

June 19, 2014 Lake James Environmental Committee Report

1. The May water analysis revealed the lake is safe to swim in but has excessive phosphorous levels which give the water a green tint and is conducive to algae blooms. The use of lawn products high in nitrogen and phosphorous contribute to this problem. Please check with your lawn company or the label of the products you use to make sure they have a low number for nitrogen and phosphorous. Please use less chemicals and always make sure no excess chemicals run onto the sidewalks, driveways and street. Always thoroughly water lawn chemicals into the soil and maintain a riparian buffer (10 ft) away from the lake to prevent runoff.
2. The bypass canal running behind Lake James is highly polluted. Please keep away from this water (pets included). After rainstorms, you should wait 24 hours before swimming in the lake. Heavy rain sweeps the heavy metals and other pollutants from roadways into the storm drains and into Lake James. After 24 hours most of the sediment and contaminants have dropped to the bottom and/or have been diluted.
3. The Environmental Committee will spray the lake with a new product this season. It will help bind excessive phosphorous as well as a treatment for algae growth.

4. The inlet canal wetlands project has been stalled due to questions and concerns raised by the Centerville Road construction plans on the volume of stormwater to enter the bypass canal after road completion. Negotiations are underway to resolve the issues and the wetland project can go forward.

5. Recently, improvements were made to the new inlet weir to plug the drain holes at the top to prevent rising water in the inlet canal from entering Lake James. A survey of the lake water level was also conducted as a part of completing the new weir and wetlands project.

Have a safe and happy summer. Enjoy our beautiful lake😊

Peggy Sansone

Lake James Environmental Committee Chair