



# REDUCE YOUR PHOSPHORUS FOOTPRINT



For shoreline owners

## WHAT IS PHOSPHORUS?

Phosphorus (P) is a chemical necessary for life. It is one of the building blocks to DNA, and therefore is a vital nutrient.

## WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Excess phosphorus pollutes waterways and contributes to algae blooms. Runoff from rain and melting snow carries P in it that enters our lakes and streams. More P is entering and degrading our lakes and streams due to increasing development.

## Ways to reduce your phosphorus footprint:

Any activity that reduces the amount of runoff entering a waterbody will limit the amount of P entering the lake. Similarly, preventing things that contain P from interacting with runoff will also reduce your phosphorus footprint. There are many options to do so!

Lower effort - Lower impact

- Don't mow right up to the shoreline



- Use no-phosphorus fertilizer on your lawn



- Make sure your sprinklers are watering your lawn and not pavement



- Rake leaves and pick up lawn clippings



- Pick up pet waste



- Wash your car at a car wash or use "non-toxic" soap and wash your car on grass or gravel

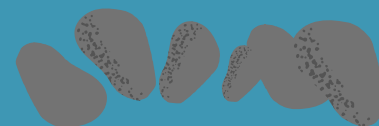


Higher effort - Higher impact

- Buy or build a rain barrel



- When developing, opt for permeable driveways and sidewalks



- Create a raingarden



- Plant a native shoreline



Any action helps!