

WHO WE ARE

► MISSION STATEMENT

The Stormwater Environmental Team is ultimately focused on protecting and improving the quality of local bodies of water. This is done by implementing flood control systems, water monitoring, and enforcing water-friendly construction practices that follow Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards. Keeping environmental issues in mind, the division strives to keep the city's water safe for recreation as well as usage at home.

♥ VALUES

Stormwater pollution is one of the greatest threats to Rockford's creeks and rivers. Clean water means safe drinking water, places for recreation, commercial opportunities, healthy wildlife habitats, and adds beauty to the landscape. Rain washes pollution from streets, parking lots and lawns into storm sewers and drainage ditches then directly to our streams, rivers and ultimately, the ocean.

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SCAN QR CODE BELOW FOR DIRECT ACCESS
TO OUR WEBSITE.



YARD WASTE



**PROTECTING AND IMPROVING
THE QUALITY OF LOCAL
BODIES OF WATER**

CITY OF ROCKFORD WEEKLY COMPOST/YARD WASTE PICK-UP

Yard waste pick-up occurs only during the spring, summer and fall growing seasons along with a special collection for Christmas trees in early January. A press release and social media post occur in the spring, fall, and shortly after the winter holidays, advising residents when these collections will resume and end.

Residential yard waste collection occur the same day as your regularly scheduled garbage collection. Yard waste material must be placed in compostable paper bags or in 32 gallon or smaller refuse cans that have been marked with a large "X" that is plainly visible from the street. Twigs, branches and other types of large brush that cannot fit into either of these containers must be placed in bundles, no more than 4 feet long by 2 feet in diameter. Branches and limbs exceeding 4 inches in diameter will not be accepted. Bundles should be tied with string or twine, not metal. Additional restrictions to yard waste collection include mulch, tree stumps, roots balls or other vegetation mixed with excessive amounts of soil. No bag, can or bundle can weigh more than 50 pounds when loaded.



WHY CANT YARD WASTE GO INTO THE STORM SEWER?

Yard waste and other pollutants can be carried through the storm sewer system and be deposited directly into our streams and rivers. What enters the City of Rockford's storm sewer system will enter our creeks, rivers and other water untreated possibly affecting our drinking water as well as recreational activities.

Leaves and Grass Clippings In The Storm Sewer Will Cause:

- Increased potential for flooding.
Leaves and grass clippings can plug the storm sewer system reducing its capacity to transport and receive storm water.
- Excess nutrients from fertilizer, yard waste and leaves can cause algae blooms.

Options for using leaves and grass clippings at home include:

- Add them to your compost pile.
- Leave clippings on the lawn to retain moisture and provide nutrients as they decompose.
- Leaves make an excellent mulch for use around trees and shrubs, or in flower and vegetable gardens, helping to slow the growth of weeds and retain moisture.

HOW TO PROPERLY DISPOSE OF YARD WASTE

Yard clean-up usually means having to deal with an abundance of leaves and grass clippings.

Things to avoid when disposing of yard waste include:

- Never allow yard waste to be washed down or put into storm drains, detention areas, or drainage ways
- Do not sweep or blow grass clippings into the street or a storm drain
- Improper disposal of yard waste increases the accumulation of debris which in turn leads to blockages that can cause nuisance flooding
- Overwatering your lawn or garden may increase leaching of fertilizers to ground and surface water
- Remember to sweep excess fertilizers back into your yard, not into the street or sidewalk

LEAF BURNING

Leaf burning in the City of Rockford limits and unincorporated areas of Winnebago County within, and immediately surrounding the City limits, is illegal. Leaves can be collected at the same time as other yard waste put out for collection in the City limits. It is a violation to dispose of leaves and grass clippings into the streets as they create a road hazards for bicycles and motorcycles and clog street sweepers and storm sewer drains, which can cause flooding.