



GRAYS LAKE INVASIVE PLANT TREATMENT NOTICE

Working Together to Keep Our Lake Clean, Clear, and Healthy

The Grays Lake Management Committee, in partnership with the Grayslake Community Park District, has contracted with McCloud Aquatics to perform a full-lake treatment targeting Curlyleaf Pondweed, Eurasian Milfoil, and other invasive aquatic plants that threaten the health of our lake.

 **Treatment Date: Monday, April 28, 2025** (weather permitting)

Temporary Water Use Restrictions:

- No use of lake water for irrigation for 30 days

Why This Matters

Invasive aquatic plants can:

- Choke out native vegetation
- Reduce water quality
- Hinder recreational activities like swimming and boating
- Disrupt fish and wildlife habitats

Controlling these invasive species helps maintain a balanced ecosystem, supports healthy fish populations, and ensures long-term enjoyment of the lake for everyone in the community.

Stay Informed

Future treatment notices will be:

- Posted on the Park District website: www.glpd.com
- Hand delivered to adjacent landowners

Thank you for your cooperation and support in preserving the health and beauty of Grays Lake!

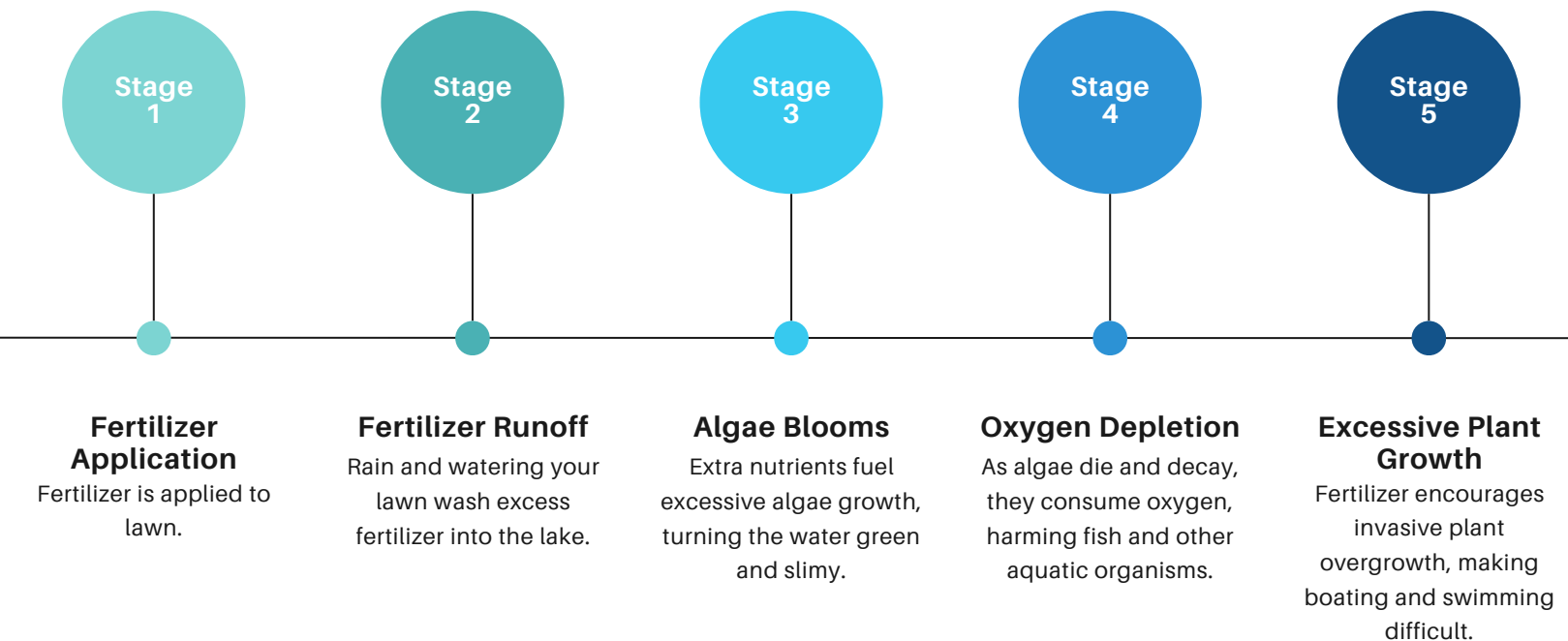


HELP KEEP OUR LAKE CLEAN!

