

STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION TIPS

Fall 2022

Managing Stormwater on Your Property this Fall

Fall is here, which means there is lots of raking to do! Did you know that yard debris, including leaves and other organic plant material like shrubby trimmings and grass clippings are a significant source of stormwater pollution? This debris can clog culverts, storm drains, and pipes, causing flooding.

Debris can also carry fertilizers and pesticides from your yard and deposit them in streams and ponds. Piles of leaves and grass clippings will overload a stream's ability to process leaf litter, causing nutrient pollution and oxygen depletion.

When working on your yard this fall, consider some of these tips to enhance water quality and manage stormwater:

- **Do not pile leaves or other yard waste near streams or drainage channels** where they can blow or wash into creeks. Use designated leaf collection bags for curbside leaf recycling.
- **Do not blow leaves or grass clippings off your property** into streets, streams, ponds, or drainage swales.
- **Recycle grass clippings and their nutrients on your lawn.** Mulch your leaves into your yard, or pile them in your garden areas. They will add nutrients back into your lawn and provide shelter for wildlife during the winter months.
- **Plant a native tree!** Trees provide vital habitat for wildlife and absorb more stormwater than you lawn does.

