

# Lake Peekskill Presentation

September 11, 2023

# Have you heard things like...

- I can't swim in the lake or use the beaches
- The water smells bad
- Haven't seen anyone fishing
- It's so green you can walk across it
- My property values?

Lake Peekskill is NOT unique in these issues. The enemy is Phosphorous and Bacteria!!

# Where does it come from?

- **Internal loading**

Accumulated pollutants already in the lake.

Generally held in the bottom sediment of the lake.

## **External loading**

Pollutants that are continually be added to the lake.

Septic systems, stormwater runoff, beach sand. Litter and debris, geese and pet waste.

# What is being done right now

- Town is partnering with Putnam County Soil and Water and has obtained a grant to improve stormwater conditions at Carrera beach.
- We are reviewing district and vacant land that could potentially be used for stormwater management practices.
- Hired a grant writing company who is actively seeking grants for stormwater and septic system funding.
- Reviewing modern septic and stormwater technologies such as the Fujiclean septic system.
- Coordinating with Highway Department and Stormwater Manager to work with catch basin and road sweeping.

# What is Town Working on

- There are several areas that are actively being considered
  - Watershed and sub watershed mapping using GIS.
  - Developing grant opportunities for stormwater management practices.
  - Reviewing NYSDEC 303d listing criteria for impaired waterbody status.
  - Reviewing eligibility for NYSDEC TMDL review and report.
  - Working with NYSDEC, PCDOH and City of Peekskill to locate funding for septic system upgrades/sewers.
  - Work with Highway Department to develop priority maintenance areas.
  - Reviewing NYSDEC lake sediment stabilizers.
  - Coordination with lake manager.

# What can Residents do?

- Continue NYSFOLA membership and CSLAP volunteer testing.
- Develop a website with contact information, photographs, lake highlights and links to reports and educational materials: Town of Kent example <https://www.townofkentny.gov/kent-lakes-association>
- Have lake community days. One perhaps for clean up around the lake in the spring and one in the summer for fun: fishing derby on NYSDEC free days, boat decorating and races, outdoor movie night at the beach, sell “LPP” (Lake Peekskill Pride) bumper stickers and t-shirts.
- Develop a regular newsletter that can be posted. Educational forums.
- Develop a certification for landscaping companies to educate them on sound practices to reduce leaves, grass clippings/pollutants to the lake.
- Develop a septic system inspection co-op.
- Apply for NYSDEC “buffer in a bag” homeowner grants (free!)
- Adopt a catch basin and pipe inspection program.
- Coordinate with other lakes in town.

# Will this Work?

YES!!

It will take coordinated effort with the town and the lake district residents.

This did not happen overnight so it will take time (think physical therapy after an injury)

There are no magic potions or fixes. **Develop an Action Plan.**

If they can clean up the Hudson River, then the same can happen for Lake Peekskill!