

There are many reasons why Jordan Lake is important enough to take strong measures to return it to a healthy reservoir of needed water, as well as a clean, healthy recreation center, see listed below. The lake became impaired because of irresponsible behavior on the part of many industries and municipalities up-stream, and it can be returned to an unpolluted state by REQUIRING those same industries and cities/town to "clean up their act." The selfishness and greed of organizations cannot be allowed to contaminate state waterways for all other citizens. NOW is the time to insist on change, and we urge the Legislature to be strong enough to do the right thing with regard to Jordan Lake and other waterways in the state.

◇ Jordan Lake is a 14,000 acre reservoir fed by the Haw River and the New Hope Creek watersheds.

◇ Jordan Lake is an important resource for our region and state. It is the source of drinking water for about 200,000 people in Chatham, Cary, Apex and Morrisville. Millions of people have visited the lake for recreation each year.

◇ Jordan Lake has too much algae due to nutrient pollution (nitrogen and phosphorus) that comes from our wastewater and runoff from the whole watershed, including Greensboro, Reidsville, Burlington, Chapel Hill, part of Durham and western Wake and Chatham counties. Nearly a million people live in the Jordan Lake/Haw River watershed. Every time we take a shower, flush the toilet, water the garden, or drive the car we impact the lake.

◇ This nutrient pollution has seriously damaged streams in every town in the Haw River watershed, as well as Jordan Lake itself. This area reaches from Greensboro east to Durham and Chapel Hill, and includes many well-known streams, like North and South Buffalo Creeks, Troublesome Creek, Big and Little Alamance Creeks, Robeson Creek, New Hope Creek, Beaver Creek, Northeast Creek, Third Fork Creek, Bolin and Morgan Creeks.

◇ Jordan Lake and many streams that feed it have become so polluted that they had to be listed on the Federal 'Impaired Waters' list. This listing and an earlier state law, the 1997 Clean Water Responsibility Act, mandate that the lake be cleaned up by reducing nutrients -the nitrogen and phosphorus that have 'overfertilized' the lake and led to algae blooms.

◇ Algae blooms and even fish kills in the lake and upstream show that we're running out of time. And cleanup efforts have already lagged 10 years behind schedule because of disputes over who's responsible and how to get the lake cleaned up.

◇ We're all responsible--the pollution comes from sewage treatment plants and runoff from streets and buildings and farms. More than 65 permitted wastewater treatment operations release more than 75 million gallons of waste per day into the streams that flow into Jordan Lake. Polluted runoff is a growing problem for Jordan Lake. This untreated water runs into streams every time it rains, carrying whatever it came into contact with on the way-fertilizer and pesticides from lawns, pet waste, heavy metals from car exhaust.

◇ We can - and must - all work together to clean up Jordan Lake. Strong measures can clean up Jordan Lake, and we can get it done - together.

REQUIRED ACTION:

* Wastewater treatment plants upstream from the lake should be required to appreciably reduce nitrogen to recommended levels by 2011. The proposed rules would allow water treatment plants to wait until 2016 to make deeper reductions in nitrogen - and that's far too slow. Many cities and citizens' groups have worked hard already to improve wastewater treatment; phosphorus reductions are in the works already and are scheduled to take effect by 2009.

* We support controls on polluted runoff from existing development. Scientific models show Jordan Lake will never be healthy unless and until runoff from current development is reduced. These controls consist of various sizes of biological and engineered filters that slow down the flow of rain water, filter out soil suspended in it, and allow natural processes to clean up the water before it flows into a stream. Improvements like "rain gardens" and other green measures will make our cities and towns more attractive to live in - and clean up local creeks as well.

We want strong rules now, and no more delays. We need to get on with the job of cleaning up Jordan Lake. Yes, it will take dollars to accomplish, but there is!!