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Storm water management is critical to preserving the quality of water in Minnesota. Storm sewer drains in the City of Fergus Falls drain into the Otter Tail River, Lake Alice, Wright Lake, Hoot Lake and other bodies of water.

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What can you do to protect water quality?
Fertilizers, leaves, grass clippings, eroded soil and animal waste are all sources of phosphorus. When they are swept or washed into the nearest street or storm drain, they end up in our local rivers and lakes.

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Storm water has a direct influence on our natural environment. Any pollutants or sediment that enter the city storm sewer system can harm the aquatic life in our rivers, the animals along its banks or the thousands of people in the state who use rivers and lakes for recreation or as a water supply. To help manage storm water, the City of Fergus Falls has developed a storm water management program, which allows us to better regulate what enters our waterways.

If you have questions or would like to learn more about stormwater management, please contact the City Engineering Department at 332-5421

Do your part to protect water quality by:

- **Know the rules**

It's illegal to spread any fertilizer on hard surfaces such as streets, sidewalks and driveways. Rain can wash the fertilizer into nearby storm drains or road ditches, eventually getting into a lake or river near you. If you accidentally spill or spread fertilizer on a hard surface, clean it up immediately.

- **Follow Minnesota's phosphorus fertilizer law.**

On any bag or box of fertilizer there is a string of three numbers. The middle number indicates phosphorus content and should read "0"



- **Watch your clippings**

Keep your leaves and lawn clippings out of the gutters, streets and ditches. Never wash or blow soil or grass clippings into the street. Grass clippings can provide the equivalent of about one application of fertilizer per year.

- **Pick up pet waste promptly**

Pick up pet waste promptly. Pet waste can contain harmful bacteria as well as nutrients that cause excess algae and weed growth in lakes and rivers.

- **Control soil erosion around your house**

When left bare, soil is easily washed away with rain, carrying phosphorus with it. Soil erosion can be prevented by keeping soil covered by vegetation or mulch.

- **Keep a healthy lawn.**

Keeping your lawn strong and healthy will minimize weeds from taking root or insects from causing serious, permanent injury to the lawn. To reduce the need for herbicides mow your grass to a height of 2 1/2 to 3 inches.

Water infrequently, but thoroughly during dry periods of more than a week or two. Water only about once a week (about 1 inch of water). Avoid watering during strong sun and heat to minimize losses to evaporation. It is best to water early in the day, before 10 am.