

LAKE CHAMPLAIN EUTROPHICATION

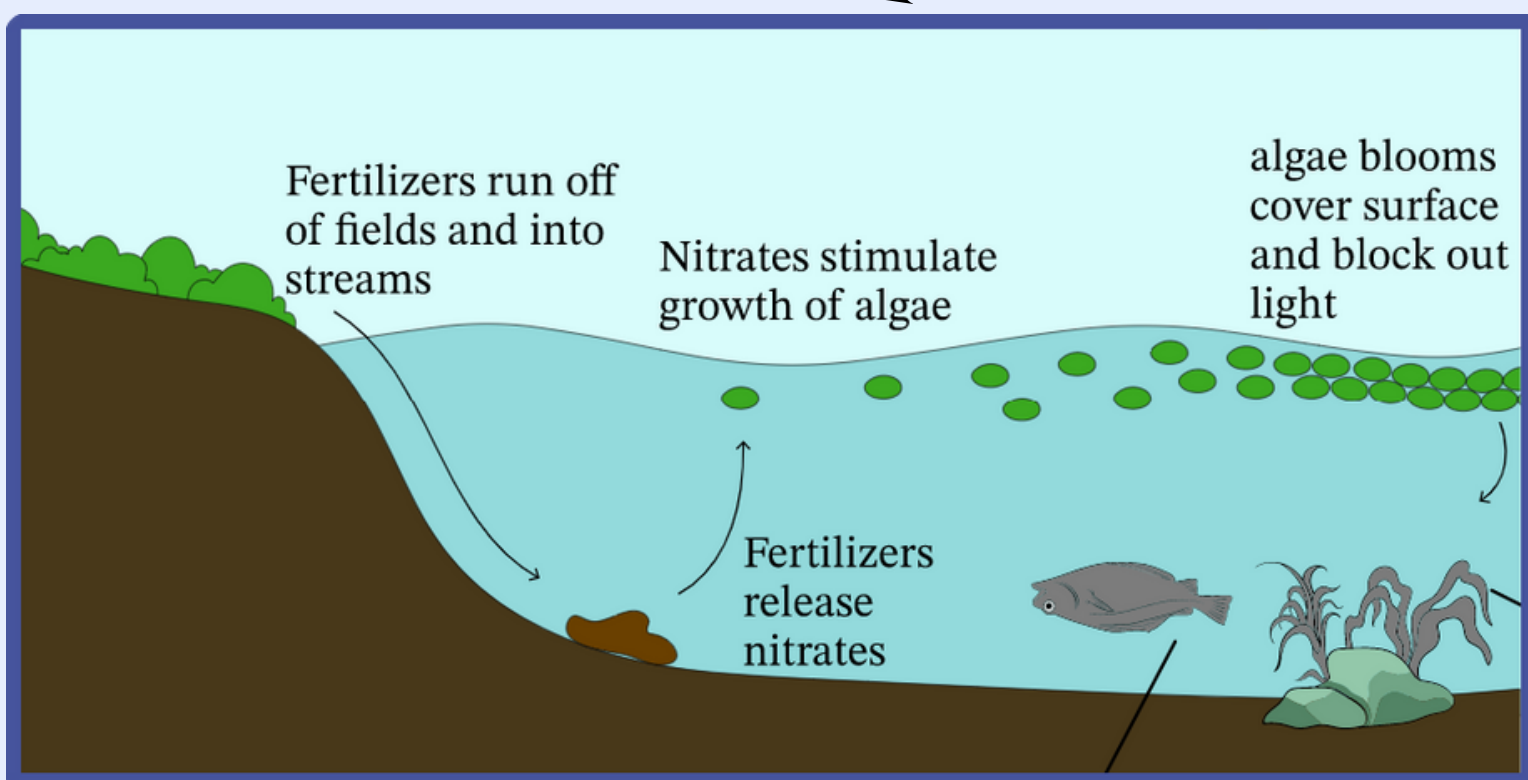
THE EFFECT OF AGRICULTURES ON PHOSPHORUS CONCENTRATION IN THE LAKE

Agricultural runoff introduces high concentrations of phosphorus into Lake Champlain. This leads to eutrophication, a loss of biodiversity, and overall poor water quality. The decrease in water quality has major impacts on tourism, recreation, and economy. By utilizing sustainable agricultural practices and riparian buffers, phosphorus concentrations can be decreased which will improve water quality.

Why Should You Care?

