



LEAVES: LOVE 'EM AND LEAVE 'EM



What is Leaf Mulching?

Leaf mulching is the practice of chopping leaves into small pieces. Mulched leaves can be left on your lawn, as they fall between the grass blades and disappear, or piled 3" or 4" deep on garden beds and around shrubs where they act as a protective layer in the winter and, in the growing season, prevent weed growth and help conserve water. Leaf mulch decomposes over time, and adds important nutrients and structure to the soil.

Benefits of Leaf Mulching

- **A healthy property:** Mulching recycles nutrients into the soil to feed lawns & plants, provides a free natural fertilizer, and helps retain moisture.
- **Savings of time and effort:** Mulching in place is easier and faster than raking or blowing leaves.
- **Helping the environment:** Leaf piles block streets and traffic, clog storm drains, and result in excess nutrient runoff (phosphorus & nitrogen), polluting our waterways. Transporting and disposing of grass and leaves as yard waste wastes energy and contributes to pollution, too.

GNPD will be piloting this program at 6 locations this Fall:

- **Steppingstone Park & Marina**
- **Memorial Field**
- **Village Green**
- **Allenwood Park**
- **Cuttermill Park**
- **Lakeville Park**