



project
clear®

stormwater



YARD WASTE DISPOSAL AND LAWN CARE

MSD Project Clear

MSD Project Clear partners with St. Louis County and 59 local municipalities to comply with the Phase II Stormwater Regulations. Together, we actively work to reduce pollutants picked up and carried by stormwater to local bodies of water through the St. Louis region.

www.MSDProjectClear.org

THE PROBLEM

Rain that flows across lawns or impervious surfaces such as paved areas and bare soil can transport sediment, leaves, grass clippings, and other lawn care material into the storm sewer system. The storm sewers drain the water directly to our area creeks and streams without treatment.

Yard Waste and Lawn Care Pollutants

- *Nutrients:* Nitrogen and phosphorus from lawn care fertilizers can promote unhealthy algae growth in our waterways.
- *Oxygen demand:* As yard waste decays, it uses up oxygen in our waterways that fish need.
- *Toxins:* Herbicides and pesticides used in lawn care maintenance contains numerous toxins which can be a health threat in our waterways.

THE SOLUTION

- Never allow yard waste to be washed down or put into storm drains.
- Do not sweep or blow grass clippings along the street or into a storm drain.
- Do not dump grass or yard waste onto a creek bank or area where it will be washed into creeks and stream.
- Control soil erosion on your property by planting native trees and ground cover to stabilize erosion prone areas.
- Compost leaves, brush, grass clippings and other yard waste.
- Mow grass higher and leave grass clippings on the lawn to retain moisture and provide nutrients to the soil as they decompose.
- Do not over water your lawn or garden. This may increase leaching of fertilizers to ground and surrounding areas.

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