

## Trout Friendly Lawns Protect Our Water and Fish

Wood River Land Trust's Trout Friendly Lawns campaign is a part of the *Healthy Waters, Healthy Future* project to protect and restore the Big Wood River and the health of its fishery. Our lawn care practices can influence the health of the Big Wood River and the quality of our drinking water. Each and every yard is part of the Big Wood River watershed.

As our communities grow, so do the demands on our water supply each summer. Trout Friendly lawns help keep our water clean and protect fish in the Big Wood River—the program can also help you save money on water bills.

### **Residents with Trout Friendly Lawns protect the Big Wood River by making changes and improving lawn care practices in three key areas:**

- Practicing water-wise lawn care;
- Eliminating or reducing the use of chemical herbicides, pesticides and lawn fertilizers; and
- Incorporating native plants into back yard plantings.

Anyone with a lawn can be more Trout Friendly. Program participants can also proudly post a sign proclaiming their lawn Trout Friendly!

Steps you can take to make your lawn Trout Friendly include:

- **Watering only at night.** At night, less water is lost to the atmosphere. Day-time watering loses substantial water to evaporation and leaves less water in the river for fish during hot months when they are vulnerable to warmer water temperatures.
- **Using organic fertilizers, like lawn clippings and compost, to promote plant growth and nurture beneficial soil organisms.** Some fertilizers can leach into streams and rivers, degrading water quality and stressing trout. Healthy soils help your lawn out-compete weeds, limiting your need for herbicides.
- **Planting or maintaining native vegetation.** Along stream banks, native vegetation helps prevent erosion, purifies runoff from lawns and shades the water to keep water temperatures cool for fish during the summer. Native vegetation also provides backyard habitat for birds and butterflies.

### **Trout Friendly Lawns Benefit You. They:**

- Save money on water bills
- Are safer for children and pets
- Are, once established, easier to maintain
- Attract more birds and wildlife

To learn more or to certify your lawn Trout Friendly, contact:

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Trout Friendly Lawns is a public education partnership between Wood River Land Trust, Webb, Clearwater Landscaping, Organic Solutions, Hailey Nursery, Eggers Associates, Branching Out, Alpine Aquatics, Trout Unlimited and Clemens Associates.