

FRIENDS OF LAKE QUANNAPOWITT

LAKE WATER QUALITY FACT SHEET

LAKE QUANNAPOWITT IS APPROXIMATELY 250 ACRES AVERAGING 6 FEET DEEP WITH ITS DEEPEST PART BEING 11 FEET. THE LAKE IS AN IMPOUNDED KETTLE HOLE SHAPED BY GLACIERS DURING THE LAST ICE AGE

LAKE QUANNAPOWITT IS CLASSIFIED AS A CLASS B WATER BODY UNDER MA. WATER QUALITY STANDARDS. IT IS DESIGNATED AS HABITAT FOR FISH, OTHER AQUATIC LIFE AND WILDLIFE AND FOR PRIMARY (swimming) AND SECONDARY (boating) CONTACT RECREATION

LAKE QUANNAPOWITT IS LISTED BY THE STATE AS AN IMPAIRED WATER BODY. AMONG THE IMPAIRMENTS AND MOST OBSERVABLE IS EXCESSIVE ALGAL GROWTH AND TURBIDITY

THERE IS A LONG HISTORY OF BLUE GREEN ALGAE (Cyanobacteria) BLOOMS IN THE LAKE DATING BACK THROUGH THE 1900's. CYANOBACTERIA FLOURISH IN WARM, LOW OXYGEN, NUTRIENT RICH, STAGNANT WATER CONDITIONS

PHOSPHOROUS HAS BEEN FOUND TO BE THE LIMITING NUTRIENT WHICH IF CONTROLLED MAY POTENTIALLY LIMIT OR ELIMINATE THE ALGAE BLOOMS. PHOSPHOROUS LEVELS MEASURED IN THE LAKE IN SUMMER OFTEN SIGNIFICANTLY EXCEED LIMITS FOR A HEALTHY LAKE

HISTORICALLY FOLQ HAS BEEN SUPPORTING STUDIES AND EFFORTS TO FIND WAYS TO IMPROVE THE WATER QUALITY FOR SAFE RECREATION. PREVIOUS IMPROVEMENTS TO WATER QUALITY AND CLARITY TO ALLOW PRIMARY CONTACT (swimming) INVOLVED THE APPLICATION OF CHEMICALS TO CONTROL BLUE GREEN ALGAE AND WEED GROWTH

FOLQ DOES NOT SUPPORT THIS PAST PRACTICE AND THE USE OF CHEMICALS AS A OPTION.

FOLQ SUPPORTS AGGRESSIVE AND EFFECTIVE LAND SIDE CONTROLS THAT LIMIT PHOSPHOROUS AND POLUTANTS ENTERING THE LAKE FROM STORM WATER RUNNOFF. FOR HELPFUL INFORMATION ON WHAT INDIVIDUALS CAN DO GO TO THE TOWN WEBSITE AT

<http://www.wakefield.ma.us/stormwater>

FOLQ LOOKS FORWARD TO REVIEWING THE REPORT OF THE LAKE QUANNAPOWITT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDING IN LAKE METHODS OF IMPROVEMENT. THIS REPORT SHOULD BE RELEASED SOON

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