***Sick of Green Water?***

***Worried about Blue-Green Algae?***

***What Can YOU Do to Help?***

***Avoid Fertilizers with Phosphorus***

What can you do to protect our water quality while maintaining a healthy yard? Using a phosphorus-free fertilizer is the first step. (The three numbers on fertilizer bags show the N-P-K nutrient analysis -- nitrogen, phosphorus and potash or potassium. A “zero” in the middle means it is phosphorus free.) Fertilizers, leaves, grass clippings, animal waste, and eroded soil are all sources of phosphorus that can end up in our lake. Please bag them or place them in an area where they won’t be swept into the water.

*You can do your part to protect water quality by doing the following:*

* For best results, fall is the best time to apply fertilizer.
* Do not cut grass right up to the water’s edge.
* Don’t fertilize before a storm.
* Never apply fertilizer to frozen ground.
* Yard waste can contribute significant amounts of phosphorus to waterways. Keep soil, leaves, and lawn clippings out of our lake by bagging them, composting them, or leaving them right on the lawn as a natural fertilizer.
* Mow higher. Keeping your grass length to 2½ – 3 inches is healthier for your lawn – and means you can mow less often!
* Pick up pet waste. Pet waste can contain harmful bacteria as well as phosphorus.
* Control soil erosion around your house. When left bare, soil is easily washed away with rain, carrying phosphorus with it. Soil erosion can be prevented by covering exposed soil with vegetation or mulch.

***Fire Pits, Ice Fires and Fireworks Near the Water***

***Fire Pits*** close to a lake can contribute to phosphorus runoff into the water. Locate fire pits at least 50 feet from the water’s edge. Left-over ash is very high in phosphorus and a heavy rain can wash those ashes into the water, contributing to an algae bloom. If you are unable to move your pit, keep it enclosed using a fire ring or some other type of barrier, and dispose of ashes on a regular basis.

***Ice fires*** are strictly prohibited, as left-over ash on the ice helps contribute to “green water” in the summer. Please, NO fires on the ice.

***Fireworks*** When lighting off fireworks on the lake, we ask that you clean-up your debris left behind. We have had numerous incidents where debris from fireworks was left behind on the island, which will eventually make its way back into the lake. On another note, fireworks are discouraged after 10:00 P.M. Remember, people live here year-round. If you own a rental property on Crane Lake, please make note of the fireworks guidelines for your renters.

***Avoid Boating Activities in Shallow Water***

New boating hours (from 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.) are posted at the boat landing. Waterskiing, tubing, jet-skiing, or wakeboarding after 6:00 P.M. is prohibited. Waterskiing, tubing, jet-skiing, or wakeboarding in shallow bays is NOT recommended. This activity can disturb sediment releasing excess nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus that has been dormant for years back into the water chamber. The law prohibits boaters from operating their boats faster than a slow no-wake speed within 100 feet of the shoreline anywhere on the lake.

***Shoreline Restoration Best Practices***

Is your yard ***RUN-OFF*** proof? Are all areas of your parcel well covered with vegetation?

Does water flow evenly across your parcel? If there is a huge rainfall, do you have the

necessary components in place to prevent erosion of soil into the lake? Below are some best

practices, that can be easily implemented. Most of the projects listed below do not require a permit. **See our district website for additional instructions.** [**https://pickerelcranelakedistrict.org**](https://pickerelcranelakedistrict.org)**.**

*Rock Infiltration Practice*

* A best practice for steep or moderately steep parcels, it is an excavated pit or trench filled with rock that reduces runoff by storing it underground to infiltrate. A catch basin and/or perforated pipe surrounded by gravel and lined with sturdy landscape fabric may be integrated into the design to capture, redirect, and pre-treat water. Pit, trench size, and holding capacity are a function of the area draining to it and the permeability of the underlying soil. Normally, a 3 - 4ft trench is sufficient.

*Create a Rocky Barrier against the water’s edge.*

* Riprap is human-placed rock or other material used to protect shoreline structures against water, wave, or ice erosion. Proper construction of a rock barrier allows for a heavy fabric barrier underneath the rocks, to further prevent soil and nutrients from entering the lake.

*Plant native plants next to your rip-rap*

* There are a number of native pants and grasses that can be planted along the shoreline. Native planting templates include a mixture of grasses, sedges, wildflowers, ferns, shrubs, and trees, depending on the desired function and site’s soil. For additional information, see the district website for specific types off grasses and perennial plants to use, and how to create not only a beautiful, but functional waterfront.

*Thank You,*

*Crane Lake Citizens Monitoring & Action Committee*

*Brad Kupfer, Brian King, Dan Stoehr, Gene Ebben, Chris Randerson, and Mark Starich*