

# Don't Feed the Storm Drain!



Streets connect to our lakes, ponds, and streams!

- *Grass clippings are sources of phosphorus that can turn lakes green with algae.*
- *Mow so that grass clippings are directed back into the lawn and not into the street.*
- *When done mowing, sweep sidewalks, driveways and streets clean of grass clippings.*

Phosphorus is one of the most troublesome pollutants in storm water runoff. Phosphorus comes from many sources, and it is the primary cause of water quality problems in our lakes and streams. Everything that is or was living contains phosphorus. It is in leaves. It is in lawn clippings. It is in animal wastes. It is an ingredient in most lawn fertilizers. It is even attached to soil. When leaves, lawn clippings, animal wastes, fertilizers, and soil are picked up by storm water runoff and are carried directly to our local lakes and streams, they provide the lakes with excess phosphorus. This excess phosphorus causes increased algae growth. Algae are small green plants that live in lakes and streams. Increased algae growth is observed as green algae blooms or "scums" on lakes. Too much algae is harmful to a lake system. It blocks sunlight and prevents other plants from growing. When it dies and decays, it also takes much needed oxygen away from fish. Limiting phosphorus reduces algae blooms.

## Please Help Keep Our Water Clean!



Environmental  
Services Division

### Oakdale Public Works

1900 Hadley Ave. N Oakdale, MN 55128  
651-501-5302

