

# GREEN LAWNS DON'T HAVE TO EQUAL GREEN LAKES

Sure, we all want a great lawn. Doing it the right way ensures we get great water, too.

Excess nutrients, specifically nitrogen and phosphorus, pollute stormwater run-off from urban areas, contributing to the third greatest cause of lake deterioration in the US.



Leaf "litter" and landscape trash accounts for **56%** of phosphorus in urban stormwater, not to mention clogging storm drains and increasing debris in our streams and waterways.



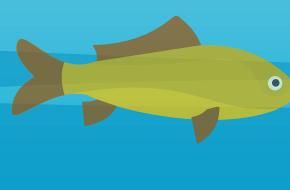
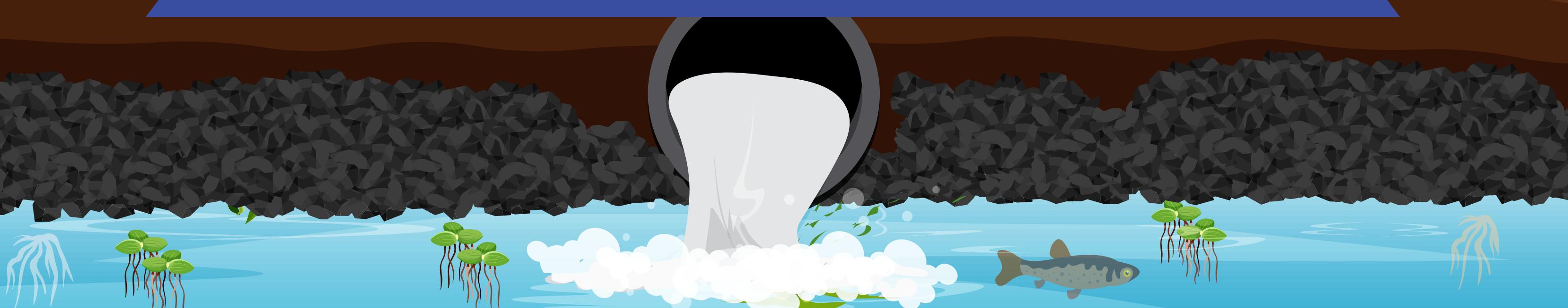
The amount of phosphorus in grass clippings generated from just one lawn mowing can produce up to **100 lbs.** of unwanted algae if it ends up in our lakes and ponds.



Just one pound of fertilizer over-application on the average lawn can equate to **34.2 lbs.** of excess algae growth in streams and lakes...

**ONE TON**  
for every 60 homes!

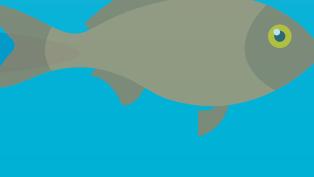
## WHY DOES IT MATTER?



More than 100,000 miles of rivers and streams in the US are polluted with too much nitrogen and phosphorus, a distance that could stretch around the earth **4 times!**



Too much nutrients can cause rapid growth of algae, which removes oxygen from the water, attributing odors, and upsetting the aquatic ecosystem. This also directly leads to a decline in Colorado's drinking water quality.



## WHAT YOU CAN DO



### Dispose Properly

- Compost or bag your leaves and grass clippings
- Don't blow grass clippings into the street
- Hand pull weeds when possible
- Sweep up any spills or overspray of fertilizers on sidewalks or streets



### Fertilize Effectively

- Fertilizing in the early fall promotes healthy root systems - leading to stronger, more resilient lawns and plants
- Watch the weather and make sure to not apply when storms will be approaching



### Turn It Down

- Adjust sprinkler systems based on weather, repair leaks, and reduce runoff
- Don't powerwash debris into the street
- Adjust fertilizer spreaders to apply the correct amount over areas. Fertilizer bags typically provide this information or ask at the local garden center



### Choose Wisely

- Perform soil testing to determine the right amount of fertilizers to apply
- Consider using slow-release fertilizers with water-insoluble or slowly-soluble nutrients
- Planting species that are native to the region can decrease the amount of turf, water, and fertilizer needed



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