

# Understanding Your Lake

## “Am I Contributing To The Problem?”



No one likes having their lake view obscured by algae and aquatic weeds. A good lake management company can be an extremely valuable member of the property management team. Unlike other aspects of property care, lake management deals with a constantly changing and flowing environment that is affected by everyone in the community. Many homeowners would be surprised how seemingly unrelated actions can contribute to lake problems and instability. The perfect complement to a shimmering, backyard lake is a lush, green lawn. However, the way that lawn is being managed could be contributing to excessive algae growth and diminished water quality. Algae are plants and feed on the same nutrients your lawn does. Over fertilizing your lawn may make for greener grass but have you noticed how your property slopes downward toward the lake? The excess fertilizer washes down into the water fueling algae growth, particularly during heavy rains or if you are watering a lot. Another source of algae is the lawn itself. Those thick, green blades of grass are like storage containers of nutrients. Grass clippings that end up in the lake rapidly break down and release the nutrients stored inside, triggering an explosion of growth. Many homeowners enjoy feeding the ducks that have taken up residence on their lakes. The enriched bread and food meant for people goes rapidly through their digestive system and creates an abundance of “natural fertilizer” that ends up in the lake the same way as the turf fertilizer. This particular source also carries with it bacteria from the bird’s system, which can negatively affect the water quality. Household aquariums and aqua gardens have the potential to be one of the worst sources of lake contamination. Exotic plants and fish introduced to lakes from dumped aquariums have the potential to spread like wildfire and can even be resistant to the treatment methods we have available. Allstate Resource Management values our partnership in managing your valuable aquatic resources. Our team of experienced specialists is always available to provide assistance and answer your questions.