

ISSUES BRIEF

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Clean City Program reports progress

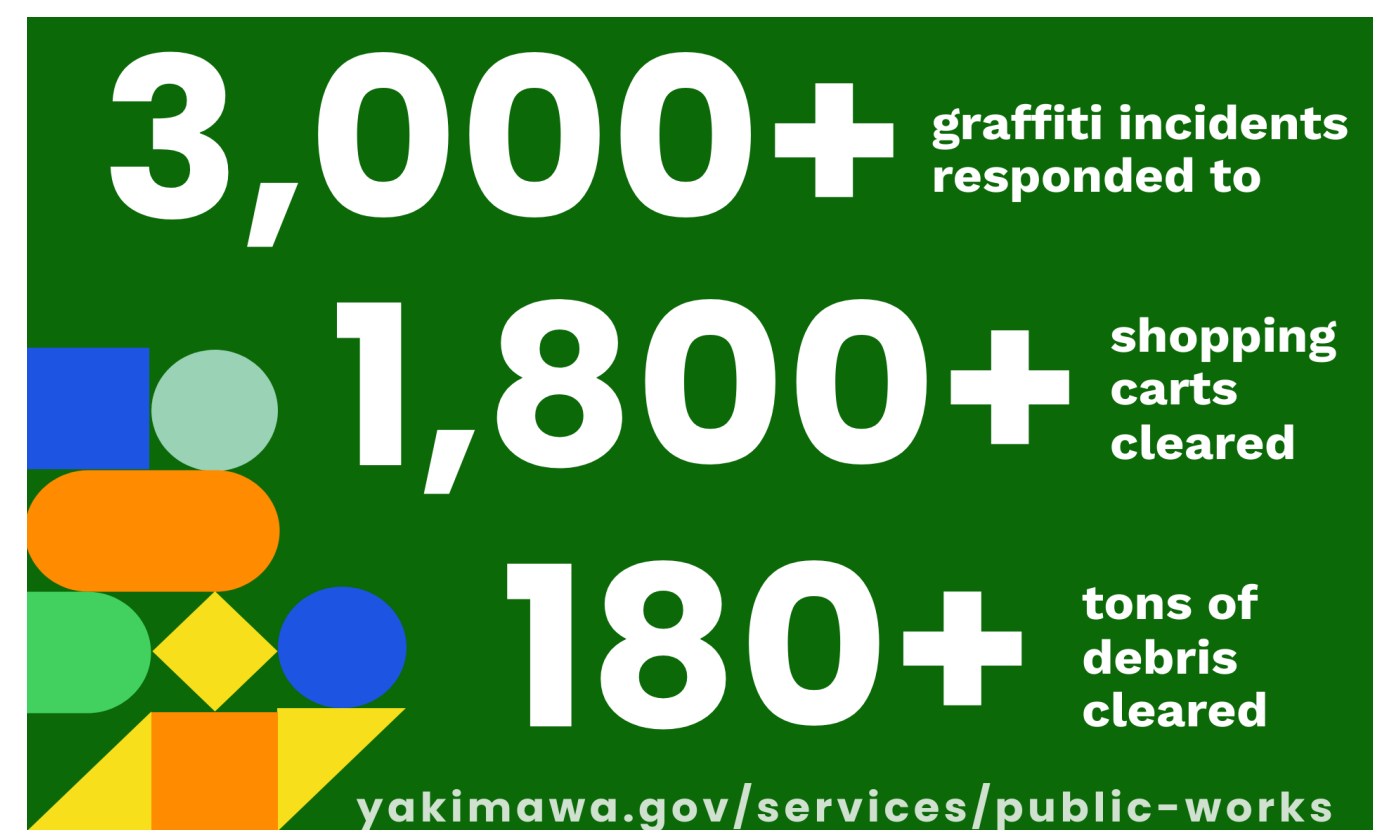
Graffiti incidents reduced by more than 50 percent

Responding to over 3,000 graffiti incidents, removing over 1,800 shopping carts and clearing over 180 tons of garbage were some of the City of Yakima Clean City Program activities in 2021.

