

## Seminole County Lake Management Program

# Seminole County Fertilizer Ordinance

The Seminole County Board of County Commissioners approved a NEW Fertilizer Ordinance, effective February 28, 2017, that regulates fertilizers containing nitrogen and/or phosphorous and provides specific management guidelines for fertilizer application in order to minimize negative impacts to our natural waterbodies. Enforcement of the Fertilizer Ordinance began on October 1, 2017. The key highlights are:



- Fertilizer containing nitrogen and/or phosphorous **cannot** be applied to turf during the restricted season from June 1<sup>st</sup> – September 30<sup>th</sup>. Fertilizer containing Iron, Manganese and other “micronutrients” also referred to as “summer blends” **can** be applied during the restricted season to keep lawns healthy and green (as recommended by the Florida Yards & Neighborhoods/Florida Friendly Landscape Program).
- Fertilizer containing nitrogen that is used during the **non**-restricted season (October 1<sup>st</sup> – May 31<sup>st</sup>) must contain *at least* 50% or more slow release nitrogen. This slow release nitrogen content requirement will increase to 65%, three (3) years after adoption (March 1, 2020).
- Fertilizer containing phosphorus cannot be applied to turf or plants unless a state certified soil or tissue test verifies that there is a phosphorus deficiency. For more information about soil & tissue testing, contact your local UF/IFAS Extension office at 407-665-5560.
- Deflector shields are required when applying fertilizer if you are using a broadcast or rotary spreader.
- No fertilizer may be applied within 15 feet of any pond, lake, stream, canal, or other waterbody, including wetlands.
- No grass clippings or other landscape debris should be washed, swept or blown into stormwater drains, ditches, canals, lakes, sidewalks or roadways. Grass clippings can be blown back onto lawns or collected for proper disposal.

## Goal:

The overall goal of this ordinance is to minimize excess fertilizer runoff and protect the County's natural water resources. If you would like someone to speak at your Homeowners Association meeting or you would like to attend one of our Fertilizer Workshops, please call 407-665- 5575 or visit [www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fertilizer](http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fertilizer).

## Restoration Fun!

Seminole County Watershed Management & the SERV Program invite you to be part of a shoreline restoration event! Consider volunteering your shoreline for restoration, supporting volunteers, or helping to plant! Contact Thomas Calhoun ([tcalhoun@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:tcalhoun@seminolecountyfl.gov), 407-665-2459) if interested.



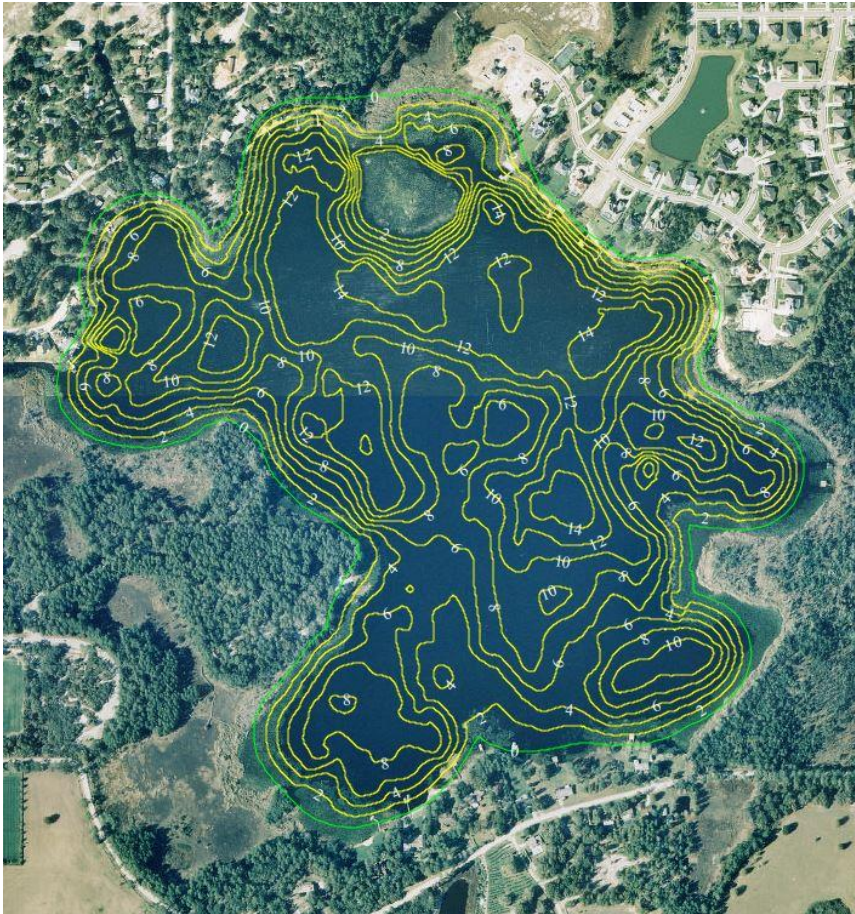
Volunteers planting beneficial native vegetation at English Estates Pond

