



## Phosphorous

The Geneva Lake Conservancy is working to educate all Walworth County property owners on how to reduce phosphorus runoff. Phosphorous, which is commonly found in fertilizer and dishwasher detergents/soaps, and which is especially abundant in fallen leaves, can be detrimental to lake health.

Excessive phosphorous can result in algae blooms that can cause serious health problems in humans and pets, and make the lake unsafe for swimming and other recreational activities.

In recent years, we have seen algae blooms in Delavan Lake, Geneva Lake, and the Lauderdale Lakes. We are asking for your help to reduce phosphorous runoff in and around Walworth County. Doing so will result in healthier lakes, which in turn effects our health, our property value, and our enjoyment of these beautiful spaces. Here are a few ways you can help:

- Prevent leaves, lawn clippings and other lawn waste from entering the lake and asking your lawn service and neighbors to do so as well
- Conduct a soil test to determine if fertilizer application is necessary given your soil health
- If fertilizer is applied, refrain from watering your lawn for at least one week
- Do not wash cars, boats, or pets near bodies of water
- Plant native plants along the lakefront and streams leading to the lake, which filter phosphorus and other pollutants before they reach the water

## Chloride

Chloride is another significant polluter of Walworth County lakes and streams and can be detrimental to aquatic ecosystems, especially fish and amphibians. A 2015 study done in southeastern Wisconsin showed that chloride pollution was evident in each urban stream that was tested. These instances of chloride pollution are most frequently linked to the overuse of water softeners and deicing road salt.

Chloride levels tend to increase as watershed areas become more populated. Watersheds are significant areas of land where all water drains off into a nearby lake or stream. With increasing population density, and the fact that parts of Walworth County are located in various watersheds, it is incredibly important to prevent chloride pollution. Here are three simple ways that you can help:

- Turn your water softener settings off of "automatic" when no one is home
- Use minimal amount of road salt on driveway
- If there is leftover road salt after it has been applied, scoop it back up and save it for next time