

WHY DO I NOT SEE THE STREET SWEEPER FREQUENTLY?

You may not see the street sweeper for two reasons. First, the Town's sweepers often operate on arterials and collectors from 4 to 7 a.m. when traffic volumes are light and conditions are safer. Second, the sweeper may be sweeping your residential streets later in the day, when many residents may be away from their homes.

WHAT ABOUT CARS PARKED ON STREETS? WILL YOU COME BACK AND SWEEP IF THEY ARE MOVED?

No. If a small area must be skipped due to on-street parking, the Town will not come back through for a re-sweep. Doing so is not efficient and causes delays in the scheduled sweeping of all other Town streets.

WHY DO THE STREET SWEEPERS GO SO SLOW?

Street sweepers are most effective when operated at 3 to 5 mph.



WHAT IS RAQC?

RAQC, or Regional Air Quality Council, is the lead air quality planning agency for the Denver metro/north Front Range region. The Town of Parker, along with most local governments in the Denver metro/Front Range area, participate in RAQC programs to ensure steps are being taken to ensure appropriate air quality standards are met.

For more information on Parker's street sweeping operations, please visit www.ParkerOnline.org/StreetsMaintenance.



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STREET SWEEPING INFORMATION

Information about street sweeping operations in the Town of Parker.



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The Town of Parker fields many questions, comments, concerns and complaints about street sweeping in Parker. We want to share the following information with the community as a whole.

WHEN WILL MY STREET BE SWEEPED?

The Engineering and Public Works Department is responsible for street sweeping activities in the Town of Parker. Currently, the Town has two (2) street sweepers plus two (2) full-time staff dedicated to sweeping. Essentially, there are two (2) sweeping seasons in Parker. These sweeping seasons are operationally referred to as the “snow season” and the “summer season.”

During the late fall, winter and early spring months (snow season), the Town focuses on sweeping the plowed network of streets. These are the same roadways (collector and arterial) that the Town clears during/after snow events. This sweeping effort is conducted to provide clean-up of excess solid deicing materials (salt) used during snow events. The post-snow-event sweeping ensures the Town is in compliance with regional air quality standards. The established goal is to sweep the entire plowed network within 72 hours after a snow event. During this period of the year, October through April, Town sweepers, while focusing on arterials and collectors, may sweep residential streets and neighborhoods as time and weather conditions permit.

The routine sweeping of all Town streets is scheduled to occur from late April through early October (summer season). During this period of the year, the Town strives to sweep all Town

streets, including residential local streets, a minimum of four (4) times. Streets sweepers focus on arterials and collectors during the early morning hours and shift to residential streets once the morning rush hour begins.

Additionally, our sweepers are used to clean up after traffic accidents or spills of non-hazardous materials on Town streets. The sweepers are also used to clean-up after large events that occur on our streets, such as Parker Days.

WHY DOES THE TOWN OF PARKER SWEEP STREETS?

The Town of Parker provides street sweeping primarily to improve and maintain accepted air quality levels in the Town and in the Denver metro area. Many residents of Denver are familiar with the “brown cloud” and air quality problems that occurred in the 1980s. Street sweeping helps to remove particulates from the environment and keep those particulates from entering the atmosphere.

In addition to providing a Best Management Practice (BMP) for air quality, street sweeping is also an excellent water quality BMP. The Town of Parker removes over 1,500 tons of sediment and debris from its streets annually, keeping this material out of the storm water system and, ultimately, Cherry Creek.

In addition to keeping the environment clean, street sweeping keeps our roads safer for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians while enhancing the beauty of Parker.

HOW DOES THE STREET SWEEPER WORK?

The Town uses two (2) different types of sweepers, a mechanical broom sweeper and a regenerative air sweeper. The mechanical broom sweeper is the most common type. It works by “sweeping” via the mechanical brooms, conveying the material to the center of the truck, where the material is then vacuumed to a hopper. The mechanical broom sweeper is proven, effective and relatively simple to operate. Currently, 90% of all street sweeping in the United States is accomplished using some type of mechanical broom sweeper.

The regenerative air sweeper uses forced air to push the targeted debris into an air column under the sweeper. This material is then vacuumed from the air into the hopper. This process requires no brooms, relying solely on forced air to remove the material from the surface and into the hopper for disposal. The regenerative air sweeper is particularly effective in removing smaller particles that cause air and water quality contamination. While highly effective, the regenerative air sweeper can be noisy due to an auxiliary engine needed to create the high volume of forced air. These types of sweepers are typically more expensive than the mechanical broom sweepers.