LOVING YOUR LAKES AND STREAMS IS EASY

Your lakes are beautiful and provide fun activities like swimming, fishing, boating, water skiing, bird watching and more.

But Dane County lakes and streams need your help.

Whatever is in the street may end up in the nearest lake or stream after the next rain. Do your part by keeping the street in front of your house free of leaves and debris.

Because leaves account for a significant portion of the algae-feeding nutrients in your lakes and streams, we can all help reduce their impact.

LEARN ABOUT THE LEAF COLLECTION PROGRAM IN YOUR MUNICIPALITY

- Call your municipality or go to their web site for information on leaf collection requirements and schedules.
- At www.myfairlakes.com you can find links to your municipality by clicking on "Madison Area Municipal Storm Water Partnership."
- Generally, leaves placed for pickup should be placed on the terrace between the sidewalk and the street.
- Wet the leaves down or put a tarp over them to stop them from blowing into the street.
- Bag your leaves if your terrace is very narrow (make sure your municipality allows bagging).
- Bags should contain only leaves and be open at the top for easy emptying.
- Raking leaves into the street is prohibited in most municipalities and could result in a fine. Street sweeping is not intended to pick up piles of leaves.

Love Your Lakes, Don't Leaf Them.

What you do with your leaves matters.

Show you care for your lakes and streams by keeping leaves out of the street.

Learn about the leaf collection program in your municipality.

Compost your leaves to save time and money.

myfairlakes.com

WHAT YOU DO WITH YOUR LEAVES MATTERS

- Leaves contain nutrients that fertilize algae, which turn your lakes green in summer.
- When leaf piles sit in the street, wind and rain carry them to storm drains and eventually into lakes and streams.
- Rain seeps through leaf piles, making a rich "nutrient tea" that flows along the curb into the storm drains, even if the leaves themselves don't move an inch!

For more information about composting, go to www.myfairlakes.com.

SAVE TIME, SAVE MONEY

- Skip municipal pick-up altogether and think of leaves as an asset.
- Whole leaves can be piled over wood mulch around trees and shrubs, where they will break down to a rich, dark color.

- Planting beds under trees reduce yard maintenance during the growing season and provide a natural place for fallen leaves.
- Create a natural landscape using native wildflowers, ferns, and grasses.

- Chop leaves into small pieces and leave in place; they'll break down and provide free fertilizer to your lawn.
- Mulching leaves and grass can replace one fertilizer application each year, saving you time and money.

- Composted leaves make a great fertilizer and are a valuable mulch for gardens and for use around trees and shrubs.