

HOW YOU CAN HELP PROTECT JENKINS POND (Adapted from Deep Pond Preservation Project literature)

According to the Association to Preserve Cape Cod, **septic systems are the source of almost 80% of controllable nitrogen and phosphorus on Cape Cod. Fertilizer and pesticides seeping into the water directly from a lawn or running down a road, and paved driveway runoff, also cause a significant additional amount.** Pet and other animal waste contain concentrated nutrients which can leach into the pond or be carried there by stormwater runoff.

If you live or own land on Jenkins Pond or in the neighborhood near the pond:

- Have your septic system inspected and cleaned regularly (the rule of thumb is every 3-5 years) to make sure it is in good condition and not leaching into the pond.
- Gradually reduce your lawn area, plant more native species, and maintain a naturalized swath of native vegetation between your lawn and the pond.
- Reduce the use of fertilizers, pesticides, and other chemicals – abide by Falmouth laws regarding fertilizers. *(See the regulations below)*
- Be thoughtful about what you put down the drain.
- Rinse boats and paddle boards brought from other ponds to avoid introducing invasive species.
- Control road runoff – make sure nearby storm drains are cleaned regularly on private and public roads and remove leaves from drain surfaces; consider installing a simple swale or rain garden on your property to divert runoff away from the pond.
- If you are renting your waterfront or water-accessible property, either by long-term lease or short-term (e.g., Airbnb or VRBO, etc.), please let your renters know they too should practice responsible use of the pond, including no cutting of wetland buffer vegetation.

If you're a pond visitor:

- Pick up litter.
- Don't trample the shoreline vegetation.
- Pick up your dog's poop.
- Don't feed the waterfowl.
- Clean off attached vegetation from boats and paddle boards.

Support the Association to Preserve Cape Cod, which monitors pond health and educates the public about preventing pond pollution. www.apcc.org

SEPTIC SYSTEMS

- Regular cleaning of your septic system (every 3-5 years) can help prevent your septic tank from getting full and causing sewage to back up into your basement or leach into Jenkins Pond. A cleaning typically costs \$250-\$350, depending on the size of your tank.
- Inspections reveal if your septic system has been damaged by tree roots or is not Title 5 compliant (more likely in an older septic system) and needs to be replaced. Inspections typically cost \$350 +/- or ask your pump-out person to inspect the tank.
- A few simple steps will prevent gunk from forming along your drainage pipes and clogging the drain field, damaging the pond and requiring costly repairs. Don't pour chemicals or grease down

the drain. Never flush anything besides human waste and toilet paper. Minimize garbage disposal use.

- Don't use cleaning products with chlorine. Use earth-friendly cleaners to help minimize the disruption to the bacteria in the septic tank. The bacteria break down the solids in the tank.

FERTILIZERS

Falmouth adopted a fertilizer Bylaw to reduce the nitrogen pollution going into our waterways.

- Don't fertilize any lawn within 100' of the pond.
- Don't fertilize any lawn between October 16th and April 14th, or right before or during a heavy rain.
- Don't spread fertilizer on paved surfaces; clean it up if you do.
- The Bylaw encourages use of materials such as yard waste, compost, or other similar materials that are primarily organic in nature and that are not considered "fertilizer" if you are trying to improve the physical condition of your soil.
- The Bylaw recommends that if you fertilize lawns beyond the 100' prohibition, fertilize sparingly!

For more detailed information about these fertilizer regulations, advice on how to grow a healthy yard without fertilizer, or to report a violation, see

<https://www.falmouthma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/950/Fertilizer-Facts---Falmouths-Nitrogen-Control-Bylaw-PDF?bidId=> . You can also call the Falmouth Marine & Environmental Services Department at 508-457-2550.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT (adapted from Orleans Pond Coalition's Blue Pages)

Lawns, trees, shrubs

- Sediments from runoff and eroding pond banks can smother aquatic life, clog fish gills, and cut off the light needed by underwater plants. Trees, low bushes, and a secure groundcover of native species help absorb runoff and protect the banks from erosion. They also make great habitats for fish, turtles, and frogs and help regulate water temperatures by providing shade.
- Do not remove trees, shrubs, brush, and other vegetation within the 100-ft freshwater wetland jurisdiction line without a permit from the Conservation Commission. For more guidance on where your setback is, call the Falmouth Conservation Office at 508-495-7445.
- Reduce the amount of lawn at the water's edge and plant native plants instead.

Docks and piers

- Many docks and piers are constructed with pressure-treated wood. The toxic materials used to help the wood last longer in the marine environment leach out slowly over time, killing marine plants and animals. For advice on new structures, repairs, or replacements, see <https://nhlakes.org/wp-content/uploads/DockChoices2016.pdf>.
- Before building docks, walls, and other structures at the edge of the pond, make sure you are abiding by town guidelines. Check with the Falmouth Conservation Office at 508-495-7445.

Thank you. We appreciate your help in preserving Jenkins Pond!