

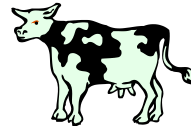
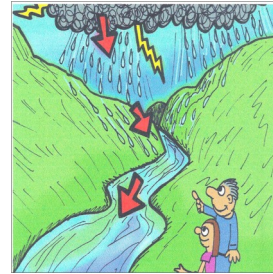
9 Easy Ways to Help Moswansicut Reservoir (and make your life easier at the same time!)

1. Dispose of dog waste in the trash, and use a pooper scooper instead of a bag if you can, even if your pet goes on the road or your property.
2. Fertilize your lawn only once a year, in the fall only.
3. Leave grass clippings or mulched leaves on your lawn to fertilize naturally.
4. Don't feed geese, ducks, or seagulls!
5. Plant a "buffer" next to water on your property to keep geese away.
6. Keep your animals **fenced in** and **away from streams and ponds**.
7. Consider using a compost pile to create your own FREE fertilizer.
8. Aim downspouts onto a lawn or garden area where water can absorb into the ground.
9. Have your septic system serviced, and pumped if necessary, regularly.

Visit landwaterconnection.org to learn more!
Passing On Clean Water

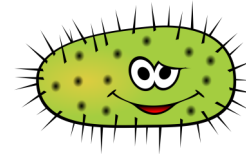
How Does Runoff Cause Algae Blooms? It's A 3-Step Process

Step 1: A rainstorm causes water to run over fields and streets, headed downhill and towards the Reservoir



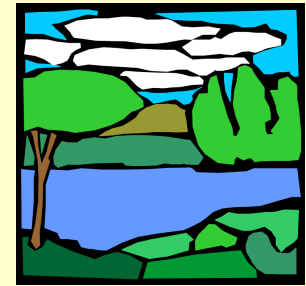
Step 2: Animal waste and fertilizer dissolve in the water as it travels

Step 3: The water arrives in the Moswansicut, where the dissolved pollution "fertilizes" algae and causes a blue green algae bloom



This project was funded by an agreement (CE96184201) awarded by the Environmental Protection Agency to the New England Interstate Wastewater Pollution Control Commission on behalf of the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program. Although the information in this document has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under agreement CE96184201 to NEIWPC, it has not undergone the Agency's publications review process and therefore, may not necessarily reflect the views of the Agency and no official endorsement should be inferred. The viewpoints expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the NBEP, NEIWPC, or U.S. EPA nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or causes constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.

Moswansicut



Clean, Not Green!

Working Together to Protect the Moswansicut Reservoir

The Moswansicut Reservoir watershed in Scituate, Johnston, Glocester, and Smithfield needs your help! Look inside to learn more and find out what you can do to protect this beautiful suburban drinking water source and wildlife habitat.



Credit: Christopher Riely

The Moswansicut Reservoir and Its Watershed

The Moswansicut Reservoir, also known as Moswansicut Lake, is a 286-acre lake located in Scituate and Johnston, RI. It is connected to the Scituate Reservoir, which provides over 60% of Rhode Islanders with their drinking water, and is managed by Providence Water. It is the only naturally-formed lake in the Scituate Reservoir's system.

Like all other lakes and reservoirs, the Moswansicut has a watershed, or an area of land where all of the water will drain into it after a storm or spring snow melt. The Moswansicut Reservoir watershed is 3.2 square miles and contains parts of the towns of Scituate, Johnston, Glocester, and Smithfield. The Moswansicut's watershed is mostly suburban; although there are many farms and natural areas, there are also lots of paved areas, such as housing developments and roads like Route 6. Paved areas can bring lots of runoff into the Reservoir after a rainstorm, and sometimes the water entering the Reservoir carries pollution.

In addition to being an important drinking water reservoir, the Moswansicut is also an important suburban oasis for wildlife in the midst of densely-settled Providence County. Birds such as bald eagles, reptiles such as painted turtles, and invertebrates such as freshwater mussels all call the Moswansicut and the surrounding area home.



Why Does The Moswansicut Need Help?

A 2013 study by scientists from ESS Group showed that the water in Moswansicut Reservoir has high levels of phosphorus. Phosphorus can come from sources like lawn fertilizer, pet waste, farm animal waste, and nuisance birds such as gulls and geese. Excess phosphorus is a problem because it can cause blue-green algae blooms like the one you see here. These blooms are bad for the wildlife that lives in the Reservoir, and in some cases they can release harmful toxins. Though algae blooms on the Moswansicut have not released any toxins to date, it is still important to prevent them to preserve this great resource for both drinking water and wildlife habitat!

