Green Waste Management

Goal: Manage landscape maintenance activities in a manner that keeps pollutants from contacting stormwater or being transported offsite.

How can you protect stormwater from landscaping-related pollution?

General Tips
❖ Understand where water flows from your property and rake, sweep, or vacuum landscaping debris and properly dispose so that it doesn’t enter the street, storm drains, or drainageways.
❖ Set sprinklers to evenly water vegetation at a rate that can be absorbed by the soil to save water and prevent runoff; don’t allow overspray onto pavements.

Landscaping, Lawn, & Vegetation Maintenance
❖ Do not allow grass clippings or other vegetative debris to enter the storm drainage system, including drainage ditches and channels.
❖ Mulch-mow grasses when possible.
❖ Brush off mowers and tractors over grassy areas.
❖ Grass clippings and other vegetative debris should be disposed of or swept/blown back onto the grassy or vegetated areas – don’t sweep/blow debris out to the sidewalk, street, or drainageways.
❖ Clippings and vegetative debris should be composted or disposed in a rubbish bin.
❖ Control soil and sediment erosion in bare spots by using seeding, sod, mats, mulching, terracing, or other practical methods.
❖ When designing a landscaped area, flatten slopes if possible and use materials that allow water to soak into the ground.
❖ Choose plants that are appropriate for the climate and soil conditions; native and drought-resistant plants help prevent soil erosion.

Why does this matter?
Organic materials in the water can cause algae to grow, which reduces oxygen in the water. This can harm fish, coral, and other marine life.

Pesticides/Chemicals
❖ Use pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers only as needed; do not over apply.
❖ Do not apply fertilizers or pesticides before or during rainfall or high winds.