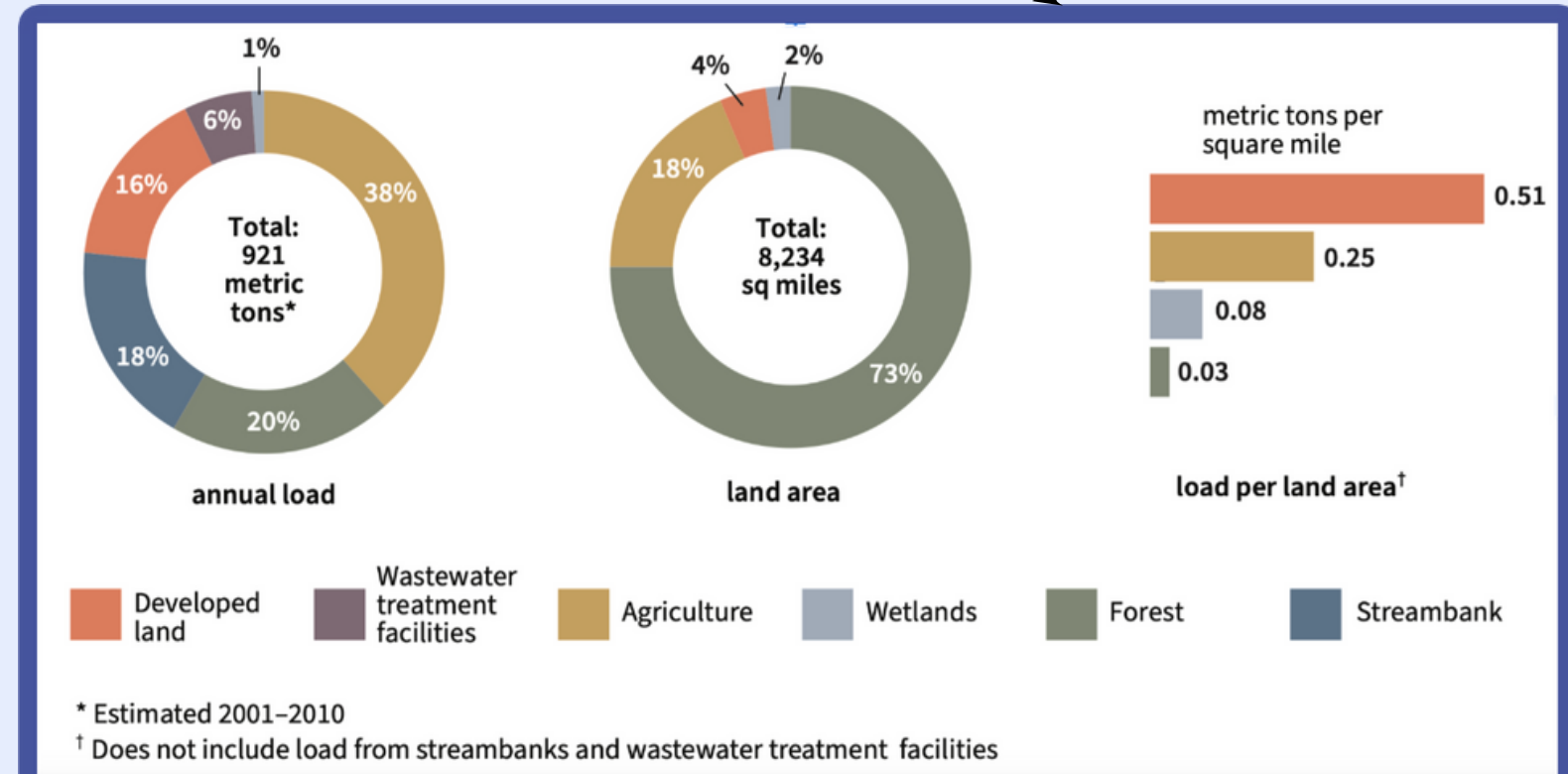
Water is an essential element of all aspects of life. Clean water is the cornerstone for human health, food security, energy supplies, sustaining cities, and ecosystems. Contaminated water poses a threat to our ecosystems and our way of life.

What is Eutrophication?



Eutrophication refers to the excessive richness of nutrients in a body of water. Frequently caused by runoff from land, it causes a dense growth of plant life and the death of animal life from lack of oxygen. This can create a positive feedback loop that prevents plant growth and disturbs the natural system.

Source of Phosphorus:



Agriculture is the main source of phosphorus in Lake Champlain, accounting for 38% of the annual load.

Benefits of reducing farm runoff:

- Increases tourism to see Lake Champlain and improves economy
- Sustainable agriculture helps farmers in terms of longevity
- Cleaner and safer drinking water
- Improves ecosystem health and biodiversity
- Fosters more community engagement

How to help:



Test your soil for nutrients before adding fertilizer



Vote for officials who care about inciting change



If you're a farmer, store manure in leak proof tanks



Allow vegetation to grow in your yard to reduce runoff

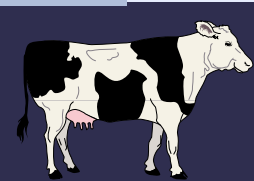


Support farms that work to reduce runoff



If you're a farmer, distribute manure during the spring and fall

For more information go to: <https://www.lcbp.org/>



PATTI, EMMA, MAEVE

