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How You as a Home owner Can Help Improve Your Lake :

- **Join or form a lake monitoring group**, such as Lake Watch, (800) 525-3928.
- **Become a proud owner of a “Certified Florida Yard”** by contacting the County’s Cooperative Extension Service’s Horticultural Program at (561) 233-1759.
- **Plant ... Don’t Pave:**
 - Ground cover minimizes runoff and erosion into the lake.
 - Encourage your homeowner’s association or neighbors to plant native aquatic vegetation along lake shores.
- **Do not throw landscape materials into the lake:**
 - Keep lawn clippings and debris, palm fronds out of the lake. They only increase the nutrients in the lake. Use the leaves and lawn clippings for mulch or dispose of them properly.
- **Go easy on the pesticides and herbicides:**
 - Use chemicals sparingly and only when needed. Seek nontoxic alternatives whenever possible. Pull weeds by hand. Watering less will get rid of “dollar weed” from your lawn.
- **Shop Wisely:**
 - Buy products labeled *biodegradable*, *non-toxic*, *non-phosphorus*, or *water soluble*. **Why ...** they readily decompose and will not pollute surface or ground water.
- **Dispose of used chemicals, waste materials, and trash properly:**
 - Never pour used motor oil, leaves, waste materials into storm drains for these only go right into your lake.
- **Use chemical fertilizers sparingly:**
 - Rain and lawn watering washes excess granular fertilizers into the lake and causes nutrient pollution, which contributes to the overgrowth of algae and *Hydrilla*. Use dilute liquid fertilizers when the lawn is thirsty. The lawn grasses will absorb the fertilizers and they will not be washed into the lake.
- **Avoid the urge to water your driveway:**
 - Save the hose for gardening, not sweeping. Wash your car on the lawn and go easy on the soap. Use biodegradable detergents with little or no phosphates.
- **Redirect rain runoff from roofs, patios and driveways:**
 - Minimize flows by redirecting runoff to grassy areas or swales where it can filter through the soil. Stormwater runoff carries pollution from lawns and driveways into the lake.

- Nutrients from septic tanks and animal wastes causing excessive growth of algae and aquatic weeds.
- Inspect systems annually and pump out as needed.
- Avoid caustic cleaners, chemicals or solvents. **Why...** they might destroy waste reducing bacteria or clog absorption fields which could runoff of inadequately treated wastes during rain storms.

- **Report all illegal dumping in storm** drains to the State Warning Point at (800) 320-0519.

- **Educate your neighbors:**

- Working together, you and your neighbors can improve the water quality of your lake and help maintain an attractive environment for the community.

- **Properly maintain your septic system:**