

Lake Pocotopaug News and Notes

Eighth Edition Spring 2003

Produced by the East Hampton Parks and Recreation Department
"Discover the Benefits"

Town Initiatives for Water Quality Improvement on Lake Pocotopaug

Over the past few years the town of East Hampton has addressed the need for better water quality management in the Lake Pocotopaug watershed area and has taken the following steps in this process:

- The town has hired ENSR International to do extensive water testing and make recommendations to the town on improving water quality.
- Treated the deep lake waters with an Alum treatment to seal the bottom areas to prevent Phosphorous release.
- Walleye stocking program, over 15,000 Walleye have been stocked since the fall of 2001. The town is committed to continually fund the program over the next 3 years.
- Reconstruction of Lake Drive that includes the installation of deep Stormceptor catch basins that will filter, capture and prevent sand, harmful detergents and oils from entering the lake.
- In cooperation with the UCONN Extension System the town has conducted educational workshops in proper lawn care, buffer zones and fertilizer practices.
- The town has worked closely with the state DEP on a long term water shed management plan to improve water quality.
- The above programs represents an investment in the lake of over \$500,000.00 in the last three years.
- The Parks and Recreation Department periodically produces this newsletter with information regarding water quality issues and lake related events.

12 Steps to Transform Yard Waste into Yard Wealth

1. **Try Natural Landscaping**—Naturalize at least a portion of your yard to reduce maintenance, grass clippings, pesticide and fertilizer usage.
2. **Landscape the Border of Your Yard**—Perimeter planting provide a convenient place to recycle tree trimmings, leaves and garden debris.
3. **Select Plants for Proper Size and Vigor**—Reduce trimmings by selecting dwarf varieties and always plan for the mature height of trees and shrubs before planting.
4. **Plant Ground Covers**—Less lawn means fewer grass clippings. It can also reduce the amount of pesticide and fertilizer use.
5. **Use Organic Mulches**—Recycle leaves, wood chips, grass clippings and other yard trimmings as mulch to retain soil moisture, reduce weed growth and soil erosion.
6. **Use Leaves as a Resource**—Small amounts of leaves when shredded can be recycled as an organic nutrient source.
7. **Fertilize Conservatively and Carefully**—Test the soil and reduce fertilizer use.
8. **Manage Lawn Areas Wisely**—Recycle nutrients by leaving clippings on the lawn.
9. **Create a Compost Pile or Bin**—Using a recycling bin speeds up the natural process of decomposition.
10. **Direct Downspouts into Planting Beds or Lawns**—Redirect this precious resource to your yard rather than the pavement.
11. **Collect and Store Rain Water**—Reduce storm water flowing into the lake and reuse it during dry periods.
12. **Plan and Evaluate Your Lawn**—The key is to lessen the waste by rethinking, reducing, reusing and recycling.

Residential Site Assessment

Use the site assessment sheet below to see how you rate in managing your property to improve water quality. Once done see where the filled in boxes are— if more are filled in the left side of the paper you may want to think about making some adjustments in how you manage your property for water quality. If most of the filled in boxes are in the right side of the paper, congratulations!!!

LAWNS

Fertilizers

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Left on driveway/sidewalk | <input type="checkbox"/> Swept from driveway/sidewalk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Applied 3 or more times per year | <input type="checkbox"/> Applied 1 or 2 times per year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don't use low phosphorous | <input type="checkbox"/> Use low or no phosphorous |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amount not based on soil test | <input type="checkbox"/> Amount based on soil test |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don't calibrate spreader | <input type="checkbox"/> Calibrate spreader |

Lawn Watering

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Automatic irrigation | <input type="checkbox"/> No watering |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Manual irrigation | <input type="checkbox"/> Hand sprinkling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water 2-3 times per week | <input type="checkbox"/> Water 1—2 times per week |

Lawn Erosion

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bare soil spots present | <input type="checkbox"/> Bare soil hayed/mulched |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Steep Slopes eroding | <input type="checkbox"/> Steep slopes protected |

Landscape

Yard Waste

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grass clippings removed | <input type="checkbox"/> Grass clippings left on lawn |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grass clippings left on impervious areas | <input type="checkbox"/> Grass clippings swept back onto lawn |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leaves removed | <input type="checkbox"/> Grass clippings composted |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leaves raked into street | <input type="checkbox"/> Leaves mulched on lawn |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Leaves composted |

Landscape Plantings

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn runs to water's edge | <input type="checkbox"/> Numerous vegetative beds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn area covers most of property | <input type="checkbox"/> Mix of native species |

Landscape Management

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plants require annual pesticide applications | <input type="checkbox"/> Minimal use of pesticides |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deer damage occurs each year | <input type="checkbox"/> Deer don't show up |

Pesticides

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Broadcast applications across entire yard | <input type="checkbox"/> Spot applications to affected sites |
|--|--|

Roof Runoff

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gutters to driveway/sidewalk | <input type="checkbox"/> Gutters to lawn/garden |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gutters to storm sewer | <input type="checkbox"/> Gutters to drywell |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gutters to subsurface (unknown) | <input type="checkbox"/> Gutters to rain barrels |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Roof runoff to impervious area | <input type="checkbox"/> Roof runoff to pervious area |

The residential site assessment is copied with permission from the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System residential water quality education program.

