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**WHAT TO DO**

- Sweep yard waste (grass clippings, leaves, etc.) and fertilizers off driveways, sidewalks and roads and properly manage.
- Take yard waste to a neighborhood compost collection site or compost the waste at a site away from the waterway.
- Pick up after pets.
- Apply fertilizer and lawn chemicals sparingly and according to directions.
- Use compost for fertilizer rather than inorganic chemical fertilizers.
- Never dump anything down storm drains, in gutters, streets, ditches, or other areas that drain into a storm sewer or water body.
- Plant bare spots in yards with permanent vegetation to prevent erosion.
- Use a mulching lawn mower for grass and leaves.

By practicing healthy household habits, homeowners can keep common pollutants like fertilizer, pesticides, pet waste, and organic material out of our waterways. Adopt these healthy household habits and help protect our drinking water, fisheries, and recreational opportunities. Remember to share your habits with your neighbors!

**CONTACT US**

If you have questions about composting, grass recycling, yard waste management, or waste disposal, conduct a web search, contact your local Extension service, city, township, or county office, or contact the North Dakota Department of Health, Division of Waste Management at 701-328-5166 or [www.ndhealth.gov/wm/publications.htm](http://www.ndhealth.gov/wm/publications.htm).



**DID YOU KNOW...**

Grass clippings are 85% water and 5% nitrogen and when left on your yard can provide much of the yard's fertilizer needs and help conserve soil moisture!

*Campaign Door Hanger*

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# Red River and Lake Agassiz Resource Conservation & Development Councils

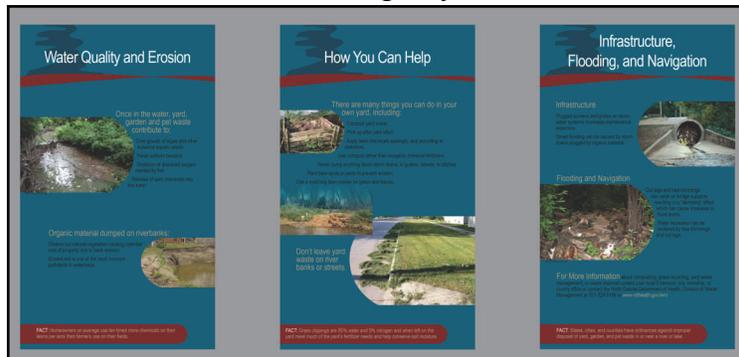
## River Bank Dumping Information Campaign

The **River Bank Dumping Information Campaign** was kicked off in the spring of 2010 as a response to the improper dumping of yard waste on river banks in the area. The campaign is a partnership with RiverKeepers, North Dakota Department of Health, Cass Soil Conservation District, Southeast Cass Water District and the Lake Agassiz RC&D. There are numerous landowners in the area who are currently dumping grass clippings, leaves and other yard and pet waste on river banks, which is a violation of North Dakota Century Code. Yard, garden, and pet waste dumped into or piled near waterways or their drain areas (waiting for floodwater to carry it away) or placed in streets (where it enters waterways through storm drains), has a negative impact on water.

Most people do not realize it is bad for the river. They think it's natural, but what occurs in the case of grass clippings, is an artificial buildup of plant material laden with pesticides and fertilizers leading to poor water quality and algal growth. When grass clippings start to decay, they use up oxygen which can kill fish. Infrastructure can be damaged because waste can plug water treatment intake screens and grates on storm water outfalls which increase maintenance costs. Street flooding can be caused by storm drains plugged by organic material. Cut logs and tree trimmings can catch on bridge supports and result in a damming effect which can increase flood levels. Water recreation can be hindered by tree trimmings and cut logs. This campaign is an educational effort consisting of a brochure, portable display board and door hangers that will inform landowners living along and near rivers of the importance of proper disposal of yard waste in a non-threatening way.



*Campaign Brochure*



*Campaign Display*