



Dear Watershed Resident,

The Lindenhurst Lakes Commission is a volunteer group that looks into the health of our lakes and makes recommendations to the Village Board as to possible actions that could have an impact on this wonderful resource. This letter is to let you know how your day to day activities affect the health of your lakes.

All four of Lindenhurst's lakes are essentially storm water retention ponds. While they do that well, they have some wonderful attributes that many associate with much bigger lakes. Our lakes are an ideal location for fishing, swimming, and boating. Our priority is to keep the lakes as healthy as possible.

There are some things that are done from a treatment standpoint, but one of the best ways to keep the lakes healthy is to keep harmful nutrients that cause algae to proliferate out of storm drains and our lakes. *It is important to note that the following applies to everyone in the watershed of a lake, not just those who live on a lake. Almost everyone within our Village lives in one of the watersheds or storm drains that empties into our lakes.*

Some examples:

- **Phosphate Fertilizer** - Fertilizer with phosphate is against Village Ordinance and encourages the unwanted growth of filamentous algae in our lakes. Remember to buy fertilizer that has 0 as the middle number (i.e. 30-0-5).
- **Car Washing** – If you wash your car on your driveway or in the street, phosphates from the detergent eventually enter the lake via the storm drains. Choose phosphate free detergent products and wash your car next to your grass. Use a hose fitted with a self-closing nozzle to conserve water.
- **Grass Clippings** - Grass clippings and leaves from sidewalks and driveways that are blown in the street will eventually make their way into the lakes via the storm drains. The clippings decompose and settle on the bottom of the lake or add harmful nutrients into the lake. Please mulch or bag your clippings.
- **Pet Waste** - Any biological material is a potential contaminant. Please pick up after your pet in your yard or anywhere in our watershed.
- **Waterfowl Waste** - Lakes are a natural habitat for ducks and geese. However, too many waterfowl on a small lake represents a waste problem. It is against Village Ordinance to feed them. Consider creating a permanent buffer strip along your shoreline. A buffer strip is an area of land maintained in permanent vegetation that helps to control air, soil, and water quality, along with other environmental problems. Buffer strips trap sediment, and enhance filtration of nutrients and pesticides by slowing down runoff that could enter the local surface waters. Buffer strips discourage geese because they are seen as places predators could potentially hide.

There is a lot of valuable information on our website at www.lindenhurstlakes.com. If you have any questions, contact one of our commissioners or come to one of our meetings. Visit our booths at SpringFest and Earth Day.

Thank you for your help,
The Lindenhurst Lakes Commission

