



GREEN UP YOUR LAWN NOT YOUR LAKES AND RIVERS – To keep our lakes and rivers healthy, use less phosphorus.

Fertilize your lawn, not the river

- Understand the fertilizer label: NPK
N=nitrogen, P=phosphorous, P=potassium
- Use P free (27-0-8) fertilizer or P<3
- Follow proper application rates

Prevent Erosion

- Phosphorus attaches to soil. Keep soil from washing into the street.

Clean up after pets

- Pet waste contains phosphorus and harmful bacteria.

Keep the pavement clean

- Sweep grass clippings, leaves, and fertilizer from driveways and streets.

The choices you make when caring for your lawn directly affect water quality.



City of Ottumwa Public Works Department:
Streets & Sewers Division (641) 683-0688
Engineering Department (641) 683-0680

You live on waterfront property!



The storm drain in your street is a direct connection to the water in streams, ponds and lakes.

Anything that washes off your yard and street runs directly to these waters.

That includes lawn fertilizer, leaves, grass clippings, eroded soil, and pet waste. These are sources of phosphorus, a plant nutrient that turns lakes and rivers green with algae.



Are you fertilizing more than your grass?