

# STORMWATER

TIP OF THE WEEK WEEK 40 - OCTOBER 4, 2022



## FALL TIPS FOR HOMEOWNERS

It is officially Fall and this is a great time to check on some things at home and prep for Winter. Here are a few tips for fall:

### CHECK YOUR GUTTERS

Your home's gutters and down spouts are incredibly important and Fall is a great time to maintain them. Leaves can build up in your gutters and decay causing your gutters to be ineffective. This can cause water to fall improperly along your home's foundation which can be very damaging to your home over time. Plus, decaying leaves can add excess nitrogen and phosphorus to stormwater runoff.

While you're out there checking on your gutters and downspouts, take a look at your downspouts and where they outlet. Make sure you aren't letting water set on your home's foundation and that you aren't flooding a neighbor. Your home's downspouts could also be tied directly into City lines. For Nitro much of the City still has combined storm and sanitary lines which means those lines of both storm and sanitary are all sent to the sanitary sewer plant to be treated. If your downspouts are tied into a City line, think about disconnecting them. There are many reasons to disconnect your downspouts, here are a few:

- preventing excess stormwater from going into the sanitary system in large rain events, this could help prevent any sanitary sewers from backing up.
- you could lead your stormwater runoff into a rain garden which will allow the ground to naturally filter the water back into the ground.
- you could add a rain barrel to a downspout of your home to collect rain water to use later for watering your garden.

\*Just remember, if you do disconnect your downspouts that you are not flooding yourself or your neighbors.



### FALLING LEAVES

The leaves will start to fall soon, and their improper disposal can cause many issues. Raking leaves into the street creates only issues for your community like, pollution of local waterways by adding too much nitrogen and phosphorus, it can cause localized flooding if they clog the storm sewer system, and can cause roads and sidewalks to become unsafe and slick when they become wet. Please, help protect our community and nearby waterways by properly maintaining your property's fall foliage.

There are many things you can do with your leaves. Try composting them or using them as fill in a new raised garden bed. You can bag them for collection or use St. Albans leaf collection program. Leaf collection begins every year in mid-October, but remember to pile the leaves at the edge of your yard and not actually in the street.

