

Waterfront Living in Vermont: A Septic Solutions Conference

**Eric Howe, Director
Lake Champlain Basin Program**

Photo: Perri Siverhart



Why Septic Matters



Pathogens

- *E. coli*



Credit: walmart.com

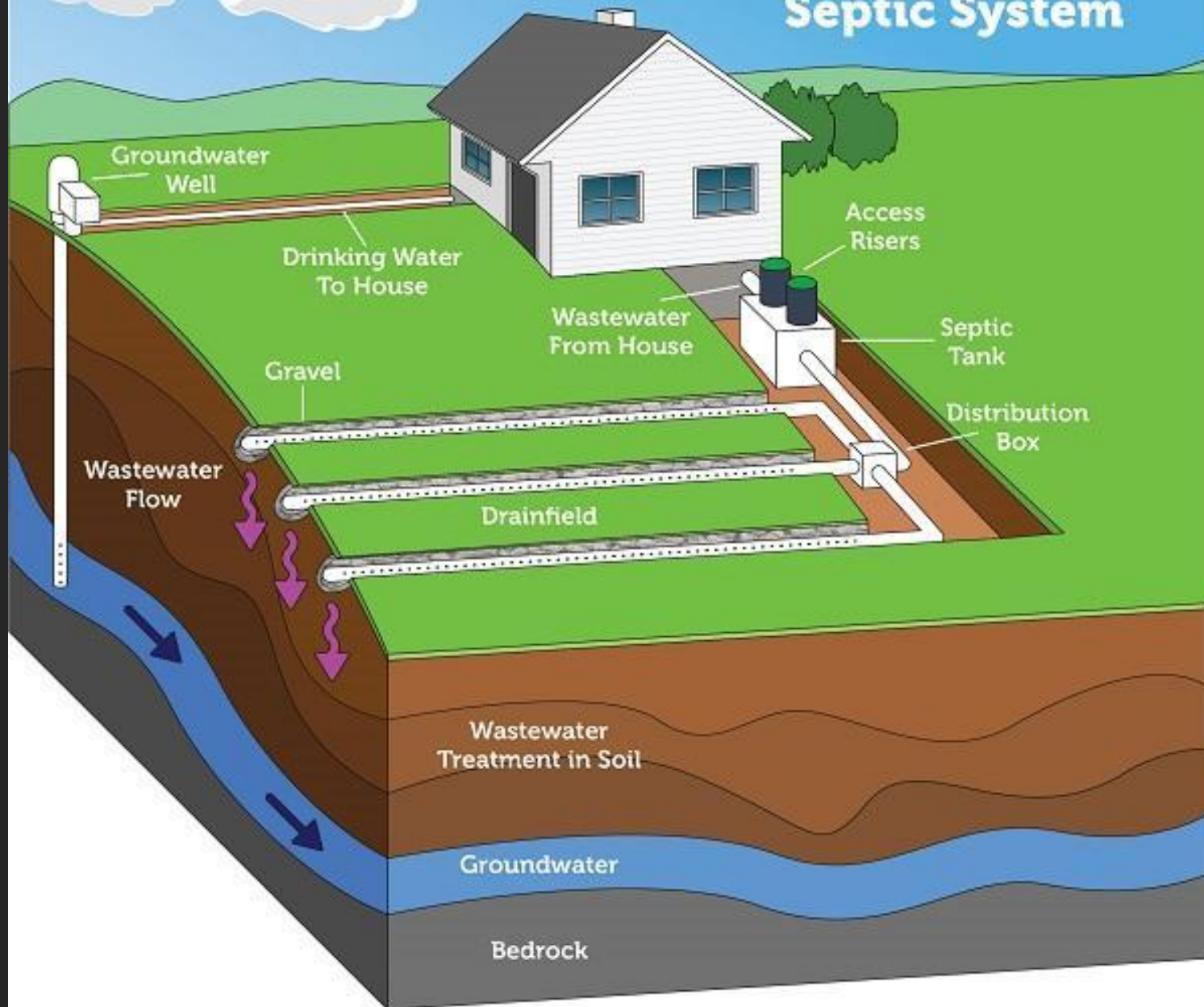
Credit: iStock.com

Pathogens



Photo: LCBP

Conventional Septic System



Please note: Septic systems vary. Diagram is not to scale.

