

MARION COUNTY LAKE MANAGEMENT

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BACKGROUND

Marion County Lake has been struggling with various water quality issues, including excess nutrients causing eutrophic conditions which have led to recurring Harmful Algae Blooms (HABs). In addition to harming wildlife, these water quality problems have also been severely reducing the opportunity for public recreation on the lake. These water quality issues are limiting a large number of people from utilizing the lake.

WATER QUALITY



Previous studies have identified the following areas of concern:

- High Total Nitrogen and Total Phosphorous concentrations indicating excess nutrients
- High chlorophyll-a concentration and eutrophic waters
- High cyanobacterial cell count
- Presence of fecal coliform

These findings suggest that the overall water quality of the lake is poor, with high probability of HAB formation.

URBAN BEST PRACTICES

Fertilizer management, reduced pesticide application, preventative landscaping practices, wise vehicle washing, pet waste disposal and proper use of household chemicals are all ways that individual households can help improve the Marion County Lake water quality.



AGRICULTURAL BEST PRACTICES



Conservation tillage, crop nutrient management, pest management, conservation buffers, irrigation management, grazing management, animal feeding operations management and erosion and sediment are all great ways to help keep Marion County Lake clean.