

WATER POLLUTION

Yard debris, including leaves and grass, when left decaying in the street or storm drain is a source of water pollution. As organic material, such as leaves and grass, breaks down it adds excessive nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus to the water. This leads to unwanted and uncontrolled algae blooms which can be harmful to human health and your pets. The best way to manage this problem is to keep grass and leaves out of the streets!



Storm drain covered with leaves.
Being cleaned by homeowner.



Algal bloom from excessive nutrients in the stream.

LEAVES ARE A RESOURCE

Removing leaves also eliminates vital wildlife habitat. Critters ranging from turtles and toads to birds, mammals and invertebrates rely on leaf litter for food, shelter and nesting material. Many moth and butterfly caterpillars overwinter in fallen leaves before emerging in spring.



Huntington Stormwater Utility
555 7th Ave
Huntington, WV 25701

(304) 696-4437

WHAT TO DO WITH FALLEN LEAVES



HELP KEEP OUR CITY CLEAN BY PUTTING LEAVES IN RIGHT PLACE!

KEEP THE LEAVES

Keep the leaves on your lawn or garden, mulch them, compost them, or bag them. **Be sure not to blow them into the street. Clogged storm drains can cause localized flooding.**

Leaves provide valuable organic matter. They put nitrogen and carbon back into the soil, holds moisture, and suppress weeds.

Leaving the leaves gives habitat for winterizing pollinators and other wildlife. Leaves are essential to the survival of moths, butterflies, snails, and spiders. Birds, reptiles, and amphibians also need this habitat.



Salamanders need leaf debris for habitat.

MULCH OR COMPOST LEAVES

Mowing or composting leaves recycles a natural resource. This keeps nutrients in your yard or garden.



BAGGED LEAVES

If you want to remove leaves from your property, you can bag them and put out with your trash. Huntington's Public Works Department will collect bagged leaves or grass. Tree branches and vegetative debris tied in bundles (48 inch x 18 inch diameter) will also be accepted. Call for special pick up at (304) 696-5540.



LANDSCAPING SERVICES

Do you use a landscaping service to remove leaves? If so, make sure the company is properly disposing of leaves. Utility crews and other citizens see many lawn care companies illegally blowing leaves into the streets.

Clogged storm drains cause localized flooding. This means our crews have to make special trips to clean out storm drains.

According to Article 960.02 of the Codified Ordinances; it is unlawful to blow or sweep grass clippings, leaves, or any other yard waste into the street. It is also unlawful to place yard waste into Fourpole Creek, Krouts Creek, Ohio River, or Guyandotte River.

