

## **Important reminders to help keep our storm drains clear of debris, pollutants**

by Jeremy Gumke, Public Works Superintendent

Yard debris, such as trash, leaves and pet waste have negative effects on the health of local waterways. Street and yard flooding, litter “dams,” and algae growth can occur when leaves block or enter the storm drain. When it rains, pet waste can be washed into the storm drain and into area streams, rivers, and lakes polluting the water, using up dissolved oxygen that harms aquatic life with high levels of nitrogen and bacteria.

To combat such consequences, keep leaves and yard debris out of the storm drains. Raking, bagging, or composting are easy alternatives for keeping the leaves off the ground and out of the storm drain. The purpose of the storm drain, or also called a catch basin, is to collect the rain water and melted snow—not leaves, trash, or other pollutants.

Please do the following to keep our storm drains clear and our water bodies clean:

- Always remember to pick up after your pet.
- Clean up your leaves and yard debris.
- Check with your refuse hauler to learn when leaves will be collected and how they should be stored (bagging, placement, etc.) and only place leaves and yard debris out at the designated time.
- Do not rake or blow leaves into the street where they can be washed into the storm drain.
- Consider using the leaves as mulch, mowing over them and leaving the finely-chopped debris on your yard.
- If you choose to compost your leaves, contain your compost in a bin.
- Never dump leaves or yard debris into ditches, streams, or other waterways.

For more information visit [RamseyCounty /residents/recycling-waste/collection-sites/yard-waste](http://RamseyCounty /residents/recycling-waste/collection-sites/yard-waste)

### **April - November**

Monday: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Tuesday: closed

Wednesday: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Thursday: closed

Friday: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

### **December - March**

Monday - Friday: closed

Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.