

Guide to MS4

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System

June 2026 Edition



It's Mulch Season

Mulch can provide benefits to soils in our yards, such as reducing the need for watering by slowing water evaporation in hot/dry weather, blocking sunlight which could prevent weeds from germinating and growing, and also providing soil enrichment through the increase of nutrients. While the use of mulch could be a benefit, too much mulch can become an illicit discharge to a storm drain. Mulch in thick layers can float during heavy rains and wash into storm drains. Piles of mulch ready to be spread over an area should not be placed in the street, as it can easily wash away as well.

Mulch Savvy

How to be Stormwater compliant with mulch.

1. Stage mulch deliveries on your driveway or a portion of your yard.
2. Keep mulch to 1-2 inches. Too much mulch can runoff into storm drains.
3. Mulch volcanoes (piling mulch around trees) can look nice but they can quickly destroy a tree.

