

Best Practices for the Health and Enjoyment of our Lakes

Your Lakes Management Advisory Committee and Borough Manager monitor the water quality and presence of blue-green algae in our lakes with the help of a lake and pond management company. In conjunction with these efforts, we ask all residents always to actively protect our lakes by adhering to the following best practices.



All residents

Phosphorous and nitrogen harm our lakes by promoting the growth of unwanted algae and other vegetation. Runoff from residential properties throughout our watershed is the major source of this phosphorous and nitrogen.

1. Only phosphorous-free fertilizer may be used in Mountain Lakes. [\(Ordinance 115\)](#) Do not apply fertilizer if rainfall is predicted. Please fertilize sparingly, wherever you may live, because all fertilizer affects our lakes by contributing to nutrient-rich runoff.
2. Do not put lawn clippings, twigs, tree limbs and other debris into the lakes or on Borough property.
3. Do not feed geese or other waterfowl. Their droppings promote the growth of bacteria and algae in the lakes.
4. Pick up after your pets and please remember, dogs are never allowed on our beaches. Pet waste is a common source of bacteria and excess nutrients.

Ensure that non-native plant and animal species are not introduced into our lakes.

1. Do not dump anything from an ornamental pond or aquarium into our lakes or canal.
2. DRAIN, CLEAN, DRY, and REST your boat or paddle board before returning it to our lakes from any other body of water.
 - Fully DRAIN your boat. Then, CLEAN off any mud, plants, and animals from boat, paddle board, trailer, and other equipment. Discard removed material in a trash receptacle or on high, dry ground where there is no danger of it washing into any body of water or storm drain. Do not drain and clean boats near our lakes.
 - Allow boat to sit for three days following draining, cleaning, and drying.
3. Be vigilant! Report any observed invasive species to the Borough manager. Use our [Aquatic Plant Guide](#) as your guide.

Register and Store your watercraft appropriately.

1. All watercraft should be stored on private property or the Borough's [boat racks or rings](#) between uses. The mooring of boats is not allowed in the open water of our lakes.
2. All boats should be registered. Please fill out a registration form at Borough Hall and pay the \$5.00 fee. The registration is good for the life of the boat.

Lakefront and canal-front residents

1. Avoid any fertilizer application within 25 feet of any Borough water body. ([Ordinance 115](#))
2. Remove (or ask your lawn care company to remove) grass clippings and leaves to prevent decomposition in or around your body of water.
3. Implement a **Living Shoreline** landscaping strategy that incorporates a vegetated buffer between your lawn and the lake or canal. This will benefit our community in several important ways:
 - It will increase groundwater filtration before runoff enters the lake, helping to leach out phosphorous and other nutrients, before they promote excess growth of vegetation in the lake, as well as contaminants.
 - It will discourage geese from grazing on a lawn by blocking their line of sight and visual access from water to land. For best effect, employ angled pathways through vegetated buffers for your own passage between shoreline and lawn.

Incorporate only native, non-invasive species in your Living Shoreline. Resource: The [Native Plant Society of New Jersey](#)

4. [Ordinance 137](#)
 - A [Permit](#) is required for any dock, raft or retaining wall.
 - The size of docks and rafts is restricted.
 - Any alteration of the shoreline is a regulated activity and requires a [Permit](#). Avoid altering the natural shoreline to minimize erosion and preserve shoreline and near-shoreline natural habitat. Minimize cement or other non-porous walls along all shorelines. A Living Shoreline is preferable to a retaining wall.