

Cockeast Pond is in Trouble, & It Needs Your Help!

Photo: Jessica Krause Smith

Cockeast Pond is an important water body with a long history of human use and enjoyment. Sadly, today it is severely impaired by Nitrogen (N) overloading, and has very little “tidal flushing”.

This is important because too much N can cause algae blooms which can smother fish and plant life. Too little tidal flushing means nitrogen continues to build up in the Pond and is not getting replaced with cleaner water.

Where does the Nitrogen overloading come from?

- Septic systems
- Fertilizer
- Animal waste, including dog waste
- Storm water run-off from impervious (roofs and paved) surfaces



What can you do today to improve the health of the Pond?

- Reduce your water use (install low flush toilets, low flow shower heads, rain barrels)
- Minimize lawn and garden watering
- Reduce lawn areas—plant native species which encourage pollinators
- Eliminate fertilizers including those used by lawn companies
- Replace cess pools with de-nitrifying septic systems
- Pump your septic system every 3 years
- Upgrade your septic to a de-nitrifying system—it is not always as expensive as you might think
- Support organizations that protect the environment



To learn more, contact the [Westport River Watershed Alliance](http://westportwatershed.org/whats-being-done/cockeast-pond-study/)
<http://westportwatershed.org/whats-being-done/cockeast-pond-study/>
508-636-3016

