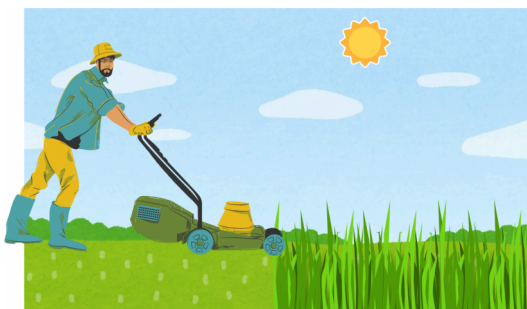


Lawns as Pollutants

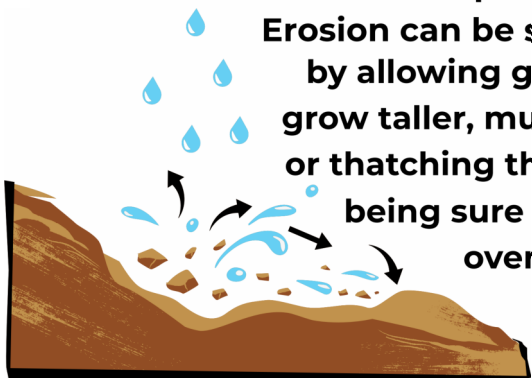
The largest source of Phosphorus (P) that runs off land and into water is lawns. Not only that but yards also significantly contribute to Nitrogen (N) and Potassium (K) pollution.



Reducing Erosion

P, N, & K run off lawns through the process of erosion. Erosion happens when dirt gets lifted and carried to somewhere new- typically a water body. By reducing the amount of erosion, you can reduce the amount of nutrient pollution.

Erosion can be slowed by allowing grass to grow taller, mulching or thatching the yard being sure not to overwater

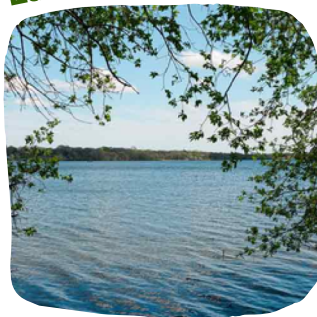


Quick ways to help protect our waters:

- Mow at 3" or higher
- Keep grass clippings on lawn or bagged and disposed
- Only water what's required
- Keep fertilizer on the lawn
- Use specific fertilizer application rate
- Keep an eye on upcoming rain events



Lake Laura



Overwatering

Grass only needs 1 inch of water a week- which is the equivalent of three 20-minute waterings with a sprinkler systems! This means that not overwatering is the easiest way to improve lawn care AND reduce nutrient pollution. By not overwatering you are keeping nutrients that are in soil and grass on the yard so they can keep feeding the plants- instead of flowing into the nearest storm drain to a water body.



Fertilizer

Fertilizer is a huge source of P, N, & K as those are the nutrients that plants need to grow. Using too much fertilizer

does not mean that the grass will grow better but will instead lead to more nutrients ending up in water bodies. Conducting a soils test lets you know how much to use. So you don't over-apply



Depending on the region, homeowners use **30-60%** of their water outdoors.



50% of that is wasted, in part, due to overwatering.

Keeping grass clippings on the lawn has the same amount of nutrients as a round of fertilizer!