

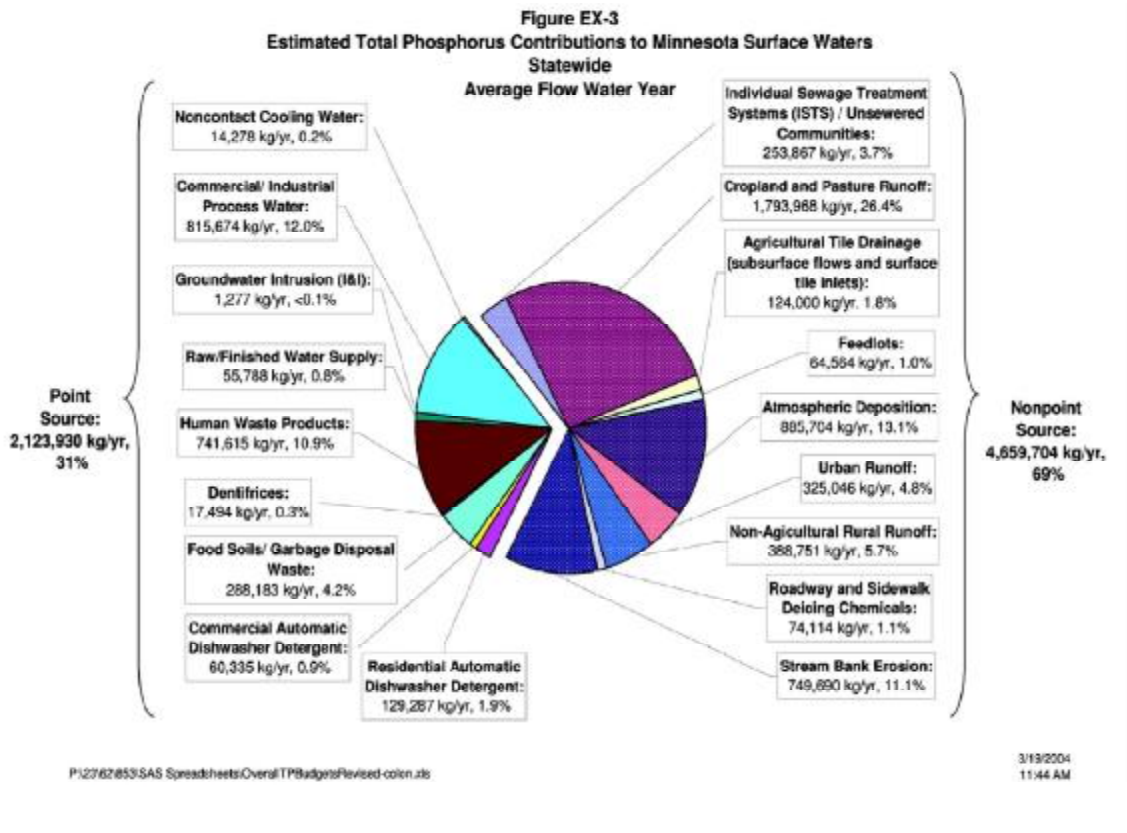
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Summary of Phosphorus Assessment Legislative Report (February 2004)

By 2003, public concern over eutrophication (nutrient enrichment of water bodies) led to pressure to ban phosphorus in home automatic dishwashing detergent products. That year, the Minnesota Legislature directed the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to assess phosphorus sources for the state's water bodies, and the report was completed in 2004.

The report concluded:

- About two-thirds (69%) of total water-borne phosphorus was generated by “non-point” sources – streambank erosion, cropland runoff, and the like.
- Most of the remaining 31% was attributed to commercial process effluent and sewage treatment plant discharges.
- Only 1.9% of the total phosphorus in Minnesota waterways came from residential use of automatic dishwasher detergents.

Based on these results, the state of Minnesota dropped its emphasis on home detergents and began working on broader phosphorus reduction initiatives.



This chart is excerpted from the Executive Summary of a Legislative Report, Detailed Assessment of Phosphorus Sources to Minnesota Watersheds, prepared by Barr Engineering Company, with its partners Limno-Tech, Inc., Dr. David Mulla, and Dr. Prasanna Gowda, under the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Master Contract for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 2004.

The Executive Summary is available at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/reports/pstudy-executivesummary.pdf> and the entire report at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/reports/pstudy-covertoc.pdf>.