

# 10 Things I Can Do for the Neighborhood Pond



- 1) The first and most important thing I can do is to understand that storm drains lead directly to the nearest pond or stream. What goes in the storm drain ends up in your pond.
- 2) If I live along the pond, I can allow the grass 5 or more feet up from the pond's edge to grow unmowed, up to 15 inches. Or, plant taller native grasses around the edge to create a buffer between my manicured lawn and the water.
- 3) Sweep or blow grass clippings off the driveway or street and back into the lawn. Clippings that wash into the storm drain or pond directly add excess nutrients, increasing the potential for more algae.
- 4) Wash my car in the grass or take it to an automatic carwash. This prevents soaps containing phosphorus from running into the storm drain and then the pond where the phosphorus encourages algae growth.



- 5) Fertilize at label rate. Excess fertilizers wash directly into ponds or via storm drains and encourage algae growth. I will not fertilize unmowed filter strips around the pond edge.
  - Contact Sedgwick County Extension for the best time to fertilize and for soil test info. 316-660-0100  
[www.sedgwick.ksu.edu](http://www.sedgwick.ksu.edu)
- 6) I will only apply fertilizers that contain phosphorus if recommended by a soil test. Then, I will apply the phosphorus fertilizer after core aeration.
- 7) Water my lawn not the sidewalk or street, & landscape with low water-use plants.
- 8) Avoid overwatering my lawn. Turf grass only needs 1 inch of water per week. This includes rain. If it rains a ½ inch on Monday I only need to water another ½ inch the rest of the week.
- 9) I will not feed urban geese! Geese eat grass around a ponds edge creating bare spots that cause bank erosion. Goose poop is full of nutrients that wash into the pond and increase algae growth.
- 10) Scoop the Poop. I will pick up pet waste on my walks and in my yard. Pet waste contains phosphorus and harmful bacteria that can be washed into the storm drains and ponds.



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