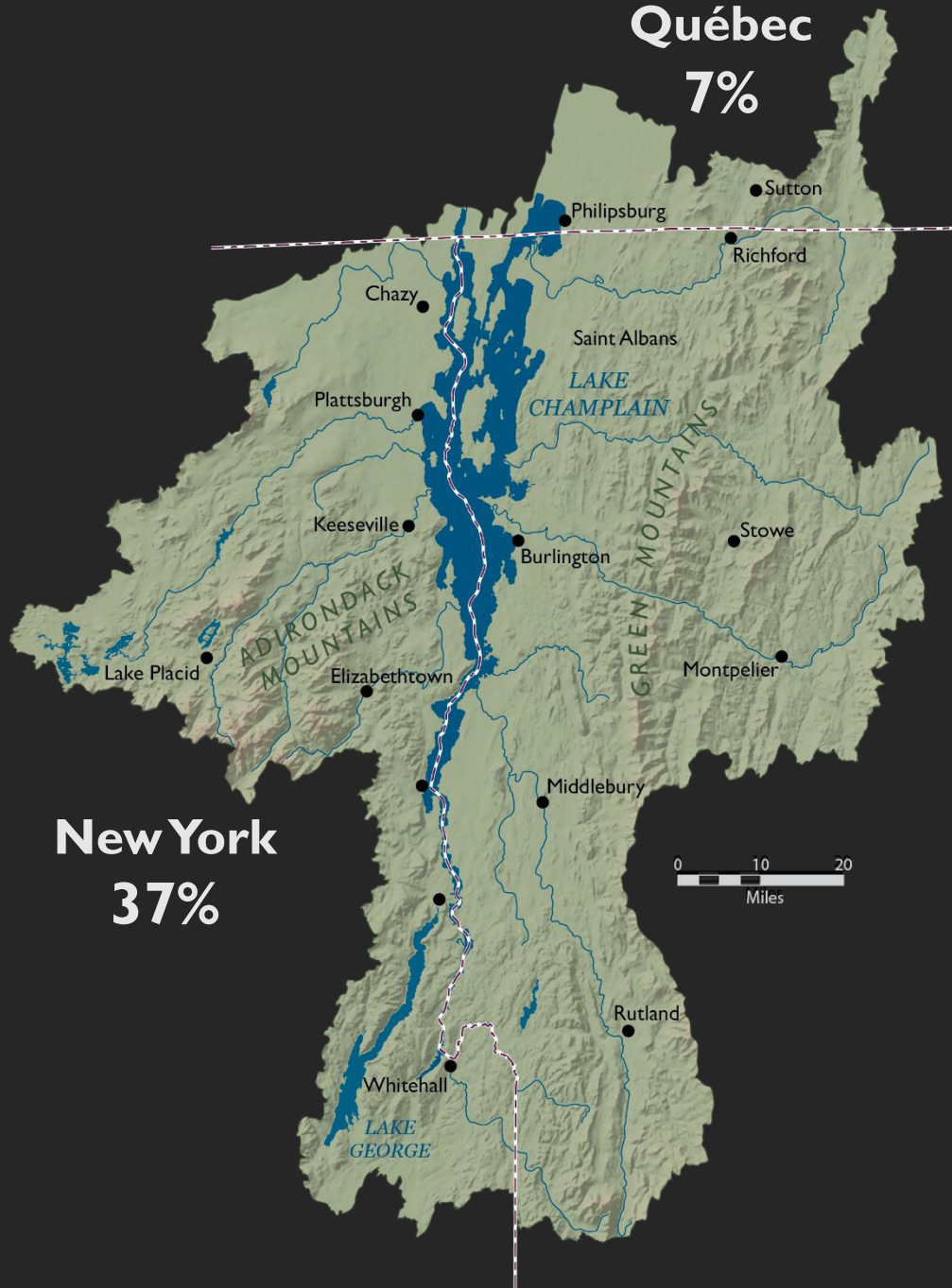
Why Septic Matters



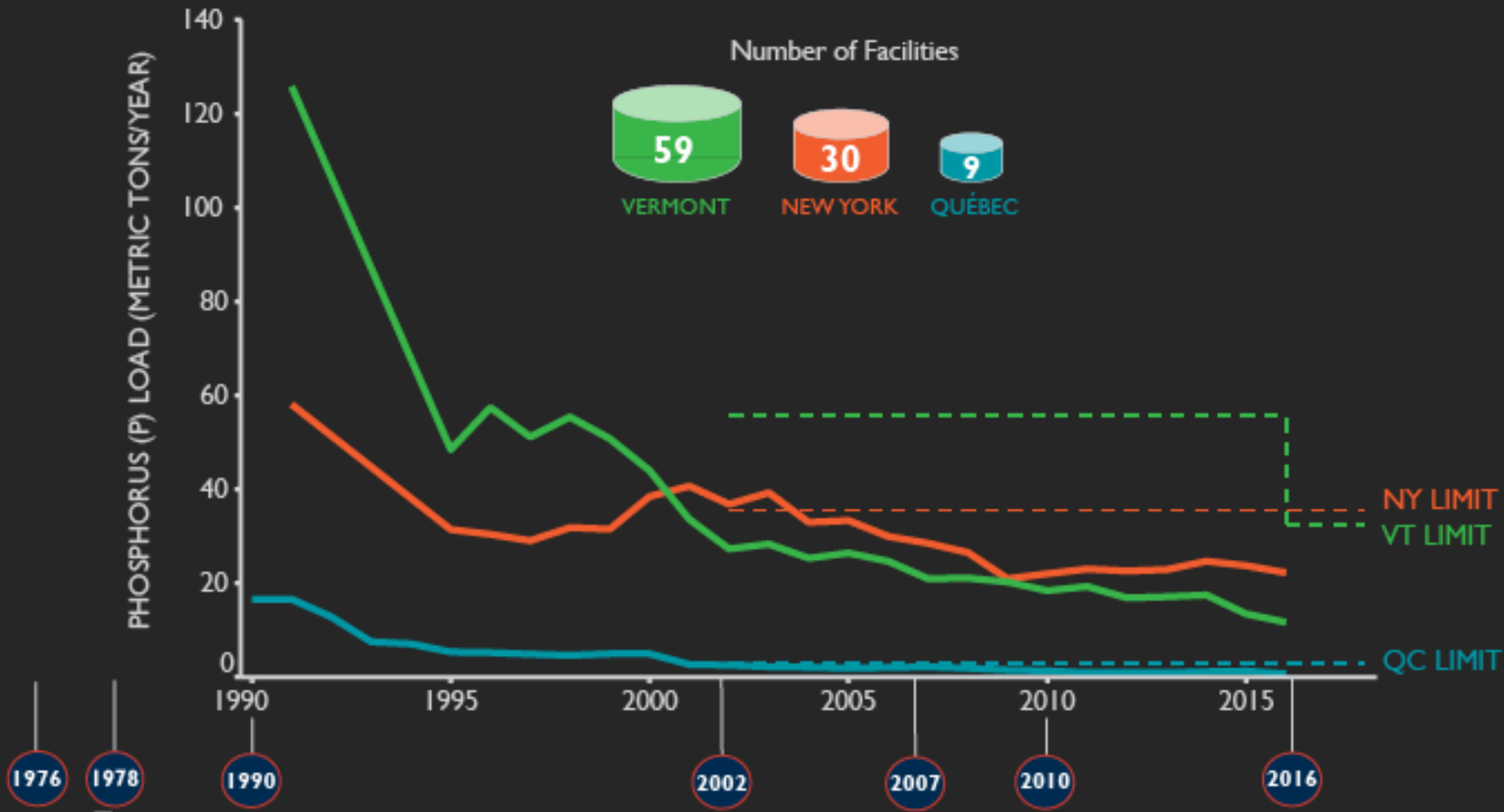
Québec
7%

Vermont
56%

New York
37%



