



**GREATER LANSING  
REGIONAL COMMITTEE**  
FOR STORMWATER MANAGEMENT  
[www.mywatersheds.org](http://www.mywatersheds.org)

***April 2019***  
**QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**  
**ISSUE #36**



# RESPONSIBLE FERTILIZER USE

Lawn fertilizer isn't a problem if it's used carefully, but over-fertilizing is an issue contributing to stormwater pollution in the Grand River watershed. If you use too much fertilizer or apply it at the wrong time, it can wash off your lawn or garden, enter the storm sewer system, and flow untreated into our rivers, lakes, and streams.

Just like in your garden, fertilizers make aquatic plants grow. But while fertilizer may help our lawns, excess phosphorus and nitrogen in waterways causes algae to grow faster than aquatic ecosystems can handle. Large algal blooms reduce oxygen levels, increase toxicity, and spur bacterial growth, making the water unsafe for human recreation and aquatic life. By following these steps, you can help protect our surface water resources from nutrient pollution:

- **Don't Guess...Test!** First, find out if you even need fertilizer! Contact your Michigan State University Extension office to get a soil test. You'll save money and reduce the chance of over-applying.

- **Sweep It** Sweep excess fertilizer and grass clippings from pavement back onto your lawn so that they don't wash into storm drains.

- **Go Slow and No** Use slow-release nitrogen, no-phosphorus fertilizers that provide a slow, steady source of nutrients.

- **Hire Smart** Select a lawn care service that follows the practices noted above.

- **Mow High** Keep your lawn at three inches in height. Taller grass strengthens roots and shades out weeds. Also, remember that the nutrients from grass clippings left on your lawn act as a great fertilizer.

- **Don't overwater** Consider using a drip system or soaker hose instead of a sprinkler.

- **Go natural** Use commercially available compost or make your own using garden waste. Mixing compost with your soil means your plants will need less chemical fertilizer and puts your waste to good use. And, consider using organic fertilizers and pest control methods whenever possible.

- **Make fertilizer-free zones** Keep fertilizer at least 20 feet away from the edge of any lakes, streams, or storm drains.



# SAVE THE DATES!

## BWL Adopt-a-River: May 11th, 2019

Participate in the annual Adopt-a-River cleanup at Impression 5 Science Center! To get involved:

- Bring your own gloves and a water bottle (gloves are not provided)
- Join fellow participants for a free lunch following the clean up
- Explore the onsite environmental fair and enjoy free admission to Impression 5 Science Center

The GLRC will be participating at the environmental fair, sharing our Envirosapes watershed exhibit with attendees.

Learn more at: [www.lbwl.com/Community-Impact/Community-Sponsorships/Adopt-A-River/](http://www.lbwl.com/Community-Impact/Community-Sponsorships/Adopt-A-River/)

## Crandell Park Waterfest: June 8th, 2019

The Barry County Conservation District is hosting the first Crandell Park Waterfest, a family event to connect people to our local waters!

There will be free canoe and kayak rentals, an educational fair, fishing, water safety demonstrations, and more!

More information on the summit can be found at: [www.facebook.com/events/1955820477870103](https://www.facebook.com/events/1955820477870103)



# UPCOMING MEETINGS

## GLRC Executive Committee Meeting

June 6th, 2019

8:30am

Large Conference Room  
3135 Pine Tree Road Suite 2C  
Lansing, MI 48911

## GLRC Full Committee Meeting

June 6th, 2019

9:00am

Large Conference Room  
3135 Pine Tree Road Suite 2C  
Lansing, MI 48911

## GLRC Executive Committee Meeting

September 5th, 2019

8:30am

Large Conference Room  
3135 Pine Tree Road Suite 2C  
Lansing, MI 48911

## GLRC Members:

Clinton County	Ingham County
Clinton County Road Comm.	Lansing Charter Township
Delhi Charter Township	Lansing School District
Delta Charter Township	City of Lansing
DeWitt Charter Township	City of Mason
City of DeWitt	Meridian Charter Township
City of East Lansing	Michigan State University
Eaton County	Waverly Community Schools
City of Grand Ledge	



**TRI-COUNTY**  
regional planning commission

### Administrative Support:

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission  
3135 Pine Tree Road Suite 2C  
Lansing MI 48911  
517-393-0342