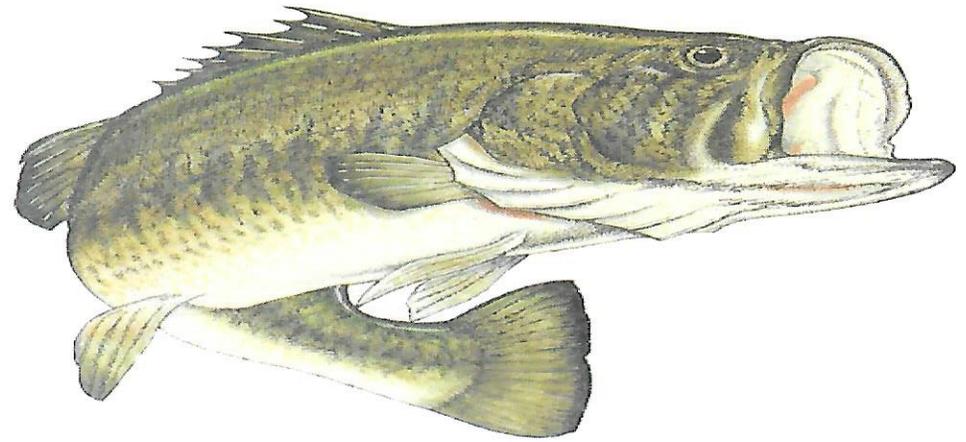


SILVER LAKE NEEDS YOU

PHOSPHOROUS AND OTHER CONTAMINATES ADD TO THE DECLINING WATER QUALITY.

You may not live on waterfront property, but if there is a storm drain or ditch nearby, it's just like you do. Storm drains and ditches carry runoff water directly to the lake. Whatever waters leave your property run into the water. That includes fertilizer, grass clippings, pet waste, and even septic liquids from un-maintained septic systems. All of these are sources of phosphorous and other contaminants that carry unwanted nutrients into the lake and turn it green with algae.

Keeping your runoff clean keeps our Silver Lake clean!



REMOVE LEAVES FROM THE STREET

- Rake leaves, seeds, and grass clippings out of the street and gutter.
- Compost on site, bag for collection, or take to waste disposal depository.
- Never dump grass or yard clippings in the lake.



PREVENT EROSION

- Phosphorous attaches to soil. Keep soil from washing into the street or lake.



FERTILIZE THE LAWN, NOT THE LAKE

- Choose a zero-phosphorous fertilizer. The majority of Silver Lake lawns are naturally high in phosphorous and will remain healthy without adding more.
- Sweep spilled fertilizer off of paved surfaces.
 - Remember, compost and manure contain phosphorous too.



CLEAN UP AFTER PETS

- Scoop the poop. Pet waste contains phosphorous as well as harmful bacteria
- Don't feed the geese or grass carp!

WASH YOUR CAR IN DIRT OR GRAVEL

- Grass and gravel filter the dirt and soap out of the water and keep dirty runoff out of storm drains and ditches. Don't worry, the soap won't hurt your lawn, but it will hurt the fish and water quality.
- You can make your own biodegradable car wash by mixing one cup of liquid dish washing detergent and $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of powdered laundry detergent (each should be chlorine and phosphorous free and non-petroleum based) with three gallons of water.



MAINTAIN YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM

- If you are on a septic system, it is imperative to have it pumped as often as necessary. Unmanaged septic systems can leak potentially dangerous substances into the lake that can affect fish, humans, and pets. If you assume you septic system is working fine because you haven't had to pump it in years; chances are it's in need of maintenance and may be seeping into the lake. For information on how to properly maintain your septic system you can call Cowlitz County Building and Planning @ (360) 577-3052. You can even attend a free seminar on how to properly maintain your septic system.



This message provided to you with coordinating partners that include: Silver Lake Flood Control District, Silver Lake Watershed Advisory Council, and Board of Cowlitz County Commissioners.