Spring Lawn Maintenance Tips to Help Prevent Stormwater Pollution

(BRISTOL, TN) There is an enormous amount of chemicals and yard waste associated with the spring season. The City of Bristol's Public Works Department is providing information concerning stormwater pollution and has developed spring maintenance tips to use while caring for your lawn.

1. **Do Not Over-Fertilize Your Yard:** Over-fertilization will not increase plant growth, but the excess will wash off your yard and down the storm drain, polluting the stormwater. Fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides pollute the stormwater and endanger wildlife. Your fertilizer nourishes algae that grow in creeks, lakes, and rivers, depleting oxygen in the water, which can kill fish and other aquatic wildlife.

2. **Do Not Put Leaves or Grass Clippings into the Storm Drain:** Covered or clogged drains significantly contribute to street and yard flooding. Storm drains are not meant to accept debris or garbage but to take away overflow rainwater to prevent flooding of home and property.

3. **Remember - the Storm Drainage System is Different from the Sanitary Sewer System:** The storm drainage system is a separate system from the sanitary sewer system.   Any material that flows into the storm drainage system flows directly to our local rivers and streams, whereas the sanitary sewer system takes wastewater from our homes and businesses and purifies it before returning the water to the rivers and streams.

Please help the City in its fight against stormwater pollution. Whenever it rains all the rain water flows to our local rivers and streams, carrying any pollutants that are picked up along the way. We are the solution to stormwater pollution.

For more information or if you have any questions or concerns, please call Jonathan Scherer at (423) 989-5666 or jscherer@bristoltn.org.