The Yakima City Council received reports on the program in the agenda packet for its meeting on Tuesday, March 1st.

"Incidents of graffiti were sharply reduced in 2021 by 52.3 percent in comparison to 2020," said Public Works Director Scott Schafer. "This is directly attributed to the efforts of community members, residents and staff placing an emphasis on the rapid removal of graffiti."

Clean City nearly doubled the amount of garbage removed in 2021. Last year, Clean City collected and removed 183.33 tons of garbage compared to 93.6 tons in 2020 for a 96.5 percent increase.



Click [Coversheet \(novusagenda.com\)](https://www.yakimawa.gov/services/public-works/cover-sheet) for a copy of the report. It includes a Clean City Program report for the 4th quarter of 2021.

The City of Yakima developed "Clean City" as a program in 2019. Its main objectives are:

- Expedite clean-up of such illegal dumps
- Clean up homeless encampments
- Support Yakima Police Department officers in unlawful camping enforcement
- Provide coordination with neighborhoods for clean-up events
- Create educational components
- Engage community partners & volunteers

Clean City, under the direction of the City's Public Works Division, coordinates the efforts of several City departments and community partners.

They include:

City of Yakima Public Works:

- Public Works Administration
- Refuse Division
- Streets & Traffic Division
- Parks & Recreation Division

City of Yakima Codes Division

City of Yakima Legal Department

Yakima Police Department

Sunrise Outreach

Click

<https://www.yakimawa.gov/services/public-works/> for more about the City of Yakima Public Works Division.

City of Yakima resumes yard waste collection service

Yard Waste pick-up available through Nov. 30

Yard waste collection in the City of Yakima resumed March 1st.

The City's Refuse Division provides weekly yard waste pick-up through November 30th.

"Please have the green yard waste cart available by 6 a.m. on the curb or alley on the day of scheduled pick-up," said Communications & Public Affairs Director Randy Beehler. "Place the container 4 feet from any obstacles."

There is a charge of \$19.10 per month for the service, which is limited to collecting grass clippings, leaves, and small branches.

Branches should be cut into lengths of 3 feet or less and not exceed 3 inches in diameter. All yard waste must fit inside the cart with the lid closed.

"City refuse trucks can pick up yard waste carts weighing up to 150 pounds," Beehler said. "Carts exceeding that amount will not be collected."



Unacceptable items for yard waste pick-up include garbage, plastic bags, food scraps, animal waste, ashes, sod, building materials and tree trunks or large branches.

The Yakima County landfill considers the items to be contaminants.

"Once mixed into yard waste the load becomes unacceptable for processing," Beehler said. "Just a little bit of contamination can turn a truck load of yard waste into a garbage load."

Regarding yard waste carts, the City of Yakima Code 4.16.140 stipulates:

"Failure to use this cart as described will result in an additional refuse cart fee added to the utility bill."

Visit the Division's yard waste collection website at <https://www.yakimawa.gov/services/refuse/yard-waste-collection/> or call 575-6005 for details or to make yard waste collection changes.

Briefly

Harman Center spring cleaning

The City of Yakima's Harman Center will be closed from March 7th through March 12th for an annual deep cleaning.

Work will include dusting fixtures, cleaning window blinds, carpet cleaning and pressure-washing the kitchen.

The Harman Center is located at 101 North 65th Avenue. Call 509-575-6166 for program information.

'Spring forward' on March 13th

Daylight Saving Time will officially begin at 2:00 am on Sunday, March 13th.

Clocks are set ahead one hour and many set their clocks to "spring forward" before going to sleep the night before, in this case Saturday, March 12.

When changing your clocks, the Yakima Fire Department suggests testing smoke alarms.

