

# Rake it or Leave it?

## *What to do with your leaves and grass clippings*

It's that time of year again! Fall in New England brings corn mazes, pumpkins, apple cider donuts, and fall leaves. Though beautiful, the leaves on your lawn can be a valuable resource or a source of water pollution. Mulched leaves and grass clippings can add valuable nutrient and organic matter to your lawn. However, if yard waste is dumped near waterbodies, it can smother natural vegetation and contribute to stream algae and odors. In fact, in an effort to protect wetlands and surface waters, the NH legislature passed a law that prohibits filling streams and wetlands with waste materials, including yard waste (RSA 482-A:3).



Nashua home and business owners can help keep our waterbodies clean. Here are some easy practices for dealing with yard waste that is safer for the environment!

- Remove the bag from your lawnmower or use a mulching lawnmower.
- Put yard waste at the curb: collection is every week beginning in early spring and continues until late fall.
- Drop off your yard waste at the City of Nashua Four Hills Landfill for composting.
- Start backyard composting.
- Never dispose of leaves or clippings in or near storm drains, drainage channels, wetlands, or waterbodies.

Using these water-quality friendly lawn care and fertilizer recommendations is a small change that can make a big difference.

