

KEEP THOSE GUTTERS CLEAN

What's so bad about minds and leaves in the gutter?

We'll skip the "minds in the gutter"---you already know what's bad about that! But what about the leaves? Did you like the filamentous algae that graced/greened/browened Rock Lake this season? No? Then **do not** rake your leaves into the gutter. They will sit there awaiting the rains, which may wash the leaves themselves into the lake through the storm sewers. Even if the rain is not hard enough to wash the leaves down, the water can still flow through the leaves and wash the **abundant phosphorous** that lurks in those innocent looking leaves into the lake. Somewhere on your block or nearby, there is a sewer that drains directly into the lake. No filters or chemicals modify that water. It is one of the "roadways" for pollution in Rock Lake. Treat that "Rock Lake Expressway" with care. Rake your leaves on to the tree border (the grass between your sidewalk and the street) rather than in the gutter.

Your good citizenship in limiting the phosphorous-loading of Rock Lake will not automatically and immediately solve all the problems of the lake, but it is one small, easy step that, when done collectively by a whole community, does make a difference.

Help keep our lake clean by keeping your gutters clean!

Making Waves
Oct.4, 2010