



Protect Our Lakes

Keep Streets Leaf-Free

Leaves and yard waste contain phosphorus. When it rains, stormwater flows through leaf piles in streets creating a phosphorus rich "leaf tea" that travels through storm drains to our lakes. The excess phosphorus leads to toxic algae blooms, low oxygen levels and green murky water in our lakes, none of which are good for animals living in the water or those of us who use it for recreation.

Ways You Can Help Keep Streets Leaf-Free



COMPOST LEAVES & YARD WASTE

Composting is a simple way to manage leaves and yard waste in your own yard reducing the quantity of leaves that blow into the street. For directions on how to compost visit, www.cityofmadison.com/streets.



MULCH LEAVES IN PLACE

Use a mulching lawnmower to grind up leaves that fall on your lawn. Mulching them in place returns nutrients to the soil providing a source of organic fertilizer to your lawn.



FOLLOW YARD WASTE PICKUP RULES

Leaves and yard waste should only be placed on the grass terrace area near the road for pickup. Per the City of Madison Ordinance, never place leaves and yard waste in the street. Use compostable paper leaf bags or cover the piles with a tarp to keep leaves from blowing into the street and place yard waste out for pickup when the city is collecting it in your neighborhood. For information and city collection schedules, visit www.cityofmadison.com/yardwaste.



RAKE (OR REMOVE) LEAVES FROM THE CURB BEFORE RAINSTORMS

Removing leaves from the street before it rains is the most effective way to keep streets leaf-free. Sign up for Leaf-free Streets Rain Alerts (text or email) this fall (Oct 1-Nov 30) reminding you when its time to remove street leaves. Visit www.ripple-effects.com to sign up.

Streets East: 608-246-4532

www.cityofmadison.com/streets

Streets West: 608-266-4681

