

# Wetlands & Yard Waste:

*How responsible yard care benefits Vadnais Heights*

## What's the problem?

Yard waste such as leaves, grass clippings, and other brush seems natural, but causes issues when dumped into ponds and wetlands. This includes:

- **Clogged waterways** including ditches and culverts. When debris fills waterways and slowly travels downstream, it increases the risk of flooding. Not only is dumping into wetlands and waterways irresponsible to neighbors, it is illegal under state law.
- **Pollution** in the form of excessive nutrients. Phosphorus in leaves and grass clippings produces excessive algae, which harms water quality and aquatic life.
- **Sedimentation** covers wetlands in a thick layer of mud. This chokes out native vegetation and wildlife. Dense stands of cattails, reed canary grass, and phragmites take advantage of the mud and reduce the wetland's ability to take in and store water.



Wetlands and ditches in Vadnais Heights drain to East Vadnais Lake, the reservoir for the Saint Paul Regional Water Services. Responsible actions upstream help protect this drinking water resource.

## What is responsible disposal?

- **Mulch** leaves into the yard or keep grass clippings on the lawn for natural fertilizer.
- **Bag** leaves and/or grass clippings and either a) bring them to a Ramsey County yard waste facility or b) contract a yard waste hauler for curbside pick-up.
- **Compost** yard waste at home. Keep compost piles in designated bins at least 40' away from ponds, shorelines, and wetlands. To help absorb nutrients, surround compost with native vegetation.

*Distance requirements can vary depending on wetland size. Contact the City or VLAWMO for details on specific wetlands, storing fill, or construction material. City: (651) 204-6050 VLAWMO: (651) 204-6070*

## Thank you for your support!

Your leadership promotes clean water, cost savings for the City, neighborhood beautification, and groundwater recharge.

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**VLAWMO**

Vadnais Lake Area  
Water Management Organization

[www.vlawmo.org/wca-rules](http://www.vlawmo.org/wca-rules)