

The Lake County Health Department encourages residents to mulch or bag landscape waste rather than burn it to protect public health and the environment. However, landscape waste is allowed to be burned in most areas of unincorporated Lake County. The following guidelines are provided to minimize the impact on public health and the environment when burning occurs. Many municipalities have their own restrictions, which are provided below.

Guidelines for burning landscape wastes

- Contact the local fire protection district for any applicable regulations and/or restrictions.
- Do not burn if the wind direction will impact neighbors, especially if they're sensitive to smoke.
- Maintain at least a 25' buffer between the burn pile and buildings.
- Do not burn in ditches, drainage ways or within 25 feet of a body of water.
- Burn only during daylight hours, smoke dissipates best between mid-morning and mid-afternoon.
- Attend and manage burn piles at all times.
- Burn dry landscape wastes to minimize smoldering piles and smoke.
- Keep the pile size small as it burns quicker and produces less smoke.
- Burn only on calm days to prevent wind from spreading smoke and dispersing embers.
- Extinguish the fire if smoke reduces visibility and creates a road hazard for drivers.
- Have a sufficient source of water, dirt or sand to extinguish a fire that gets out of control.

Only property-generated landscape waste may be burned. Landscape waste generally means all accumulations of grass or shrubbery cuttings, leaves, tree limbs, and other materials accumulated as the result of the care of lawns, shrubbery, vines and trees. Some communities prohibit burning grass or green materials.

Garbage and construction materials are not included. No fires may be set in any public right-of-way (including ditches), public land or public places.

Many municipalities have special use permits or other regulations regarding recreational fires. Check with your municipality or local fire department for these regulations.

MUNICIPALITIES THAT ALLOW OPEN BURNING WITH NO RESTRICTIONS

Municipality	Remarks
Mettawa	No Restrictions

MUNICIPALITIES THAT ALLOW, BUT RESTRICT OPEN BURNING

Municipality	Remarks
Bannockburn	No leaves or grass clippings. Only branches and brush may be burned.
Barrington Hills	Only brush and leaves may be burned, no longer than three hours/day.

Municipality	Remarks
Beach Park	Dawn to dusk April 1 - Nov 30 only. Out of season by permit.
Deer Park	Weekends only, April 1-May 31, Oct 15-Nov 30. 10 am-6 pm.
Fox Lake	April 1-June 1, Sept 1-Dec 1. 30 feet from any structure.
Green Oaks	No leaves or grass clippings. Permit required. Restrictions on times allowed.
Indian Creek	No leaf or grass burning. Permit needed April 15-May 30, Oct 15-Nov 30.
Lake Barrington	No grass clippings, only leaves and small branches. Oct 1- May 31 only, 9 am-6 pm with restrictions and permit.
Lake Forest	With restrictions and permit.
Lakemoor	No burning on Christmas or New Year's Day.
Long Grove	No leaf burning, branches only.
North Barrington	Landscape waste Jan-Dec, any day noon-5 pm. Leaf burns April 1-May 31 & Oct 1-Nov 30, Thurs and Sun only 10 am-3 pm. No burning allowed on national holidays.
Old Mill Creek	Must get verbal permit from Fire Department.
Port Barrington	No green shrubbery, including grass.
Riverwoods	Only landscape waste.
Round Lake	Leaves & twigs Mon-Sat, no Sunday, 9 am-sunset, 10' from all structures, not in right of way, attended by person 16 or older.
Round Lake Park	Only leaves, 9/1-12/1.
Third Lake	April 15 - May 15, Nov 1-Nov 30, 9 am-3 pm.
Tower Lakes	Leaves and small branches only, April 1-May 31, Oct 1-Dec 15, 9 am-4 pm.
Volo	Landscape waste, no grass clippings.
Wadsworth	With managed restrictions. (1000' from a school when in session or students are present), not within 25' of any structure
Unincorporated Lake County	Check with local Fire Department.

MUNICIPALITIES THAT DO NOT ALLOW OPEN BURNING

Antioch
Barrington
Buffalo Grove
Deerfield
Fox River Grove
Grayslake
Gurnee
Hainesville
Hawthorn Woods
Highland Park
Highwood
Island Lake
Kildeer
Lake Bluff
Lake Villa
Lake Zurich
Libertyville
Lincolnshire
Lindenhurst
Mundelein
North Chicago
Park City
Round Lake Beach
Round Lake Heights
Vernon Hills
Wauconda
Waukegan
Wheeling
Winthrop Harbor
Zion
County of Lake properties & facilities