



## Public Works

### FALL LEAF PICK-UP PROGRAM

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 do not 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 make water recreation an unpleasant experience. So, in autumn, **follow the City of Hartford's simple guidelines below** and keep leaves out of the water by keeping them out of catch basins and storm drains.

The City of Hartford plans to begin Fall Leaf Pick-up during the week of **October 30, 2023**, depending on how many leaves are raked curbside. Residents can rake leaves into the curb and gutter area after that date; **do not cover storm drains with leaves**. Leaf pick-up will continue until the week of Thanksgiving, weather permitting. Leaves will not be picked up curbside if they are in bags. Any bagged leaves must be brought to the Recycling Center during recycling hours.

**Please do not mix branches and tree limbs with leaves or place pumpkins, garden waste or grass clippings curbside with leaves.** You must take these compost items to the Recycling Center on **Tuesday or Thursday evenings between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. or Saturday mornings between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon.**

Your cooperation during this fall leaf pick-up season will be appreciated.

*City of Hartford Public Works Department  
673-8225*