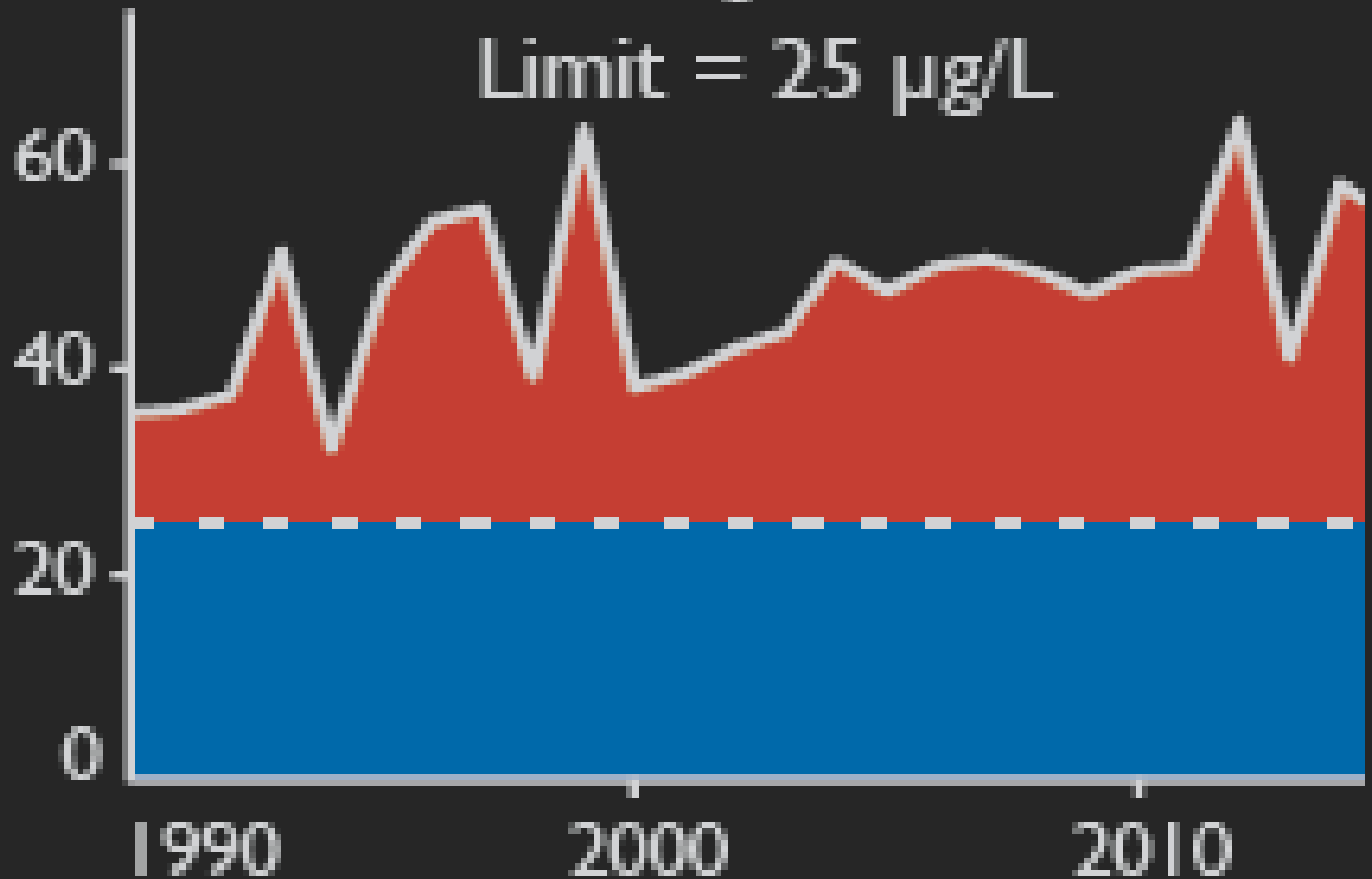
Phosphorus load from wastewater treatment facilities, 1990-2016



MISSISQUOI BAY

Limit = 25 $\mu\text{g/L}$

PHOSPHORUS CONCENTRATION
($\mu\text{g/L}$)



Public beach closures on Lake Champlain, 2015-2017



STATUS

Closures between Memorial Day and Labor Day



GOOD:

Closed 0-5 days



FAIR:

