Notice about City activities around Lake Silver

The City of Orlando will be monitoring and quantifying the water quality in Lake Silver on a regular basis in response to a State mandated effort to improve the lake’s status. This includes the installation of equipment to monitor the water quality and quantity of the stormwater runoff entering and leaving Lake Silver through the stormwater system. You may see City staff and City contractors throughout the Lake Silver neighborhood as they implement this project. Everyone associated with this work will carry proper identification, and you are welcome to ask to see that identification.

Lake Silver and Water Quality

- Lake Silver has a surface area of 70 acres, but receives drainage from a 476 acre area surrounding the lake.
  - This large drainage area means that many nutrients are entering the lake through various sources via stormwater runoff.
- In 2004, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) placed Lake Silver on their Verified List of Impaired Waters.
  - An Impaired lake or waterbody is one that has excessive amounts of a particular constituent compared to the State water quality standards.
  - Lake Silver is impaired for nitrogen (TN) and phosphorus (TP).
  - Phosphorus and nitrogen can be considered forms of pollution because an imbalance can cause algae blooms and degrade aquatic habitats. In 2008, FDEP calculated a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Lake Silver.
  - A TMDL is a scientific determination of the maximum amount of a constituent (i.e., TN & TP) that a water body can absorb and still meet the water quality standards that protect human health and aquatic life.
  - In order to meet the TMDL, the City will implement various initiatives for reducing TN & TP entering the lake.

For more information call our Stormwater Hotline at 407.246.2370.

Management plan adopted by the City

- While collecting and compiling the data from the monitoring system(s), the City will begin initiatives to reduce the amount of nutrients entering the lake.
- Initiatives include, but are not limited to: education campaigns, increased stormwater compliance inspections, changing maintenance schedules of existing stormwater pollution control devices and possible infrastructure improvements.
- The monitoring will continue through the entire project to quantify the effectiveness of the initiatives implemented by the City.

What can you do?

- Residents play an important role in protecting our waterbodies and preventing stormwater pollution.
- Rain carries pollutants in the form of stormwater runoff and deposits these pollutants into the closest water body.
- To keep polluted runoff from entering your lake there are several steps you can take:
  - **Fertilize responsibly!** Use Fertilizer with “0” phosphorous and “Slow Release” Nitrogen. Fertilizer generally contains TN & TP which can be a direct source of pollution for Lake Silver. Excess fertilizer that is not utilized by your lawn is washed into the lake via stormwater runoff.
  - Be sure that trash, debris, and yard waste are kept off of paved surfaces (i.e., never leave grass clippings on the sidewalk, do not blow leaves from yard into street, pick up all trash and debris around your house).
  - **Pick up after your pets!** Un-scooped pet waste washes into the storm drain system and waterways, adding a large amount of nutrients and harmful bacteria to the water.
  - Wash your car in your lawn, or capture soapy water before it enters the stormwater system. Soaps, even bio-degradable, can have harmful effects on the aquatic environment.

We need your help in keeping Lake Silver a thriving recreational and ecologically viable asset to The City of Beautiful!