

# LAKE PEWAUKEE SANITARY DISTRICT



JANUARY 2022

**ACH Payment Program** – Lake Pewaukee Sanitary District is offering this payment option as a convenience. If you would like to participate & pay your quarterly sewer bill through an ACH withdrawal, there are several options for you to sign up. Request a form by phone (262)691-4485, email [lpd@lakepewaukee.org](mailto:lpd@lakepewaukee.org), or download the form off the website at [www.lakepewaukee.org](http://www.lakepewaukee.org) fill it out and send it to us by mail or email.

## SEWER SYSTEM

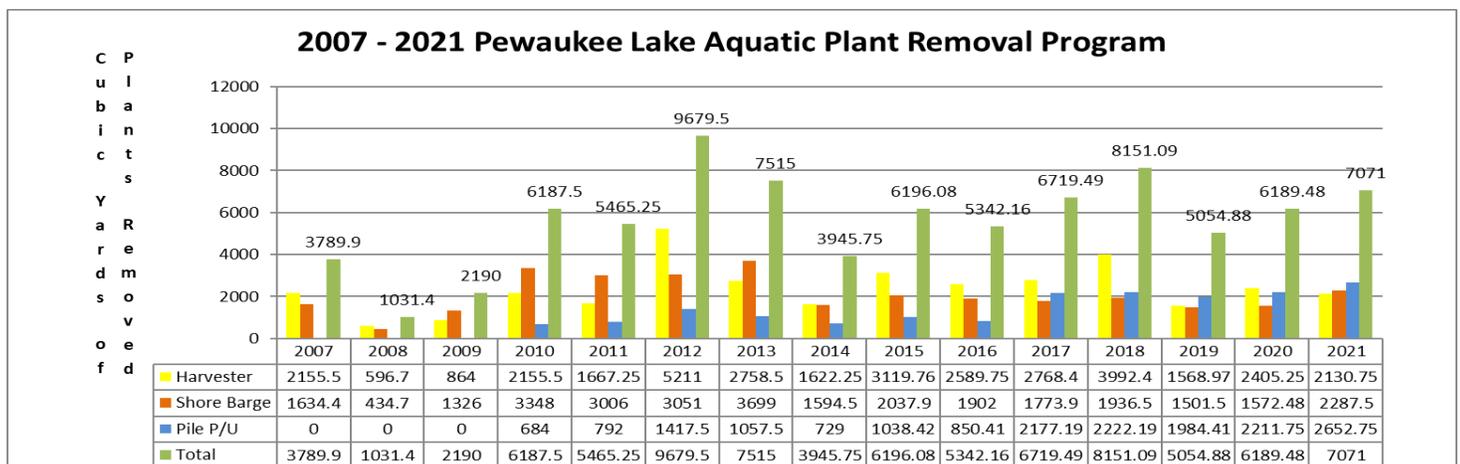
The new rate for our quarterly sewer user fee will be \$126.00 starting with the April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, billing. The user fee covers the operations and maintenance of the sewer. These costs to the district continue to rise and it is not in our control - the price of parts, pumps, transfer switches and generators simply continue to rise as well as construction costs. Several pumps have been replaced as well as some internal piping inside the wet wells that have corroded over the past 45 years. Some stations have been upgraded and a few more stations need to be done over the next few years. Most of the generators have been replaced. The generator housing units that were made of fiberglass were deteriorated are now replaced. Several pumping stations have been rehabbed from the pump “perspective,” but the electrical and mechanical controls are reaching their useful life. If we keep pecking away at it, we can make the upgrades without big increases in the user fees or special assessing our constituents. We just need to stay consistent and keep improving things over the next few years.

Remember - Do not throw rags or cleaning “flushable” wipes into the toilet, it clogs pumps and cause costly “extra” maintenance that we all pay for. Help keep our rates down, do not flush anything except toilet paper!!

## LAKE CLEAN UP SUMMARY

It was once again a moderate year with the aquatic plants on the lake. Clean-up crews worked through October, picking up shorelines and doing lots of pile pick up. Below is a chart that shows the volume of aquatic plants taken out of the lake over the years and how this last year compares to the previous years and cycles.

