

PIMLICO POND NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Our beloved Pimlico Pond is at risk for **cyanobacteria blooms** that can be very **HARMFUL** to humans, to pets to and other animals.

Cyanobacteria, also known as **blue-green algae**, is bad for the pond and bad for us. Harmful **cyanobacteria blooms** are increasing because of warming water temperatures due to climate change. Nutrients such as **phosphorous** and **nitrogen** (from septic systems, fertilizers, human and pet waste, and runoff from roadways) feed the cyanobacteria, causing it to rapidly multiply and grow.

Here are some things **YOU** can do to decrease the risk of cyanobacteria outbreaks in Pimlico Pond:

STOP FERTILIZING YOUR LAWN AND GARDEN

The nitrogen and phosphorous in fertilizer feed blue-green algae. All fertilizers, including the organic kind, can exacerbate cyanobacteria. According to the Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC), there is **no such thing as safe fertilizer** when it comes to pond health.

For pond-friendly and people-pleasing landscaping ideas, please see the APCC web site: apcc.org.

CHECK PRODUCT LABELS FOR PHOSPHORUS

Algae-feeding phosphorus is found in some home products such as soaps, dishwashing liquid, shampoos, detergents, and more. **Check labels** and **avoid products** with phosphorus or phosphates.

NEVER PEE IN THE POND

Urine contains phosphorus. Cyanobacteria loves phosphorus. Remind kids to **take regular bathroom breaks out of the water**.

PICK UP PET WASTE

Don't leave phosphorus-containing pet waste on the ground, where it can **contaminate our pond**.

DON'T FEED DUCKS OR GEESE

Water fowl waste is truly foul – it **feeds blue-green algae**.

PLANT NATIVE PLANTS

Native flowers, shrubs and ground cover between a septic system and the pond can **put down roots** that help take up some of the nutrients that feed cyanobacteria.

WASH YOUR CAR IN TOWN

The **chemicals from the cleansers** can run into the pond, feeding cyanobacteria.

LEARN TO RECOGNIZE CYANOBACTERIA

Cyanobacteria blooms can make the pond water look slightly **discolored, goopy, scummy or bright and thick like paint**. Blooms frequently appear **blue or green** but can also be **brown or red**. While cyanobacteria blooms tend to be most noticeable in the morning, they are still dangerous even when they dissipate.

If you think you've seen a bloom, **AVOID CONTACT WITH THE WATER**, and keep pets away.

If your pet gets wet, immediately rinse them thoroughly with clean, non-pond water before they groom themselves and accidentally ingest **deadly** cyanobacteria.

IMPORTANT: The APCC regularly monitors over 150 ponds on Cape Cod, about 40% of which are exhibiting troubling declines in water quality. Monitoring helps us understand the health of our pond so we can protect ourselves, and also puts the pond on the radar of the town and state. Unfortunately, the Town of Sandwich does **NOT** pay APCC to monitor Pimlico Pond because it is considered a private pond without public beach access. In order for APCC to sample the pond twice a month, residents would have to pay \$110 per sample.

The Pikul family at 19 Shore Drive is organizing a collection for monitoring during June, July and August.

Please consider contributing to the safety of our pond and the health of our neighbors.

To contribute, contact Marlyse Pikul at pikron1@comcast.net or 508-241-8727

For more information, please go to apcc.org or contact APCC: (508) 619-3185 / info@apcc.org