# Lake Spotlight

## Sylvan Lake

Sylvan Lake is a 188 acre natural lake located in northern Seminole County, in the Yankee Lake Watershed. Sylvan Lake was brought into Seminole County's Lake Management Program in 2019, and a non-ad valorem special assessment was created for shoreline aquatic weed control services.

Aquatic weed control began in March of 2019 with a 188 acre *Hydrilla* (*Hydrilla verticillata*) herbicide treatment. Currently, Sylvan Lake is under an integrated management plan (use of chemical and biological methods) to control the invasive and exotic aquatic plants. It is treated with herbicides monthly to control the torpedo grass (*Panicum repens*), water hyacinth (*Echhornia crassipes*), and other species.



Sylvan Lake contour map



*Hydrilla* from Sylvan Lake



Sylvan Lake Park

# Bioinspection Notes

**SAV:** submersed aquatic vegetation, plants live under water.  
**Emergent vegetation:** plants rooted underwater, have leaves/stems that grow above the surface.  
**Secchi depth:** a measurement of water clarity.



## Lake Amory

Bladderwort was reaching the surface in shallow areas of the lake and is scheduled to be treated. No *Hydrilla* has been found in recent inspections. Emergent invasive vegetation has been minimal and the access corridors are open.



## Lake Asher

Native emergent vegetation planted during last September's restoration event has been slowly establishing around the lake. A minimal amount of invasive vegetation was found. The grass carp barrier at the outfall to Bear Lake was completed. Grass carp stocking is not necessary at this time.



## Lake Burkett

Small patches of *Hydrilla* were found on the north end of Lake Burkett. These patches are scheduled to be treated.



## Buttonwood Pond

A SERV volunteer planting event was held on March 30th. Native emergent vegetation that was planted has been surviving and expanding.



## Grace Lake

The presence of *Hydrilla* was minimal and, and it was found to be decaying in the lake. Torpedo grass continues to be the main focus of the monthly herbicide treatments. During times of low water elevation, it is recommended to mow or hand remove dead torpedo grass.



## Horseshoe Lake

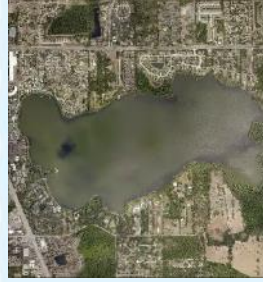
*Hydrilla* and *Hydrilla* tubers were not observed inside the lake. A few sprigs were found in the canal and treated. Water hyacinth continues to be the main target during herbicide treatments.

# Bioinspection Notes



## Howell Creek

Very little *Hydrilla* was observed during the inspection. Eelgrass and roadgrass have been dominant throughout the creek. Seminole County LMP is coordinating with the cities of Winter Park and Maitland to address the upstream sources of *Hydrilla*.



## Lake Howell

*Hydrilla* treatments have taken place on both the northwestern and eastern sides of the lake. 1600 triploid grass carp were stocked on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019. *Hygrophila* and parrot-feather were found at the mouth of creeks and ditches. They are being treated when observed.



## Lake Mills

SAV biomass, including baby's tears, has been reduced within the lake. This is likely due to the 2018 stocking of triploid (sterile) grass carp. Small amounts of *Hydrilla* were found in the northern canal; none was observed in the lake.



