

“A Lake is the Landscapes most beautiful and expressive feature. It is the Earth’s eye looking into which the beholder measures the depth of his own nature.”..... Henry David Thoreau in Walden



What you can do to help
(For both lakeside and non-lakeside residents)
**SIMPLE, CONCRETE STEPS YOU CAN TAKE IN YOUR HOME
AND YARD TO PROTECT YOUR LAKE**

Water your lawn less. The water will cause the chemicals on your lawn to go into the lake. Adjust your watering to weather conditions.

Manage your shoreline. If properly managed, your shoreline can be an efficient natural buffer between your lawn and the lake. In fact, shorelines are the most important tool you have to protect our lake.

Leave an unmowed buffer strip between your lawn and the lake. Ground cover, mulch or natural plants work well to absorb water and chemicals.

Plant steep banks with native vegetation that binds and traps water. Native grasses will also help keep the geese off of your lawn. They fear predators are hiding in them!

Please consider not fertilizing your front yard or adjusting the mix to exclude Phosphorous.

Just say NO to Fertilizer!

Lakes have interrelated physical, chemical and biological properties. A disruption in one property affects the others. For instance, when rain washes chemical fertilizer off your lawn and into the lake, this alters the chemical properties of the lake. The altered lake chemistry can result in new conditions in the lake that may, for example, increase the growth of algae and zooplankton and help certain types of fish species while others decline.

The Big Danger: Cultural Eutrophication The problem is that lakes age more quickly when humans get involved. Before there were many homes around Stansbury Park Lake, the water was generally free of weeds and algae. With the addition of homes, the lake has started to “age”. This is called cultural eutrophication because certain practices in our culture – like adding fertilizers to our lawns – causes our lake to age faster than if we left it alone.



The key is **not to feed the lake nutrients** like Phosphorous or Nitrogen. Phosphorous and Nitrogen are the chemicals in our homes and yard that cause cultural eutrophication. Phosphorous comes from fertilizers, detergents, and organic matter. Nitrogen comes from fertilizer, manure, and organic matter. Phosphorous and Nitrogen can over stimulate aquatic plant growth and speed eutrophication.

Use less chemicals on your lawn. Excess fertilizers and pesticides go into the lake. The resulting algae blooms remind us that less chemicals is better. If you have to fertilize, try to use **phosphorous-free** fertilizers, **slow release nitrogen**. Leave a buffer area between your lawn and the water to absorb the chemicals. If you use a lawn service, request that they use phosphorous-free fertilizer. Your mulched lawn clippings can deliver sufficient nitrogen to your lawn.

A large portion of Stansbury Park’s water drains into the lake through the Golf Course water system. The water that runs off of your lawn and driveway ends up in the lake. **IT DOES NOT GO IN TO A SEWER SYSTEM! IT GOES IN TO THE GOLF COURSE PONDS AND INTO THE LAKE!** Even if you do not live directly on the lake, you still have just as much influence on the quality of the water as residents that live directly on the lake.