

# Community Partners for Clean Streams Monthly eMonitor



Volume 2, Number 7

## November 2005 Issue

A Publication of the Washtenaw County Drain Commissioner's Office  
Janis A. Bobrin, Drain Commissioner

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### Up Front

The eMonitor is designed to keep Partners updated on CPCS and stormwater management issues, provide helpful information to reduce stormwater and nonpoint source pollution, recognize new Partners, highlight upcoming events, and create networking opportunities. We hope you enjoy each edition of the Monthly eMonitor and welcome any comments, concerns, or suggestions.

### Protecting Waterways by Collecting Leaves 🍂

#### **Leaves Can Damage the Health of our Waterways**

Perhaps the activity that best indicates the end of autumn, raking leaves can be both a fun family activity and essential for protecting water quality. When water runs off our streets, driveways, sidewalks and parking lots, it takes whatever debris is present along with it. Leaves and other organic matter may seem harmless, but increased levels of organic matter in waterways can be problematic for aquatic ecosystems.

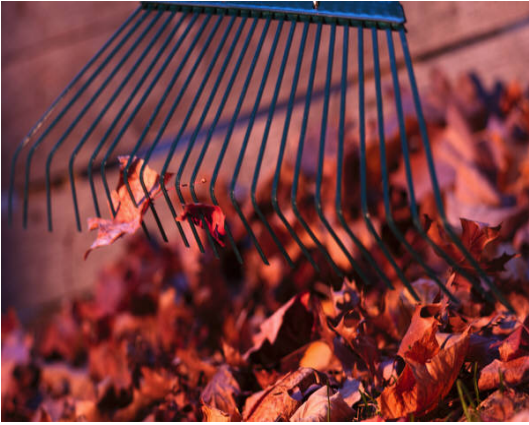


Leaf litter can create problems for people and the environment. When leaves enter storm drains, they can create clogs that lead to flooding. Once the leaves and other organic matter reach a body of water and decompose, they pollute the waterways and deprive aquatic organisms of oxygen.



Collecting leaves from your lawns and gutters is an important and simple way to help keep our streams, rivers and lakes healthy.

## Leaf Disposal Options 🍂



Here are a few ways to safely dispose of leaves from your yard.

- There is still time to compost right in your own yard without raking! Simply mow the lawn and mulch leaves along with your grass.
- If your community picks up leaves in the street, find out the schedule for your neighborhood. If possible, wait until the day before pick-up to rake. This minimizes the possibility of leaves entering storm drains.
- Some communities require that all yard waste is bagged and picked up with your other recycling. Check with your city or township to determine the disposal procedure in your area.

## [Stormwater Pollution Prevention Tip of the Month](#)

### Street Leaf Collection Tips 🍂

Street leaf collections are performed on a schedule. Contact your local city or township hall for information about your specific neighborhood.



Reminders:

1. Do not allow children to play in street leaves.
2. Leave one foot of space between the curb and leaves for stormwater to run into the gutter. Also be sure to keep leaves away from stormwater inlets to allow for proper drainage.
3. Do not bag leaves, they will not be collected.
4. To avoid potential fire hazards, do not park vehicles on top of leaf piles.
5. Pay careful attention to parking restrictions. Cars may be ticketed and towed on leaf collection days.
6. Clean leaves out of gutters and include them in the pick-up as well.

## [CPCS News](#)

We would like to welcome our new partners and thank our renewing members for two more years of protecting Washtenaw County's waterways.

### **New Partners**

I-800-GOT-JUNK  
Earthen Jar  
Forefront International  
Lodi Township  
Tap Room Annex  
Village of Dexter

### **Renewing Partners**

Lord of Light  
Pollack Design Associates  
Thetford Corporation – Baker Road Facility

## 2005 Environmental Excellence Awards



Dave Rusnell (left) of Daimler Chrysler and Jeff Krcmarik, Recycling Coordinator for Washtenaw County

Washtenaw County was pleased to announce the 2005 recipients of the Environmental Excellence Awards at the Board of Commissioners meeting on September 21. These awards recognize the businesses and institutions that provide leadership in environmental protection and practice environmentally sound behavior.

For Excellence in Water Quality Protection, the 2005 winner is **Daimler Chrysler Proving Grounds of Chelsea**. Honorable mentions include *Liebherr Aerospace of Saline, Inc* and *Daycroft Montessori School*.

All Community Partners for Clean Streams Partners are eligible to win the award. For more information please visit: [http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/planning\\_environment/environmental\\_issues/envex.html](http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/planning_environment/environmental_issues/envex.html)

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### Contact Us

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