**Vista Bonita Lake Quality Update September 2024**

Here is an update from our water treatments on Baker Lake.

Based on the sample results taken in August, we made the decision to minimize the number of sample locations. As you can see in the report, the total coliform numbers were much higher. This is because total coliform includes things from dirt, type of plant life, other type of chemicals or particles within the environment.

Therefore, we chose to focus on fecal coliform only. By focusing on fecal coliform only, we will have a better idea of the levels coming from the goose poop and any other type of animal feces that surround the lake. Because of some areas having higher figures, we elected to focus on four areas – swim beach, middle of the lake (near fish buoy), cove, and Baker Lake Park dock.

As you see in the lab report from our September samples taken, we have better results in some lake areas, like Baker Lake Park, and other areas have higher E. Coli. This helps explain similar type of results for the Fecal E. Coli only. Amazingly the Baker Lake Park is lower than in the previous month.

We applied three different type of “The Pond Guy” treatments in August to improve the lake health:

* **Pond Clear** – has billions of beneficial bacteria meant to consume suspended organic matter, remove excess nutrients & noxious odors, binds phosphate for long-lasting clarity.
* **Eco Boost** – permanently binds phosphates to improve water quality & clarity, eliminates need for heavy metal treatments, without impacting the pH levels.
* **Muck Away** – has scientifically formulated beneficial bacteria to spot treat beaches, shorelines, and lakefronts to reduce up to 2” of muck/month (if applied continuously each month), while reducing noxious odors and muck accumulation

We are able to ascertain that the treatments have been improving the health of the lake in multiple ways, especially for clarity, with an overall average of 2.5 inches better visual downward in the water, meaning we can see deeper than before when using the Secchi Disc.

While water quality for a lake overall is a moving target, our goal is to apply monthly treatments next year for the summer months. One item that makes it a true moving target is the source of water – the canal – and where the source of water that is in the canal during the separate times of the year. The first water run is usually from the Poudre River; the second water run is from Reservoirs upstream from us.

Plans for next year (pending board approval):

1) Keep up with treatments during warmer months.

2) Add a sample to our water quality test list, as water is added into to the lake to see if the water source has higher contaminants, which will help guide us for the treatments we apply.

3) Save up money/donations/possible grant funds - to buy an aeration system for the lake, which will help to even out temperatures & bacteria levels, assist with water clarity/quality, and improve overall lake health.

We are happy to say that our lake is still healthy and within state requirements! We just remindeveryone that **it is not potable, drinking water. So don’t drink it or use it on your vegetable gardens**.