

Septic Systems

Your septic system must be inspected and pumped at least every five years.

A leaky septic system leaches nitrogen and phosphorous into the lake and causes algae growth.

Harmful Algae Blooms

Harmful algae blooms (HABs) occur when blue-green algae, also called cyanobacteria, grow out of control and produce toxins that are harmful to people and pets if swallowed or inhaled. They have been identified in many lakes in the NYS.

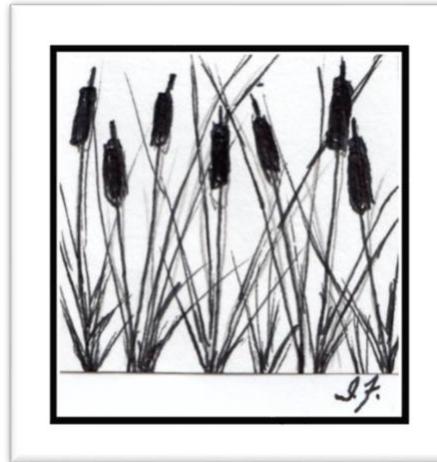
Like all algae, their growth is fueled by high levels of phosphorous and nitrogen in the water.

TSPOA Staff are trained in the visual identification of HABs. If HABs are suspected anywhere on the lake, residents will be notified through the Alert System. Beach 1 or 3 will be closed only if HABs are present at or near them.

Do not swim, wade or fish near blooms or surface scum. For more information:

<https://health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/bluegreenalgae/>

Keep Robinson Pond Healthy



Prevent Run-Off from Entering the Lake

Do Not Use Fertilizer

Maintain a Vegetation Barrier

Plant Trees

Clean your Septic System

Build a Rain Garden

Vegetation Barriers

TSPOA requires that every lakefront homeowner maintain a vegetation barrier

Rain water and snowmelt run-off are enemies of a healthy lake. Run-off from sidewalks, driveways, lawns, roads, and leaky septic tanks contain pollutants like salts, oils, fertilizer (nitrogen and phosphorous), and detergents. They damage the delicate ecology of the lake and fuel the growth of algae.

Vegetation barriers serve several functions:

- Absorb contaminant-laden water before it reaches the lake.
- Provide habitat for shore line wildlife.
- Prevent grass clippings and leaves from entering the lake where they decompose, releasing phosphorous and nitrogen, which fuel algae growth.
- Block access to your property for geese entering from the lake.

The Best Vegetation Barrier

Plant deep-rooted vegetation, including trees, scattered throughout your *entire* property to maximize absorption of pollutants.

Maintain at least a 5-foot-deep plant barrier along the water's edge. You may leave an opening in your vegetation barrier for a dock or boat launch.

A good vegetation barrier should be allowed to grow to 3' or taller.

Plant sedges, aquatic rushes, cattails, irises, and other plants *directly in the water*. They absorb toxins as well as provide nurseries for fish.

An expansive green lawn does little to absorb run-off because grass has shallow roots. It is **not** an acceptable vegetation barrier.

Steeply sloped properties have a greater need for vegetation to absorb run-off than gently sloped properties.

Choose permeable material, like gravel for walkways, driveways, and patios, so that snowmelt and rain can percolate into the soil instead of running into the lake.

Whatever you plant, make sure it is native and not an invasive plant.

Fertilizer

The use of any fertilizer - organic or inorganic - on your lawn, trees, bushes, and flowers is banned in Taconic Shores.

All fertilizers consist of nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium--even the organic ones.

When fertilizer runs into the lake after a rain or snowmelt, it contaminates the water and enhances algae growth.

According to the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, fertilizer is not needed even when planting new grass, bushes, and trees, because our soil is naturally rich in phosphorous.

Rain Gardens

A rain garden is a delineated, sunken area planted with water-loving plants. It is built to absorb large amounts of rainwater runoff, a major source of pollution to our lake.

Rain gardens are attractive as well as functional. See this link for guidelines for building your own rain garden:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/public/44330.html>

Trees

Trees absorb more nutrients than any other plant because they have the deepest roots.

Trees on your property lessen the algae and milfoil in the lake, because they absorb large amounts of phosphorous and nitrogen that fuel algae growth.

Trees planted near the shore provide cooling shade for fish and other aquatic animals that live in the shallows.

If you have only a few trees on your property, it is important to plant more.

If you must cut down a tree, replace it with a new one.

Think twice before you cut down a tree.

