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# Sutton TIMES Lakes

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Issue 3, Volume 5

The Community Newsletter for the Neighborhood of Sutton Lakes

Summer, 2014



Welcome to the Summer edition of our community newsletter!  
We hope you are all having a safe and happy Summer. Please enjoy this quarter's edition and don't forget to send in any questions or suggestions for future newsletters. You can email [bheinselmann@srmifl.com](mailto:bheinselmann@srmifl.com)



## “THE ENEMY IS US”

(quote from POGO)

How are algae blooms, eutrophication, riparian zones, phosphates, detergents, landscape fertilizer, grass clippings, waste water, sewage, storm water management systems, pollutant run-off, impervious surfaces and pet waste, related to Sutton Lakes and its residents?

We hope you may have had concerns about those issues because all the above diverse but nevertheless interrelated factors can directly affect your homes, your property values, the aesthetic quality of your community, and could possibly even adversely influence your health.

Let's start at the beginning: fortunately our Florida atmosphere usually provides us with adequate rainfall which is essential for the growth of all forms of plant and animal life which in turn are used to sustain human life. Rain occurring on Sutton Lakes may fall directly into our marshes and our manmade waterways or onto impervious surfaces including our roadways or the “footprints” of our homes which cause much of that rainfall to be diverted into an underground storm water management system. That “system” conducts storm water laden with manmade pollutants including potentially toxic oil, landscape clippings, fertilizer and pet wastes to run off into our waterways (read “ponds”) where the rain water slowly percolates into the ground. Those polluting contaminants, however, may result in a number of undesirable long term effects which may be difficult and expensive to control much less eradicate. Particulate matter in runoff slowly settles to the bottom of waterways which results in a slow buildup of contaminant laden silt which in time may require removal by expensive dredging.

Before some of the damaging effects of pollutants to Sutton Lakes manmade waterways are presented, a brief description of the composition of a well maintained manmade waterway may be in order. Waterways should be devoid of undesirable, non-native and invasive plants and especially aquatic weeds, including unsightly algae. Water should be clear and without offensive odors. Beneficial plants and aquatic animal life should be thriving. Ideally, ambient breezes should cause the water surface to remain in motion in order that some mixing of the water occurs throughout the depth of the waterway.

In what ways do storm water runoff pollutants cause detrimental effects in manmade waterways? Landscape clippings and pet waste pollutants contain organic materials which serve as essential nutrients for the growth of both beneficial and noxious aquatic plants in waterways. Most agricultural, golf course and lawn fertilizers contain large amounts of another potent pollutant, phosphate, which enters waste water management systems from storm water runoff. Another source of pollution is from phosphate containing dishwasher, clothes washer, and automobile cleansing detergents which may find their way into waterways from defective sewage and septic systems.

Phosphates, like water, are essential elements to life and growth of all forms of plants and animals. Phosphate compounds constitute vital substances in humans because they are part of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) and contribute to man's energy distribution process.

It is the manmade “witches brew” consisting of fertilizer, pet waste, and landscape clippings which are responsible for the most damaging effects to waste water management systems. Grass clippings introduced to waterways in excessive amounts provide a “double whammy” in that not only do they contribute a large source of organic material which can disintegrate and create detrimental effects to beneficial plant and animal life in waterways but clippings are also often laden with large amounts of phosphate fertilizer.

The sum total of the detrimental environmental effects of pollutant nutrients on storm water management systems results in a phenomenon termed *eutrophication*. Simply stated, it is the process whereby organic and chemical pollutants introduced into waterways provide nutrients for the growth of unwanted, unaesthetic plant forms and potentially toxic microorganisms. When certain types of algae are provided a mix of nutrients from pollution sources, the result is the familiar unsightly and sometimes foul odor producing “algae bloom.”

Since mankind is the principal offender in providing the polluting elements necessary for the unwanted processes occurring in manmade waterways, isn't it also mankind's responsibility to cease or at least slow their contributions to those destructive processes?

Among the many measures Sutton Lakes residents can take to minimize those environmentally destructive behaviors is to stop excessive use of fertilizer on our lawns and golf courses. Further, have landscapers avoid introducing fertilizer directly into waste water management areas. Finally, consider installing riparian zones surrounding waterways. Riparian zones are areas where no fertilizer is applied and in which special landscaping is installed to further minimize leaching of pollutants into a waterway.

Landscapers should also be directed (by contract if necessary) to never introduce grass clippings or cut landscape debris into waterways.

Minimizing pet waste pollution can be accomplished by “walking” pets in areas remote from waterways.

By employing the above reasonable recommendations, Sutton Lakes residents can continue to claim they are proud stewards protecting Florida's special environment.

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## ~REMINDERS~

Please make sure your pets are kept on a leash and that you pick up after your pet. Also, remember that noxious and threatening pets are prohibited in Sutton Lakes.

### REMINDER ABOUT NO FISHING IN RETENTION PONDS

There is absolutely no fishing in any of the ponds in the Sutton Lakes community. Some homeowners wanted to know if they could "catch and release." This is also not allowed. Once a fish is caught in a hook, the hook does damage to the fish and there is no assurance the fish will live a normal life after it is released. Last year the association spent many thousands of dollars stocking fish to control the algae in the ponds. If the fish cannot perform their function as normal, too much algae can grow in the ponds and can begin smelling. Please do not disturb the fish in the ponds so they can do the job we expect them to do. If you have visitors in your home, please make them aware of this no fishing policy.

**WHEN PARKING IN YOUR DRIVEWAY, PLEASE REMEMBER TO KEEP THE SIDEWALKS CLEAR FOR THE SAFETY OF WALKERS, RUNNERS, AND CHILDREN.**



### BASKETBALL HOOPS

Per the ARB Guidelines: Basketball hoops must be placed on the homeowner's driveway 15 feet from the street. Basketball hoops should not be placed on the streets, edge of the sidewalk, or edge of the driveway. Reasons: A uniform rule of placing basketball hoops on driveways will help create and maintain a sub-division in harmony with its surroundings. In high winds, basketball hoops have a tendency to fall. Basketball hoops cannot be placed on the edge of streets, driveways, and sidewalks; as they can fall on cars, block the streets and can injure people. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

