



# WATER QUALITY & YARD CARE

The City of Black Diamond is seeking to reduce phosphorus inputs to Lake Sawyer. One way, in particular, is to provide education to City residents. Phosphorus is one of the nutrients necessary for plant growth. It can also be a primary cause for the growth of algae and weeds in lakes, depleting oxygen levels in the water. We can all help minimize the amount of phosphorus that enters the bodies of water in Black Diamond and surrounding communities.



## FROM OUR YARDS TO OUR WATER



The Coulbourns have preserved natural landscape along Rock Creek. A great example for all of us!

Phosphorus can be carried in runoff and drainage waters over hard-surfaced streets where there is no soil to act as a filter. Additionally, runoff from landscaped areas can contribute to phosphorus in stormwater.

Soil has a high capacity for filtering and absorbing phosphorus. The City recently tested the soils around Black Diamond and found that all of the soils tested contain sufficient phosphorus to support good plant growth. There is no need to fertilize with additional phosphorus, unless levels fall below optimum levels.

Phosphorus can leach out of compost piles as well. Compost bins next to roadways or where there is evidence of erosion can also contribute to higher phosphorus levels in our waterways.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Prevent water runoff by not over-watering
- Promptly clean up fertilizer spilled on roads and sidewalks
- Never apply fertilizer to frozen ground
- Plant more trees and shrubs in your yard rather than having a large lawn
- Lawn clippings, leaves, and other plant debris should be promptly removed from street gutters, sidewalks, and driveways
- Shoreline owners should utilize landscaping practices that would force runoff water to seep into the soil before entering the waterways
- Composting should be located away from the shoreline and away from drainage paths
- For good composting techniques, see [your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/naturalyardcare/compost.asp](http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/naturalyardcare/compost.asp)
- If you have any ideas/suggestions, please submit them to [publicworks@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us](mailto:publicworks@ci.blackdiamond.wa.us)

