

The Journey of Yard Waste

Laws require yard waste to be collected and properly disposed. It's illegal to dump yard waste along streams or blow leaves or other debris into the street. And, there are very good reasons why.

Follow the red and green trails below to find out what happens when we properly dispose of yard waste using City of St. Peters services—and what happens when yard waste is simply dumped or blown away from our property.

DUMPED ALONG A STREAM



Dumping yard waste into a stream or along the stream bank can destroy underlying vegetation that holds the soil in place with its roots. This yard waste also introduces a high level of nitrogen and phosphorus, which harms the stream's water quality and habitat.

With no plant root structure in place, the stream erodes.



Dumping yard waste along a stream can eventually lead to a massive stream bank failure. If you're dumping along the stream behind your home, the bank can recede and cut into your property.

Eroded banks can cause trees and other vegetation to fall into the stream, creating a bottleneck point. During a heavy downpour, the stormwater may back up and come out of the stream to cause flooding.



BLOWN INTO THE STREET

The City of St. Peters' stormwater management system includes "gray" systems such as gutters, storm sewer inlets, storm sewer pipes and related structures. Blowing leaves, lawn clippings or other debris into the street can clog these systems.

If storm sewer systems are clogged in your neighborhood, the stormwater can't reach nearby waterways. A severe storm could cause neighborhood flooding.



RECYCLING YARD WASTE

Placing yard waste in the brown yard waste carts provided by the City of St. Peters is the easiest way to properly dispose of yard waste. Just wheel your cart around the yard to collect waste, and wheel it to the curb on collection day.



St. Peters residents with up-to-date St. Peters Resident Privilege Cards can also drop off yard waste for free at Earth Centre, 115 Ecology Drive (up to 30 cubic yards per year).

When it reaches Earth Centre, recycled yard waste is processed into mulch or mixed with biosolids (byproducts of St. Peters' wastewater treatment process) and turned into Class A compost as part of the City's award-winning Organic Resources Recycling Program.



The mulch and Class A compost at Earth Centre is sold back to the community for beneficial uses. Each year, a few thousand St. Peters residents take advantage of low resident rates to use our compost to improve their lawns and gardens.

You Choose the Outcome.

www.stpetersmo.net

Mowing Tip: Cut it high, let it lie. Higher lawns crowd out weeds. Lawn clippings make great fertilizer.