



ACT
Government

Transport Canberra and
City Services

Collaborative Response

Requested by: MSU

Collaborating Unit: Roads ACT

Subject: Street sweeping/Tree Pruning in Greenup Close, Florey

Objective Reference: MIN S2024/00975

Please address the following issues:

First, most of the public trees in this street are relatively mature deciduous varieties – many with branches that overhang this narrow street (Figure 1). When these trees shed, many leaves end up covering the street, requiring street sweeping.

I understand from City Services that ‘every street in Canberra receives at least 2 full sweeps each year’, with certain suburbs receiving ‘additional sweeps ... during the heavy sweeping leaf period’. Florey is not one of these suburbs.

According to information on the City Services website, Greenup Close’s two scheduled sweeping periods are sometime between January and April and then again between September and December. Neither of these periods, however, aligns with when the street trees in Greenup Close drop their leaves – leaving the street thickly covered in leaves from the end of autumn and through the duration of winter.

Residents respectfully request that street sweeping schedules be managed to take into account what kinds of street trees grow in individual streets. For example, streets with eucalypts should be swept in the summer months when leaf fall is heaviest; streets with deciduous species should be swept soon after the species involved are likely to have their heaviest leaf fall.

On behalf of these residents, I also write to ask for the precise dates when Greenup Close was swept over the past five years.

Response:

- Greenup Close in Florey has approximately 1,300 sqm of Quercus (oak tree) foliage. Comparatively, the inner north and south suburbs hold over 4,000,000 sqm of deciduous trees canopy.
- The leaf fall from deciduous trees can impact traffic / pedestrian access, create safety hazards and impact water quality. Therefore the areas that have the greatest concentration of these trees are given priority during leaf fall periods, based on the resources available to TCCS.
- Along with the 4,000,000 sqm of deciduous canopy in the inner suburbs, there is another 16,000,000sqm of gum tree canopy that must be maintained across the 80 plus suburbs of Canberra. Roads ACT has 5 street sweepers available to undertake the core street sweeping program. City Presentation have some additional smaller sweepers that can be used to supplement the core street sweeping program.



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- The sweeping program is setup to follow leaf fall at its peak times around Canberra.
- Florey is swept twice a year. The exact dates of previous sweeps over the last 5 years is not available
- An additional sweep of Florey has been programmed for July, when resources become available.

UT response

- As advised by the Supervisor for the North region the lifting and clearing of the lights within Greenup close has been programmed next week weather depending.
- In general terms, it is accepted practice for residents in the ACT to maintain their nature strips, excluding street trees, as an extension of their garden. Responsibility for clearing of leaf litter that falls from nature strip trees therefore rests with residents and the Government does not remove this material.