

Fox Cities Viewpoint- Raking Leaves (October 2005)

A shout of “Geronimo!” and the sound of running feet cause you to turn just in time to see your hard-earned leaf pile scatter. You remember doing the same thing years ago and a smile comes to your face, even if it means more raking.

However, leaves, like grass clippings, contain phosphorus, the nutrient that turns lakes green with algae. How can you help to keep our lakes and rivers clean:

- Consider mulching them in place by making several passes with a power mower. The shredded leaves will provide nutrients back to your lawn;
- Compost your leaves into mulch to place around your vegetables and flowers;
- Spread leaves in garden beds or under shrubs;
- Follow your community leaf collection policies and schedule;
- Learn about your community yard waste disposal practices;
- Put a tarp over leaf piles between pick-up times to prevent them from blowing away;
- Clean leaves and debris from the gutters and storm sewer outlets

The Northeast Wisconsin Stormwater Consortium is a partnership of area communities working together to educate you on how we can make great strides in protecting and enjoying our environment.