

Environmental Committee Report

September 10, 2023

Pine Canyon Lake Association

Rebecca Zwepink

Lake Management

Pine Canyon Members voted at the annual meeting 2022 to engaged PLM Lake & Land Management Corp. under a 5-year services agreement that began in 2023. Karl King has produced 3 newsletters that are available on our website (go to Home/Committees/Environment/Lake Management Newsletters) to report on the activities of this company and what members need to do to implement our lake management plan. To briefly summarize:

1. lawn and garden watering should be minimized because chemicals used in treating these will become part of the runoff into our lake. It is asked that we, "Avoid watering areas that drain into the lake."
2. Reduce the amount of mowed lawn.
3. Lessen lawn using natural native sedges, etc.
4. If you must fertilize, use a no phosphorus type.
5. Use pest control that is non-chemical.

Please see the full reports on our website for more details.

- E. coli Water Samples were collected and tested that water is safe for swimming. It was noted that on-site sewage disposal systems require regular maintenance and annual inspection.
- There have been 3 water treatments. Please see reports for details.
- Jason, our water treatment professional, reports that the filamentous algae blooms seen on the lake are promoted by weather conditions. The blooms are not toxic and will be controlled by the application of SeClear G and copper sulfate along with the Starry Stonewort control.
- At the August visit, Jason collected water samples to test and spot-treating small stands of invasive Phragmites. These have been treated in the past and are cropping up once again, as expected.
- Sampling for water quality testing was also done in August. The lab has not yet reported the results. As soon as the results become available, they will be reported in the next Lake Management Newsletter and posted to the PCLA website.

Forestry Report

There was a walk around with Art Franke, District Conservationist, Emergency Forest Restoration Program, USDA, and several board members in March of 2023. This was in the hope of getting funding for restoration of damage on the common areas. It has recently been determined that PCL is not eligible for funding, but we are now looking into other programs for possible financial aid. The local office also offers young trees that can be ordered during Sept/Oct for spring pick up. Contact Mr. Franke for more information at art.franke@usda.gov or (260) 665-3211 ext. 3.

Storm Report

On June 13, 2022, a Derecho (Strait-line winds) passed through Pine Canyon clocking at up to 110 mph. The result was vast destruction to trees and homes with many trees on homes here at PCL and around the area. Power was out for many residents for up to 6 days due to the need to clear trees from power lines. Neighbors stepped up and helped each other and ahead lay months of tree clean up in the entire PCL area. It was determined that there were many dangerously leaning trees in our common areas. An Amish company belonging to Wilbur agreed to cut trees in the commons and remove them for use in his pallet making business. Marsha Beck acted as coordinator. In addition, another volunteer organization, Psalm 51, came in to cut up downed trees. Nancy Grubb coordinated giving away the cut pine logs that were lined up along the road through a site on Facebook. Many other residents worked long hours doing storm clean up.

In this process our lives were disrupted as were the lives of our wildlife. As we continue to enjoy our natural environment, let's be kind and considerate to our birds, wild animals and each other. Also, remember to contact the Architecture Committee before cutting trees or other changes to property. Hunting and trapping are not allowed under our bylaw 13.b. If you want to shoot guns and poppers to scare wildlife, consider putting up a passive barrier instead. This will contribute to a peaceful environment at Pine Canyon Lake which is why we all moved here to begin with.