Closed 6-19 days

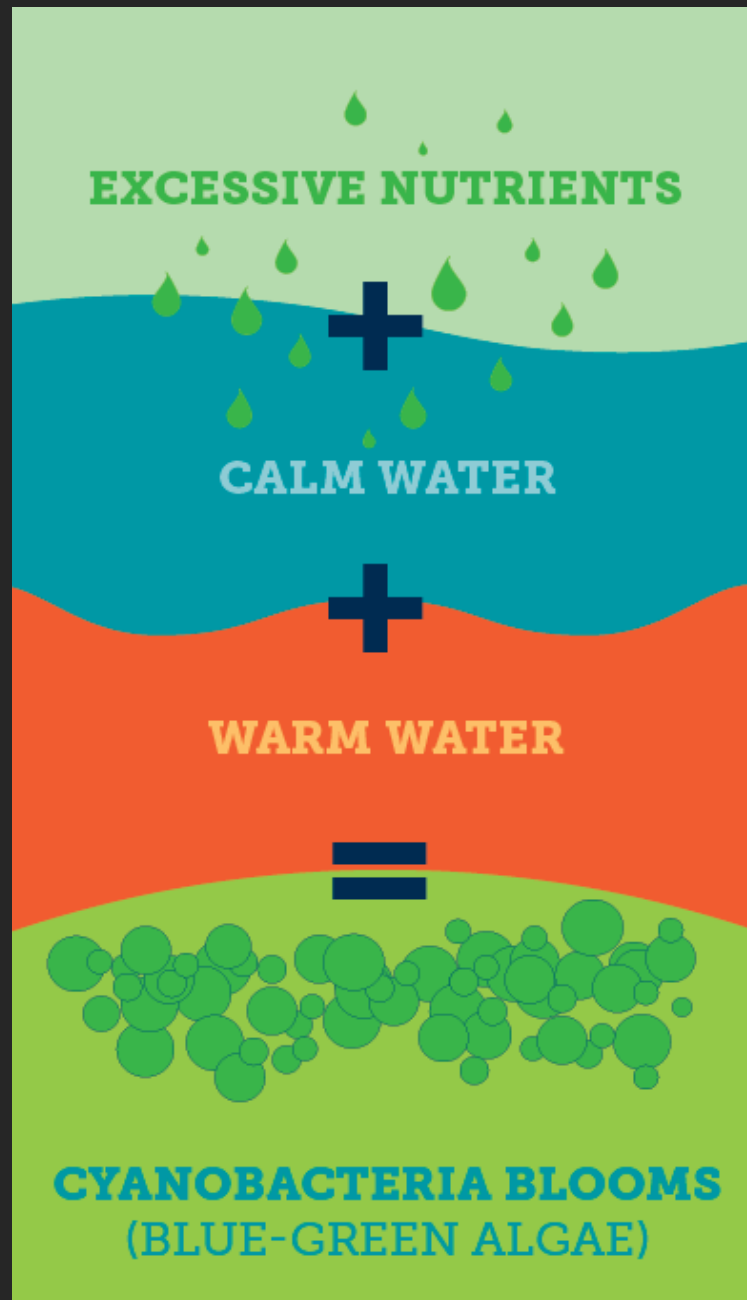


POOR:

