

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
COOPERATION!!!**

**Together we can maintain and
even further improve the visual
beauty and health of
Lake Meahagh.**

Questions? Contact....

Town of Cortlandt

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Additional Information Available

Town of Cortlandt

www.townofcortlandt.com/stormwater

[www.townofcortlandt.com/cn/
webpage.cfm?TPID=4828](http://www.townofcortlandt.com/cn/webpage.cfm?TPID=4828)

Westchester County

[https://planning.westchestergov.com/
environment/stormwater-management](https://planning.westchestergov.com/environment/stormwater-management)

[http://planning.westchestergov.com/print-
materials](http://planning.westchestergov.com/print-materials)

[https://health.westchestergov.com/septic-
systems](https://health.westchestergov.com/septic-systems)

NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/50272.html>



Lake Meahagh



Annual Watershed Mailing

Aug. 2019

Lake Meahagh has been classified by the NYSDEC as an impaired waterbody due to excessive phosphorus.

Over the past few years the Town has enacted various measures to help the Lake, such as:

- Public Outreach
- Installing Aeration
- Winter draw down of the lake.

However, this summer the lake is impacted by various invasive species; most notably the Eurasian water milfoil.



For more information visit the Department of Environmental Conservation's "Diet for a Small Lake"

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/82123.html>

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Fertilizers

- Only apply phosphorus free fertilizers or else excess phosphorus will be washed away into storm drains and streams
- Avoid applying fertilizer if rain is in the upcoming forecast
- Sweep excess fertilizer back onto your lawn and off of the street
- Test your soil to determine what your lawn really needs

http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/fertedcolor.pdf

Use Phosphorus-Free Lawn Fertilizer It's the Law!

Most lawns in New York State do not need additional phosphorus for healthy growth. When you use fertilizer containing phosphorus for your lawn, the rain can wash it into streams, lakes and reservoirs. Fertilizer in water can create excess algae, plant growth and green scum that:

- Interfere with boating and swimming
- Harm fish populations
- Degrade drinking water quality

How do you know if you are using phosphorus-free fertilizer? **Look for the zero.**

Check the fertilizer bag for a set of three numbers; they represent the percentage of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. The number in the middle should be a "0."

Phosphorus runoff poses a threat to water quality. Therefore, under New York law (effective January 1, 2012), phosphorus-containing fertilizer may only be applied to lawns or non-agricultural turf when:

- A soil test indicates that additional phosphorus is needed for growth of a lawn or non-agricultural turf.
- or
- The fertilizer is used for newly established lawns or non-agricultural turf during the first growing season.

Visit <http://www.dec.ny.gov> for more information.
NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION



Lawn Mowing

Consider mowing your grass at a high setting (over 2.5 inches). When you mow your lawn, direct the clippings away from the street, driveways, sidewalks, and other paved areas. Sweep to your lawn and as grass clippings are a great natural fertilizer.



Pet Waste

- Pick up waste and dispose of in the trash
- Do not let the waste wash away into streams and catch basins.

Pet waste has a high concentration of phosphorus. Be considerate not only to your neighbors when walking pets, but also the environment.

Onsite Septic Systems

Did you know you are required by Code to regularly pump and inspect your onsite sanitary system.

<https://www.epa.gov/septic/septicmart-homeowners>

Failing septic systems are harmful to the environment and adversely effect receiving waters.