



# FAQs and Information on the “Leaf-Saver” Program

## 1. What is the Leaf-Saver program and what are these signs for?

The Leaf-Saver program is a pilot program created by the Public Works Department to help those residents who wish to keep their leaves onsite, rather than have them picked up as part of the annual leaf collection program. Fallen leaves are a great source of nutrients for gardens and lawns. These ‘left’ leaves can be used for compost in yards and gardens, or left on the ground to protect the invertebrates living beneath them. If you are interested in learning more about the benefits of leaving your leaves in place, [www.xerces.org/blog/leave-the-leaves](http://www.xerces.org/blog/leave-the-leaves) is a great resource. By placing these signs in your yard, you are signaling to the leaf collection crew that they don’t need to pick up your leaves. *However, even if you put out Leaf-Saver signs your leaves will still be picked up if they are piled in the street, along the curb, on the sidewalk, near storm drains, or are likely to encroach on these areas.*

## 2. How many signs can I get? Where should I put them?

Leaf-Saver signs are needed if a **significant amount of your leaves are being left within 10 feet of the street**. If you are keeping your leaves, but they are piled further back in your yard there is no need to take a sign. We are asking that people limit themselves to 2 signs. However, if you live on a corner property and need more signs, you can take up to 4. Please place the signs at either end of your property, signaling that the leaves within the sign boundaries should not be picked up. Please place signs in an area where they can be seen from the street, and not blocked by bushes or trees. The signs need to be visible to the leaf collection crews in order to be effective. *Please, only put signs on your property. They should not be placed in someone else’s property or in public parks.*

## 3. When should I put up my signs?

We are asking that signs be put up by the first day of leaf collection on **November 18, 2024**. Please leave the signs up for the duration of leaf collection, until December 20th.

## 4. What can I do with my leaves?

When choosing to keep your leaves, *do not dump your leaves into public parks or into properties that are not yours*. Also, make sure to keep your leaves away from the street/curb. Wet leaves on the roadway can create a hazard and there is still a chance they will be picked up if they are along the curb. Remember while you are arranging and moving your leaves, this is the last fall in which gas leaf blowers can be used.

## 5. What if I have more questions?

You can find more information about leaf collection and this program by searching “leaf collection” on the Takoma Park Website: <https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/public-works/curbside-collection-services/yard-waste-and-fall-leaf-collection/>

You can also call Public Works at 301 891-7633, Monday - Friday 8:30 am to 5 pm.