## Mirror Lake

Bladderwort, a type of SAV, has expanded in several areas of the lake. A treatment for this plant is scheduled to take place.



## Myrtle Lake

A minimal amount of invasive emergent vegetation, including torpedo grass, was found in the lake. *Hydrilla* was found in shallow areas of the lake and is scheduled to be treated. Many of the plants and trees planted during the April restoration event have been surviving and expanding.



## English Estates Pond

A minimal amount of invasive emergent vegetation was found in the lake. A small algae bloom was present, but does not require treatment.

# Bioinspection Notes



## Lake Pickett

No significant *Hydrilla* or water hyacinth was observed during the inspection. There has been a great reduction in bogmoss. Maidencane and torpedograce continue to diminish as first noticed over the winter.



## Spring Lake

A small patch of *Hydrilla* was observed at the Spring Lake Hills boat ramp and is scheduled to be treated. The cover of eelgrass was greatly reduced since the previous inspection; the low water level had left some eelgrass exposed to dry conditions. The native emergent vegetation has been expanding.



## Spring Wood Lake

A treatment for SAV around the perimeter of the lake was completed in May. Lily pads are scheduled to be thinned out to open up more boating area. Small quantities of alligator weed and torpedograce were observed.



## Sweetwater Lakes

Lyngbya has decreased due to recent treatments and harvesting. Native emergent vegetation is expanding in all areas of the lake. Torpedo grass was thick in patches of native vegetation. We suggest hand-pulling torpedo grass mixed within the planted natives to prevent its impact on native species.



## Springwood Waterway

The native emergent vegetation was very healthy and expanding along the shoreline, including fireflag, duck potato, and pickerelweed. Native SAV included roadgrass, nitella, and bladderwort, none of which were impeding boat access. A treatment for *Hydrilla* took place in the middle bend of the canal.



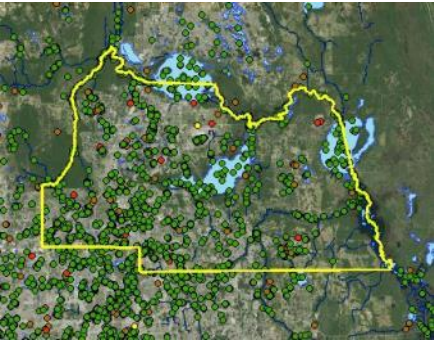
## Lake of the Woods

A large amount of SAV was found in the lake and was topping out in many areas. A treatment for SAV was executed in the month of May.

# Recommendations & Additional Info



- Please remember that in order to alter your shoreline or treat exotic vegetation with an herbicide, you must apply for a free aquatic plant removal permit through the Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission <http://www.myfwc.com/license/aquatic-plants> or contact FWC Regional Biologist, Kristine Campbell ([Kristine.Campbell@myfwc.com](mailto:Kristine.Campbell@myfwc.com), 321-246-0682).
- Work together with other lakefront owners. Have at least one annual lake association meeting, invite guest speakers (such as Seminole County or state biologists) and discuss lake-specific issues, especially nutrient/lake management recommendations. Seminole County Lake Management Program staff would be glad to present their findings from their Bioinspections. Also continue to increase native aquatic plantings along the shoreline (such as pickerelweed, duck potato, and canna).
- Water quality and biological information, such as the Lake Vegetation Index (LVI) for each lake, can be found on the Seminole County Water Atlas (<http://www.seminole.wateratlas.usf.edu/>) to read interesting information about your specific waterway, and our website (<https://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/LMP>) to watch educational videos and download lake management pamphlets.
- For individual Lake Management Plans: Click on Active MSBUs at [www.seminolecountyfl.gov/msbu](http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/msbu)

