

Daily News letters

Published: November 4, 2006

Dumping leaves and grass clippings by creek is harmful, should be illegal

I am a volunteer water quality monitor with Anchorage Waterways Council. The creek I monitor is Furrow Creek in John's Park. When I arrived recently at the creek to do my monthly monitoring, I was amazed that someone in the surrounding neighborhood packed in their raked leaves and grass clippings and dumped them on the bank above the creek about 35 yards from the road.

Right on that spot there is a small path leading down to the creek. I use it to access the creek with my water monitoring equipment. It is a steep, slippery incline. Today it had become even more slippery with the huge pile of leaves and grass. I spent 10 minutes pushing it away from the creek and the path.

Maybe the neighbors are unaware that grass clippings are harmful to creeks (it decreases the amount of oxygen in the water that small insects and fish need to survive).

But there is another factor in this scenario that bothers me. Do people have a right to leave their grass clippings and raked leaves in a public park for other people to stumble over?

---- Giselle Bergeron

Anchorage