

Take Action to Protect our Waters this Fall and Winter!

As the weather cools and the days of splashing around on the lake fade away it's easy to forget about the health of our waters. Take action to protect our waters by:

1. Keeping streets leaf-free this fall

In the fall, keeping leaf litter off of streets before it rains can reduce the amount of phosphorus in urban stormwater by 80% compared to no leaf removal!

Before the rain...

- **Safely remove leaves** from the street in front of your home.
- **Mulch or Compost leaves** on your property.
- **Sign up to receive Leaf-free Streets Rain Alerts** this fall (Oct. 1- Nov. 30). Alerts will be issued (via text or email) 1-2 days before a significant rain event reminding you that it's time to remove street leaves.

To learn more or to sign up for Leaf-free Streets Rain Alerts visit: www.ripple-effects.com.

2. Cleaning up pet waste

It is very important to continue to pick up after your pet all year long, especially during winter. Pet waste can become encased in snow and ice, and carried away with melt water when it warms up. The bacteria and nutrients found in the waste make their way to the nearest storm drain, and then flow into the nearest lake or stream.

3. Reducing salt usage

As snow season draws near, consider this: sodium chloride (NaCl) is the most common form of salt used for de-icing roads and walkways. It is used so much that it has become a water pollutant. It is very difficult and costly to remove once it is in the water, so prevention is very important.

This winter...

- Remove snow as soon as possible so that it is less likely to turn to ice.
- Treat before a storm to help prevent ice buildup so less de-icer is needed.
- Use sand for traction, it is safe and effective, but be sure to sweep up excess
- Consider using the following alternatives: Liquid magnesium chloride, calcium chloride, potassium chloride (all 3 work better than regular salt in colder temps), calcium magnesium acetate and potassium acetate.
- Read the label- know which ice melt product you are using, in what temperatures it will be effective, and how much to use.

