

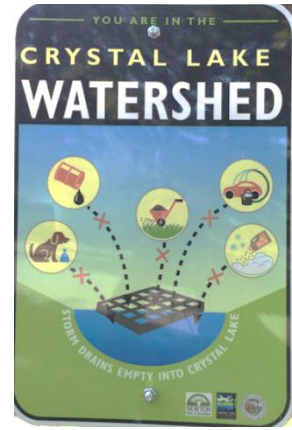
City of Newton



Setti D. Warren  
Mayor

## Department of Public Works Utilities Division

60 Elliot Street  
Newton, MA 02461



Dear Crystal Lake neighbor:

The Department of Public Works has been working with Parks and Recreation, Crystal Lake Conservancy and the Friends of Crystal Lake to develop strategies for improving the overall health of Crystal Lake. Symbols of this public-private partnership are the Crystal Lake Watershed signs. These signs are a visible reminder to residents and visitors alike to be mindful of our daily activities that could harm or hasten the natural life cycle of this lake. With the arrival of spring, we would like to take a moment to provide some tips and reminders of things we can do to protect this treasured resource.

### Lawn Care

1. Before applying fertilizers, test your soil to find out what your lawn or garden really needs. Our water bodies are under siege from too much phosphorus. Low cost soil tests are available through the University of Massachusetts, Soil and Plant Nutrient Testing Laboratory; Website: <https://soiltest.umass.edu/ordering-information>.
2. Minimize fertilizer use, and most importantly check if your fertilizer contains phosphorus. Massachusetts passed a law banning phosphorus in fertilizer, for most residential applications (there is an exception for establishing new lawns). These new nutrient regulations became effective on June 5, 2015. Please see the attached fact sheet for more information.
3. Read the enclosed *Green Lawns without Green Water* card to learn why this is important.

### Healthy Environment

4. Pick up after your pet and properly dispose of the waste bag. Proper disposal means in a waste receptacle or your trash barrel.
5. Lead by example and pick up litter before it has a chance to enter the Lake or the storm drains that flow into the Lake. Never dump anything down storm drains – this includes litter, sand, leaves, pet waste, paint or oil.
6. Consider using a commercial car wash instead of washing your vehicle at home; or wash it on a flat, pervious area where the wash water will not end up in the storm drains. The grimy, sudsy wash water is treated at a car wash.

We appreciate you taking the time to read this information and want you to know that we are also doing our part to improve the health of the Lake. Our recent initiatives include: installing water quality units inside catch basins, more frequent street sweeping of Lake Ave, a plan to stabilize the eroded bank near Levingston Cove, water quality sampling and in the planning / design stage are Bio-Filters to intercept and treat stormwater runoff before entering the Lake.