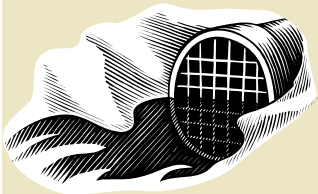


## Maintenance

Yard waste that is swept into inlets and catch basins builds up and can clog the storm drains and cause flooding problems. This



build up of yard waste can make it difficult for the drainage system to carry away excessive amounts of water during storms which

can lead to flooded streets and basements. When storm water drains do not function efficiently, more maintenance is needed to clean out blockages and these costs can be passed on to the homeowner in the form of higher sewage rates.

## Laws Governing Yard Waste

The Federal Clean Water Act mandates that the County and municipalities take steps to prevent pollution of storm water runoff.

Missouri State Law bans the disposal of yard waste in landfills.

It is unlawful to dump yard waste into the storm drain or creeks. To report the improper disposal of yard waste in the storm drain or the creek contact the Jefferson County Stormwater Management Program at 636-797-6228.

Contact your local waste hauler for yard waste pick up services.



Contact your municipality or County for a recycling center in your area.



For a listing of County recycling centers call the Jefferson County Recycling Coordinator at 636-797-5043

Email: [kdunnam@jeffcomo.org](mailto:kdunnam@jeffcomo.org)

Call to schedule school or residential presentations on recycling and composting.

**Remember No Dumping !  
Only Rain to the Storm Drain**

## County of Jefferson

Stormwater Management Program  
and Jefferson County Recycling Program  
PO Box 100  
Hillsboro MO 63050

Stormwater Phone: 636-797-6228

[Stormwater@jeffcomo.org](mailto:Stormwater@jeffcomo.org)

Recycling Phone: 636-797-5043

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Missouri Department of Natural Resources

# Yard Waste and Our Environment



**Is it wise to dump lawn clippings along the creek?**

Jefferson County Recycling Program  
Jefferson County Stormwater Management Program

Did you know that if yard waste, such as leaves, grass clippings, weeds, prunings, brush, and small twigs that are naturally found around the home, are disposed of along a creek or in the storm drain it can impact . . .



## Water Quality

Yard waste decaying in creeks and rivers decomposes in a process that removes oxygen from the water. Fish and other aquatic life can't survive in water with low oxygen. As yard waste decomposes, plant nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus are also released. These nutrients promote the excessive growth of algae in the water. As the water becomes polluted, it does not support aquatic life and becomes a health hazard.

## Erosion

Leaves and woody debris naturally accumulate in streams and creeks. However, when you collect and dispose of yard waste along creek banks, the added yard waste covers the ground and keeps out the natural vegetation that helps to stabilize the bank. This practice leads to increased erosion and sedimentation that clouds creek water and destroys habitat for aquatic life. Improper disposal of yard waste increases the accumulation of debris which in turn can lead to blockages that inhibit proper drainage. Although it is common for some homeowners to dispose of yard waste along creek banks, it is not good practice.

## Onsite Options

### Composting

Is an easy, inexpensive and natural way to dispose of leaves, tree trimmings, and brush. Compost can be used as fertilizer around the yard, which reduces the need for chemical fertilizers that can contaminate storm water runoff draining into creeks and rivers. Spreading compost around bushes and flowers helps the soil to retain moisture and controls weeds. This means less watering, less use of herbicides and lower costs.



### Water Sparingly

Do not over-water the lawn or garden. Over-watering may increase leaching of fertilizers to ground and surface water. When your lawn or garden needs watering, use slow-watering techniques such as trickle irrigation or soaker hoses. Such devices reduce runoff, and are more effective than sprinklers.

*Content & concept used with permission from  
Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District  
Division of Environmental Compliance*

What can YOU do  
to prevent yard waste from  
polluting our water?

- ◆ Never allow yard waste to be washed down or put into the storm drains.
- ◆ Do not sweep or blow grass clippings along the street or into a storm drain.
- ◆ Do not dump grass or yard waste onto a creek bank or area where it will be washed into creeks and rivers.
- ◆ Control soil on your property by planting native trees and ground cover to stabilize erosion-prone areas.
- ◆ Compost your leaves, brush, grass clippings and other yard waste.
- ◆ Use any community resources offered by your municipality or County for further assistance.

### Taller Grass

Mow grass higher and leave grass clippings on the lawn to retain moisture and provide nutrients to the soil as they decompose. When you mow, set the blades to cut the grass two or three inches high. Most grasses are healthiest at this height, and this also helps control weeds. Also, taller grass along storm water drainage areas helps filter runoff and stabilize soil better with deeper roots.

