

# City of Wauwatosa

## 2026 Guide for Garbage, Recycling & Yard Waste

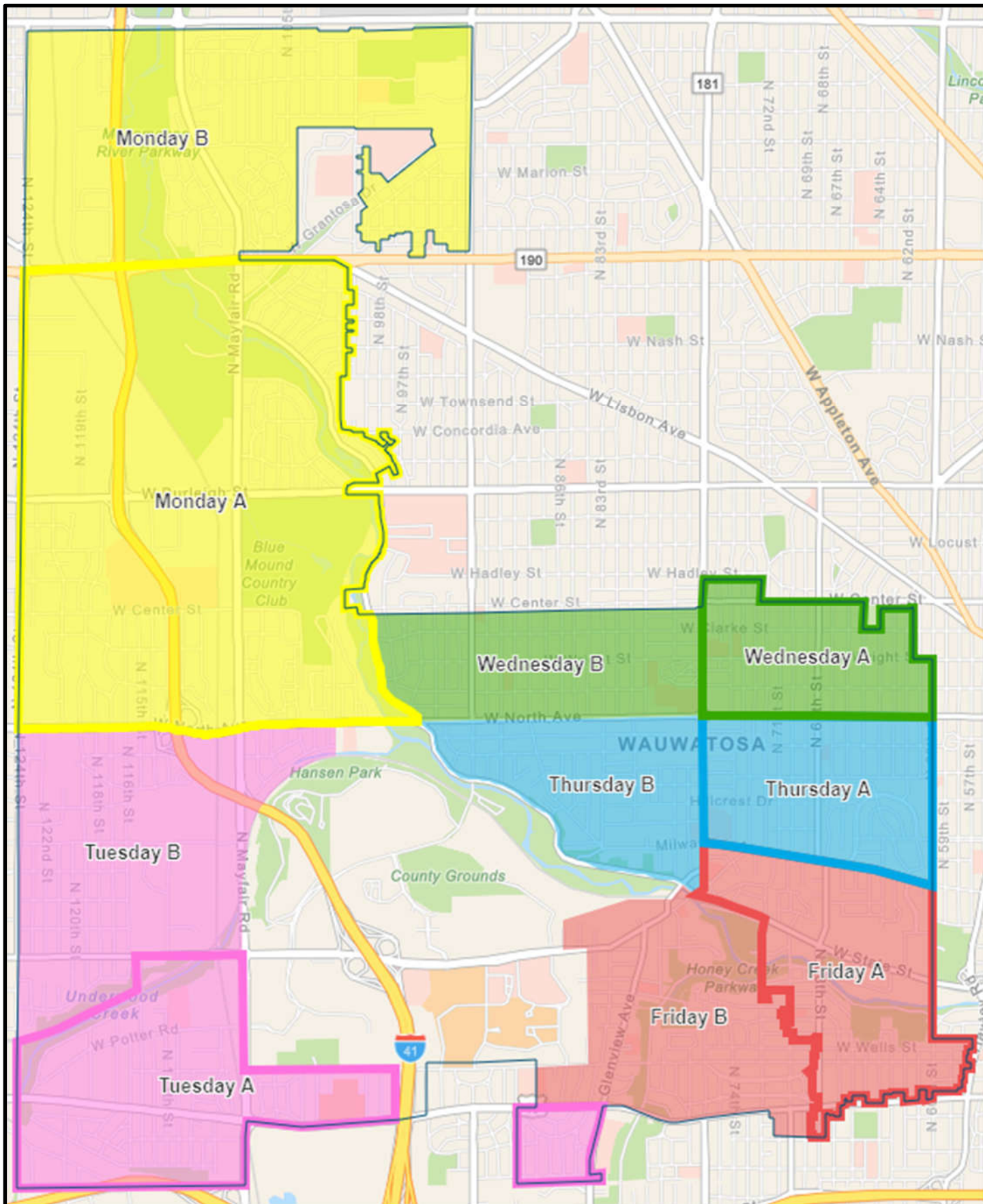
Check your personalized collection schedule at [www.wauwatosa.net/refuse](http://www.wauwatosa.net/refuse)

