

# Your Guide to Preserving Conesus Lake

The Conesus Lake Watershed Council has produced this guide to provide lake residents and property renters with useful information about “Best Management Practices” that we all must follow if we are to protect and preserve Conesus Lake.

Property owners are encouraged to make this guide available to all of their household members as well as visitors and renters.

Additional copies of this guide, as well as other watershed publications may be obtained at no charge by contacting the Conesus Lake Association or the Livingston County Planning Department. (Please refer to the phone numbers below.)

A great deal of information about the lake and its watershed is also available online. Please visit these websites, developed and updated by Livingston County and the Conesus Lake Association respectively:

[www.livingstoncounty.us/conesus.htm](http://www.livingstoncounty.us/conesus.htm)  
[www.conesuslake.org](http://www.conesuslake.org)



**Never put anything into the lake that you wouldn't want in your child's next glass of water.**

The same applies to putting anything into any streams, creeks, culverts, or ditches that eventually run into Conesus Lake. Why? Because our lake is a drinking water source for more than 20,000 people in our county.

This means:

- No human or pet waste
- No fishing waste
- No hazardous materials (e.g., fertilizers, herbicides, household chemicals, poisons)
- No garbage
- No leaves or grass clippings
- No oil, gas, fuels, paints or solvents

*See the other side of this guide for more useful information.*

## **Important Telephone Numbers:**

- All emergency calls:  
911
- Conesus Lake Association Office:  
585-346-6864
- Conesus Lake Watershed Inspector:  
585-243-7280
- Conesus Lake Watershed Manager:  
585-243-7550
- Livingston County Planning Department:  
585-243-7550
- NYSDEC (for reportable fish kills only):  
585-226-5343

## **Public Restroom Facilities Around Conesus Lake:**

- Vitale Park (Routes 15 and 20A, north end of lake), Lakeville
- Long Point Park (Rt. 256, West Lake Rd.), Town of Geneseo
- NY State Boat Launch (East Lake Rd.), Town of Livonia
- NY State Boat Launch (Rt. 256, West Lake Rd.), Town of Conesus (portable toilet only)

# Follow these best practices. Help our lake.

## Lawn and Garden Care

- Keep all leaves, lawn, and yard debris out of roads, ditches, streams and the lake.
- Recycle grass clippings by mulching your cut grass. Or dispose of cut grass, leaves and other yard waste at your town's recycling center.
- Use slow-release nitrogen fertilizers that don't contain phosphorus. Only fertilize when absolutely necessary.
- Do not over treat your lawn; doing so harms the lake and wastes your money.
- If you choose a commercial lawn or garden service, discuss a treatment plan that avoids over fertilizing or calls for too frequent applications.
- Use the Cornell Cooperative Extension's services for advice on soil testing, the appropriate amount of fertilizer to apply and when to apply it. To learn more go to [www.cce.cornell.edu](http://www.cce.cornell.edu).
- If you cut or rake any aquatic vegetation, remove it from the lake. Otherwise it's likely to wash up on your neighbor's property... or your own. Uncollected weeds will replant themselves and increase the spread of invasive species.
- Keep your beach area clean and free of debris.

## Pesticides and Household Chemicals

- Use pesticides only if needed and only after identifying the best way to control the specific pest.
- Apply pesticides only under the proper weather conditions.
- Never pour hazardous chemicals into a storm drain, on the ground, or into the lake or any water body that feeds into the lake.

## Recreation and Boating

- Only use onshore toilet facilities. *See other side.*
- Treat Conesus Lake as a litter-free area; do not leave anything behind.
- Do everything possible to minimize the impact your boat or PWC makes on weeds, the shoreline, and other boaters.

## Boating Laws and Speed Limits

- Conesus Lake has a 45 mph daytime speed limit and a 25 mph dusk-to-dawn limit.
- Conesus Lake has a 5 mph "no wake" zone from 200 ft. offshore to the shoreline.
- Nearly 60 speed buoys are located around the lake to delineate this "no wake" zone.
- Avoid any contact with these speed buoys. There is a heavy fine if you damage them.

## Pets and Wildlife

- Never feed waterfowl or allow others to do so; it can make the birds sick and encourages them to remain in our area long past the seasonal norm.
- Do not wash pets in the lake.

## Conesus Lake's Fish Kill Contingency Plan

Finding an occasional dead or dying fish is nothing unusual; it's part of the natural cycle of life on any lake. However, Livingston County has in place an emergency plan should a major fish kill incident in the lake occur. Anyone who discovers a "reportable fish kill" should immediately report their observation to the NY State Dept. of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) as soon as possible. Key phone numbers are listed on the reverse side.

A "reportable fish kill" is defined as:

- 5 or more game fish or carp found in the same general area on the same day.
- 20 or more pan fish found in the same general area on the same day.
- 100 or more bait fish found in the same general area on the same day.

The Fish Kill Contingency Plan is available on the County's web site ([www.livingstoncounty.us/conesus.htm](http://www.livingstoncounty.us/conesus.htm)) or by calling the Livingston County Planning Department.