

## City Workers Keep It Clean

### A Sweeping Change

To reduce pollution from the storm water flowing into Lake Okabena and area streams, the Worthington Public Works Department has stepped up its street sweeping program. Streets will be swept up to 15 times this year with a new regenerative air sweeper.

Street sweeping is important for public safety. It removes excess sand, gravel and miscellaneous debris from the community's thoroughfares. It is especially important to remove leaf litter in the fall and the sand applied over the winter months.

Street sweeping has additional benefits:

- 1) It reduces the cost of storm sewer system maintenance;
- 2) Less debris is washed into storm sewer catch basins, lakes and streams; and
- 3) Nutrients, sediment and heavy metals are removed before they become pollutants.



### Street Sweeping and Water Quality

The City's new regenerative air sweeper is considerably more efficient than older mechanical models. During a single pass, the street is wetted to minimize dust, swept with rotating brushes, blasted with air and vacuumed. The air sweeper removes up to 93% of the debris and 74% of algae producing nutrients.

Depending on how often they are used, regenerative sweepers can reduce the sediment pollution from storm sewers entering lakes and streams by 50% to 80%.

To further prevent water pollution, Worthington residents need to keep grass clippings, fertilizers, detergents and loose soil away from streets and hard surfaces drained by storm sewers.