

Keep Streets Leaf-free this Fall to Reduce Flooding and Protect our Waters

Due to recent storms it seems as though rain and flooding are on everyone's mind here in Dane County. As the leaves begin to fall (**INSERT NAME OF MUNICIPALITY/ORGANIZATION**) is asking residents to help keep streets leaf-free before the rain to prevent clogged storm drains and nutrient rich "leaf tea" from washing into our waters.

When it rains, stormwater not only carries leaves and debris into storm drains which can lead to street flooding, but also flows through leaves in streets creating a "leaf tea" that is rich in dissolved phosphorus. This "leaf tea" travels through storm sewers (**or other drainage systems**) making its way to our lakes, rivers and streams (**OR INCLUDE LIST OF RECEIVING WATER BODIES IN YOUR AREA**). Too much phosphorus can fuel toxic algae blooms that are harmful to people out enjoying the water and the animals living there.

In the fall, keeping leaf litter off of streets before it rains can keep our storm drains clear and reduce the amount of phosphorus in urban stormwater by 80% compared to no leaf removal! **INCLUDE A SENTENCE ON WHAT YOUR MUNICIPALITY 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.

To learn more or to sign up for Leaf-free Streets Rain Alerts visit: www.ripple-effects.com.