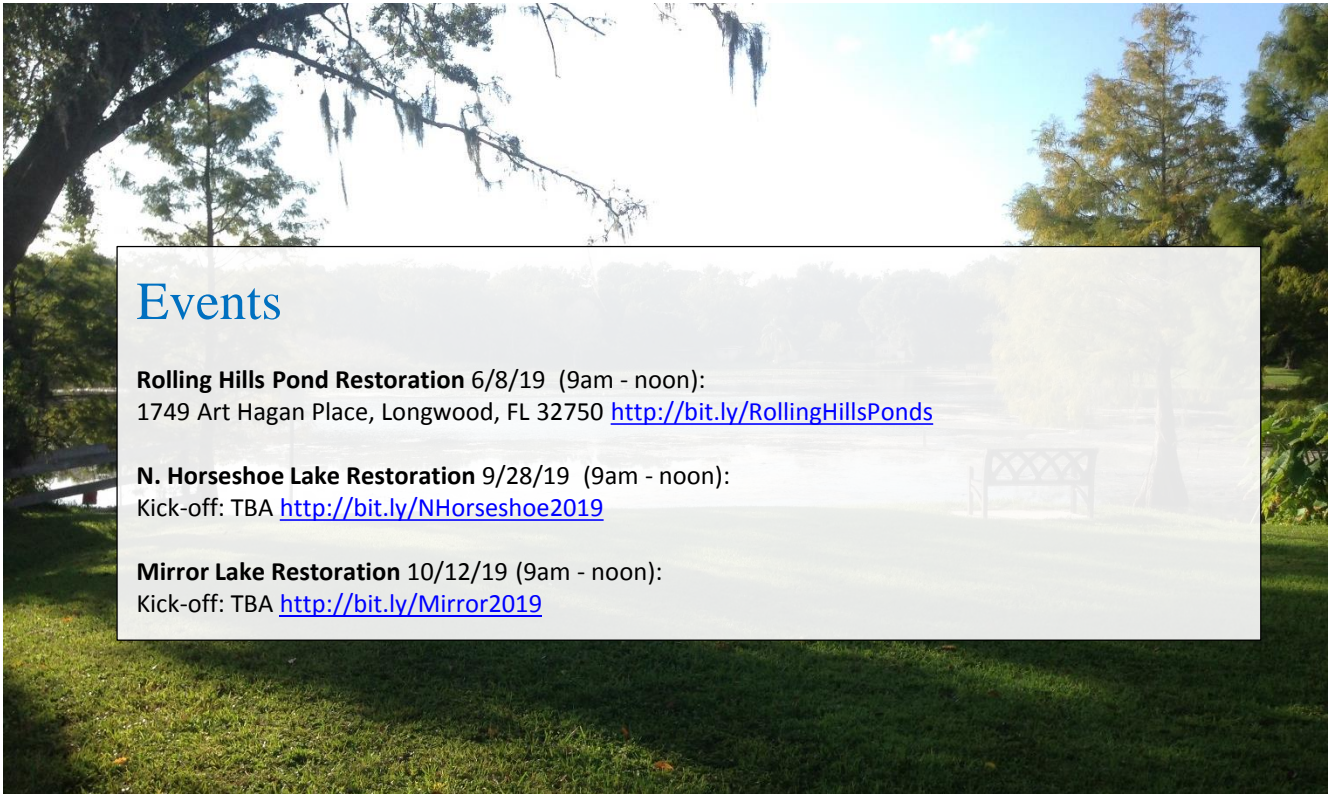


## LakeWatch

Consider joining Florida LAKEWATCH, a citizen volunteer lake monitoring program that facilitates "hands-on" citizen participation in the management of Florida lakes, rivers and coastal sites through monthly monitoring activities. For more information, visit the website (<http://lakewatch.ifas.ufl.edu/>), or contact Jason "Mo" Bennett ([jpb@ufl.edu](mailto:jpb@ufl.edu), 352-273-3639).



# Events & Contacts



## Events

**Rolling Hills Pond Restoration 6/8/19 (9am - noon):**  
1749 Art Hagan Place, Longwood, FL 32750 <http://bit.ly/RollingHillsPonds>

**N. Horseshoe Lake Restoration 9/28/19 (9am - noon):**  
Kick-off: TBA <http://bit.ly/NHorseshoe2019>

**Mirror Lake Restoration 10/12/19 (9am - noon):**  
Kick-off: TBA <http://bit.ly/Mirror2019>



Sandhill cranes at Grace Lake

## Contacts

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