### 2026 Holiday Collection Schedule

| Date                                          | Day             | Schedule                              |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>New Year's Day, January 1</b>              | <b>Thursday</b> | <b>Delayed Collection</b>             |
| January 2                                     | Friday          | Pick up Thursday, January 1 routes    |
| January 3                                     | Saturday        | Pick up Friday, January 2 routes      |
| <b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 19</b> | <b>Monday</b>   | <b>No Change to Collection</b>        |
| <b>Spring Holiday, April 3</b>                | <b>Friday</b>   | <b>No Change to Collection</b>        |
| <b>Memorial Day, May 25</b>                   | <b>Monday</b>   | <b>Delayed Collection</b>             |
| May 26                                        | Tuesday         | Pick up Monday, May 25 routes         |
| May 27                                        | Wednesday       | Pick up Tuesday, May 26 routes        |
| May 28                                        | Thursday        | Pick up Wednesday, May 27 routes      |
| May 29                                        | Friday          | Pick up Thursday, May 28 routes       |
| May 30                                        | Saturday        | Pick up Friday, May 29 routes         |
| <b>Juneteenth, June 19</b>                    | <b>Friday</b>   | <b>No Change to Collection</b>        |
| <b>Independence Day, July 4</b>               | <b>Saturday</b> | <b>No Change to Collection</b>        |
| <b>Labor Day, September 7</b>                 | <b>Monday</b>   | <b>Delayed Collection</b>             |
| September 8                                   | Tuesday         | Pick up Monday, September 7 routes    |
| September 9                                   | Wednesday       | Pick up Tuesday, September 8 routes   |
| September 10                                  | Thursday        | Pick up Wednesday, September 9 routes |
| September 11                                  | Friday          | Pick up Thursday, September 10 routes |
| September 12                                  | Saturday        | Pick up Friday, September 11 routes   |
| <b>Thanksgiving, November 26</b>              | <b>Thursday</b> | <b>Delayed Collection</b>             |
| November 27                                   | Friday          | Pick up Thursday, November 27 routes  |
| November 28                                   | Saturday        | Pick up Friday, November 27 routes    |
| <b>Christmas Day, December 25</b>             | <b>Friday</b>   | <b>Delayed Collection</b>             |
| December 26                                   | Saturday        | Pick up Friday, December 25 routes    |
| <b>New Year's Day, January 1 2027</b>         | <b>Friday</b>   | <b>Delayed Collection</b>             |

# Wauwatosa Collection Map

To view your personalized Garbage, Recycling and Yard Waste schedule, please visit our interactive map at [www.wauwatosa.net/refuse](http://www.wauwatosa.net/refuse).





## Not sure how to dispose of something?

Try using our Waste Wizard tool online. Search for an item, and we'll tell you how to dispose, recycle, reuse or compost an item:

**[wauwatosa.net/wizard](http://wauwatosa.net/wizard)**

We also offer several types of special collections for your large items and/or waste materials for a fee. These items include:

- Large piles of unbundled branches or brush
- Major household appliances
- Large / bulky items such as discarded furniture, household equipment, and clean-outs which exceed size and weight limitations

For more information on garbage, recycling or yard waste services visit

**[www.wauwatosa.net/refuse](http://www.wauwatosa.net/refuse)**

## Clearing Snow from the Sidewalk

*Wauwatosa neighbors have a duty to keep sidewalks clear of ice and snow. This helps prevent accidents and makes it easier for people to walk in Wauwatosa.*

### Property owners must clear snow and ice from:

- **Public sidewalks** next to your property
- **Wide multi-use paths** next to your property (you must clear at least 5 feet. Multi-use paths are usually 10-12 feet wide)
  - Commercial property owners and residential properties with five or more units must clear the entire width of the multi-use path
- **Bus stops** next to your property (other than Milwaukee County Bus Rapid Transit stops)

### Clear it within 24 hours

Under a new local ordinance, we require property owners to clear snow and ice within 24 hours after snow has stopped falling.

### Complaints, fees for not following the rule

When the city receives a complaint that a sidewalk has not been cleared after 24 hours of a snow event, our staff will clear the sidewalk and charge the property owner for the service.

For more information visit **[wauwatosa.net/snow](http://wauwatosa.net/snow)**

## Yard Materials

Curbside yard waste collection will occur **April 27, 2026 through September 25, 2026**. Yard waste is collected on the opposite weeks of your scheduled recycling pick up day.

Curbside pickup is limited to a total of 10 paper bags, containers or bundles per pick up. Each must weigh less than 50lbs. For larger quantities or piles, please call (414) 471-8422 for an estimate for a special pick up.

Leaves and brush must be separated from other household garbage. DO NOT include grass clippings, dirt/soil, root balls, vegetables, stumps or branches over 6 inches in diameter. Please remember to:

- Place your yard materials at the curb before 7:00 am on your collection day.
- Mark reusable containers with "Yard Waste" in letters that are 2 inches or larger. (Please note the City cannot repair or replace any personal yard waste containers.)
- Bundle brush with string or twine. Please do not use wire or plastic. Bundles should be no longer than 4 feet and no heavier than 50 lbs.

