

Highlights of City Stormwater Regulations

Effective November 1, 2009

Chapter 12 - Utilities

Debris in the Drainage System (i.e. yard waste)

Background: Debris is defined in the city code as yard waste (i.e. grass clippings, leaves, pine straw, etc), sediment, trash, litter or debris of any kind. Debris can cause significant water quality problems when it is blown or directed into the storm drainage system. Water quality problems include algal blooms, aquatic weed growth, oxygen depletion, fish kills, and impaired aquatic habitat. In addition, when the stormwater system is clogged with yard waste, it can cause street and property flooding.



The City's new yard waste ordinance specifies:

- It is unlawful to rake, sweep, blow, wash, direct or place any debris into the storm drainage system.
(The storm drainage system consists of streets, storm drains, ditches, swales, creeks, lakes, rights-of-way, dedicated easements, etc).
- Property owners shall keep all ditches, drains, swales, and other drainageways on their property free from obstructions which would impede the flow of water.
- **Fines for non-compliance with the City's yard waste ordinance are \$250 per occurrence.**

Suggested best management practices (BMPs) for dealing with yard waste include:

- Direct or blow yard waste back onto a lawn or landscape area.
- Sweep, rake, and/or collect yard waste off of hard surfaces.
- Grasscycle - leave grass clippings on the lawn to decompose quickly and act as a natural fertilizer and to conserve moisture in the soil.
- Compost yard waste to use in the lawn, garden, or landscape.



Highlights of City Stormwater Regulations

Effective November 1, 2009

- Collect and contain for city yard waste collection service according to specific yard waste collection policies. Do not use the city trash cart for yard waste or debris.
- Collect and dispose of waste at a legally authorized yard waste collection facility.