



August 22, 2023

Re: Status of RW Lakes/Ponds - Lake Doctors

Dear Residents, We share your concerns regarding the state of some of our ponds and lakes, and wanted to provide an update as to the work being done to improve their health. We have also included some information from Lake Doctors which helps to explain the science behind the challenges the waters are facing and the relationship to the dreaded "heat dome" we have been experiencing.

Sprayed shoreline growth around all areas. Treated for algae, underwater weeds, and floating weeds in #1,2,5,9,12,13,17,18,19,21,25,34,35,37,50.

Treated riprap area for weeds. Treated for algae, pond dye added, treated invasive aquatic weeds, treated shoreline weeds.

Fish kill #26. This pond has significant planktonic (blue green) algae bloom.

This form of algae can kill fish by reducing the amount of dissolved oxygen in the water column. If the algae is treated too aggressively, it can actually speed up a fish kill. Adding pond dye helps darken the water to keep sunlight to a minimum. Robbing the algae of excessive sunlight is a more natural approach to controlling its growth.

The brutal heat this summer, causing the significant increase in water temperature has caused increased algae blooms and fish kills. We have had over a dozen reported fish kills since the beginning of July.

The dissolved oxygen reading in #26 measured 1-2ppm. Normal readings are 5-7ppm. Low dissolved oxygen, also called LDO or DO refers to the volume of oxygen that is contained in water. Oxygen enters the water by photosynthesis of aquatic biota and by the transfer of oxygen across the air-water interface. When the oxygen level in the water drops too low, the fish suffocate.

Algae blooms that are very dense can cause low dissolved oxygen. During the daylight hours the algae produce oxygen by photosynthesis which helps replenish the oxygen levels in the water. During the night, the algae actually USE oxygen to survive. This coupled with the normal biological demand of oxygen from fish, invertebrates, and other aquatic life causes reduced oxygen with the lowest levels found just prior to dawn.

The River Wilderness of Bradenton Foundation, Inc.

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