The Stormwater Coalition is a committee of the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (419.241.9155). The coalition is composed of the following members:

Lucas County
(419.213.4500)

Wood County
(419.354.9000)

City of Bowling Green
(419.354.6227)

City of Northwood
(419.693.9327)

City of Oregon
(419.698.7047)

City of Rossford
(419.666.0210)

City of Sylvania
(419.885.8959)

City of Toledo
(419.245.1050)

Village of Haskins
(419.823.1911)

Village of Holland
(419.865.7104)

Village of Millbury
(419.836.9671)

Village of Ottawa Hills
(419.536.1111)

Village of Walbridge
(419.666.1830)

Village of Waterville
(419.878.8100)

Jerusalem Township
(419.836.8921)

Lake Township
(419.838.6536)

Middleton Township
(419.823.1480)

Monclova Township
(419.865.7862)

Perrysburg Township
(419.872.8861)

Spencer Township
(419.865.2883)

Springfield Township
(419.865.0239)

Sylvania Township
(419.882.0031)

Washington Township
(419.726.6621)

Waterville Township
(419.878.5176)

Association of General
Contractors of Northwest Ohio
(419.241.3601)

Home Builders Association
(419.473.2507)

Ohio Department of
Transportation
(419.373.4433)

Putting Yard Waste to Work

Yard waste is the organic matter that is left over from mowing lawns, pulling weeds, raking leaves, and other landscaping activities. It can be used to improve your yard, but if it is improperly managed, organic matter can enter our streams where it has a negative effect on water quality and habitat.

Options for Dealing with Yard Waste

1. **Grasscycle:** Grasscycling is the simplest way to deal with grass clippings. To recycle grass, only mow one third of the length of the grass and leave the grass clippings on the lawn. Grasscycling has several benefits including reducing lawn management time because there is no more bagging, providing nutrients from the clippings, reducing stress on the grass, which keeps it healthier, and keeping grass clippings out of the storm drains.

2. **Composting:** Turn your yard waste (clippings, leaves, and garden debris) into compost that will be a great soil additive. Mix compost into clay soils to allow water to seep through. The soil will retain moisture and nutrients better. This provides a benefit to your plants and helps reduce stormwater runoff.

3. **Mulching:** Leaves, tree bark, and wood chips from downed tree limbs make excellent mulch. Mulch is a stormwater-friendly way to prevent weeds and reduce soil erosion when applied properly. Mulch should be layered no more than 2-3 inches tall to prevent it from washing away during heavy rains.

4. **Disposal:** Bagging yard waste and taking it to a mulching or composting facility is the best option. Also, some communities offer leaf pickup in the fall. Rather than the waste going to a landfill, it is reused. However, if no yard waste facility is available and yard waste must be disposed of, sending it to the landfill is the next best option.

What *not* to do:

- Never dispose of yard waste into a storm drain.
- Do not hose or sweep grass clippings into the street or sidewalk.
- Do not overwater lawns. Watering too frequently can send nutrients and sediment into storm drains. Most lawns need very little water (about an inch a week) to stay healthy.
- Do not rake leaves into the street during the fall unless your jurisdiction request that you do so for municipal pickup.

Where to recycle/dispose:

- Contact your county's solid waste district for mulching, composting, or disposal locations.
- Lucas County (Yard Waste Collection Center information): http://www.co.lucas.oh.us/index.aspx?NID=791
- Wood County: http://www.wcswmd.org/newyardwaste.htm