



# LIMITING LEAF LITTER!

## **Leaf litter problems**

The build-up of leaf litter near streams and in ponds introduces unwanted nutrients, reduces oxygen and leads to algae, forming foul-smelling green mats on the water surface. Leaf litter also contributes to clogging catch basins, preventing stormwater runoff from entering the drainage system and causing flooding.

Leaves dumped near ponds, rivers, banks and wetlands block sunlight and smother the plant life that provide food and shelter to animals such as turtles, ducks, chipmunks and deer.

## **Leaf Litter No More!**

- Mulch leaves with your lawn mower, which will put nutrients and organic matter back into your soil. Did you know leaves in plant beds and gardens will add organic matter and nutrients.
- Rake leaves into a compost pile and let the leaves decompose over the winter and then use as fertilizer the next growing season.
- Rake leaves into 30 gallon paper brown leaf bags and bring your leaf bags to the Town's Recycling and Disposal Facility, 169 Great Plain Avenue. Refer to the Town's website for residential hours; <https://www.wellesleyma.gov/331/Recycling-Disposal-Facility>.

## **We Care!**

**This outreach message helps our community to meet the US EPA MA MS4 General Permit requirements.**