



February 22, 2021

Harbor Isle Lake Update

An additional Green Clean application was conducted on Harbor Isle Lake on February 3, 2021 to help control the algae. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection resampled the lake on February 8, 2021 for blue green algae and have posted their results on their Algae Bloom Dashboard: <https://floridadep.gov/AlgalBloom>. The results showed a significant drop in levels, and the levels are reported below the USEPA recommended value for recreational use. It is important to note that this sample followed the Green Clean treatment and as have been seen over the last year, the bloom can begin again.

To better address reoccurrence of the algae blooms, on February 11, 2021, City Council approved an update to the city's contract with SOLitude Lake Management, the city's lake contractor for Harbor Isle Lake. The council approval allows a twice per month maintenance schedule on the lake. SOLitude will be on the lake every other Wednesday. The more aggressive maintenance schedule should help to control the bloom. The council approval, also, authorizes additional Green Clean treatments if needed. SOLitude will continue to conduct monthly water quality analyses and the reports will continue to be sent to your homeowner's association.

SOLitude will be installing an algae tracker in the lake in the lobe at the subdivision entrance that will help to detect blooms early on. The tracker information can be found at: <https://www.algaetracker.com/>. It is a small plate size device that floats on the water and sends real time data to the cloud. As this is new technology, it may take some time to optimize the sensors. HIHA will be kept up to date on the sensor's operational status.

A concern was provided to the city that the lake level seemed low. The city's surveyors checked the elevation of the weir that controls the lake level located at the eastern end of the berm. The weir is an adjustable weir with boards that slip into a slot to control the elevation of the lake. Compared to survey data collected in 2003, the recent survey found the top of the adjustable weir to be lower than in 2003 indicating that the top board of the weir became dislodged. The board has been replaced and the lake should rise.

As was mentioned at the council meeting on February 11, 2021, to fully identify possible nutrient sources to the lakes, the city is pursuing sediment testing in the lake with our environmental consulting team who are experts in Florida lakes. The scientists should be observed on the lake soon.

Finally, the city asks that all residents do their part to help the lake by using the reclaimed water efficiently, using only what is recommended for your lawn. Observations are still being made of lawns being overwatered and the irrigation water flowing down the gutters and into the lake. Additionally, with the use of the recommended amount of reclaimed water for irrigation, fertilizing of lawns has been shown to not be needed. Excess fertilizer will runoff into the lake during rain events. The city has a free irrigation checkup service that can help to identify problems. More information and a downloadable application for the Sensible Sprinkling Program can be found on our Water Conservation website: <https://www.stpete.org/WaterPrograms>.



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