



## **SPRING LAWN/LEAF WASTE CLEANUP**

### **CITY OF HARTFORD – STORM WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION**

Contrary to what many people believe, the water that goes into the storm drainage system is **not** treated at wastewater treatment plants. Rather, it drains *directly* into our rivers and streams. And most people don't realize that leaves can be a nagging source of storm water pollution. In autumn, leaves make their way into our rivers and streams when rain washes them down the storm drains. Once they get into the water, the leaves release nutrients that contribute to the accelerated growth of algae. The result is a greenish-tinted river or stream choked with foul smelling, dying algae that can kill fish and other aquatic critters and generally make water recreation an unpleasant experience. So in autumn, **follow the City of Hartford's simple guidelines** and keep leaves out of the water by keeping them out of catch basins and storm drains.

The City does not have curbside pickup of leaves in the spring. Residents need to bag their leaves and drop them off at the Recycling Center's compost bin *Thursday evenings* between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. and *Saturday mornings* between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon. **NEW: APRIL 1 to DECEMBER 1 – Tuesday Evenings 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

The City recognizes that most residents readily comply with the guidelines set forth in this program and appreciates their efforts. Individually, we contribute little pollution. Collectively, our urban households have a damaging effect on the local rivers and streams through simple neglect and lack of awareness.