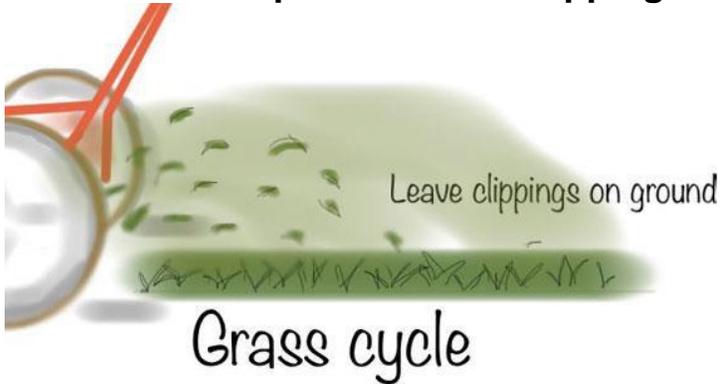




Keep Your Grass Clippings on Your Lawn & Out of the Street



Grass clippings are considered a source of nonpoint water pollution and in **violation** of City ordinance.

Do your part to maintain our waterways by observing the slogan on the storm drains:

“No Dumping - Drains to River”

Did You Know?

- Grass clippings are 85% water and 5% nitrogen. When left on the lawn, they return water and nutrients to the soil.
- Grass clippings can provide up to 30% of your fertilizer requirements.
- For every eighth of an inch that a lawn mower blade is raised, there is a 30% increase in a grass blade's surface area— improving the ability to take in water and nutrients.
- When mowing your yard, make the first few passes with the lawnmower blowing the grass clippings into the lawn, NOT the street. If there are grass clippings on the street or sidewalk, use a broom or leaf blower to blow them back into the lawn. Do not use a hose to wash them into the street or storm drains.
- Any mower can recycle grass clippings; you don't need to purchase a special mower. Simply remove the bagging attachment. If you have trouble using your mower without the bagger, contact your dealer for assistance.
- If you choose to use your mower with a bagging attachment, use the clippings for your compost pile. This is especially true for the heavy wet grasses of spring and for shredding and collecting leaves in the fall. These decaying materials provide excellent nutrition for fertile compost.



- When mowing, grass clippings should be directed away from the street, driveways, sidewalks, or other paved areas. Curbside storm sewers can transport grass clippings, along with other street debris and dirt, to nearby lakes, rivers, and wetlands.
- Grass clippings have four to five times more phosphorus than fallen autumn tree leaves, a nutrient that turns lakes green with algae.
- Algae blooms can be caused by several different types of pollutants. These blooms can suffocate aquatic life, and create neurotoxins which cause mass mortalities in fish, birds, turtles, marine mammals, land mammals, and even sickness and death in humans.



GrassCycling

Cut it. Leave it. Watch it thrive.



Problem 1: Grass clippings are being blown into the street and storm drain. Their high phosphorus levels can pollute streams, rivers and lakes.

SOLUTION: Return clippings to the lawn, compost them, or till them into gardens or flowerbeds.

Problem 2: Leaves raked into the street also end up in storm drains, causing pollution.

SOLUTION: Treat them the same as the lawn clippings above.

Problem 3: The boy using a rotary spreader leaves fertilizer on paved surfaces where it gets washed into storm drains.

SOLUTION: Test your lawn before using fertilizer. If fertilizers are needed, use a drop spreader.

Problem 4: The weak turf in the driveway corner leaves soil unprotected. Sediment can wash into storm drains.

SOLUTION: Seed and mulch or install sod.

Problem 5: The water from the sprinkler washes dog waste into the storm drain.

SOLUTION: Pick up pet waste and dispose of it by flushing it down the toilet or burying it in the yard. Never bury it by a vegetable garden.

Problem 6: The woman is over-watering, causing runoff down the driveway.

SOLUTION: Apply about one inch of water, once a week. Reduce watering based on recent and forecasted precipitation.

Problem 7: Fluids from the leaky van, and improperly stored and handled products in the garage, are washed down the driveway and into storm drains.

SOLUTION: Maintain the van properly. Place leaky containers inside another container. Contact the Tippecanoe County Solid Waste Disposal Facility for disposal options.

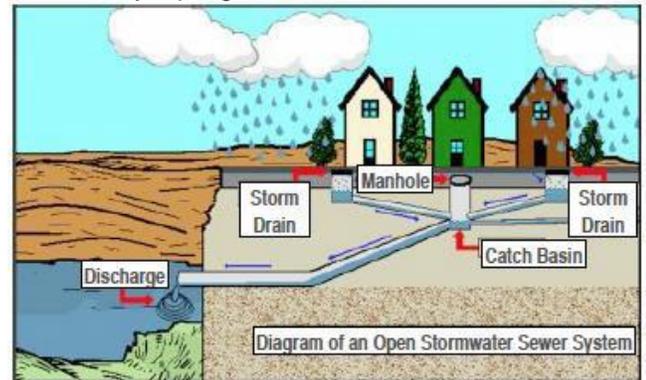
Problem 8: Downspouts from the house are discharging into the driveway, washing pollutants and soil from weak turf along the edge of the driveway into the storm sewer.

SOLUTION: Discharge in a spot where water can soak into the soil while moving away from the house. Alternatively, use a rain barrel to catch water from the downspouts for watering gardens and lawns.

Top 10 Things You Can Do to Reduce Water Pollution



1. Only allow storm water down a storm drain or into a drainage ditch.
2. Recycle motor oil and other vehicle fluids.
3. Throw litter in a proper receptacle/bin.
4. Clean up after your pet.
5. Check your vehicles for leaks and repair them.
6. Reduce household hazardous wastes.
7. Compost leaves and yard clippings.
8. Use fertilizer and pesticide sparingly.
9. Wash your vehicle on your lawn rather than on pavement.
10. Tell a friend or neighbor about how to prevent stormwater pollution, and get involved in your community's programs.



For recycling and hazardous waste material information please contact the

Tippecanoe County Solid Waste Management District

765-423-2858

tippecanoewaste.org

2770 N 9th St

Lafayette, IN 47904

M,W,F: 7am - 4pm / T,TH 7am - 6pm / Sat 7am - 1pm



The City of Lafayette

is a proud member of the

Tippecanoe County Partnership for Water Quality

www.tippecanoesw.org



Lafayette Renew

Stormwater Division

765-807-1800

www.lafayette.in.gov