**More Time at Home this Fall? Keep Streets Leaf-free to Protect Our Waters (OR INSERT NAME OF AREA WATERBOD/IES).**

With more (INSERT NAME OF NEIGHBORHOOD/MUNICIPALITY) residents spending time at home, fall is a great time of year to take simple actions to protect our waters. If you live in an area with lots of terrace trees, make a commitment to remove street leaves before the rain. It’s an easy, yet very effective action that those living in the urban environment can take to reduce the amount of phosphorus that washes into our waters each fall. When it rains, stormwater flows through leaf piles in streets creating a “leaf tea” that is rich in dissolved phosphorus. Dissolved phosphorus found in “leaf tea” does not settle out and cannot be easily removed. It travels through storm sewers making its way to our lakes, rivers and streams and can cause our waters to become green, murky and unhealthy.

Keeping streets leaf-free before the rain prevents “leaf tea” and can reduce the amount of phosphorus in urban stormwater by almost half. Get outside, join residents across (INSERT NAME OF YOUR COMMUNITY/NEIGHBORHOOD) and do your part to protect (INSERT NAME OF WATERSHED).

Keep 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:

<https://ripple-effects.com/Leaf-free-Streets>