

## Spring Lawn Maintenance Tips to Help Prevent Stormwater Pollution

There is an enormous amount of chemicals and yard waste associated with the spring season. The City of Fayetteville Stormwater Division is providing information to increase public education concerning the local Stormwater Quality Management Program (SWQMP). The City has been working to provide public education concerning stormwater pollution, and we have developed these spring maintenance tips for you to use while caring for your lawn.

Spring is the season when lawn care professionals and homeowners work fertilize lawns to make them more healthy and attractive. While you're improving your yard this spring, you could be harming our environment. Consider the following to protect the quality of our water. Also, encourage your friends and neighbors to do the same.

1. **Do Not Over-Fertilize Your Yard:** Over-fertilization will not increase plant growth, but the excess will wash off your yard and down the storm drain, polluting the stormwater. Fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides, pollute the stormwater and endangers wildlife. Your fertilizer nourishes algae that grows in creeks, lake, and rivers; depleting oxygen in the water, which can kill fish and other aquatic wildlife.
2. **Do Not Put Leaves or Grass Clippings into the Storm Drain:** Covered or clogged drains significantly contribute to street and yard flooding. Storm drains are not meant to accept debris or garbage, but to take away overflow rainwater to prevent flooding of home and property.
3. **Remember– the Storm Drainage System is Different from the Sanitary Sewer System:** The storm drainage system is a separate system from the sanitary sewer system. Any material that flows into the storm drainage system flows directly to our local rivers and streams, whereas the sanitary sewer system takes wastewater from our homes and businesses and purifies it before returning the water to the river.

Please help the City in its fight against stormwater pollution. Whenever it rains, all of the rain water flows to our local rivers and streams, carrying any pollutants that are picked up along the way. We are the solution to stormwater pollution.

For more information, or if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call the Stormwater Division's **Hotline** at **910-433-1613**.

To learn more about the City's Stormwater Program, please visit us on the web at:

[www.cityoffayetteville.org/stormwater](http://www.cityoffayetteville.org/stormwater)

