

All lakes benefit from a solid list of “good housekeeping practices”

- Don’t wash dogs or people in the lake.
- Clean up and properly dispose of pet waste.
- Don’t burn leaves near the lake or rake yard waste into the lake.
- Use natural vegetation or rain gardens, to keep runoff out of the lake.
- Pump your septic tank at least once every three years.
- Locate fire pits upslope, away from the shoreline, and remove ashes weekly and after the summer season.
- Don’t put anything in the lake you would not put in your own child’s glass of water.
- If you trailer your boat, pwc, or kayak please Clean, Drain, and Dry!!!
- Choose phosphorus-free dishwasher detergent and other cleaning products. If you must fertilize your lawn, avoid fertilizers that contain phosphorus—the middle number on the bag tells you how much phosphorus there is—look for “zero” phosphorus.



Pearly Pond is a 191-acre lake in Rindge, NH. Most of the watershed for Pearly Pond is undeveloped. Franklin Pierce University and 54 homes are located on or near the lake. It’s a shallow lake, with the deepest point measuring only 17 feet deep and the average depth at 7 feet. It supports a variety of warm water fish, including largemouth bass, chain pickerel, yellow perch, pumpkinseeds, horned pout, and others. Turtle species commonly seen in the lake include snapping turtles and Eastern painted turtles. Wood turtles are found in the area but not commonly in the pond. Otter, beaver, mink and other wildlife species are also common. At least 72 species of birds have been seen on or near the pond.

For more information please visit the Pearly Pond website, which is hosted by Franklin Pierce University: <https://www.franklin Pierce.edu/about/pearypond/index.htm>



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Pearly Pond Lake Management Tips for homeowners

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The residents around Pearly Pond and the administration of Franklin Pierce University are working together to improve the water quality of the lake. Despite being a relatively undeveloped lake area, Pearly Pond is listed as an “impaired water body” in New Hampshire due to the high level of algae, reduced oxygen levels and impairment of aquatic life. The cause of this problem is phosphorus, which is a natural chemical element, but too much of it is a problem. High phosphorus levels cause harmful algae blooms, which lead to decreased oxygen. Fish and other aquatic organisms need oxygen to breathe.

Since 2013 the water quality at the lake has improved tremendously but there is still work to be done. Franklin Pierce is leading the efforts to protect and restore Pearly Pond with the Pearly Pond Association.

We need your help to make this happen.

Protecting and restoring the lake requires a number of initiatives. One of the sources of phosphorus is the Canada geese, or rather the fecal matter that they generate, so we need to reduce the goose population. The best results are obtained by scaring and harassing the geese. Harassment can be more effective when there are multiple property owners in a local setting who are working together. This coordinated harassment may discourage a flock from flying from one property to the next.

1. DON'T FEED THE GEESE – human food (like bread and baked goods) can severely damage their digestive system, and will encourage them to come back and bring their friends!

2. LET YOUR GRASS GROW - Geese like short, lush, mowed grass, especially Kentucky bluegrass Consider letting your grass grow tall and stop fertilizing it., or planting tall fescue grass instead.

3. INSTALL GOOSE FENCING - chicken wire fencing, construction fencing or other kinds can be installed at the water's edge. It should be at least two feet high and encircle the area to be protected. Other lake residents have found this to be the most effective method.

4. PLANT DENSE SHRUBS, a shoreline hedge, or a buffer of tall native grasses that will reduce the geese's line-of-sight to the water and their easy access to the water. Shrubs such as inkberry, red osier dogwood, spicebush or sweet pepperbush will keep them out and still let you see the water.

5. INSTALL DECOYS— swan decoys can be effective. Swans and geese do not get along. Tie the decoy to something with some weight, set it in the lake and allow it to float around. Move it often so the geese do not get used to it.

4. USE SOLAR POWER—Away With Geese (awaywithgeese.com) — offers a solar-powered light attached to a flotation device or a dock unit that flashes a low grade amber light every two seconds that annoys the geese and deters them from staying.

6. FAKE EM OUT—Use audio repellents to send out danger and warning calls that will scare geese away. Again, move them often so the geese do not get used to them. Also, try outdoor speaker systems to provide noise makers and/or distress calls. Critter Gitters have had some success. These are motion-activated devices that emit a loud siren.

7. MAKE SOME NOISE—scare them off your property and the lake—especially during the migration season— if they sense danger, they will not land there.

8. BRING IN THE DOGS- Let your dog chase the geese away! Geese see your dog as a potential predator, so they won't come back as long as your dog is around.

10. CONSIDER CHEMICAL REPELLENTS Methyl anthranilate is a natural chemical found in grapes and certain flowers. It can make your grass taste awful to geese but it is safe for pets. Dilute a 2 quart container of grape juice with 2 quarts of water. Pour it into a five-gallon agricultural sprayer and spray every two or three days in the evenings (more often if it rained). *Stop the Drop* is another product that gives geese temporary but effective digestive irritation.

