

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- ✂ Remove the bag from your lawnmower or use a mulching lawnmower, to add nutrients to your lawn and to avoid having to dispose of the grass clippings.
- ✂ During *designated* weeks (see schedule inside), put yard waste on the curb in brown paper leaf bags for pickup on your regular trash day. Brush must be cut into 3-foot lengths and bundled.
- ✂ Start backyard composting (away from surface waters). See: https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/waste/swrtas/documents/compost_flier.pdf for a free “how-to” brochure.
- ✂ NEVER dispose of leaves or clippings in or near storm drains, drainage channels (where water drains rain or melting snow), wetlands or waterbodies!

MORE INFORMATION

Rochester Department of Public Works
(603) 332-4096

NH Department of Environmental
Services, 603-271-1352 or
Deborah.Loiselle@des.nh.gov

COMMUNITY MESSAGE

Our community cares about clean water and is doing its part to help prevent water pollution in local waterways. This outreach message helps our community meet the MS4 Permit requirements specifically with respect to reducing nitrogen inputs to nearby waters.



Produced by the NH Department of Environmental
Services 603-271-1352

<https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/was/index.htm>



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Rochester Department of Public Works



RAKE IT OR LEAVE IT

*What to do with
your leaves and
grass clippings*

Yard Waste Pick Up Dates

2020 Yard & Leaf Waste Curb Side Pickup

Place out on Regular Trash Pick-up Day during following weeks:

November 2nd through 6th

November 16th through 20th

Waste must be in Brown Paper Bags and brush must be cut in 3-foot lengths and bundled.

Additional Information:

<https://www.rochesternh.net/public-works/pages/trash-recycling-and-other-waste>

Yard and Leaf Waste can also be brought to the Turnkey Drop Off Center at the Waste Management Facility at 90 Rochester Neck Road from 8 to 3 pm on M, W & F or from 8 to 5 pm on Saturdays.



WHY DOES IT MATTER?

You Choose - *your leaves and grass clippings can be a valuable resource OR a source of water pollution.*

As a resource . . .

Mulched leaves or grass clippings on your lawn add valuable nutrients and organic matter.

Grass clippings provide a source of slow-release nutrients reducing the amount of fertilizer needed to none or at least half. A thin layer of mulched leaves will break down and add much needed organic matter.

Composted leaves and grass clippings saves money.

Compost is natural recycling. Compost can be used as a top dressing on your lawn or garden beds reducing or eliminating the need for fertilizer and mulch.



Drawing Courtesy of David M. Carroll

As a source of water pollution . . .

Decaying leaves and grass kill critters in streams, rivers, lakes, ponds, and wetlands.

Leaf piles and grass clippings decompose in the streambeds by using the oxygen that other organisms such as dragonfly larvae, crabs, and fish need to live.

Yard waste on stream banks smothers natural vegetation.

Leaves or grass dumped on the shoreline block sunlight and smother the natural plant life that provide food and cover to animals such as turtles, ducks, chipmunks, and deer.

Yard waste dumped near waterbodies contributes to stream algae and odors.

Nutrients from yard waste placed on or near wetlands or stream will slowly make its way into the water causing algae and other noxious weeds to grow and form foul-smelling, green mats on the water surface.

Yard waste dumped in or near streams is against the law!

In an effort to protect wetlands and surface waters, the NH legislature passed a law that prohibits filling streams and wetlands with waste materials, including yard waste. RSA 482-A:3