

The Buffalo Lake Districts Water Quality Committee has received the results of the first water test they did. The committee is testing the phosphorous level at 2 spots on the Fox River-Buffalo Lake and in 5 creeks that feed Buffalo Lake.

Why do we want to know the phosphorus level?

1) Phosphorous feeds and encourages the growth of lake weeds. We spend a lot of time and money attempting to control the weeds.

2) High phosphorous levels and decaying plants contribute to low dissolved oxygen levels and fish kill.

" Total phosphorus is the one nutrient that Wisconsin has a state standard for. The criterion for total phosphorus is 0.075 mg/L in streams and 0.1 mg/L in large rivers. "

The information above was found here.....<https://wateractionvolunteers.org/nutrient-monitoring-on-wisconsin-waters-what-does-it-all-mean/>

Our testing showed a phosphorous level of 0.243 mg/l at County Rd O and 0.460 mg/l at Hwy22 in Montello.

The phosphorous level was high before the water entered Buffalo Lake and then it almost doubled before it reached the dam.

Are you alarmed? I hope so.

Some of the increase is due to the phosphorous level of the streams feeding Buffalo Lake and but it also increases because of what we are doing in our yards.

How can you help lower the phosphorous level of Buffalo Lake, reduce the amount of lake weeds and muck, and increase the dissolved oxygen level which improves the health of the fish?

1) Stop using fertilizer to make your lawn grow. When it rains the fertilizer runoff into the lake, and makes the lake weeds grow.

2) Don't mow to your shoreline. A buffer strip of taller grass will slow the pollutants from yards and driveways so that they don't enter the lake. It will also help keep the geese out of your yard.

3) Plant a shoreline native plant garden to create a natural and beautiful buffer zone. You can get grant money from the state to do this.

5) Do not allow grass clippings to drop into the lake or rake leaves into the lake. Organic matter such as leaves and grass, fuel phosphorous levels.

We will be working with the DNR and the county to find ways to reduce the phosphorous levels in the creeks that flow into Buffalo Lake.

Let's work together. Let's make a difference.

Let's bring about a positive change for Buffalo Lake and our community.

If you have any questions about these suggested practices or the testing we are doing, email Karyn@BuffaloLakeDistrict.org

