

HAMPTON VA

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Residents asked to help environment by keeping grass clippings, debris out of storm system

July 15, 2016 - Residents are being asked by the city's Public Works Department to help keep grass clippings and other organic material out of the storm sewer system. "Keeping the system clean not only saves our residents money, but helps make our parks, beaches and environment healthier and safer to enjoy," said Chris DeHart, Environmental Services Manager in Public Works.

Because of the higher-than-average rainfall and warmer temperatures this summer, lawns and yards are growing fast. That means that have to be cut more often. That's great for curb appeal, but when all those grass clippings and yard debris get into the drainage system it increases bacterial pollution and aquatic life can be killed by the excessive nutrients and lack of oxygen.

The material floats and gathers as it goes down stormwater lines, creating costly blockages and causing flooding during heavy rains. And, it can contribute to the mosquito problem because mosquitoes favor stagnant water for breeding - especially when the water is high in organic material.

Residents are encouraged to do their part by using mulching blades on lawn mowers, bagging debris during lawn maintenance, and blowing or sweeping grass clippings out of the street, curbs and gutters and back into the yard.

Finally, there's the City Code to consider. It's unlawful for anyone to deposit any substance into the storm sewer system.

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