## Grass Clippings

Grass is not collected at the curb or at the Drop Off Center. Please handle grass clippings by composting, grass-cycling, mulching or by using commercial services to manage your lawn and clippings.

REMINDER: Use only phosphorus-free fertilizers.

## Fall Leaf Collection

Curbside leaf collection will begin October 12th. Leaf collection may vary depending on seasonal changes. A final rake out date will be announced based upon weather conditions. Visit [wauwatosa.net/leafcollection](http://wauwatosa.net/leafcollection) for dates and to see the collection schedule. Violators are subject to a charge for the removal of leaves placed out after the final pick up has been completed.

## Refuse & Recycling Carts

Garbage carts have black lids and are collected weekly on your assigned collection day.

Recycling carts have yellow lids and are collected every other week on your assigned collection day.

Place your garbage and recycling carts at the curb no later than **7 am** on your scheduled pick up day.

The best place to put your garbage or recycling cart is:

- in your driveway apron
- if your pick-up is in the alley, carts should be placed as close as possible to the alley edge
- Provide a minimum of three (3) feet of clearance around the carts to provide access for our automated equipment

**We cannot pick up carts blocked by parked cars or other obstacles and we cannot pick up items outside your garbage or recycling cart.**

## Cart Repair & Replacement

We can repair or replace lids, wheels and axles on our recycling and garbage carts at no cost to you.

If your garbage or recycling cart is damaged, we can replace it for a fee of \$85.00 plus tax. If we damaged the cart, and we can't repair it, we will replace the cart free of charge.

Additional carts are available for purchase:

- A second recycling cart has a one-time fee of \$85.00 plus tax.
- The fee for a second garbage cart is \$100 annually.

Call the Public Works office at (414) 471-8422 for assistance with cart repairs or replacements.

## Winter Weather Reminder!

Please do not place your garbage carts in the street during winter weather because it obstructs the plowing and salting operations. Please place the cart in the apron of your driveway.

# Drop Off Center

## Hours of Operation

Wednesday and Saturday: 7:30am-4:00pm  
Summer **WEDNESDAY** Extended Hours  
(April - August): 7:30am-7:00pm

## Permits & Fees

Recycling and Scrap Metal: \$5 per load

Refuse and Construction Debris:

- Under 1 cubic yard (passenger car trunk or backseat): \$10
- 1-3 cubic yards (pick-up truck): \$20
- 3-6 cubic yards (small trailer): \$30
- 6-10 cubic yards (large trailer or small box truck): \$50
- 10-18 cubic yards (large box truck or enclosed trailer): \$90

Yard Waste

- Individual yard waste: \$5 per load
- Annual yard waste permit: \$20 per permit

Major Appliances: \$30 each

Tires: \$5 - \$10 each

TVs and Monitors: \$30 - \$45 each

## Purchasing a Permit

Permits can be purchased at the Department of Public Works Attendant Station (Entrance to Drop Off Center).

Drop Off Center accepted payment forms:

- Credit Card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover)
- Check

## Drop Off Items

**The following is a list of items that may be brought to the Drop Off Center:**

- Recyclables: Newspapers, books, cardboard, metal cans, glass bottles and jars (including metal jar lids) and all plastic containers marked with #1, #2 and #5. (Please make sure recyclables are empty, clean and dry.)
- Motor Oil: Used motor oil from vehicles. (**NO** Hydraulic fluids, solvents, paints and vegetable oil.)
- Scrap Metal: Metal pans, chairs, siding, shelves, pipes, doors, fences, **EMPTY** paint cans, **EMPTY** and **PUNCTURED** gas cans and other scrap metal. (**NO** propane or compressed gas tanks.)
- Clean Fill (up to 1 cubic yard): Clean dirt, sod, rocks, rubble, bricks and concrete block.
- Wood: Clean, unpainted and untreated lumber, pallets and crates.
- Yard Materials: Brush, branches, and leaves. (**NO** grass clippings.)
- Garbage: Household rubbish (**NO** hazardous waste.)

## Drop Off Items

No refunds will be issued for unused yard waste permits.

The City will not be responsible for lost yard waste permits.

**A valid Wisconsin Driver's License with a current Wauwatosa address** will be required to enter the Center and to purchase permits.

The Drop Off Center is for household use only, not commercial. Contractor vehicles are not permitted.