

LAKE FRIENDLY PRACTICES

AGRICULTURAL AREAS



- ✓ Have soils grid sampled and use crop consultants to maximize profits. Often crop consultants will help reduce the amount of fertilizer needed for maximum yields, saving farmers money and helping to protect water quality.
- ✓ Use conservation tillage methods. This saves time, fuel and wear and tear on equipment. It also reduces soil erosion, sediment load and nutrient concentrations in Iowa's surface waters.
- ✓ Keep septic systems maintained to make sure they are functioning properly. A faulty septic system can be a health hazard for you and your family, as well as for Iowa's lakes and streams.
- ✓ Contact your local NRCS office for information on wetlands and buffers which can reduce nutrient and sediment loss from your land.



RESIDENTIAL AND BUSINESS AREAS



- ✓ Use only zero-phosphate lawn fertilizers. About 150 Clear Lake lawns were tested and 92% showed sufficient levels of phosphorus for grass growth.
- ✓ Do not allow grass clippings, leaves, and other yard wastes to enter the streets. This is a Clear Lake city ordinance. Rain or lawn sprinklers will wash these materials into storm drains which empty to the lake.
- ✓ Use pesticides and weed killers sparingly. Only apply these chemicals to individual plants. These chemicals can also kill beneficial lake plants.
- ✓ Cleanup pet waste. This is also a Clear Lake city ordinance and very important for keeping bacteria levels low in Clear Lake.
- ✓ Quickly sod or seed bare patches. By stabilizing new construction sites, you'll prevent soil and the pollutants it carries from washing into the lake.
- ✓ Adopt-A-Storm Drain. This program consists of volunteers who routinely remove debris that collects at public approaches and storm drain inlets. (See Back)



WHILE YOU'RE AT THE LAKE



- ✓ Do not create a wake in shallow water. Going too fast in water less than 4 feet deep contributes to lake sediment resuspension, which reduces water clarity and makes more nutrients available for algae growth.
- ✓ DO NOT put carp or bullheads into Ventura Marsh. Bottom dwelling fish like carp contribute greatly to sediment resuspension, so keeping them out of the marsh is a high priority.
- ✓ Clean your boat before entering Clear Lake to ensure you do not transfer any exotic plant or animal species into the lake.
- ✓ Be careful when fueling boats that none spills into the lake. These chemicals obviously impair water quality.
- ✓ Cleanup after yourself and others. If you find litter in or around the lake, please remove it so we can all enjoy a cleaner environment.



This flyer is being sent to people whom own land in the **CLEAR LAKE WATERSHED**. That means the actions **YOU** take on **YOUR LAND** directly impact Clear Lake. For more information contact: www.clearproject.net

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