

## LAWN CARE & WATERSHED PROTECTION

- Lawn care practices are a critical factor affecting the health of Woodland Lake.
- Commercial fertilizer products (whether chemical or organic) may make your lawn and garden green, but they're terrible for the lake.
- Nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen are vital to plant growth but are of great concern to water quality.
- Excess nutrients turn our water green and promote algae growth.
- Phosphorus contamination has most directly responsible for Woodland Lake's water clarity issues. (Highest R<sup>2</sup> Correlation)
- We need to be cognizant of Nitrogen levels as well, but Phosphorous is key
- Our lake water contains significant levels of Phosphorous and Nitrogen. If you irrigate using lake water, rely on nutrients from the lake for your lawn's health, particularly anywhere near the shoreline.

**It is best to not use fertilizer at all, but if you must, please do your part by adhering to the following guidelines:**

## Lawn Care Fertilizer Guidelines:

### If you must fertilize, please follow these guidelines to protect our water

- Don't use fertilizer within 30 feet of the water
- Use phosphorus-free products
- Choose slow-release nitrogen products
- Ensure fertilizer is free from pesticides and herbicides (I.e., no weed-and-feed)
- Limit application to 2-3 times per year
- Apply fertilizer at the recommended rate.
- Don't fertilize before a storm.
- Never apply to frozen ground.

### Water Friendly Fertilizers: What to look for:

The 3 numbers on every package of fertilizer indicate the concentrations of **nitrogen**, **Phosphorous** and **soluble potash**.

**The first number, nitrogen number should be low, (<15 preferred).**

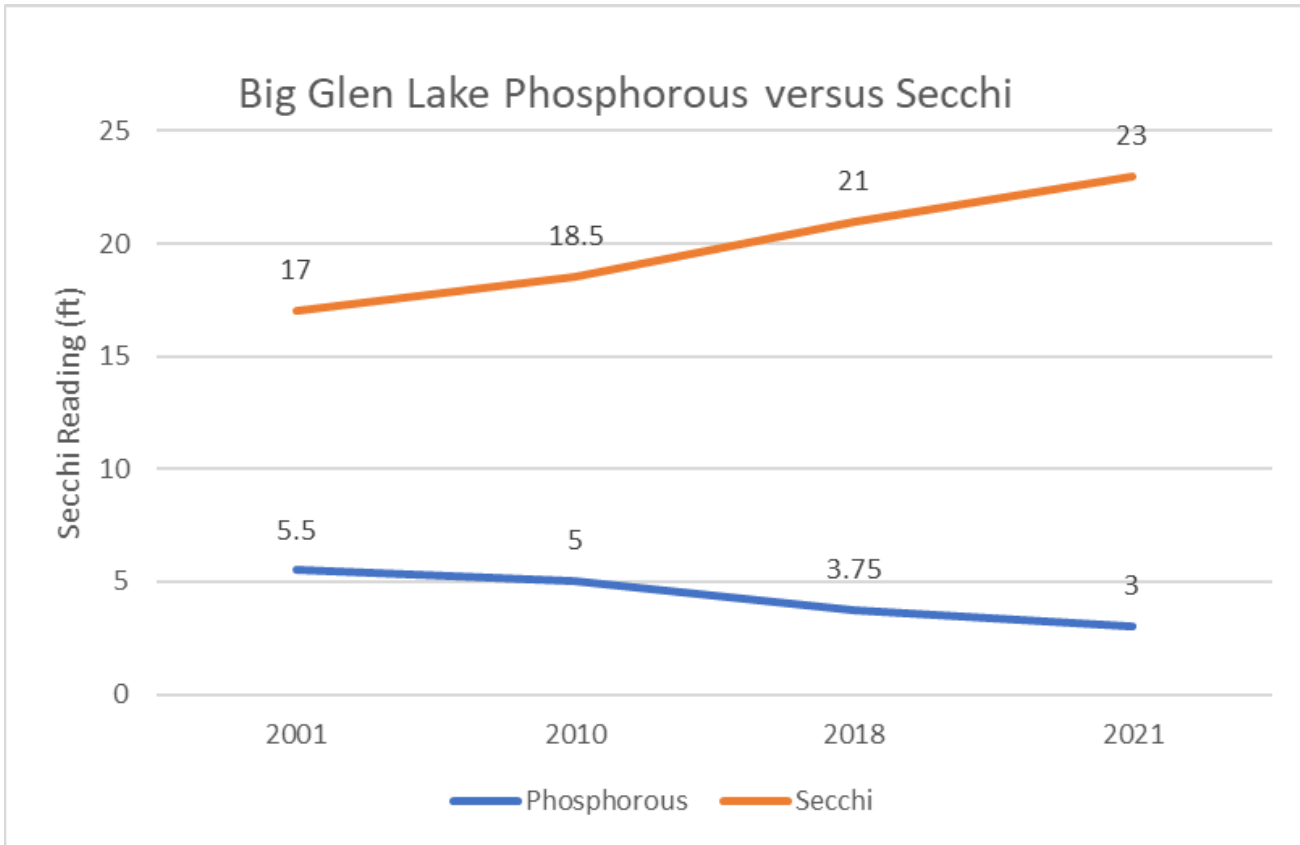
**The second number (phosphorous content) needs to be zero.**

The percentage often following these numbers indicates the slow release of nitrogen. Higher percentages are better for absorption into the ground.

### Recommended lawn care products, include:

- OM Scott and Sons grass food 11-0-2 (Target Brighton in stock, ACE Brighton order)
- Espoma Organic Weed Preventer 9-0-0 (91%) (Ace Brighton order, Walmart Howell order)
- Fertrell Lawn Fertilizer — Custom Blend 5-0-5 (70%) ([the-fertrell-company.myshopify.com](http://the-fertrell-company.myshopify.com))
- Jonathan Green Organic Lawn Fertilizer 10-0-1 (95%) (Walmart-Howell)
- Earth Science 16-0-2 (High)
- Turf Nurture 15-0-7 (75%) (Home Depot, Lowes, TSC order on line)
- Roots Turf Food Fertilizer 14-0-2 (SiteOne)

**Glen Lake Association has been utilizing these fertilizing guidelines for the past 15 years**



**Phosphorous levels have reduced by 45% over the time that Glen Lake has been using the low nitrogen, zero phosphorous fertilizers and the 30 foot no fertilizer zone from the lake.**

**Woodland Lake has over 50% R<sup>2</sup> correlation of phosphorous levels to water clarity**