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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

For immediate release Monday, August 17, 2015

City debris cleanup winding down, drop sites closing soon

In the aftermath of last week's thunderstorm, City forestry crews have cleared tree debris from 75 to 80 percent of Missoula's public boulevards. Citizens are asked to discontinue placing tree debris on the boulevards for pickup, as curbside debris pickup is ending by mid-week. City foresters are turning their attention back to previously scheduled tree maintenance and hazardous tree removal.

The department will honor previously submitted debris pickup requests, as long as the debris is from a City-owned boulevard or right-of-way tree. The City cannot remove debris from private trees, lawn waste or garbage, and crews will not return to streets that have been cleared once.

The storm debris drop site at McCormick Park is closed because of a construction project beginning at Silver Summit Playground. Residents can take downed limbs from boulevard trees to the drop site at Playfair Park baseball fields until it closes on Wednesday morning, August 19. The drop site at Fort Missoula will be open for boulevard tree debris until Monday morning, August 24.

To dispose of debris from trees on private property, EKO Compost at 1125 Clark Fork Lane is accepting downed branches from the general public for \$5 a pickup load – a discount from normal fees – through Sunday, Aug. 23. Normal prices resume Monday. Limbs must be smaller than 16 inches in diameter. To dispose of larger pieces, visit the Missoula Landfill at 3737 Old Coal Mine Road.

The Urban Forestry Division reminds residents that all boulevard tree pruning must have prior approval from the City Forester and must be performed by a certified arborist. Tree topping, or cutting back a tree's major limbs to a uniform height, is never good for a tree. Topping disfigures and weakens a tree, creating a greater safety hazard. Visit www.missoulaparks.org for a list of ISA certified arborists in Missoula.

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