

Friends of Fremont Pond

Dear Neighbors,

Fremont Pond is a great natural resource for those who live near or around the lake. Local residents often stop by to enjoy its beauty and commuters pass it by every day on their way to and from work. Besides ducks and geese that can be seen on the lake, snowy egrets, ospreys, eagles and other interesting birds are frequent visitors. Carp, sunfish, bluegills and largemouth bass can be found in the lake as well as large turtles. It is a resource worth protecting.

The Village of Sleepy Hollow, the Board of Education and our local community have begun increased efforts to improve the area in and around Fremont. Thank you to all those who have shared their concerns, experiences, and hopes for what the pond can become again. The Village and community members believe Fremont Pond can be a wonderful place for learning, recreation, and community building. Because of this, the Village has already taken steps to improve the health and use of Fremont Pond. Here are just a few examples:

- Treating the pond to contain algae blooms
- Hiring consultants to test the water and advise how to address the algae
- Attending Westchester County's Pond and Lake Management Workshop
- Organizing a Kayak Day, scheduled for 05/19/18
- Creating a Fremont Pond Committee

The first main objective of the Fremont Pond Committee is to improve the health of the pond. Currently, the pond is having recurring algae blooms throughout the year despite best efforts to control them using Copper Sulfate. The village and community members would like to address the causes of the algae bloom instead of just treating the symptoms. But we need everyone's help. Based on the water testing results, consultants recommended the following steps that you can directly impact:

- Lawn Maintenance Best Practices
 - Mow grass to 3 inches high
 - When mowing yards, leave grass clippings on lawn
 - Mulch or compost leaves and yard waste
- Fertilizer
 - Test soil in spring to determine appropriate fertilization
 - Fertilize only as needed, and never before rain
 - Sweep any fertilizer spilled on hard surfaces into lawn
- Buffer Protection
 - Develop shoreline plant buffers
 - Minimize size of lawn
 - Use native plants
 - Plant rain gardens
- Waste Management
 - Keep chemicals out of storm drains
 - Properly dispose of pet waste

We have a huge opportunity here to make a difference for our community and the environment. Just start with one action recommended above, and go from there.

For more information, join the Friends of Fremont Pond Facebook Page.