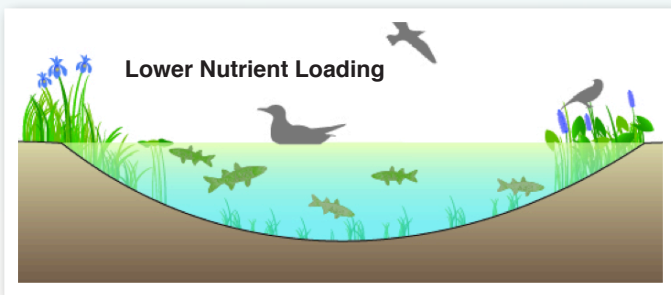


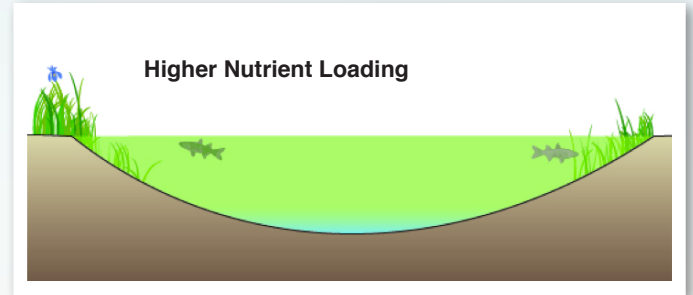
Why does Como Lake turn green in the summer?

Como Lake turns green during warm-weather months because it has *too much algae*. Phosphorus is one nutrient that spurs algae growth. Leaves and grass clippings on neighborhood streets leach phosphorus into stormwater runoff, which flows through storm drains directly into Como Lake. *Too much phosphorus leads to too much algae in Como Lake.*

What makes a lake healthy?



VS.



In a healthy shallow-lake environment, important conditions sustain a diverse, balanced ecosystem:

- Sunlight penetrates the water and feeds diverse plants that provide food, shelter, and egg-laying habitat for aquatic wildlife.
- Clear water allows fish and turtles to hunt.
- Wind action on the surface adds oxygen to the water.
- If phosphorus levels are low, other aquatic plants outcompeted algae for this nutrient. This keeps algae in check.

Como Lake suffers from too much phosphorus. That helps algae in the water grow until they dominate the lake ecosystem. This throws the entire system out of balance:

- Sunlight no longer penetrates the water, reducing the diversity of plants and wildlife.
- Algae cause murky water. Fish and turtles struggle to hunt.
- Algae form mats on the water's surface. This stops wind action that oxygenates the water.
- When algae die, they sink to the lake bottom. Decomposing microbes use up oxygen in the water that fish need.



*Learn more about what's
going on with Como Lake
at www.ComoACN.org.*