



or  
**gooey and green?**



**What goes down the storm  
drain goes straight to the lake.**  
The future of the lake is in  
your hands!



**ONLY RAIN  
DOWN THE DRAIN**

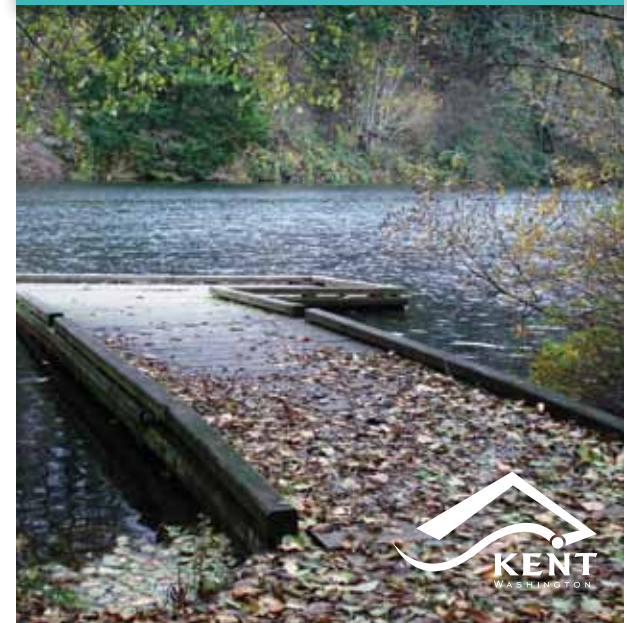
**Keep our water clean!**  
Please help keep lakes and  
streams clean by preventing  
anything except clean rainwater  
from entering the stormdrains!

For more information on **pollution  
prevention**, please contact:

City of Kent Public Works  
Environmental Engineering  
**253-856-5500**



**Lake Fenwick  
Clean & Pristine?**



## The Problem: Too Much Phosphorus

Natural levels of phosphorus promote healthy levels of plant growth. However, human activities increase levels of phosphorus in streams and lakes. Excess amounts of phosphorus can lead to excessive growth of certain types of plants, like algae. Overgrowth of algae can block sunlight from other plants

and aquatic life, killing them or stunting their growth. When algae die, they sink to the lake bottom and decompose. This decomposition consumes oxygen in the water and can reduce oxygen to levels that are unhealthy to plants and animals.

## Most Phosphorus Pollution in Kent lakes and streams comes from 2 Sources:



### Fertilizers

**Reason:** Fertilizers often have high phosphorus levels.

**Solution: Natural yard care**

- Mow high (about 2 1/2 - 3 1/2 inches), mow often, and let the clippings lie (free fertilizer).
- Use "Natural Organic" or "Slow Release" fertilizers and sweep excess fertilizer onto your lawn. Be sure to follow the directions on the label.
- Water deeply and infrequently (1-inch per week when needed and slowly), or let your lawn go 'GOLDEN.' It will come back.
- Aerate, overseed with Pacific Northwest grass-seed, and top dress with high-quality compost (1/4 - 1/2 inch thick over entire yard).
- Think twice before using weed & feed or other pesticides. These chemicals wash off lawns and end up in our streams and lakes

**For more information**, contact:

The Garden Hotline at **206.633.0224**

Email: [help@gardenhotline.org](mailto:help@gardenhotline.org)

[www.your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/naturalyardcare/index.asp](http://www.your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/naturalyardcare/index.asp)



### Car Washing

**Reason:** Detergents often have high phosphorus levels.

**Solution: Don't let suds go down the storm drain**

- Wash cars on gravel or grassy areas that 'filter' the soap out.
- Try washing without soap or reduced amounts of soap. If you use soap, dump the leftovers in your sink or toilet (not down the storm drain).
- Look for 'Phosphate-Free' detergents.
- Reduce how often you wash your car.
- Use a commercial car wash - Their water is recycled and treated.



### Remember:

If it goes down the storm drain, it ends up in a lake or stream and Puget Sound.

**In your neighborhood, stormwater ends up in Lake Fenwick!**