**FERTILIZER RESOLUTION**

Nonpoint Source Pollution (NPS or polluted runoff) is identified as one of the Nation’s greatest water quality threats, with nutrients being the lead cause of impairment of many waterways[[1]](#footnote-1), [[2]](#footnote-2), [[3]](#footnote-3) . Eutrophication, or the excessive input of nutrients into a waterbody, occurs due to natural and human derived factors. This process is often evident by an overabundance of algae and dense growth of aquatic vegetation. Of the human derived factors, nitrogen and phosphorus nutrients have overwhelmingly increased with the advent of commercial fertilizers which, when overapplied to lawns, runs off into nearby waterways[[4]](#footnote-4).

For lakes faced with Harmful Algae Bloom (HAB) occurrences, including ours, actions are necessary to control this growing issue. In 2011 New Jersey enacted stringent fertilizer standards (N.J.S.A. 58:10A-61 et seq)[[5]](#footnote-5) which restricts the application, sale, and use of fertilizer in the state. A key highlight of this law bars the application of fertilizers “containing phosphorus or nitrogen to turf within 25 feet of any waterbody […]” Additionally, nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizers may not be applied to turf before March 1st or after November 15th in any calendar year, or at any time when the ground is frozen.

Given the necessity to maintain high water quality of Lake Owassa, and pursuant to Article IV §4(F)(3) of the Lake Owassa Constitution and By-Laws, the Board feels it necessary to go beyond the above requirements set forth by N.J.S.A. 58:10A-61 et seq and enact more stringent requirements for fertilizer usage around our lake. The Board adopts the following position:

1. *No nitrogen or phosphorus containing fertilizer shall be used on a property, for which proprietary membership is held, to maintain any lawn or turfgrass at any time of year except for when a new lawn or new turf is being established for the first time after a recent land disturbance on the property. Any fertilizer application based on the aforementioned exception must be done so following provisions in the NJ Fertilizer Law (N.J.S.A. 58:10A-61 et seq) and any county or local fertilizer ordinances. This includes the prohibition of any fertilizer usage for lawns or turfgrass within 25 feet of the lake and the need to create a physical barrier (hay bale or equivalent barrier) between the fertilizer applied area and the lake. Additionally, the Board requires notification from the proprietary member before use of any fertilizer for the purpose of new lawn establishment on their property.*
2. *Any member who uses commercial or private landscaping service for lawn maintenance, must ensure that the service provider adheres to this fertilizer resolution.*

**Definition:**

A “Fertilizer”, as defined by N.J.S.A. 58:10A-61 et seq, means “a fertilizer material, mixed fertilizer or any other substance containing one or more recognized plant nutrients, which is used for its plant nutrient content, designed for use or claimed to have value in promoting plant growth, and sold, offered for sale, or intended for sale; except that it shall not include unmanipulated animal or vegetable manures, agricultural liming materials, wood ashes, or processed sewage wastewater solids.”

1. [Basic Information about Nonpoint Source (NPS) Pollution | Polluted Runoff: Nonpoint Source (NPS) Pollution | US EPA](https://www.epa.gov/nps/basic-information-about-nonpoint-source-nps-pollution) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [The Issue | Nutrient Pollution | US EPA](https://www.epa.gov/nutrientpollution/issue) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [Impaired Waters and Nutrients | Clean Water Act Section 303(d): Impaired Waters and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) | US EPA](https://www.epa.gov/tmdl/impaired-waters-and-nutrients) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. [USGS NAWQA WRI94-4001 Nonpoint/Point Sources of Nitrogen in Major Watersheds](https://pubs.usgs.gov/wri/wri944001/wri944001.html#:~:text=These%20sources%20are%20called%20%22nonpoint,important%20nonpoint%20sources%20of%20nitrogen.) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. [N.J.S.A. 58:10A-61 et seq](https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2010/Bills/PL10/112_.PDF) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)