

## **Add Street Leaf Removal to Your Fall Yard Care Routine and Protect Our Waters!**

A thin layer of mulched leaves is a great natural fertilizer that can help green up lawns and gardens the following spring. Unfortunately, leaves that collect in the street each fall can also clog storm drains and contribute to the “greening” of our lakes, rivers and streams. When it rains, stormwater flows through street leaves creating a “leaf tea” that is rich in dissolved phosphorus. This "leaf tea" washes down neighborhood storm drains eventually making its way to **(ADD LIST OF RECEIVING WATERBODIES IN YOUR AREA OR USE “local waterways”)**.

When stormwater runoff contains too much phosphorus it leads to toxic algal blooms, low oxygen levels, and green murky waters, none of which are good for animals living in the water or those of us who use it for recreation. The good news is that removing street leaves before a storm can help protect our waters **(OR LIST LOCAL WATERBODIES)**. In the fall, timely removal of street leaf litter can reduce the amount of phosphorus in urban stormwater by 80% compared to no leaf removal! **INCLUDE A SENTENCE ON WHAT YOUR MUNICIPALITY/LOCAL GROUP IS DOING TO KEEP STREETS LEAF-FREE.**

**Join us in keeping streets leaf-free this fall! It’s easy! Before the rain...**

1. **Safely remove leaves** from the street in front of your home and nearby storm drains.
2. **INSERT YOUR COMMUNITY’S LEAF COLLECTION GUIDELINES** or recycle leaves on your property.
3. **Sign up to receive Leaf-free Streets Rain Alerts** this fall (Oct. 1- Nov. 30). Alerts will be issued (via text or email) 1-2 days before a significant rain event reminding you that it's time to remove street leaves.
4. **Request a Leaf-free Streets yard sign** and help educate others in your neighborhood.

To learn more or to sign up for Leaf-free Streets Rain Alerts visit: [www.ripple-effects.com](http://www.ripple-effects.com).