

You are fertilizing more than your grass.

The storm drain in your street is a direct link to our lakes and rivers. The choices you make when caring for your lawn directly affect water quality.

A common cause of lake and river pollution is phosphorus runoff. Though phosphorus is important for grass growth, levels in most Twin Cities' lawns are naturally high and do not require supplementation. As a result, Minnesota passed a law in 2002 banning the use of phosphorus fertilizer (some exceptions apply).

Phosphorus turns lakes and rivers green.

Phosphorus stimulates the growth of algae in lakes and rivers which crowds out other aquatic plants and reduces oxygen available for fish. The result is unattractive, foul-smelling water that is bad for fish, wildlife, and humans.

Nitrogen, not phosphorus, greens up grass.

Phosphorus-free lawn fertilizer still contains nitrogen, the plant nutrient that greens up grass.

To keep our lakes and rivers clean we need to manage phosphorus carefully. Read on to learn how you can reduce phosphorus runoff from lawn fertilizers and other sources!

Want to Do More?

Visit the District's website.

The PLSLWD's website is a great resource to learn more about what you can do to help protect water quality.

Visit www.plslwd.org.

Volunteer with the District.

There are many ways to get involved with the District. Volunteers are needed throughout the year to help with water quality events, monitor lakes, and serve on our Citizen's Advisory Committee and the Farmer Led Council.

Implement a water quality project.

If you want to do more for water quality, implement a project on your property. The options are endless, and projects can be simple. The District offers financial assistance for many projects. Visit www.plslwd.org/cost-share to learn more.

PRIOR LAKE - SPRING LAKE
WATERSHED DISTRICT

4646 Dakota Street SE, Prior Lake, MN 55372

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Mission: To manage and preserve the water resources of the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District to the best of our ability using input from our communities, sound engineering practices, and our ability to efficiently fund beneficial projects.

GREEN YOUR
LAWN,
NOT YOUR
LAKES AND
RIVERS.



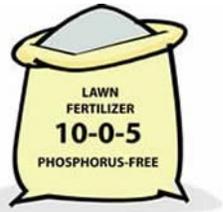
REMOVE LEAVES FROM THE STREET

- Rake leaves, seeds, and grass clippings out of the street and gutter.
- Compost on site, bag for collection, or take to a community compost program.



PREVENT EROSION

- Phosphorus attaches to soil. Keep soil in place to prevent phosphorus from washing into the street.



FERTILIZE THE LAWN, NOT THE LAKES AND RIVERS

- Choose a zero-phosphorus fertilizer. It is illegal in Minnesota to use fertilizers containing phosphorus (some exceptions apply). Visit www.mda.state.mn.us/phoslaw for more information about this regulation.
- If you think your lawn needs phosphorus, test your soil first. For information call the University of Minnesota Soil Testing Lab at 612-625-3101 or visit www.soiltest.cfans.umn.edu.
- Sweep spilled fertilizer off paved surfaces.
- Remember, compost and manure contain phosphorus too.

PICK UP AFTER PETS

- Scoop the poop. Pet waste contains phosphorus as well as harmful bacteria.
- Don't feed the ducks or geese.



Anything that enters a storm drain goes directly to a local lake or river.

It does not go to a waste water treatment facility.

Storm drains carry runoff directly to lakes and rivers. Whatever washes off your yard and street runs directly into these waters. That includes lawn fertilizer, grass clippings, pet waste, and tree leaves and seeds—all sources of phosphorus, the plant nutrient that turns lakes and rivers green with algae.

Do your part to keep our lakes and rivers clean.



LEAVES

FERTILIZERS

ANIMAL WASTE

GRASS CLIPPINGS

SWEEP THE PAVEMENT

Sweep up grass clippings and fertilizer from driveways, sidewalks, and streets.

KEEP OUR LAKES AND RIVERS CLEAN

No matter where you live, water from your yard makes it to the lake. Remember, clean water starts with you!