

Leaves and the Storm Sewer System

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It is that time of year again. The leaves have fallen, the trees are now bare, and what do we do with the leaf piles everywhere?

The City of Beavercreek **DOES NOT** offer leaf pick up as a service in the city. Therefore, businesses and residences are required to find other means to dispose of leaf debris in the fall and winter months. There are many ways residences and businesses can dispose of leaf debris like making compost piles for the leaves, mulching the leaves into the grass with the lawn mower (if your mower can handle this and capable of doing this), or calling a local landscaping and/or leaf removal businesses to remove leaves from areas on your property.



When thinking about how to discard fallen leaves in the fall and early winter months, there are some **DO's and DON'Ts** that need to be followed. Things you should **DO**: make sure that leaf piles to be used for compost are stored away from waterways and ditches or storm sewers; piles for pickup by private companies also need to be put in a spot that is away from waterways and ditches or storm sewers.



Things **NOT** to do: discard leaves and debris into streams, creeks, and other water bodies on the property; discard leaves into drainage ditches or storm sewers; put leaf piles for pick up by private businesses in the drainage swales by driveways. The biggest problem with these “don'ts” are that they will block drainage from storm events causing water to back up and need repair by the property owners to items like drive pipes to clean the debris out. Putting these into these systems can also turn the leaves into pollutants as they break down.

These “DON'Ts” can also carry other legal consequences. Putting leaves in the storm sewers, open ditches that are part of the storm system, and waterways are considered illicit discharges under the City of Beavercreek's Illicit Discharge Ordinance (*Section 159*) and are considered violations of the ordinance. Only water from storm events is to go into the storm sewer system. If reported or identified during routine field reconnaissance, Notice of Violation letters will be filed and sent to property owner as specified under Section 159.09 with further action followed as specified under Section 159.09 if not remedied by the property owner.

To learn more about illicit discharges, other items with the City's stormwater program, as well as how to report any illicit discharges, please contact the Engineering Division of the Public Works department at publicworks@beavercreekohio.gov, (937) 427-5513, or visit the stormwater website at <http://www.beavercreekohio.gov/189/Storm-Water-Program>.