not be left on any sidewalk, bike path, bike lane, island, or walkway, over utility boxes such as gas and water shutoffs or sewer clean-outs or within 10 feet of any crosswalk, storm sewer inlet or fire hydrant.

[c]d. Loose leaves shall be left out for collection prior to [the start of the 7:00 a.m. on the scheduled date of collection [week], but not more than seven days prior to its start. [For purposes of this Section, "start of the scheduled collection week" shall mean 7:00 a.m. on Monday and "collection week" shall mean Monday through Friday.]

(3) Requirements for collection of bagged leaves:

- a. Bagged leaves shall be left out for the municipality's collection by placing the biodegradable leaf bag(s) on the edge of the roadway immediately adjacent to your property. For purposes of this paragraph, "on the edge of the roadway" shall refer to the grass (or dirt area if no grass) that is immediately adjacent to the paved roadway but shall not mean the paved roadway itself or on the curb.
 - b. Bagged leaves shall not be left on any sidewalk, bike path, bike lane, island, or walkway, over utility boxes such as gas and water shutoffs or sewer clean-outs or within 10 feet of any crosswalk, storm sewer inlet or fire hydrant.
 - c. Bagged leaves shall be left out for collection prior to [the start of the 7:00 a.m. on the scheduled date of collection[week], but not more than seven days prior to its start. [For purposes of this Section, "start of the scheduled collection week" shall mean 7:00 a.m. on Monday and "collection week" shall mean Monday through Friday.]
- (c) Also refer to Schedule[s] A[and B] for a summary[and illustration, respectively,] of the requirements of this section. (Schedule[s] A[and B] may be found at the end of this section.)
- (d) Notwithstanding the above, residents may take loose leaves [may be taken]to the Lawrence Township Ecological Facility, or such other ecological facility that may be designated by the municipality, for disposal. Leaves may also be disposed of on an owner's property, such as in wooded areas if practicable.

Section 2. Chapter 19 of the Township Code, entitled “Streets, Sidewalks, Bike Lanes and Shared Use Paths,” is hereby amended by updating section 19-1A.4 within article IA (concerning the leaf, branch and log removal program) to read as follows (additions are underlined; deletions are [bracketed]):

Sec. 19-1A.4 Branch and log collection.

- (a) The municipality [will]shall collect branches and logs along [residential] roadways and streets during the spring and fall each year and such other times that may be deemed necessary by [director of infrastructure and operations]the deputy administrator of engineering and infrastructure operations, such as after major storm events. The [director of infrastructure and operations]deputy administrator of engineering and infrastructure operations shall determine the branch and log collection schedule annually and may also amend said schedule as may be necessary, subject to the approval of the administrator.
- (b) Branches and logs shall be left out for collection as follows (per each scheduled collection day):
 - (1) Branches and logs shall be placed in [separate untied bundles or]one pile[s] and left for collection by placing the[bundle(s) or] pile[(s)] on the paved roadway adjacent to the curb or the beginning of the paved roadway immediately adjacent to your property and extending no more than three feet from the curb or if there is no curb, no more than three feet from where the paved roadway begins.
 - (2) Branches and logs must be cut no longer than [three]four feet in length and no larger than [four]six inches in diameter.

- (3) [Bundles and]The single permitted pile[s] of branches [may]and logs shall be no greater in size than [three]twelve feet in length, three feet in width and three feet in height.
- (4) Branches and logs may not be placed on any sidewalk, bike path, bike lane, island, or walkway, over utility boxes such as gas and water shutoffs or sewer clean-outs or within 10 feet of any crosswalk, storm sewer inlet or fire hydrant.
- (5) Branches and logs shall be left out for collection prior to [the start of the]7:00 a.m. on the scheduled date of collection[week], but not more than seven days prior to its start. [For purposes of this Section, "start of the scheduled collection week" shall mean 7:00 a.m. on Monday and "collection week" shall mean Monday through Friday.]

[(c) Logs shall be left out for collection as follows (per each scheduled collection day):

- (1) Logs shall be placed in separate untied bundles or piles and left for collection by placing the bundle(s) or pile(s) on the paved roadway adjacent to the curb or the beginning of the paved roadway and extending no more than three feet from the curb or if there is no curb, no more than three feet from where the paved roadway begins.
- (2) Logs must be cut no longer than three feet in length and no larger than six inches in diameter.
- (3) Bundles and piles of logs shall be no greater in size than three feet in length, three feet in width and three feet in height.
- (4) A maximum amount of three bundles or piles of logs per property may be left for collection.

- (5) Logs may not be placed on any sidewalk, bike path, bike lane, or walkway, over utility boxes such as gas and water shutoffs or sewer clean-outs or within 10 feet of any storm sewer inlet or fire hydrant.
- (6) Logs shall be left out for collection prior to the start of the scheduled collection week, but not more than seven days prior to its start. For purposes of this Section, "start of the scheduled collection week" shall mean 7:00 a.m. on Monday and "collection week" shall mean Monday through Friday.]

[(d)c] Also refer to Schedule[s] A[and B]attached hereto for a summary [and illustration, respectively,]of the requirements of this Section.

