





# What to do with all of those leaves?

*It's that time of year when the leaves start to fall and we have a ton of yard work to do before winter arrives. What should you do with all of that yard waste?*

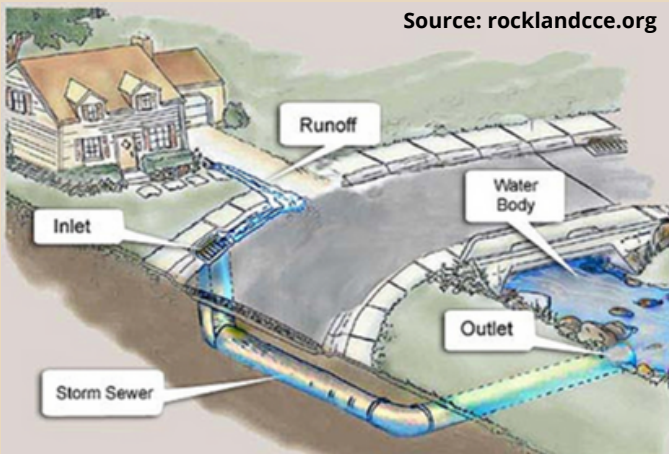
- **Keep those leaves out of the street:** Do not blow or rake leaves, grass clippings, brush, or tree branches into the street or ditches. Leaf litter and yard waste can plug ditches and storm drains causing flooding issues. Contact your local municipality to see if they offer curbside pickup or other disposal options like a waste transfer station.
- **Mulch:** Mow over your leaves a few times to mulch them into smaller pieces. This will act as a natural fertilizer for your lawn and you won't have to rake! 
- **Compost:** Contact your local municipality to see if they offer a composting program that accepts yard waste or start your own compost pile at home. Refer to [www.owsc.org/take-action](http://www.owsc.org/take-action) for tips on how to start composting at home.
- **Remember:** Ditches and storm drains go directly into our natural waterways and depositing leaf litter and yard waste into them will cause excess nutrients to leach into stormwater runoff and contribute to the pollution of our local rivers, streams, and lakes.
- **Please do your part to keep our community safe and protect our environment.** 





## What is Stormwater Pollution?

When it rains, the water running into the storm drains in parking lots, streets, and sidewalks flows directly into our local waterways without being treated. As that water washes over pavement and other impervious surfaces, it can pick-up a toxic mix of bacteria, chemicals, metals, nutrients and other contaminants. It is our responsibility to help keep our community safe, our drinking water clean, and our wildlife protected by preventing stormwater pollution. Find out more at [www.owsc.org](http://www.owsc.org).



**Ontario-Wayne  
Stormwater Coalition**  
[www.owsc.org](http://www.owsc.org)

Check out our website & Facebook page to learn more about the OWSC.

