

City of Caribou – Public Service Announcement

For many years, Caribou Public Works has provided a seasonal brush removal service intended to help residents dispose of downed branches or small trees that may have fallen during winter storms or throughout the year. The purpose of this service was specifically for brush and tree debris placed curbside for collection.

Each year, the City has clearly communicated that **only brush and tree debris** should be placed curbside for pickup. Unfortunately, over time the service has increasingly been misused. Public Works crews have encountered large amounts of materials that were never intended to be part of this program, including lawn clippings, pet waste, potted planting soil, painted wood, lumber containing nails, hypodermic needles, and other debris.

In addition to creating safety concerns for our employees, these materials significantly increase the time required for collection and cleanup. This takes valuable time away from important Public Works responsibilities such as culvert repairs, ditching, and preparing roads for the City's summer paving projects.

The materials left behind also create additional problems during our spring street sweeping operations. Debris that is not picked up by property owners frequently clogs our sweepers, forcing crews to spend additional time returning to manually shovel and remove the mess left behind.

Because of continued misuse of this service, the City of Caribou has decided to discontinue the curbside brush removal program.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate the public's understanding. Our goal is to ensure that the Public Works Department can focus its time and resources on maintaining infrastructure and providing the highest level of service possible for the residents and taxpayers of Caribou.

Thank you,

Chris Perkins

Caribou Public Works Director