



# SPRING CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

*A grassroots stakeholder initiative*

An **Urban Nutrient Management** (UNM) workgroup is developing guidance for the Bay Program with specific recommendations for improving urban nutrient management (lawns and turf areas). An expert panel and the workgroup (led by Tom Schueler, Urban Stormwater Workgroup Coordinator and Executive Director of the Center for Watershed Protection) have identified “**Core Urban Nutrient Management Practices**” – including both fertilization and management of “lawn biomass”.

State	Urban Pervious Area <sup>1</sup>	Urban Nutrient Management <sup>2</sup>
	Acres	
Delaware	36,481	34,584
District of Columbia	17,206	42,240
Maryland	990,291	555,575
New York	170,716	170,654
Pennsylvania	1,052,558	311,154
Virginia	1,195,567	517,058
West Virginia	88,218	347
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,551,037</b>	<b>1,631,612</b>

<sup>1</sup> Acres of Urban Pervious Area in Version 5.3.2 of Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model  
<sup>2</sup> Acres under urban nutrient management in each state by 2025 as reported in the Phase 2 Watershed Implementation Plan submissions to EPA in 2012, as summarized in spreadsheet by Jeff Sweeney, EPA CBPO  
<sup>3</sup>

### Core Urban Nutrient Management (UNM) Practices

1. Get technical assistance to develop an effective UNM plan for the property
2. Maintain a dense vegetative cover of turf grass or conservation landscaping
3. Choose not to fertilize, OR adopt a reduce rate/monitor approach OR use the small fertilizer dose approach
4. Retain clippings and mulched leaves on the yard and keep them out of streets and storm drains.
5. Do not apply fertilizer before spring green up or after Halloween.
6. Maximize use of slow release N fertilizer during the active growing season
7. Set mower height at 3 inches or taller
8. Immediately sweep off any fertilizer that lands on a paved surface
9. Do not apply fertilizer within 20 feet of a water feature and manage this zone as a perennial planting, a tall grass buffer or a forested buffer.
10. Employ lawn practices to increase soil porosity and infiltration capacity and use the lawn to treat stormwater runoff.

### Effect of Outreach on Fertilizer Behaviors

- Recent sociological research indicates fertilization and lawn care behaviors are deeply rooted and hard to change
- Strong neighborhood pressures and norms often outweigh environmental or water quality considerations

NOTE: In the Chesapeake Bay watershed there are 84,000 farms versus 4,000,000 lawns.