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- [Email \(Plain Text\)](#)

From: DC Department of Energy and Environment <doee@subscriptions.dc.gov>

Subject: November Watershed News



## November 2025

Dear Watershed Partners,

On a crisp, sunny fall Friday last month, dozens of DOEE staff hit the streets to leave a mark on the city – literally!

One group split into pairs and distributed the new Bag Law decal to more than 150 businesses across the District. The colorful new design reminds retail employees to charge the 5-cent bag fee for every single-use carryout bag given to customers. It also reminds customers to avoid the fee by bringing reusable bags when they shop. You can learn more about Bag Law [here](#), and if you own a DC business you can view the decal and print or request some to display.

Another group placed curb markers at storm drains to let residents know which waterway their local storm drains flow into – and to keep litter out of it! Starting from Alethia Tanner Park in Northeast DC, groups went toward either North Capital Street or Rhode Island Avenue, spreading out and installing 96 Anacostia Watershed curb markers at the storm drains along those streets. While the streets are in the combined sewer system (CSS), the overflow drains into the Anacostia River. Some of the groups collected trash while walking the streets, making an additional effort to keep pollution out of our sewer system.

Keep an eye out for the decals and storm drain markers all over the District!





### Free Webinar for National Stormwater Day





[National Stormwater Day](#) was established to promote the many stormwater awareness campaigns at the state, regional, and local levels that share the same goals: increasing awareness of stormwater as a topic and a resource, and to educate the public on the value of investing in stormwater management programs and infrastructure.

This year, National Stormwater Day will be recognized on Monday, November 17, 2025 with a free webinar from 1:00 to 2:00 PM (EST). It will bring together stormwater professionals to recognize leading stormwater champions, provide an overview of the newly established EPA Stormwater Centers of Excellence for Stormwater Infrastructure Technologies, and share updates from the recent Water Environment Federation MS4 Needs Assessment Survey.

You can register for this free event [here](#).

## Everyday River-Friendly Practices: Fall Edition



For many District residents, fall means pumpkin spice, everything nice... and leaves, lots of leaves! For the watershed they can be an additional source of pollution. Leaves make their way from lawns to streets to storm drains and eventually to local streams, creeks, and rivers. Decaying leaves use up the oxygen in bodies of water which can harm fish, aquatic plants, and native wildlife. With these Everyday River-Friendly Practices, you can help support healthy watersheds and ecosystems as you enjoy the fall colors.



**Rake it up:** Rake leaves into a pile just behind the curb, best done the day before pickup. Do not rake or blow leaves in the street or near storm drains. Please visit the [DPW webpage](#) for the current leaf collection schedule.



**Mow it down:** Mulch dry leaves by going over them with a lawn mower. Leaves and grass clippings are the best fertilizer for your lawn because they release nutrients back into the environment through a natural cycle.



**Leaf it alone:** Rake leaves into a compost pile. In addition to nutrients, these piles provide winter shelter for the larvae of pollinators like bees, moths, and butterflies. Be sure the pile is away from the curb/street and protected from wind.

Leaf collection began November 3, so be sure to learn your section, be on the lookout for when your section's collection starts, and rake your leaves to the tree box or curb (remember to only use paper bags if you're bagging up your leaves). You can get updates on leaf collection by following DPW on social media, downloading the DPW app, signing up for text alerts, calling the Leaf Line at 202-671-LEAF (5323), or visiting [dpw.dc.gov/leaf](https://dpw.dc.gov/leaf).

## Know the Invasives: Spotted Lanternfly



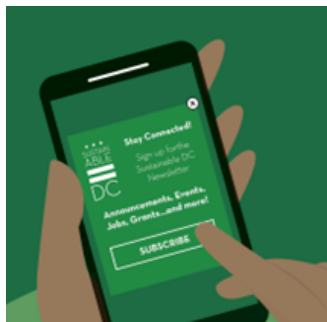
Photo by Damien Ossi (DOEE)

By now, we have all seen the latest invasive insect to arrive in the region: the spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*). This eye-catching critter is a leaf hopper (insect order Hemiptera) that originally arrived in Pennsylvania from East Asia on a shipment of landscape boulders. Since then, it has increased its range throughout the mid-Atlantic and into the Northeast.

