

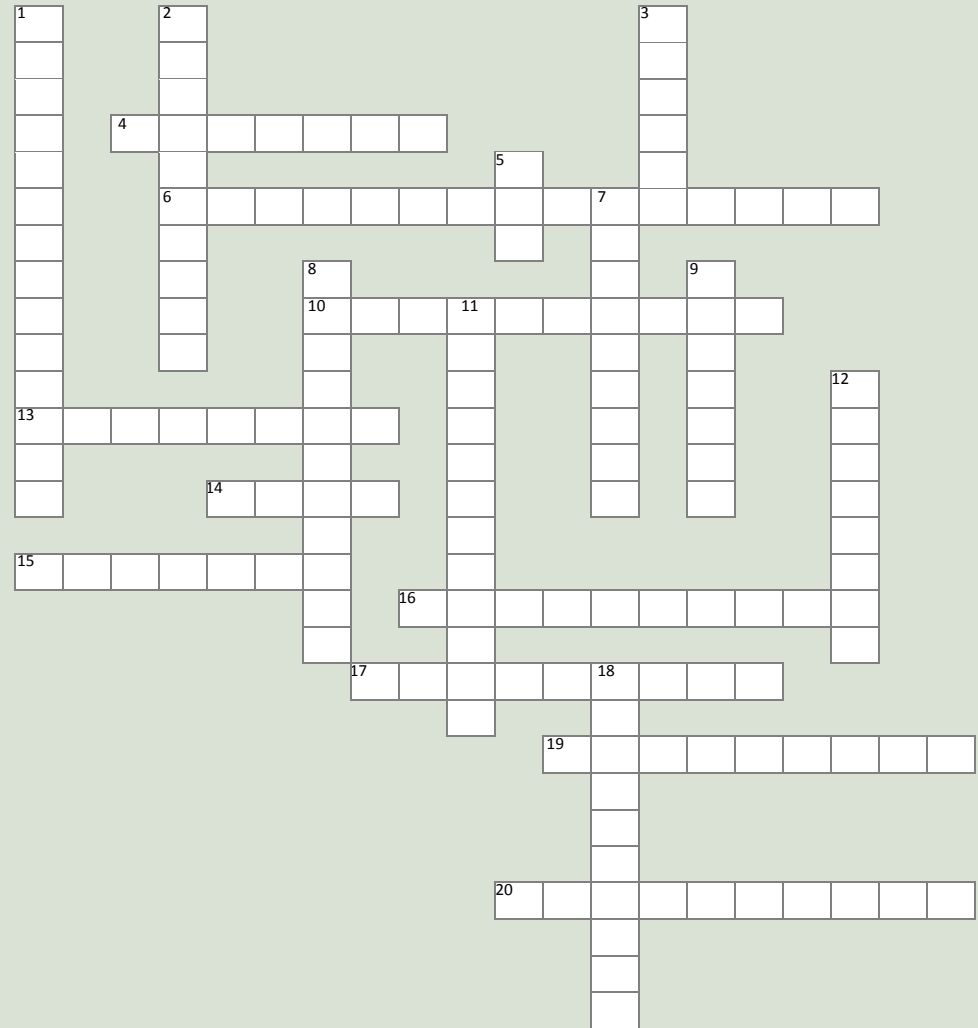
# Take the Stormwater Runoff Challenge!

## Down

- When mowing the lawn, keep \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ off streets and driveways.
- Surfaces that allow water to soak in are called “pervious;” surfaces that don’t allow water to soak in, such as rooftops, sidewalks, and parking lots, are called \_\_\_\_.
- A \_\_\_\_ is a planted area between a home, farm, or business and the shoreline of a lake or river. It is a natural water filter, preventing harmful pollutants in stormwater from reaching the lake or river.
- One quart of \_\_\_\_, a fluid used in cars, can pollute two million gallons of water.
- Fertilizers provide \_\_\_\_ that “feed” plants, which is good for crops, but bad for lakes and rivers.
- In Minnesota, three out of four households get their drinking water from \_\_\_\_.
- Healthy rivers and streams have natural curves that help slow the current and improve habitat; these rivers don’t flow straight, they \_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ have very long roots and help stabilize soil.
- Stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces and bare soil washes \_\_\_\_ into lakes and streams and makes the water cloudy.
- Rain water that runs down the street into the \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ goes directly to rivers, lakes, or wetlands without any pollutant removal.

## Across

- A marshy, wet area called a \_\_\_\_ helps prevent flooding, improve water quality, and provide habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife.
- The watershed you live in is called the \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ Watershed.
- Place a \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ under a shortened downspout to collect rooftop rain water and use it later to water the lawn and plants.
- Pollution coming through a pipe directly into a water body is called “point” source water pollution. Pollution in runoff that comes from many locations to a water body is called \_\_\_\_ source water pollution.
- When cutting the grass, leave grass clippings on the \_\_\_\_, where they can reduce the need for commercial fertilizer.
- Leaves, grass clippings, and vegetable food wastes can break down into \_\_\_\_, a great soil amendment for gardens.
- An attractively designed area to collect and filter rain water is called a \_\_\_\_.
- The land area that drains into a specific lake or stream is called its \_\_\_\_.
- Carp and other \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ reduce native fish species and stir up sediment.
- When using \_\_\_\_ on your lawn, make sure it contains no phosphorus, apply only as directed, and use as little as necessary – more isn’t always better.



## Choices

- |                 |                  |             |               |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------|---------------|
| raingarden      | nutrients        | storm drain | native plants |
| buffer          | Vermillion River | nonpoint    | oil           |
| grass clippings | compost          | meander     | rain barrel   |
| fertilizer      | wetland          | sediment    | watershed     |
| impervious      | lawn             |             |               |
| rough fish      | groundwater      |             |               |



# Anything that enters a storm drain goes to a local lake or river.

It does not go to a waste water treatment facility.

Do you know you live on waterfront property? You do if there is a storm drain nearby! Storm drains carry runoff water to local lakes and rivers.

Whatever washes off your yard and street can pollute these waters.

That includes lawn fertilizer, grass clippings, pet waste, and tree leaves and seeds—all sources of phosphorus, the plant nutrient that turns lakes and rivers green with algae.

Keep your runoff clean!

Keep our lakes and rivers 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 community compost program.



LEAVES END UP IN THE STORMSEWER.....

## PREVENT EROSION

- Phosphorus attaches to soil. Keep soil from washing into the street.

## FERTILIZE THE LAWN, NOT THE LAKES AND RIVERS

- Choose a zero-phosphorus fertilizer. Many lawns have adequate soil phosphorus and will remain healthy without adding more.
  - If you think your lawn needs phosphorus, test your soil first.
- For information call Dakota County Extension at 651-480-7700 or visit [www.soiltest.cfans.umn.edu](http://www.soiltest.cfans.umn.edu).



FERTILIZER

LAWN AND PAVEMENT

STORM SEWER

LAKES AND RIVERS

- Sweep spilled fertilizer off paved surfaces.
- Remember, compost and manure contain phosphorus too.

## CLEAN UP AFTER PETS

- Scoop the poop. Pet waste contains phosphorus as well as harmful bacteria.
- Don't feed the geese.



ANIMAL WASTES END UP IN THE STORM SEWER.....

GRASS CLIPPINGS END UP IN THE STORM SEWER.....

## KEEP THE PAVEMENT CLEAN

Sweep up grass clippings, soil and fertilizer from driveways, sidewalks, and streets.

