

1.D4 – Information on Nutrient Reduction strategies to HOAs

The Town of Leesburg's storm sewer system receives water from impervious surfaces (roads, sidewalks, driveways, etc.) and carries this water to outfalls through a series of underground pipes and above ground culverts. Unlike the sanitary sewer system, stormwater flows untreated into our waterways. The stormwater enters our local streams and drains to the Potomac River, a regional treasure, which empties into the Chesapeake Bay. The Potomac River supplies 99% of the Town of Leesburg's drinking water. Please help keep our streams clean and safe for our children, pets, aquatic creatures and other wildlife.



- Did you know up to 25 percent of your lawn's total fertilizer needs can be supplied by clippings left on the lawn? Clippings contain 80 to 85 percent water and decompose quickly. Homeowners can cut their average mowing time by 30 percent by not bagging clippings. Besides saving time, you also save money by not having to pay for bags or extra hauling.
- Try recycling your lawn instead! Leave grass clippings on your lawn with a mulching mower. Grass clippings recycle valuable nutrients to the lawn; they filter down to the soil level where they compost. Mowing height is the key to success; by removing no more than one third of the grass blades at a time, grass clippings do not need to be removed. Instead of allowing grass clippings to go into the storm sewer, compost them, use a mulching mower, or bag them for collection as yard waste. Dumping grass clippings and leaves in storm drains is illegal and can result in a fine. The Town provides yard waste collection, once a week Town-wide on Mondays, from April through November. For more information, visit www.leesburgva.gov/yardwaste.
- Please use caution when applying Fertilizer, Weed Killer & Pesticide chemicals to lawns and garden areas by following manufacturer's guidelines for application and avoid applying immediately on windy days or before heavy rain, and storms are forecast. Rain can wash away the majority of the applied chemicals - right into the storm sewer system. These chemicals are carried to waterways where they can cause serious damage.
- Never direct anything into the yard inlets or curb inlets on your property or in the streets these openings (i.e. blowing leaves or grass, discarding trash, sweeping excess chemicals or debris into these inlets). Grass especially takes a long time to decompose, and clippings can clog storm drains, causing backups and localized flooding.



For more information, download a copy of our "Living Green: A Citizen's Guide to Springtime Stormwater Pollution Prevention" brochure at www.leesburgva.gov/living-green. For more easy ways you can reduce stormwater pollution, visit www.leesburgva.gov/reduce-stormwater-pollution.