Ripple Effect #11

You Can Help Reduce the Nutrient Loading Problem in Waterways

Many public agencies involved with monitoring water quality in our basin's rivers are concerned with two common chemicals / nutrients: nitrogen and phosphorus. These two common fertilizers are also found in residential areas.

The effort of reducing nutrient loads in the Red River Basin is an immense job and requires the work of the general public, municipalities, agencies and agriculture interests. Efforts need to include changing land use patterns, enforcing regulations and fostering a commitment from Red River Basin residents to enhance water quality by their own efforts.

Following are some actions that can be taken to help reduce the nutrient loading problem.

- Recycle grass clippings and leaves.
- Get your garden soil tested to determine what nutrients are deficient.
- Fertilize yards and gardens sparingly, using only what is needed for your soil.
- Mulch gardens to reduce water needs.
- Water yards and gardens so the water soaks in and doesn't run off.
- Accept an attitude that the greenest lawn in the neighborhood isn't the best.
- Develop a xeriscape garden that uses less water.
- Use compost to provide organic matter instead of fertilizer.
- Don't put waste down the curb to be flushed into the storm sewer with rain.
- Pick up the waste from animals and dispose of it properly.
- Clean debris from curbs and gutters so it doesn't wash down the drain to the storm sewer system.
- Use non-phosphate household cleaners (dishwasher detergent, etc.)

A proactive approach by each citizen in the Red River Basin will eventually the Red

Until the next Ripple Effect,

The Red River Basin Commission (RRBC)

The RRBC is a grassroots organization that is a chartered not-for-profit corporation under the provisions of Manitoba, North Dakota, Minnesota, and South Dakota law. Our offices in Moorhead, MN and Winnipeg, MB can be reached at 218-291-0422 and 204-982-7254, or you can check out our website at www.redriverbasincommission.org.