

Help Prevent Excessive Algae In Our Lakes

Algae blooms can affect our health, our environment and our recreation. It can cause lakes and ponds to look like pea soup and smell swampy, and in some cases can become toxic.

Stormwater runoff is a major factor in water quality, and there are several simple things you can do to help keep our lakes healthy:

- Do not rake, blow or mow leaves, grass clippings, dirt or debris into the street, which can end up in our lakes.
- Never rake, blow or mow leaves grass clippings, dirt or debris into lakes or other waterways.
- Eliminate soil erosion and runoff. If your shoreline is eroding, contact a shoreline landscaping specialist or the [Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District \(CL LID\)](#).
- Clean up after your pet. Do not allow pet waste to enter storm drains or bodies of water.
- Avoid excessive garden and lawn fertilizer, which contain nutrients that support the growth of algae.
- Do not use fertilizers which contain phosphorus. Just one pound of phosphorus can lead to 500 pounds of algae.
- If you have a septic system, maintain it properly.
- Leave an un-mowed buffer strip or create a naturally landscaped buffer strip between your lawn and the lake, which helps to filter runoff.
- Minimize your [impervious surfaces](#) whenever possible. Use mulch or alternative products, such as pervious pavers, to allow rainwater to seep through the surface which helps to slow runoff.



For information about harmful algae (such as blue-green algae), click [HERE](#).

Our North and South Center lakes were just delisted in 2021 from the [impaired waters list](#)- let's do our part to keep it that way!

