



AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT PLANNING

First and foremost we are happy to say we are working on our 3rd iteration of the aquatic plant management plan with the Southeastern Regional Planning Commission. This plan will be titled “A Lake Management and Watershed Protection Plan for Pewaukee Lake”.

As many of you are aware the watershed is the surface area that drains into the lake. There is also a large amount of ground water recharge that keeps our lake full of water and supplies our wells that give us our drinking water. As development occurs the amount of storm water that falls on the land and “recharges” the ground water tends to get covered with rooftops and driveways which are called “impervious surfaces”. In other words, water does not penetrate the surfaces and it doesn’t enter into the groundwater system. These impervious surfaces force water to runoff to the lake quicker which can cause flooding and can send pollutant loadings directly to the lake through the storm sewer systems consisting of culverts and pipes. Fortunately Town, County and City ordinances regulate storm water management plans and limit the impervious surface areas and require storm water ponds to trap these pollutants before they reach the lake. Unfortunately these impervious areas are not helping our ground water recharge phenomenon.

The management planning will key in on the topic of “**Watershed Protection**”. As the rain that falls in the watershed, it carries things into the streams and eventually it reaches the lake. To try to manage the lake itself without considering everything that is flowing into the lake doesn’t allow you to address the problem at the source of the problem. Let’s take nutrient loading for example. Phosphorus and other nutrients mainly come from soil erosion and farm animals. If we create stream buffers and filter the farm animal waste and minimize soil erosion issues, we minimize the nutrient loadings going into the lake.

Phosphorus and other nutrients promote aquatic plant growth and allow them to flourish. So if we can minimize the phosphorus levels coming into the lake, we can minimize the plant growth. If we limit the plant growth we limit the time cutting and picking up aquatic plants. The concept is very simple, the task is a big one. It is a “long term one” but it is achievable. It will make our lake better, we are positive about that.

THE LAKE OPERATIONS

The lake crews are in full swing for the 2014 season and the aquatic plants appear to be off to a slow start this year which allowed the crews to hit some of the key areas that get heavy plant growth with a harvester nice and early. A very windy fall pulled a lot of invasive plants out by the root. These plants washed up on shore and the crews removed them from the lake. A long cold winter provided a thick ice cover (over 24 inches) coupled with a consistent snow cover, this helped block the sunlight from penetrating deep into the water. The plants need sunlight to thrive and the dark waters appeared to have drained out the plants stored energy. This gave them a slow start once spring finally arrived.

While we are putting the crews in full force, we can’t emphasize enough how much more efficient we can remove the aquatic plants if the lake property owners participate in the pile pick ups on Mondays and Fridays. The Lake Pewaukee Sanitary District started this process several years ago and to date, other Lake Districts have been following our lead. This process takes teamwork. You should know that this effort goes a lot farther than you may think. Aquatic plants you pile up help us remove even more Eurasian milfoil fragments from the lake and prohibit their re-establishment. If your plants are piled we can move around the lake quicker, pick up more plants faster and it allows us to clean more shoreline, which allows us to harvest more milfoil and other invasive species.

We are excited to say we have a new lake supervisor to oversee the crews on a daily basis. Please take the time to say hello if you are out on the water and have the chance to meet him. Clayton is a highly motivated individual and is doing an outstanding job!

Lake Equipment reminder –

The Harvesters (weed cutters) are Yellow. They are cutting on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Typically “as a rule of thumb” the harvesters do not cut on Fridays so we can focus on cleaning up the cut weeds (the floaters) to prep the lake for the recreational users over the weekend whether you are sailing, fishing, skiing or just on a scenic cruise. Once and a while if it’s too windy for shore clean-up or we are caught up on cleaning up floaters, we run the harvesters in a calm bay to keep working at removing as many aquatic plants as possible.

The Shore barges (Aquatic plant pick up – floaters and shorelines) are Orange. They are out everyday, picking up floating weeds and weeds along the shoreline.

The Transporters are Blue. They are out everyday and they are used for unloading Harvesters and Shore barges to transport the weeds across the lake. They hook up to the conveyor which loads the weeds into Big Red (the big red dump truck). The Transporters are also heavily utilized in pile pickups on Mondays and Fridays.

All equipment and the lake staff are scheduled daily based on plant status and wind directions. The schedules are always subject to weather conditions. Old Mother Nature can shut us down at any time. While we will work in rain and fairly windy conditions, we pull the crews off the lake when the winds get too strong and/or lightning is observed in the area.

Remember if you want your shoreline looking mint for the Holiday weekend (or any weekend), help us, help you, by stacking the weeds in piles for pile pick up. This year we will do a special pile pick up on Thursday; July 3rd to help keep it clean for Friday, July 4th and the Holiday weekend, PENDING WEATHER CONDITIONS. Remember to stack the weeds where they are accessible for pick up with our large Shore barge or transporters.

Visit our website for a detailed explanation of equipment and their uses and suppliers of hand held weed cutters at lakepewaukeesd.org

SANITARY SYSTEM

Don’t flush it down the toilet unless it is toilet paper or something that you flushed through your own body! Flushing rags that may be labeled “flushable” have been causing problems with our pumps. Fortunately new rules are being passed to require manufacturers to pass 7 different test that would allow them to consider labeling something “flushable” but those rules are anticipated for 2015. In the meantime consider the fact that if our pumps all clog up, the pipes fill, it has the possibility to come back up your toilet. Think about that concept before you flush any wipes (other than toilet paper) down the toilet. Remember too that when we are called in for emergencies, that cost the district and you, the user’s money and is why the user fee’s go up. Help us save you money on these potentially “avoidable” emergencies. Ultimately the District has an outstanding record of protecting you against those back-ups through our emergency procedures but we also feel everyone should be aware of all potential circumstances.



Have you had your own sanitary sewer lateral cleaned out in the past 10 years? If you haven’t you are potentially getting close to a clog. Over time normal cooking which emits “kitchen” grease and years of draining dirt and debris from laundry tend to build up cake on the sides of pipes. Instead of waiting for that day when you have a house full of guests and your toilets all back up, think about preparing for the gathering and assuring you won’t have an embarrassing moment. You can find a link to the local plumbers and sewer cleaners listed on our website. www.Lakepewaukeesd.org