[(e)d] Notwithstanding the above, residents may take branches and logs (not greater than six inches in diameter) [may be taken]to the Lawrence Township Ecological Facility, or such other ecological facility that may be designated by the municipality, for disposal. Branches and logs may also be disposed of on an owner's property, such as in wooded areas if practicable.

SCHEDULE A (ARTICLE 1A, SECTIONS T19-1A.3 and T19-1A.4)				
	Loose Leaves	Bagged Leaves	Branches and Logs	[Logs]
Time of Collection	[Monthly during October, November and December] <u>Spring and Fall each year</u>	[Weekly during October, November and December] <u>Spring and Fall each year</u>	Spring and Fall each year	[Spring and Fall each year]
Placement for Collection	Loose leaves are to be placed in <u>one</u> pile[s]	Bagged leaves are to be placed in biodegradable bags	Branches and logs are to be placed in [separate untied bundles or piles] <u>one pile</u>	[Logs are to be placed in separate untied bundles or piles]

SCHEDULE A
(ARTICLE 1A, SECTIONS T19-1A.3 and T19-1A.4)

	Loose Leaves	Bagged Leaves	Branches and Logs	[Logs]
Limitations on Quantity or Size of Materials	<u>One pile measuring no greater in size than 3 feet in width & 3 feet in height [3 feet wide]. The pile shall not extend beyond the width of the individual property frontage</u>	None	Branches and logs must be cut no longer than 3 feet in length & no larger than [4]6 inches in diameter [Bunches or piles] <u>The pile of branches and logs shall be no greater in size than [3]12 feet in length, 3 feet in width & 3 feet in height</u>	[Logs must be cut no longer than 3 feet in length & no larger than 6 inches in diameter] [Bunches or piles of logs shall be no greater in size than 3 feet in width, 3 feet in length & 3 feet in height] [A maximum of 3 bundles or piles of logs per property may be left for any scheduled collection]
Where Materials Must be Left for Collection	On paved roadway but not more than 3 feet into paved roadway (measured from curb or if no curb, from where pavement begins). <u>immediately adjacent to your property</u>	On grass (or dirt area if not grass) that is immediately adjacent to edge of paved roadway but not on paved roadway itself or on the curb. <u>immediately adjacent to your property</u>	On paved roadway but not more than 3 feet into paved roadway (measured from curb or if no curb, from where pavement begins). <u>immediately adjacent to your property</u>	[On paved roadway but not more than 3 feet into paved roadway (measured from curb or if no curb, from where pavement begins)]
When Materials Must be Left for Collection	Not more than 7 days prior to [scheduled collection work] <u>7:00 a.m. on the scheduled date of collection</u>	Not more than 7 days prior to [scheduled collection work] <u>7:00 a.m. on the scheduled date of collection</u>	Not more than 7 days prior to [scheduled collection work] <u>7:00 a.m. on the scheduled date of collection</u>	[Not more than 7 days prior to scheduled collection week]

[SCHEDULE B]

Section 3. Chapter 19 of the Township Code, entitled “Streets, Sidewalks, Bike Lanes and Shared Use Paths,” is hereby amended by updating section 19-1A.6 within article IA (concerning the leaf, branch and log removal program) to read as follows (additions are underlined; deletions are [bracketed]):

Sec. 19-1A.6 Enforcement, violations and penalties.

- (a) The provisions of this article shall be enforced by the department of engineering and infrastructure [and] operations, department of health and the police department.
- (b) In the event a person violates any provision of this article, the deputy administrator of engineering and infrastructure operations (or designee) shall provide the person with written notice of the violation and an opportunity to correct or abate the violation. In the event the person fails to correct or abate the violation within five calendar days of receipt of the written notice, the deputy administrator of engineering and infrastructure operations may do so, or cause the same to be done and, upon completion thereof, render a bill to the person so notified for the work done and the money expended therefor. If payment shall not be made within 60 days from the time of completion of such work, suit may be brought in the name of the municipality for the amount due in any court of competent jurisdiction. Also in the event the person fails to correct or abate said violation within the time provided in the written notice, the deputy administrator of engineering and infrastructure operations may file a summons and complaint returnable in municipal court to prosecute said violation(s).

((b)c) Any person violating the provisions of this article shall be subject to such fines and other penalties as set forth in Section 1-6 of this Code.

Section 4. All ordinances and resolutions or parts thereof inconsistent with this ordinance are repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 5. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion thereof.

Section 6. This ordinance shall take effect upon its final adoption and publication as provided for by law. The provisions of this ordinance shall be applicable within Princeton upon taking effect and shall become a part of the new Princeton Code once completed and adopted.

Delores A. Williams, Clerk

Mark Freda, Mayor

Ordinance Introduced: May 8, 2023
Ordinance Adopted: May 23, 2023

NEWSPAPER PUBLICATIONS:

First Insertion: May 12, 2023
Final Insertion: May 26, 2023

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: The purpose of this ordinance is to make various changes to the provisions of the Princeton Code dealing with the leaf, brush and log removal program. The size of branch, log, and leaf piles has been simplified and standardized. Inspections and actions to remedy violations are added.