

Tipp City Operations and Clean Rivers

Tipp City is located on one of the area's main rivers, The Great Miami River.

Did you know? In a typical year our crews clean and check approximately 340 storm water catch basins. These basins get loaded with silt, sand, debris, and leaves. The Ohio EPA requires an annual report from cities documenting river related activities like this which the City completes.

The City collects approximately 320 truckloads of leaves each year in the Fall. The City and the EPA recommend that leaves be chopped up with the lawn mower until they disappear into the grass and then left in place. This practice adds humus to the soil and keeps the lawn looking better with less water. Many fertilizer companies also recommend this practice. By mulching leaves onto their lawn, homeowners have actually reduced the phosphorous in their lawn fertilizers. The City is required to report the number of loads of leaves collected each year to the EPA. With a goal to see a declining number of truckloads annually.

In the Winter, the City spreads 400 to 500 tons of salt per year on its 154 "lane-miles" of roadway. This salt is not good for the river, but winter driving and automobile safety requires the use of salt.

Some cities purchase special trucks with a built-in GLS and salt weighing system to document the exact amount of salt spread on each segment of road lane. Tipp City does its best to keep track of the use of salt on each road in the city, and we use some of the latest techniques to minimize the amount of salt needed by adding grit to the salt, pre-wetting the salt (so that it sticks to the road better), and using beet juice to pretreat the roads when a big snow is expected. Salt usage is also reported annually to the Ohio EPA.

The City has 17 parks covering 436 acres. In the Summer we mow approximately 240 acres of lawn, including open space, soccer, and baseball fields. The City minimizes the use of fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides. Any of these that are used must be reported to the EPA.

We should all be reducing salt use as much as possible in winter, reducing mowing in the Summer, chopping up leaves in the fall and leaving them on the lawn, avoiding the use of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides, wherever possible, not only to help keep the rivers healthy, but to help reduce our costs.