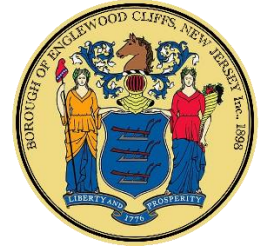


Leave the Leaves...



Take A Break, Don't Rake! Mow, Don't Blow!

Dear Englewood Cliffs Resident,

Here is an amazingly simple way you can help the environment AND save our town thousands of dollars per year. It's called **Leave the Leaves**. The idea is quite simple: Instead of spending precious tax dollars to collect fallen leaves, we ask landscapers and homeowners to recycle them right on their properties.

Our neighbors in Englewood, NJ; as well as other communities such as Bedford and Irvington, NY; Madison, WI; San Antonio, TX, and many other places, all **Leave the Leaves!**

Leave the Leaves will help the environment, because those leaves replace lawn fertilizers. It avoids the exasperation of piles of leaves that take up parking spaces, clog drains, and present fire risk. The idea behind **Leave the Leaves** is simple and scientifically sound. Think of your property as an ecosystem, like a forest or prairie. An ecosystem is self-contained: everything it produces is used right there in place. As leaves die, they fall to the ground, where they serve several important ecological roles: they insulate the soil from sudden changes in temperature; they also release nutrients into the soil, fertilizing it and improving drainage and soil conditions.

Leave the Leaves brings these benefits to your property. Instead of raking or blowing fallen leaves to the curb, you use them as FREE natural mulch and fertilizer.

Here's what you do:

1. **Mulch while you mow. Remove the collecting bag on your mower or ask your lawn service to leave the clippings on the lawn rather than collecting them. In the autumn, as the leaves fall on your lawn, wait for a layer up to 6 inches deep to accumulate.**
2. **Then mow over them but do not collect the clippings. You will shred the leaves into exceedingly small pieces which will break down quickly. Depending on the number and type of trees you have, you may have to do these two or three times.**
3. **Leave the Leaves** beneath your shrubs and perennials. These leaves are free winter mulch for your plants. If you usually add wood mulch each year, you will need much less next season.

Mayor Mark Park