



QUESTIONS?

Please contact:

NOBLESVILLE UTILITIES

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Noblesville has a phosphorus problem, also known as phosphate. We have too much of this nutrient in wastewater reaching the wastewater treatment plant. According to a new unfunded mandate from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, the City's wastewater treatment plant must now meet a phosphorus discharge limit of 1 part per million by June 2019. Because there are almost 7 parts per million of phosphorus entering the treatment plant currently, all Noblesville residents need to do what they can to reduce the amount of phosphate entering the treatment plant. The City is currently designing a biological phosphorus removal system to meet the new discharge limits. This system will reduce the volume of costly phosphorus removal chemicals that will be used when compared to a traditional chemical-based phosphorus removal system. A chemical phosphorus removal system will be provided as a backup to ensure the City stays in compliance.



**VISIT THESE WEBSITES
FOR MORE INFORMATION**

www2.epa.gov/nutrientpollution
www.epa.gov/nutrientpollution/what-you-can-do-your-home
indiana.clearchoicescleanwater.org

**NOBLESVILLE NEEDS
YOU.**

**ACT NOW TO CLEAN UP
OUR WASTEWATER**



WHERE DOES PHOSPHATE COME FROM?

Phosphate occurs naturally in plants, animals, and human waste. It is also an ingredient in many household cleaners, laundry detergents, dishwasher detergents, and soaps. Common names for phosphates added to detergents and cleaners include STPP, TKPP, TSP, di-phosphoric acid, tetrapotassium salt, and tetrapotassium pyrophosphate. Other sources of phosphate come from wastewater generated in industrial manufacturing processes.

WHERE DOES THE PHOSPHATE GO?

After wastewater goes down your drain, it works its way to Noblesville's wastewater treatment plant. There are a number of methods that can be used to remove as much phosphorus as possible from the wastewater before discharging it into the White River and on down to the Gulf of Mexico. Some treatment methods are more successful at removing phosphates than others, so not all of the phosphates are removed.

WHY IS TOO MUCH PHOSPHORUS A CONCERN?

Too much phosphorus can cause large growth of algae called algae blooms. Algae blooms can be toxic and deplete the oxygen level in rivers, streams, and creeks, destroying habitats. Toxic algae blooms could occur in the White River, which could be harmful to pets and livestock as well as adults and children playing in and around the White River—not to mention odors and unsightly conditions that could affect tourism. Algae blooms must be treated in water sources.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

One easy way to avoid costly treatment processes by the City, which ultimately are paid for by the customers, is to cut down on using phosphorus soaps, detergents, and cleaners at home. If phosphorus from your household cleaners do not go down the drain, the Noblesville treatment system will not have to remove it. Industrial and commercial users can help as well by replacing any phosphate-rich chemicals with non-phosphate chemicals.

**TAKE
ACTION
NOW!**

Choose phosphate-free or low phosphate detergents, soaps, and cleaners. This includes bathroom cleaners, laundry stain removers, and kitchen cleaning products.

Use the appropriate amount of detergent; *more is not better.*

Only run your clothes washing machine or dishwasher when you have a full load.