

# Headlines



## City of Rock Island Clean Up Efforts

**August 5, 2008**

Clean-up efforts are continuing this week as the City of Rock Island recovers from the July 21, 2008 storm. The City started the massive clean-up on Monday, July 28<sup>th</sup> with a free special collection of trees, limbs and branches.

City and contracted crews will complete the clean-up in the Monday and Tuesday garbage collection routes this week. Areas around Rock Island schools were also picked up last week so that sidewalks would be clear for the start of school. As of Friday, crews started working in portions of the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday garbage collection routes.

“We are pleased with the progress our crews have made during the first week of the clean-up. However, we ask for patience and understanding from residents because of the enormity of the task. It will take several weeks to complete the clean-up,” according to John Phillips, City Manager.

The City is using Public Works crews and equipment and has also hired private contractors to help.

There are five loader crews working throughout the City. Each is comprised of one loader, one semi dump truck, one tandem dump truck and two ground personnel. There is also one three-person chipper crew working in the areas with less heavy damage. At the 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue site the City has leased a tub grinder and operator and a loader and operator.

Storm damage and clean-up work is estimated to cost the City more than \$500,000. Rock Island officials said they will be making every effort to obtain a federal disaster declaration so that the City and private property owners can be eligible for federal assistance.

As this major clean-up operation continues, the Public Works Department is maintaining its refuse and yard waste collection, the recycling programs, special pick-ups, mowing operations, utility patch program and the sod replacement program.

The City issued several reminders for residents:

1. Once crews have collected limbs at your address, they will not return if more material is put out later. Other options include the special drop-off location listed below or call Public Works at 309-732-2200 to schedule a special pick-up.

2. Rock Island citizens can take trees and limbs to the free special drop-off location on 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue near 1<sup>st</sup> Street, just west of Ted's Boatarama. Residents are asked to take materials to this location rather than the City's drop-off center.
3. A burning ban remains in effect in Rock Island until further notice. No leaf burning or recreational burning is allowed in the City until further notice.
4. In the City of Rock Island, tree service contractors must be licensed. Citizens can call the City Clerk from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at (309) 732-2010 to find out if a contractor is licensed or get a list of licensed tree services. Contractors can contact the City Clerk to get a license.