

When rain falls and snow melts, the runoff produced picks up a variety of contaminants such as oil, metals, salts, pet waste, fertilizer, and grass clippings as it flows over roofs, roadways, sidewalks and lawns. Stormwater runoff ultimately flows into storm drains. Remember: storm drains lead directly to our local rivers and streams.

## HOW DO HOAs CONTRIBUTE TO STORMWATER POLLUTION?

HOAs are often responsible for management of retention and detention ponds and common spaces of neighborhoods. Improper management of retention and detention ponds can lead to the spread of invasive species, algal blooms, and the buildup of sediments.

### BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP):

Behaviors and practices used by individuals and businesses to prevent or reduce stormwater pollution impacts.



## EUTROPHICATION OR ALGAE BLOOMS

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Algae found in neighborhood ponds are caused by excess fertilizer, pesticides, and grass clippings entering the water. Try to limit fertilizer usage and sweep lawn clippings off of sidewalks and driveways and back onto lawn.



## INVASIVE SPECIES

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Be sure to remove invasive species such as phragmites when possible. Replant these areas with native plants to ensure invasives stay out. Native plants will also help keep extra nutrients out of the water, preventing algae.



## LACK OF WILDLIFE HABITAT

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Many neighborhoods lack trees, shrubs, and grasses that are good for wildlife. Adding these plants, as well as bat boxes, bee houses, and bird houses can help different species thrive.