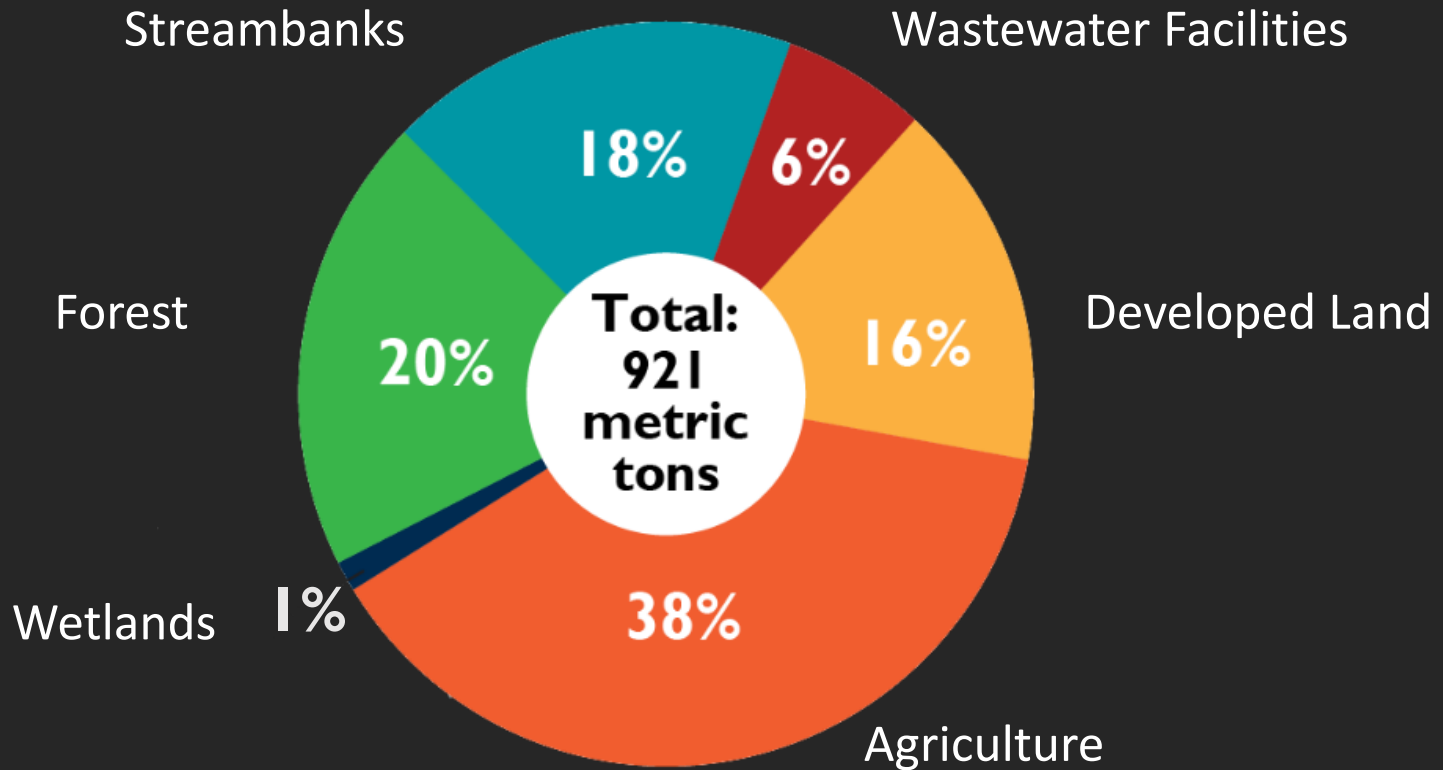
Closed 20+ days



Photo: LCBP

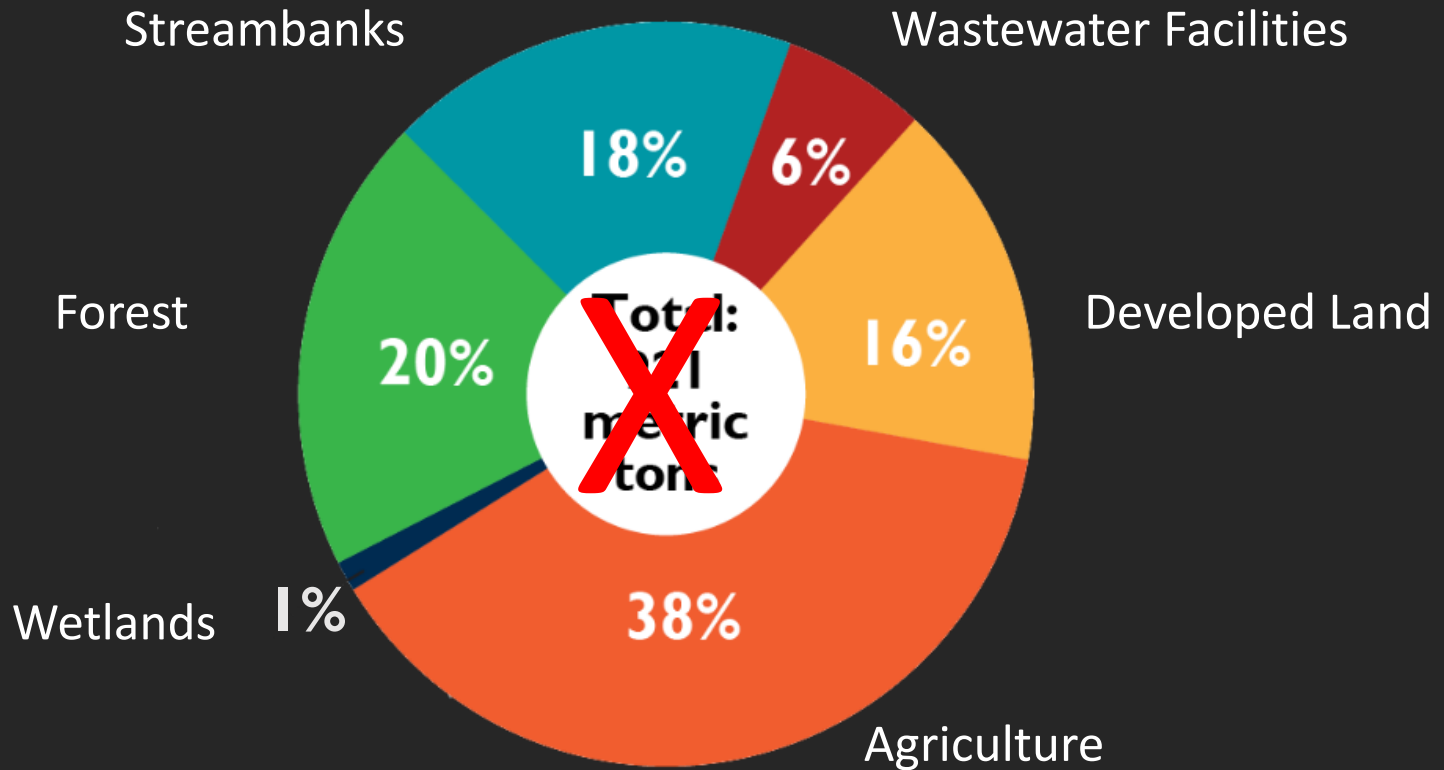


Annual phosphorus loading and land cover



Load

Annual phosphorus loading and land cover



Load

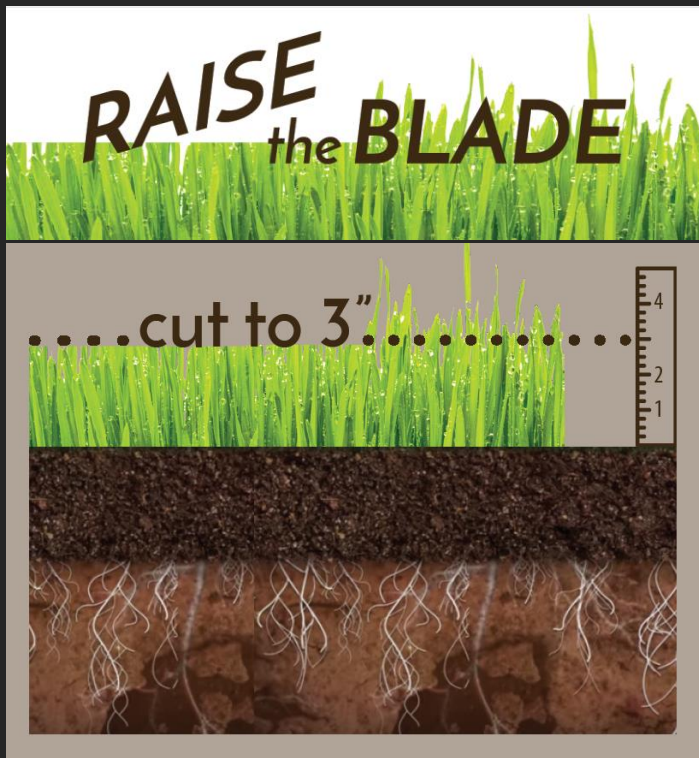
GOAL: ~615 metric tons

Dive in: What you can do

Dive in: What you can do



Dive in: What you can do



No Green Practices



Dive in: What you can do



Photo: Echo Lake Protective Association



Photo: Wildlife Management Institute



Photo: LCBP





Join a watershed group

Photo: Scott
Staples



Help the next generation of lake stewards get involved

Photo: LCBP



Help the next generation of lake stewards get involved

Photo: Lake Champlain Sea Grant

Why Septic Matters



Thank you!

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