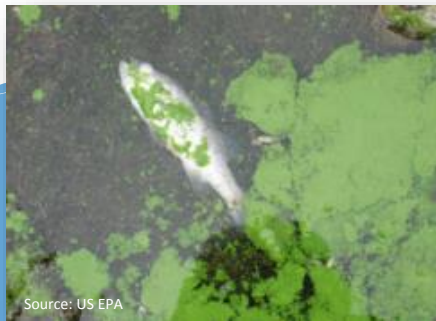


Sources of Phosphorus Pollution

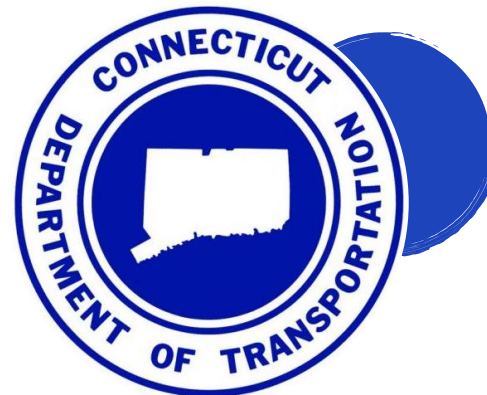
- Septic systems
- Fertilizer
- Grass clippings/leaves
- Detergents
- Sediment
- Erosion

What is the Impact?

Under normal conditions, natural water sources should contain minimal amounts of phosphorus. All of the pollution sources listed above either directly or indirectly cause phosphorus to enter our state's waterbodies. With excessive phosphorus levels in a waterbody or watercourse, algae begins to grow exponentially, leading to algal blooms. This significantly reduces the dissolved oxygen in the water that is readily available to fish and other aquatic life. Fish cannot survive under such harsh conditions and will suffocate without appropriate oxygen levels in the water.



“Polluted stormwater runoff is the most significant source of water quality problems”

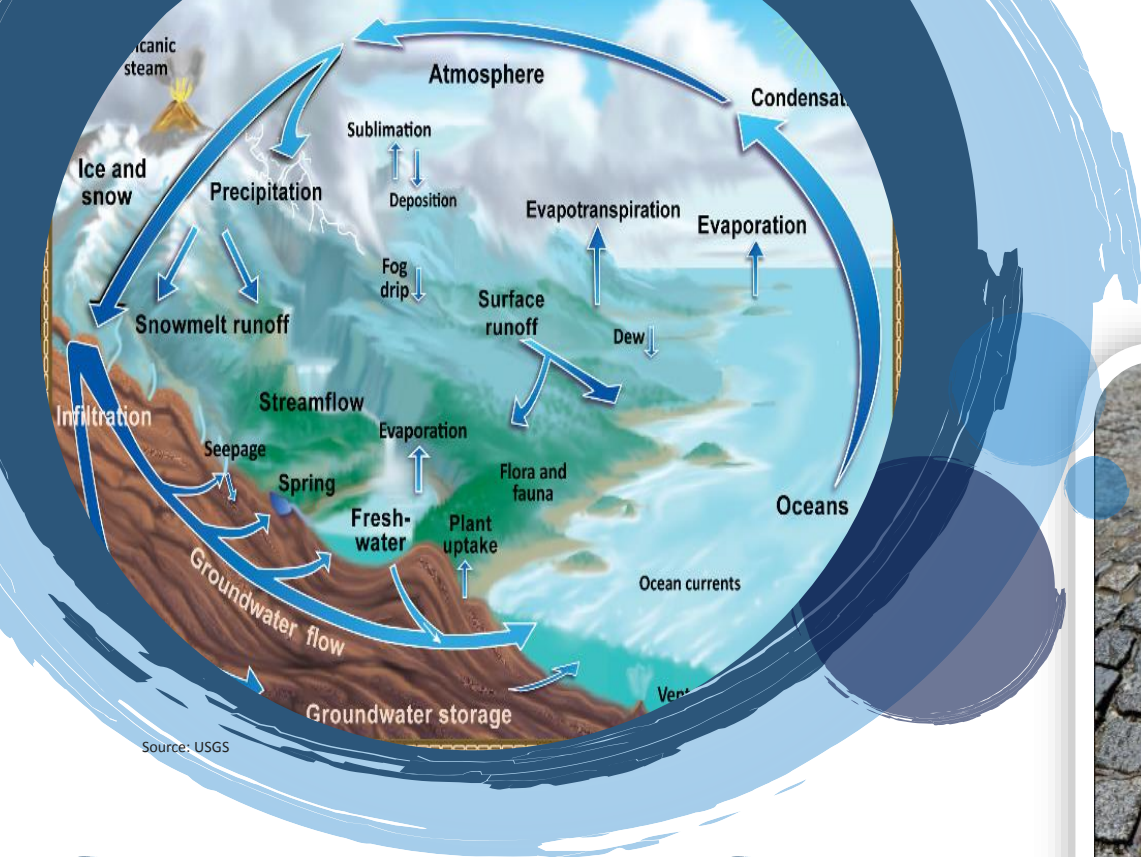


PHOSPHORUS and Stormwater Pollution



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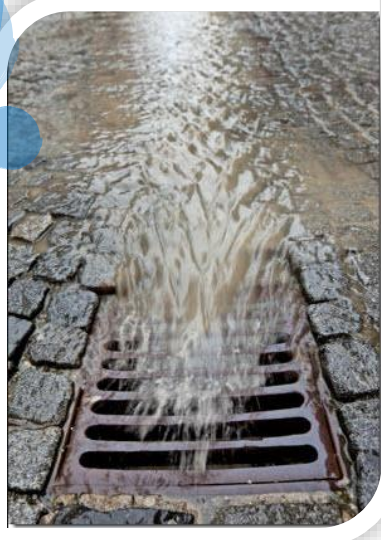
Nutrient pollution occurs when there is an excess of nitrogen and phosphorus

50 out of 50 states are impacted by nutrient pollution

States have identified about **15,000** water bodies in the US with nutrient-related problems

Reported drinking water violations for nitrates have nearly doubled in the last decade

Source: US EPA



Additional Solutions

- Compost grass clippings on your property
- Pick up pet waste
 - Especially important near water sources
- Regularly service septic systems
- Properly store and dispose of lawn chemicals

How Does Phosphorus Contaminate the Water?

During rain and snow storm events, phosphorus-containing soil and materials are washed into nearby streams, lakes, and rivers via stormwater runoff. Any contaminated water which flows into stormwater catch basins on roadways and parking lots is discharged directly into natural watercourses.

Agricultural runoff, animal waste, sewage, and lawn care products all contribute to phosphorus water pollution.

What You Can Do

Source: US EPA

- Limit lawn fertilizer use
 - Check the weather forecast before applying fertilizer – do not apply before a rain storm
 - Use fertilizer only during spring and fall when it can be readily used by plants
 - Never use fertilizer near waterbodies or watercourses
- Do not overwater your lawn
 - Overwatering will mobilize phosphorus and other nutrients

