

Shoreline Vegetation Management Practices



WHAT'S BEST FOR A SMALL LAKE

In the City of Winter Park, formal shoreline permitting is not required on lakes under 40 acres in size, but the city strongly encourages residents to follow ecologically-sound management practices to help maintain the health of their lakes. Residents on smaller lakes are still required to meet pollution prevention rules and the following Best Management Practices (BMP's) will help keep your property in compliance while helping to keep your lake safe, clean and healthy.

Shoreline plant management

- Be aware that some lakes exempt from city permitting may still require a state permit for vegetation management.
- Keep as much of the shoreline as possible vegetated to reduce the potential for erosion and to help the overall ecology of the lake.
- If you do need to clear an access corridor, limit it to 50 feet or 50 percent of the frontage, whichever is less. Residents are encouraged to clear only what is needed to obtain access.
- Aquascaping is encouraged to fill in bare shorelines. Follow these tips:
 - » Arrange native aquatic plants tightly to reduce invasion by nuisance species.
 - » Choose the right plants for the water depths to be planted. For more information on planting zones, please visit .
 - » Use native trees and shrubs to provide layered looks and complex wildlife habitat.
 - » Remember that shorelines require maintenance just like lawns do – pruning and weeding will make your shoreline look better longer.
- Many of our smaller lakes experience significant fluctuations in water levels. On these lakes different approaches are recommended during high vs. low water conditions.
 - » During times of low water, it is ok to mow down to the water's edge so long as the grass clippings don't get blown into the lake. This practice allows the roots to stay intact thus preventing erosion on the shoreline. Mowing can also help reduce the establishment of exotic pest plants.
 - » During times of high water, allow plants to grow naturally in the saturated area.
 - » Plant native shrubbery above the Normal High Water Elevation (NHWE) to minimize the chance that the plants are inundated with standing water during the rainy season
 - » Species like cordgrass and buttonbush, or trees [cypress, black gum, maple, sweet bay, loblolly bay, etc.] will stabilize the soil and grow well along the banks.

General lawn care

- Bag leaves and grass clippings or place in flower beds as mulch so they are not easily washed or blown back onto the paved surfaces.
- Place compost bins away from the shoreline to prevent nutrients from leaching into the lake water.
- Raise the mowing height to three inches to inhibit weed growth and reduce the need for irrigation
- Landscape with Florida-friendly plants and vegetation. Use native plants when and wherever possible. Native vegetation thrives in our climate and weather conditions, without having to add water and nutrients. Native plants also provide food and shelter for our native wildlife, including birds, insects, etc.
- If you have only older trees in your yard or on your lakefront, consider planting replacement trees now so they will have time to fill in before the old ones are lost.
- Regularly scoop up and dispose of pet waste in bags that are discarded in the garbage. Never put pet waste in a compost bin as they contain nitrogen and phosphorus and harmful bacteria.
- Fertilizer use
 - » Phosphorus
 - Use phosphorus-free fertilizer
 - » Nitrogen
 - Fertilizer must contain at least 50 percent slow-release nitrogen
 - Apply no more than one pound total nitrogen per 1000 square feet during any one application
 - » Application
 - Keep at least 10 feet away from any lake, pond, stream, canal, stormwater pond or wetland.
 - Sweep up fertilizer that falls on driveways, streets, sidewalks, and pavement to prevent it from washing into lakes and ponds via stormwater systems.
 - Use a deflector shield with broadcast spreaders to prevent fertilizer from landing on pavement, in ditches, stormwater drains, rights-of-way, etc.
 - Only trained residents and commercial applicators certified by Orange County Cooperative Extension Service may apply fertilizer during rainy season (June 1 through September 30). For residential training information, please visit [. For commercial training opportunities, please contact \[or visit \\[.\\]\\(#\\)\]\(#\)](#)
- Consider creating a berm and swale system on the property to reduce runoff and prevent erosion in your yard.

For help developing specific BMP's for your lakefront lot, please contact the Lakes Division at mjohansson@cityofwinterpark.org or 407-691-7829. A hard copy will also be provided upon request.