

Keep Grass Clippings and Leaves Out of the Street and Storm Drain

An easy way that you can help protect our ponds, creeks and rivers is to keep leaves, grass clippings and other debris out of the streets and storm drain inlets.

In wooded areas and grassy fields, rainwater and melting snow soak into the ground as nature intended. Leaves generally decompose where they fall. But in urban areas like Carrollton, these surfaces have been paved over so that rainwater gushes down our sidewalks and streets, delivering the leaves along with dirt, oil, fertilizers, grass clippings and garbage into the storm drainage system. Stormwater does not get treated before it flows into our ponds, creeks and rivers.

So a big source of water pollution today actually comes from **you and me!** Individually, we contribute little to pollution. Collectively, our urban households have a damaging effect.

Inevitably, some grass clippings and leaves will get into the water regardless of what we do to stop them. But we can prevent much of the pollution by bagging the yard waste or blowing or sweeping leaves and grass clippings back onto your lawn (they are a natural fertilizer too), NOT into the street or storm drain inlet.

If you use a landscaping company, talk with them to make sure that they are following this practice too.

Blowing grass clippings into the street or storm drain inlet may result in a fine of up to \$2,000.00!

Use a mulching Lawnmower!



Sweep up and Bag yard waste that gets into the street!



Blow yard waste back into your yard and NEVER into the street!

