

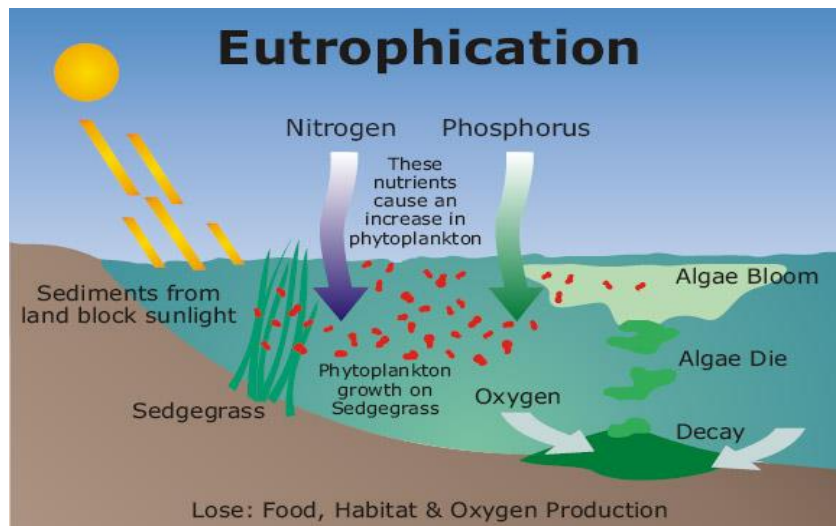
Excess Nitrogen and Phosphorus in Storm Water



Croton-Harmon Union Free School District
10 Gerstein Street
Croton-On-Hudson, NY 10520

Impacts of Excess Nitrogen and Phosphorus in Storm Water

Excess nitrogen and phosphorus in storm water while naturally beneficial for aquatic ecosystems can lead to eutrophication, a condition that causes uncontrolled algae blooms, especially in warmer months. These blooms deplete oxygen and sunlight, threatening fish and aquatic life, and can also produce harmful toxins and bacteria. This poses risks to human health through contact with polluted water, consumption of contaminated seafood, or drinking affected water.

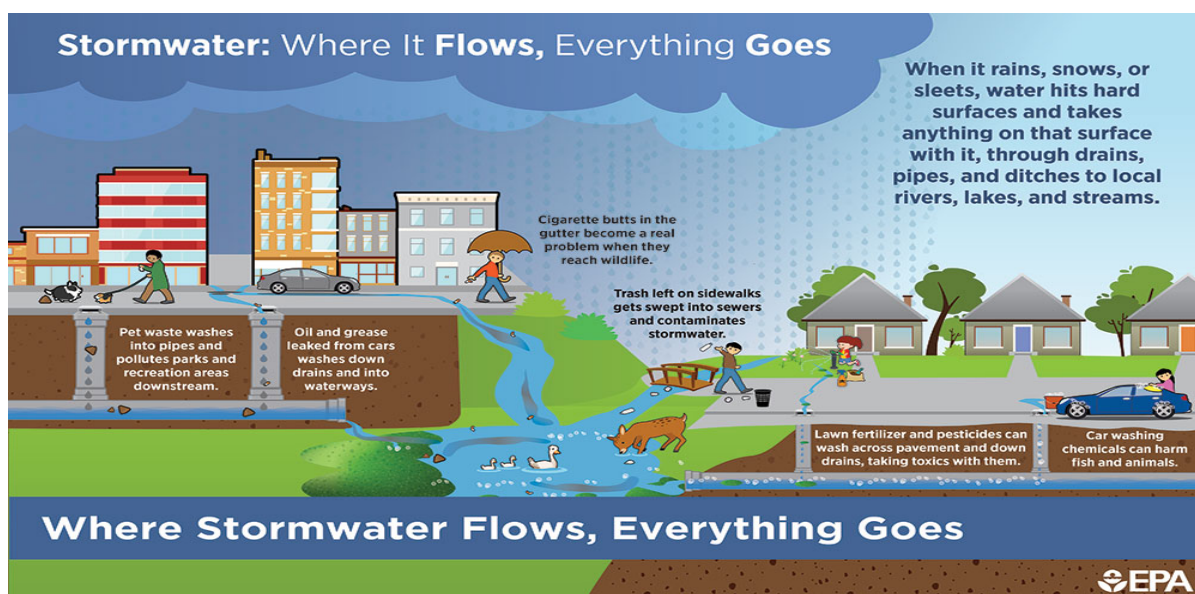


Excess amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus can be controlled by identifying and managing its sources. Common sources of nitrogen and phosphorus include:

- **Lawn and School Garden Fertilizers:** Over-fertilizing and over watering among landscaping services and students can lead to excess nutrients being easily washed away into the storm water drainage system.
- **Pet and Wildlife Wastes:** Pet waste contributes nitrogen, phosphorus, parasites, and bacteria to water bodies when it is not disposed of properly.
- **Cafeteria Waste & Organic Material:** Food Waste or grease improperly disposed of, or outdoor compost bins without covers.

What You Can Do:

1. Do not use lawn fertilizer that contains phosphorus and nitrogen unless it is necessary for the health of your lawn. Before buying fertilizer, check the fertilizer bag for a set of three numbers showing the percentage of nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K). Try using lawn fertilizer with “0” nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium.
2. Always pick up after your pet and consider educating other pet owners on why picking up pet waste is important.
3. Use enclosed compost systems; keep food waste away from storm drains



The community is encouraged to be involved with the Croton-Harmon Union Free School District Stormwater Management Program (SWMP). For information, please contact the Stormwater Program Coordinator Brad Kennedy at Brad.Kennedy@chufsd.org.

SWMP documents and Annual Reports are available for public review and comment on the District's website:

<https://www.chufsd.org/departments/buildings-grounds/stormwater-management-program>

References

[The Problem | US EPA](#)

[Sources and Solutions: In and Around the Home | US EPA](#)

[Help Prevent Nutrient Pollution | US EPA](#)

Pictures

<https://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/stormwater/images/flows-goes.jpg>

<https://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/stormwater/runoff.aspx>