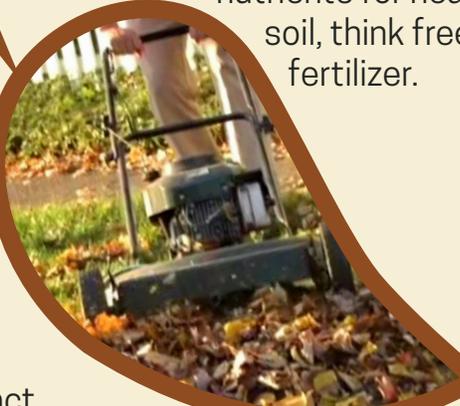


# MULCH

Mulch leaves with a lawn mower. Cut the leaves smaller by mowing more than once if needed. Leaves provide nutrients for healthy soil, think free fertilizer.



In fact, researchers found that mulching leaves in the fall resulted in a greener lawn and up to 80% less dandelions the following spring.

You can also blow or rake excess leaves into gardens and flowerbeds to use as a weed-stifling, soil-enriching mulch.

# COMPOST

Leaves are an excellent addition to your home compost pile. To compost your leaves put them in a designated spot in your yard and turn the pile occasionally with a pitchfork. Shredding leaves will help them break down faster. For even faster breakdown of leaves add “greens” to your pile. Add one part grass clippings or other green matter, like kitchen veggie scraps, to two parts dead leaves or other brown matter. It takes about 6 to 24 months for the microorganisms, earthworms, and insects to break down the material.

Add new materials to the top of the pile. Compost on the bottom of the pile generally “finishes” first. Use the compost to fertilize your lawn and garden.



# PROPERLY DISPOSE

If mulching or composting is not an option, check with your local municipality to see if they have curbside leaf pick up or a drop off location. If you bag your leaves be sure to use paper lawn and leaf bags.



If you have leaves on the curb destined for municipal or trash pick up be sure to bag them or wait to put them out until after rainy or windy weather has passed so they don't end up in streams, ditches or storm drains.

## LEAVES NEVER BELONG IN A CREEK, DITCH OR STORMDRAIN

Dumping leaves and other yard waste in streams, creeks, ditches and storm drains causes



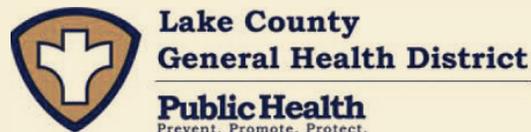
problems for you, your neighbors and your local municipality.

Leaves and lawn waste blown into streams or washed down storm drains can cause poor stream health by reducing the amount of available oxygen for stream organisms in the water.



Yard wastes also clog and block storm drains streams and ditches. This increases flooding and stream bank and ditch erosion. Fixing damage

caused by, and removing these blockages comes at cost to both homeowners and communities.



# FALL LEAF MANAGEMENT FOR CLEAN CREEKS AND GREEN LAWNS