



More Easy Steps to Help Reduce Phosphorous Levels

The City of Big Falls would like to continue to offer ideas for residents to consider, to help reduce the levels of phosphorous that end up in our river. Here are some examples specific to the upcoming summer months:

- 1) Use phosphorus-free fertilizer. While phosphorus is necessary to grow healthy lawns, soil in many parts of Minnesota already has an adequate amount. Healthy lawns can be maintained with phosphorus-free fertilizers.
- 2) Keep fertilizer off paved surfaces. It is illegal to spread any fertilizer on hard surfaces such as streets, sidewalks and driveways. Rain can wash it into nearby road ditches, eventually getting into a stream or river near you.
- 3) Keep leaves and grass clippings out of streets and ditches, as they may contain phosphorus. Use lawn mowers that chop up grass clippings and leave them on the lawn. This reduces the need for fertilizers.
- 4) Pick up pet waste promptly. It can contain harmful bacteria as well as nutrients.
- 5) Control soil erosion around your house. When left bare, soil is easily washed away with rain, carrying phosphorus with it. Soil erosion can be prevented by keeping soil covered with vegetation or mulch.