The total volume of aquatic plants removed from the lake equates to 6,189 cubic yards. Below is a graph of the volumes of aquatic plant removed over the past 30+ years. The tallest spikes are the combined volumes of all the methods of the districts aquatic removal operations (the harvesters, shore barges and pile pick up).



Over the last decade, we stepped up our Harvesting and aquatic plant removal program, implementing more equipment and more staff. The lake is constantly improving simply by the increased amount of nutrients we are removing from the lake with the harvesting program. Phosphorus is the main source of nutrients in the aquatic plants and in the lake’s

sediment. By removing large volumes of phosphorus, we remove the nutrients that help the plants grow. We also remove the amount of decaying plants which use up oxygen while breaking down and decomposing. Low oxygen is harmful to the fisheries and other aquatic life. So not only do we make the lake better for recreational use by harvesting and picking up plants, but we are also improving the overall quality of the lake. This in turn improves home values in the Delafield and Pewaukee area.

**Clean Streams = Clean Lake:** The 3 main tributaries to Pewaukee Lake are Coco, Meadowbrook and Zion Creeks. These creeks provide most of the flow from the watershed and are extremely critical to the lake's ecology, quality and clarity. While the Lake Pewaukee Sanitary District (LPSD) is tasked with harvesting the aquatic vegetation in the lake and purchasing wetlands when funding allows, there needs to be other agencies and residents supporting the initiatives to improve the lake and streams. For example: Zion creek is in the Town of Delafield, and it is listed as an impaired waterway. Who is working to change that? Who is improving the creek so it can help the lake? Coco creek is in the City of Pewaukee, and it conveys drainage from a development in the village that has attributed to sediment entering the creek over the years. Who is improving that situation? Meadowbrook creek is also in the City of Pewaukee, and it has been degrading over the years, getting wider and shallower. Fortunately, one volunteer group has been working on that and the district (LPSD) has submitted and acquired a grant to help.

Stream bank protection (native wetland vegetation, woody structure and rock) help minimize erosion. Stream buffers (75-100-foot-wide strips of land bordering the streams) are absolutely critical for stream protection. This is important for people to understand, and it rests on the shoulders of the riparian owners and the local levels of Government (The City of Pewaukee, The Village of Pewaukee, and the Town of Delafield). Ordinances could be implemented requiring stream buffers in new developments. Residents along the creeks should implement stream buffers on their own properties to help protect from sediment entering the creek. As sediment enters the creeks they tend to silt-up and become shallower and shallower. To date the Lake Pewaukee Sanitary District has partnered with the local Pewaukee Chapter of Walleyes for Tomorrow and has helped install 600 feet of streambank restoration on Meadowbrook Creek. The restoration consists of coconut bio-logs and native prairie and wetland plantings. The bio-logs are heavily staked in place just inside of the eroded riverbanks. Native plants are planted in the bio-logs and behind the bio-logs. High flows overtopping the banks fill in the gaps behind the bio-logs with sediment and then the native plants spread out and flourish creating fish spawning areas and stream protection against erosion. This narrows the river and allows the river to flow faster providing cooler, deeper water which improves the natural spawning of fish and allows other aquatic life and organisms to flourish. The organisms eat algae which keeps the lake clean and clear. The District acquired a \$50,000 WDNR matching grant to help with the financial aspects, but it takes other funds and volunteer time to make up the cost share of the grant. While achieving 600 feet of restoration is a great start, there are 1,000's of feet that need attention. Do you want to clean a lake? Clean the streams and areas that drain into the lake. Get to the sources of the problem and that is just what these folks are doing. If you want to help, donations can be made to the "Lake Pewaukee Sanitary District Wetland Fund", and they are all tax deductible. If you want to volunteer and get your hands dirty call the District in Spring at 262-691-4485 and we will put volunteers to work. Thanks to all who have helped and donated in the past, we are making great progress!!

### **Employment – Summer Lake Crews**

Lake Pewaukee Sanitary District will be looking to hire enthusiastic people to help with the lake operations this next year. The temporary summer employees work from early May until the end of August. The shift starts at 7:00 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m. with opportunities for overtime depending on lake conditions. Applications for the seasonal help will be accepted for review starting any time after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age. We also have a need for some temporary help that could start earlier and work through October.

**Call Rita at (262) 691-4485** for more information or go to our website at: [www.lakepewaukee.org](http://www.lakepewaukee.org)