

Help Keep Arlington Beautiful

Weeds and algae in Spy Pond, Mystic Lakes, and the Arlington Reservoir are fed with phosphorus from stormwater runoff.

Rain and snowmelt carry fertilizers, pesticides, and other pollutants from lawns and streets into our lakes and ponds.

Great neighbors like you are helping to keep Arlington beautiful.

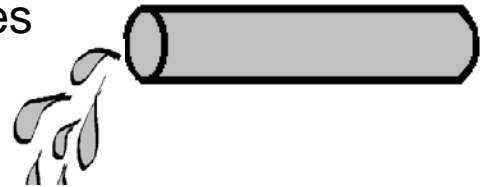
Phosphorus from fertilizer



Runs off into catch basins



Through underground pipes



Into Arlington's beautiful places.



Spy Pond



Mystic Lakes
David Mussina, 2008



Arlington Reservoir

Fertilizer runoff harms our ponds & lakes!

Here's What YOU Can Do To Help



Check the box when complete

- Test your soil for acidity (pH).** Adding lime balances the acidity of the soil, improves lawn growth, and reduces the need for fertilizer. Lime does not hurt lakes and ponds. Use a test kit or UMASS Extension* to check your soil pH and nutrients.
- Limit fertilizer application to 2x a year** – spring & fall – and use lowest dose.
- Buy NO-phosphorus, slow-release nitrogen, fertilizer.** The phosphorus content is the middle number of the formula. Make sure it is ZERO (e.g., 10-0-1 or 29-0-4). Established lawns seldom need phosphorus.
- Ask your lawn service for NO-phosphorus, slow-release nitrogen, fertilizer** on your lawn.
- Do not apply fertilizer before a heavy rain.** Heavy rain washes the fertilizer into a storm drain. From there it goes into one of our waterbodies -- Spy Pond, Arlington Reservoir, Hills Pond, McClennen, Mill Brook, Alewife Brook, Mystic Lakes and River.
- Pick up after your dog and do not feed the geese, swans, or ducks.** Animal droppings add phosphorus to our waterbodies.

For more information call:

- Brad Barber, Spy Pond Committee (781-646-1744 / bradb@shore.net) or
 - David Morgan, Conservation Agent (781-316-3012 / dmorgan@town.arlington.ma.us)
- * <https://ag.umass.edu/services/soil-plant-nutrient-testing-laboratory>



Keep Arlington's beautiful places healthy!



Spy Pond



Mystic Lakes



Arlington Reservoir

Thank you for being a great neighbor!