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

It does not go to a waste water treatment facility.

Do you know you live on waterfront property? You do if there is a storm drain nearby! Storm drains carry runoff water 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.

Keep your runoff clean!

Keep our lakes and rivers clean!

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 community compost program.

PREVENT EROSION

- Phosphorus attaches to soil. Keep soil from washing into the street.

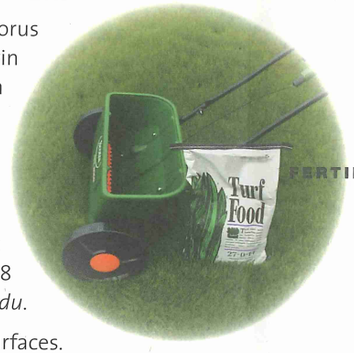
FERTILIZE THE LAWN, NOT THE LAKES AND RIVERS

- Choose a zero-phosphorus fertilizer. The majority of Twin Cities' lawns are naturally high in phosphorus and will remain healthy without adding more.
- If you think your lawn needs phosphorus, test your soil first. For information call INFO-U at 612-624-2200, message 468 or visit *www.extension.umn.edu*.
- Sweep spilled fertilizer off paved surfaces.
- Remember, compost and manure contain phosphorus too.

CLEAN UP AFTER PETS

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

LEAVES END UP IN THE STORM SEWER.....



FERTILIZER ▸ LAWN AND PAVEMENT ▸ STORM SEWER ▸ LAKES AND RIVERS

ANIMAL WASTES END UP IN THE STORM SEWER

GRASS CLIPPINGS END UP IN THE STORM SEWER..

KEEP THE PAVEMENT CLEAN

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

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. In response to this, many Twin Cities communities have laws restricting phosphorus fertilizer use. Though phosphorus is important for grass growth, levels in most Twin Cities' lawns are naturally high and do not require supplementation.

Phosphorus turns lakes and rivers green. Phosphorus stimulates the growth of algae in lakes and rivers. This crowds out other water plants and reduces oxygen available to 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 healthy, we need to manage phosphorus carefully. Read on to learn how you can reduce phosphorus runoff from lawn fertilizers and other sources!

Water Quality In Our Lakes, Streams, and Rivers is a Watershed Priority

Phosphorus Management is a high priority in the Shingle Creek/West Mississippi Watersheds – and it starts with YOU!

The ten cities listed below are members of the Shingle Creek/West Mississippi Watershed Management Organizations, and work together to improve water quality in our lakes, streams, and rivers.

Check with your City Hall to learn more about what you can do to help.

Brooklyn Center (763) 569-3300
Brooklyn Park (763) 424-8000
Champlin (763) 421-8100
Crystal (763) 531-1000
Maple Grove (763) 464-6000
Minneapolis (763) 673-5885
New Hope (763) 531-5100
Osseo (763) 425-2624
Plymouth (763) 509-5000
Robbinsdale (763) 537-4534

To learn more about the Shingle Creek/West Mississippi Watersheds visit our website:

www.shinglecreek.org

To learn more about yard and garden care, contact the Yard & Garden Line at the University of Minnesota Extension Service. Call 612-624-2200 or visit their Web site at www.extension.umn.edu. Through the Yard & Garden Line you can get advice from Master Gardeners, learn about soil testing from the U of M Soil Test Lab, and listen to a wide variety of audiotapes on INFO-U.

Metro WaterShed Partners
cgee.hamline.edu/watershed