Protect Grays Lake from Harmful Algae Blooms

Did you know that fertilizing your lawn near the lake can have serious environmental consequences? Excess fertilizer washes into the lake, causing harmful algae blooms and damaging aquatic life.

Here's how it happens:



How You Can Help:

- Use Lake-Friendly Fertilizer: Choose phosphorus-free options to limit nutrient pollution.
- Apply Sparingly: Only fertilize when necessary and follow recommended guidelines.
- Create a Buffer Zone: Keep a 10-15 foot strip of unfertilized vegetation along the shoreline to absorb runoff.
- Use Natural Alternatives: Compost, mulching, and leaving grass clippings on your lawn provide nutrients without harmful chemicals.
- Check the Weather: Avoid fertilizing before rain to prevent runoff into the lake.
- Educate Your Neighbors: Spread the word to help keep our lake clean and healthy!

By taking these simple steps, you can help protect Grayslake's water quality and preserve it for future generations. Thank you for being a responsible lakefront homeowner!

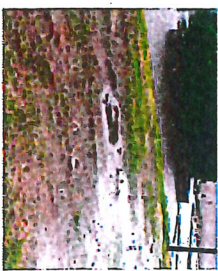
The Harmful Effects of Feeding Waterfowl

Although feeding and interacting with water fowl can be enjoyable, it can also cause long-term health problems for these animals, potential health risks to humans, and environmental degradation. Please enjoy them from a distance and respect their wildness. By doing so you will offer them their best chance at survival.

Wildlife and Habitat Degradation



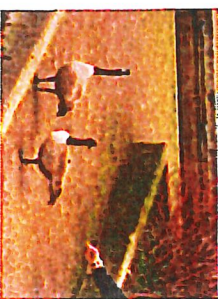
Concentration



In just days, waterfowl can destroy park landscapes.

Feeding water fowl discourages their natural behavior and can rapidly lead to overpopulation in urban parks. Many of these birds will suffer injury from the aggression and competition that occurs when wildlife become concentrated. High concentrations also cause costly environmental damage to the landscaping of the park and make it less enjoyable for community members. In addition, bird droppings can increase algae growth in nearby water sources and harm fish populations.

Loss of Natural Behavior



Increasingly our local parks are becoming home to water fowl that are choosing to stay and be fed year round versus going on their natural migration. When left on their own, water fowl will find new areas where food sources are more plentiful. Being fed by humans on a regular basis also causes wildlife to lose their innate fear of humans. Water fowl that keep their natural fear of people have the best chance for survival.



This Canada goose is suffering from the potentially crippling "angel wing" disease, caused by an unnatural diet fed by well-meaning humans.

Serious Health Problems

Angel Wing

Angel wing is a disease that affects waterfowl, primarily geese and ducks. The condition is acquired by young birds and is believed to be the result of a diet high in carbohydrates from food sources such as bread. Feeding water fowl human foods creates a diet imbalance which causes the feathers of birds to grow so fast that the wings are not able to be supported by the wrist bones and the bones begin to twist outward. In adult birds the disease is incurable and usually leads to an early death as birds are rendered flightless.

To prevent angel wing please help encourage water fowl to seek their own natural sources of food by not feeding them.



Impacts on Human Health

Bird droppings in a concentrated area may create a high concentration of bacteria and parasites in the water which can pose a risk to human health. Geese can also be aggressive during nesting and brood rearing season and have been known to bite or chase people.



Portions of this text were taken from the Massachusetts Audubon Society's article "Feeding Waterfowl."