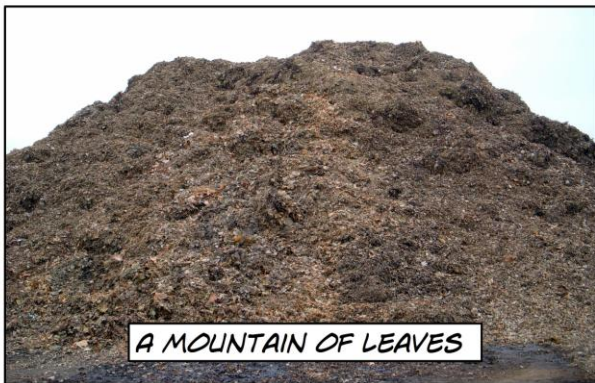


## City Fights Pollution in 2009

### Cleaner Runoff

Worthington's aggressive street sweeping program prevents pollution of Lake Okabena and streams flowing to Heron Lake and Lake Ocheda. The City's street sweepers remove soil, leaves and nutrients before they are carried by the storm sewer system into the lake, ponds or creeks.



The City street sweepers operate throughout the ice free season, cleaning neighborhoods up to 10 times per year. Removing leaf litter in the fall is especially important to prevent pollution.

October rain and snow created challenges for the City's street sweeping crew in 2009. Fortunately, drier and warmer weather in November allowed all streets in the City to be cleaned at least twice to pick up leaves.

### Centennial Park Buffer Strip

Worthington's park workers are trained to keep grass clippings away from open water and streets. Park mowing crews are especially careful near Lake Okabena and Whiskey Ditch.



During 2009, a strip of grass was left unmowed along a portion of Whiskey Ditch in Centennial Park. This was done to keep the cut grass out of the ditch, filter water runoff and save mowing costs.

### You Can Help

Worthington will continue to sweep streets and manage parks to control pollution. Homeowners and businesses, however, must also do their part to keep water clean. Here is how to do it:

Plan ahead to keep dirt, grass clippings and leaf litter away from streets and storm sewers.

- Bag, mulch or compost yard wastes. Do not blow or sweep them onto streets or parking lots.
- Plant grass immediately on soil left bare by landscaping or construction projects. Sweep up soil tracked onto streets and driveways.