



**What is Stormwater?** *Stormwater* is water that originates from precipitation, including not only rain, but snow and hail as well. This water collects on the grass and pavement and eventually finds its way to a body of water or a drain. During its travel, stormwater will pick up chemicals from fuel and salt on the road, in addition to common yard practices of fertilizer and weed killer use. The federal government has tasked each state, and therefore county and township, to control just how much of these substances enter our environment and lower the levels as much as we can.

## Spotlight Topic: Autumn's Falling Leaves & a Clogged System

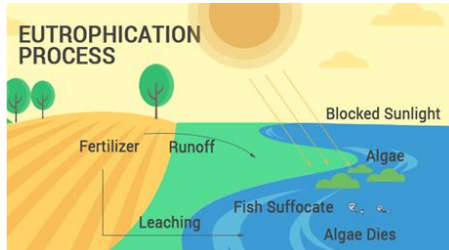
*Phosphorus • Eutrophication • Nitrogen*



A common leaf machine  
Source: USGS

As the summer comes to an end, the temperatures drop, severe storms dwindle and the evenings grow dark sooner, a new challenge arrives for our stormwater system. We strive to keep all of you up to date on our daily and monthly activities, but sometimes when we share our documents, there are science-heavy sections that become confusing without further explanation. One major focus of the Stormwater Authority is to remove as much sediment and nutrients as possible from our system to meet regulatory requirements and protect our water bodies. The approach of autumn brings falling leaves and therefore a great influx of nutrients, specifically phosphorus and nitrogen that make up organic leaf material. If we fail to capture enough leaf debris, eutrophication may occur. Eutrophication is the scientific term for the overabundance of nutrients in a water body, which leads to an increase of plant and algae growth. This type of overgrowth can create algal blooms, dead zones, and fish kills, all of which are events that take a long time to recover from (NOAA).

**How can we help?** As you may know, our township offers weekly leaf pick up beginning in October through the first significant snowfall. We will remove your leaves if they are raked along the curb or packed in brown paper bags. Please be aware of nearby storm drains; covering them up will allow leaves to enter the system and may lead to a blockage. If you see a covered or clogged, please feel free to remove the debris or call the township for assistance.



**EARTHHOW**

### ATTENTION

We are now called the Stormwater Authority and we are **separate** from the Swatara Township Sewer Authority. Please remember this when making bill payments to ensure your payment is applied to the correct account! Thank You