

Hidden Harbour Lake Best Practices

Grass Clippings

Did you know that grass clippings contain phosphorus, the nutrient that turns lakes green with algae! One bushel of fresh grass clippings can contain .1 lbs of phosphorus—enough to produce 30-50 pounds of algae growth if it finds its way to a lake.

What Can You Do?

- Leave grass clippings on the lawn
- Direct grass clippings away from streets, driveways, sidewalks, and other paved areas
- Sweep up grass clippings and return them to the lawn or use a blower to blow grass clippings from hard surfaces back into the lawn
- Follow the Hidden Harbour Lawn and Fertilizer guidelines
- Communicate these best practices and guidelines to your service providers

Buffer Zones

Maintaining dense beneficial vegetation around the lake is extremely beneficial for improving water quality, preventing erosion, and controlling nuisance geese. It is recommended that houses on the lake leave a 3-5 foot section above the water level unmowed so that it can grow and benefit the lake. When rainwater drains through grassy areas, the water will have accumulated a significant amount of nutrients that will lead to algae blooms in the lake. Although a short manicured buffer may look aesthetically appealing, the practice that is the healthiest for lakes is to allow native grasses and other beneficial flowering species to grow to maturity, while selectively controlling the non-beneficial and unsightly species that may also grow in these areas if left completely unmaintained. The graphic below represents a worst-case to best-case scenario for buffer zones. Remember, the more nutrients that are absorbed by plants on land, the less that will make it into the water to feed algae and weeds. As a bonus, geese will avoid yards where they do not have a clear line of site to the lake so having a planted border will help with the goose problem as well.

