

**Sample Leaf-free Streets [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com) post**

*Meant to be used by residents in urban, densely populated neighborhoods with large terrace trees.*

Help Keep Streets and Storm Drains Leaf-free this Fall

Consider removing street leaves before the rain this fall to prevent street flooding and phosphorus rich “leaf-tea” from washing into our lakes (OR RIVERS, STREAMS). When it rains, stormwater runoff often carries leaves into storm drains hindering drainage. It also flows through street leaves creating a “leaf tea” that travels through storm sewers to our lakes (OR RIVERS, STREAMS). This “leaf tea” is one of the primary sources of phosphorus to our lakes from neighborhoods like ours with beautiful large terrace trees. Unfortunately, all this phosphorus fuels harmful algae blooms. The good news is that fall is a key time of year to take action. It’s easy!

-Safely remove leaves from street gutter and storm drains before the rain.

-Keep leaf piles on grass terrace (OR ADD LEAF MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES DETERMINED BY YOUR MUNICIPALITY IF OUTSIDES OF MADISON-BAGGING, ETC) and out of the street.

-Sign up for Leaf-free Street Rain Alerts (text or email) reminding you when rain is on the way and it’s time to remove street leaves. Alerts will only be issued during peak leaf fall (Oct 1-Nov 30). For more information or to sign up visit [www.ripple-effects.com/leaf-free-streets](http://www.ripple-effects.com/leaf-free-streets).