Englewood Avenue closure continues for water project

⚠️ Englewood Avenue is closed between N. 32nd Avenue and N. 34th Avenue through the first week of April.

The closure is required for work on a 30-inch water transmission main.

Yakima Transit Routes 3 & 4 will be adjusted during the closure. See <https://yakimatransit.org/> or call 509-575-6175 for updates.

Traffic signal maintenance project underway

⚠️ City of Yakima crews are continuing the annual traffic signal maintenance project.

The project will last through April and includes every traffic signal in the City of Yakima, proceeding from west to east.

Please be alert for crews and temporary signal outages during the project.

Roadside attraction



David Johansson's "Benevolent Broadcast" adds some pizzazz to the new utility box now located at the intersection of Spring Creek Road and W. Washington Avenue. Visit yakimawa.gov for a map of more than 20 utility box displays from the Yakima Arts Commission Utility Box Art Project.

Report potholes with Yak Back



See a pothole?

Report a pothole:

- yakimawa.gov/yak-back
- Street Repair Hotline, (509) 576-6713



Potholes are not uncommon this time of the year due to the "freeze-thaw cycle" Yakima experiences when precipitation, in the form of rain and/or snow, seeps into small cracks within the asphalt pavement.

The "freeze-thaw cycle" causes moisture to contract and expand; increasing the size of the cracks. As vehicles travel over these cracks, the asphalt pavement begins to loosen, thereby creating potholes.

City crews continually monitor for potholes, repairing them as quickly as possible to reduce further damage to the roadway and to ensure safety for drivers.

With over 400-miles of streets in the City of Yakima, the City is asking for help in reporting potholes.

"Having residents and community members reporting the locations of potholes, greatly assists Public Works in their effort in repairing them in a timely manner," said Public Works Director Scott Schafer. "More eyes on an issue provide for better results."

Potholes can be reported using the City's "Yak Back" feature at <https://www.yakimawa.gov/yak-back/>

Another option for reporting potholes in the City of Yakima is to call the City's Street Repair Hotline. The hotline can be reached at (509) 576-6713.

City Council action summary - Feb. 2022

Yakima City Council action during its regular meetings in February included:

- Rescinding the motion from the Dec. 7, 2021 City Council meeting that the City designate safe parking for individuals experiencing homelessness
- Adopting the 2022-2027 Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan
- Adopting an affordable housing incentive program for multi-family low-income housing
- Approving a “National Parent Leadership Month” proclamation

Complete minutes and agendas from council meetings are available at [Agendas and Minutes | City Council \(yakimawa.gov\)](#).

All council meetings air live on Y-PAC and online at [Live Stream | City Council \(yakimawa.gov\)](#).



Teamwork



In February, the City teamed up with Yakima County, Yakima Greenway and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to repair three levees along the Greenway.

Sections of the Greenway were closed so crews could complete levee repairs and rehabilitation along the Yakima River.

Visible in the background above is the City's wastewater treatment plant.

Connect with the City of Yakima

509 area code required for dialing

Airport:	575-6149	Parks	575-6020
Animal Control:	575-6038	Planning:	575-6183
City Clerk:	575-6000	* Police:	575-6200
City Manager:	575-6000	Refuse:	575-6005
Codes/Licenses:	575-6126	Streets:	575-6005
Engineering:	575-6111	Transit:	575-6175
* Fire:	575-6060	Utilities:	575-6080
Human Resources:	575-6090	Wastewater:	575-6077
Legal	575-6030	Water/Irrig:	575-6154
Municipal Court:	575-3050	YCTV/YPAC:	575-6092

*** NON-EMERGENCY only. Call 911 in an emergency.**

The City of Yakima *Issues Brief e-Newsletter* is published monthly by the Community Relations Office. For up-to-date information, visit [yakimawa.gov](#) or find the city on social media @CityofYakima

Contact Community Outreach Specialist John Fannin at 509-249-6858 or John.Fannin@yakimawa.gov with suggestions for future *Issues Brief* articles.