Their preferred plant host is the Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), which is also an invasive species from East Asia. Another favored plant host are grapes (*Vitis* spp.), which has harmed local vineyards and may impact the native grape species that are part of the forest ecosystem in this region. Invasive insects have the potential to decimate plants they feed on, which also harms the native insect and animal species that depend on those plants for food and habitat.

As the weather chills, the spotted lanternfly will continue to die off. However, they have left behind the next generation in [egg masses](#) deposited on trees, stone, metal, wood, and concrete. If you notice their egg masses, scrape them off and [report it!](#)

## Stay in the Know with the Sustainable DC Newsletter





[Sustainable DC](#) is the District’s plan to be the healthiest, greenest, most livable city for all residents. The monthly Sustainable DC newsletter provides updates on the plan and shares relevant announcements, ways to be involved, job postings, articles and podcasts, and events. You can view [newsletters from previous months](#) to get a sense of what they include.

To subscribe, head to <https://sustainable.dc.gov/page/sustainable-dc-newsletter>, click on the “Subscribe Now” button, and follow the prompts.

### In Case You Missed It

Check out some recently published pieces about the watershed – you might spot DOEE staff or partners!

[Eco-friendly landscaping business gives returning citizens a fresh start](#)

*Chesapeake Bay Program*, 15 September 2025

[As invasive vines threaten to strangle our trees, volunteers are fighting them back](#)

*The 51st*, 25 September 2025

[OPC Launches Summit on Water Rights, Access](#)

*Washington Informer*, 1 October 2025

[For historic Georgetown Black cemeteries, stormwater project begins next spring](#)

*The Wash*, 14 October 2025

[Climate change is coming for D.C.’s trees, and the city won’t look the same](#)

*Washington Post*, 19 October 2025



This message has been sent by the District of Columbia · Washington, D.C. 20004



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Photo by Damien Ossi (DOEE)

By now, we have all seen the latest invasive insect to arrive in the region: the spotted lanternfly ("Lycorma delicatula" [ <https://trees.dc.gov/pages/invasive-species-spotted-lantern-fly> ]). This eye-catching critter is a leaf hopper (insect order

Hemiptera) that originally arrived in Pennsylvania from East Asia on a shipment of landscape boulders. Since then, it has increased its range throughout the mid-Atlantic and into the Northeast.

Their preferred plant host is the Tree of Heaven ("Ailanthus altissima" [ <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/tree-heaven/> ]), which is also an invasive species from East Asia. Another favored plant host are grapes ("Vitis "spp.), which has harmed local vineyards and may impact the native grape species that are part of the forest ecosystem in this region. Invasive insects have the potential to decimate plants they feed on, which also harms the native insect and animal species that depend on those plants for food and habitat.

As the weather chills, the spotted lanternfly will continue to die off. However, they have left behind the next generation in egg masses [ <https://dof.virginia.gov/spotted-lanternfly-egg-mass-scouting-diy/> ] deposited on trees, stone, metal, wood, and concrete. If you notice their egg masses, scrape them off and report it [ [https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/a5d56874c96e463c9d716ef9790b4990?&field:species=spotted\\_lanternfly&field:SLF\\_stage=egg\\_mass](https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/a5d56874c96e463c9d716ef9790b4990?&field:species=spotted_lanternfly&field:SLF_stage=egg_mass) ]!

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\*Eco-friendly landscaping business gives returning citizens a fresh start\* [ <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/eco-friendly-landscaping-business-gives-returning-citizens-a-fresh-start> ]

"Chesapeake Bay Program", 15 September 2025

\*As invasive vines threaten to strangle our trees, volunteers are fighting them back\* [ <https://51st.news/invasive-vines-dc-climate-change-volunteering/?ref=the-51st-newsletter> ]

"The 51st", 25 September 2025

\*OPC Launches Summit on Water Rights, Access\* [ <https://www.washingtoninformer.com/dc-residents-discuss-water-sustainability/> ]

"Washington Informer," 1 October 2025

\*For historic Georgetown Black cemeteries, stormwater project begins next spring\* [ <https://thewash.org/2025/10/14/for-historic-georgetown-black-cemeteries-stormwater-project-begins-next-spring/> ]

"The Wash," 14 October 2025

\*Climate change is coming for D.C.'s trees, and the city won't look the same\* [ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/interactive/2025/dc-changing-trees-canopy/> ]

"Washington Post," 19 October 2025

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DC Flag [ <http://dc.gov> ]

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