

CRESCENT LAKE: WAYS YOU CAN HELP

When conditions are right, Phosphorus in our water promotes Cyanobacteria (formally known as Blue-Green Algae). Once Cyanobacteria blooms in a lake, it is very costly to treat, kills pets and sickens humans, lowers property values, and will change our way of life forever. Every person living in or around the Crescent Lake watershed can make a positive impact by taking action on these five items:

1. **FERTILIZERS.** Phosphorus and nitrogen are used in fertilizer because they promote plant growth. Unfortunately, when these nutrients leach into waterbodies, they also promote the growth of harmful Cyanobacteria. Cyanobacteria and algal blooms have a negative impact to water quality by reducing water clarity, reducing water oxygen levels, and ultimately threatening the survival of fish and other aquatic life. The proper use and application of a fertilizer is therefore extremely important. **Consider eliminating the use of fertilizers** on your property. If you must use fertilizer, only use products that are phosphorus-free and do not apply fertilizer within 25' of any water. The Shoreline Water Quality Protection Act (SWQPA) prohibits the use of fertilizers within 25' of the reference line of public waters. This includes organic products. No chemicals, including organic pesticides, can be applied within 50 feet of the reference line, except by a professional licensed for pesticide application by the State of New Hampshire.
2. **SEPTIC SYSTEMS.** Keep your septic system in good working order. A malfunctioning septic system discharges phosphorus and other nutrients into the watershed, or for those living directly on the lake, directly into the lake. Inspect your septic system yearly and have it pumped at least every 3 years or as directed by your septic pumping company. The DES guidelines on septic care are a good information resource and a copy is attached to this reference sheet.
3. **STORMWATER RUNOFF** is water from rain or melting snow that does not soak into the ground. Plants help remove the oils, salt, heavy metals, fertilizers, and other contaminants from stormwater runoff before they enter into Crescent Lake. Plants slow down, absorb, and purify much more stormwater than plants with shallow roots typically found in lawns. The Shoreline Water Quality Protection Act (SWQPA) restricts the removal of native plants in proximity to the water in order to preserve this natural benefit. If you own lake front property, ensure there is a **VEGETATIVE BUFFER** between the water and land. Natural buffers are best - simply stop cutting the vegetation and allow natural plants to grow. In addition, buffers are a natural defense against Waterfowl entering your property. Also **COVER** any areas of **BARE SOIL** with plants or mulch. Share this information with landscapers and yard crews.
4. **DOG WASTE.** We all love our canine friends however, their poo carries bacteria, viruses and parasites that can threaten the health of humans, pets, and wildlife. **Pick up** after your dog and dispose of waste in the trash.
5. **BE AN ADVOCATE** for clean water. In addition to taking action on your own property, make your thoughts known to town officials. Be an influencer. Talk with friends and neighbors about protecting Crescent Lake!



PO Box 131 * Acworth NH 03601



Town of Acworth
New Hampshire

TOWN OF UNITY, NH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

TOWN OF ACWORTH, NH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION