Discussion on Lake Erie and Phosphorus loading from Limnology 101 webinar:

Interesting that the presenter brings up phosphorus and the cycling that can happen in lakes. It seems like phosphorus in Lake Erie has been a hot topic - I'm wondering how much is coming from the lake bottom vs. from the watershed. Assume that there are ways to figure that out?

See article: <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/15/science/earth/algae-blooms-threaten-lake-erie.html>

Another question I have related to algae and sediment is this: if there's enough phosphorus in the system to create an algal bloom, and the phosphorus doesn't leave the system very quickly, can we expect a bloom year after year? Several of Indiana's lakes have started having blooms and I just wonder if we can expect that once they start, they will continue to bloom...Hmm. Looks like I'll have to do some research!

As Melissa showed earlier, algae utilize phosphorus for their growth then die and sediment to the bottom of the lake where they are degraded by bacteria. Phosphorus become available again if bottom waters are anoxic. If water is oxygenated again, phosphorus will be remobilized and bound to lake sediments. It will be released the following year when anoxia is reached during the summer stratification. If phosphorus is not exported from your system, it accumulates and increases the internal loading.

See this video on stormwater runoff: <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/environment/jan-june13/pledge_03-14.html>