



Lake Star Notes

City of Norfolk
Department of Utilities

Summer 2015

Dear Lake Star Resident:

The summer is upon us and many people are spending extra time keeping yards green and everything watered in the heat. Did you know that July and August are the wettest months of the year? But what does this mean in regards to protecting the reservoirs? See page 2 for an article about watering your yard.

If everyone would do one simple thing around the house or in the yard, we can make a difference. I look forward to working with you to make sure we have clean water.

If you have any questions I can be reached at (757) 441-5678 or by email at david.rosenthal@norfolk.gov.

Sincerely,

David S. Rosenthal, CLM
Reservoir Manager
City of Norfolk
Department of Utilities



For More Information

Become a Lake Star
www.norfolk.gov/LSH

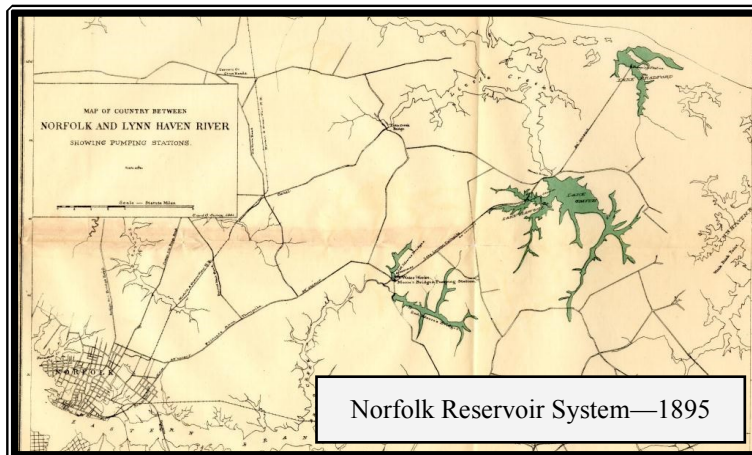
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A Lake is....

“A lake is a landscape's most beautiful and expressive feature. It is Earth's eye; looking into which the beholder measures the depth of his own nature.”
— Henry David Thoreau, Walden

What does a lake mean to you? The lakes in this area mean something different to everyone, but some of the lakes, Lake Whitehurst being one, provides us with drinking water. Lake Whitehurst has been providing Norfolk with drinking water since 1899. Prior to its creation it was part of the Chesapeake Bay. The members of Council were forward thinking and realized this area needed a reliable source of drinking water if the area was going to grow. Health of the citizens was also a major concern. Prior to the creation of the water system, which began in the 1870s, the only source of water was cisterns or shallow wells. Disease and drought was an ongoing concern. By damming up a tributary to the Chesapeake Bay, Lake Whitehurst and Little Creek Reservoir were formed, connecting other reservoirs that were already part of the drinking water supply. The available water went from less than 500,000 gallons to almost 2 million gallons, ensuring a lasting supply.



Scan with your mobile device
for more information

Water Facts

Over 660 Million people worldwide don't have access to clean drinking water. That's twice the population of the United States!

842,000 deaths each year could be prevented worldwide by improved water, sanitation and hygiene.

PROTECT IT!



I like my lawn...

In the hot summer heat people want to keep the yard looking good by watering the lawn and gardens. Did you know that July and August are the wettest months of the year? Below are some tips to help you save water and preserve our reservoirs:

- ◆ Choose plants native to our area. They have lower water requirements, fewer pest problems and need less fertilizer than exotic or non-native plants.
- ◆ Water at the right time of day. Watering when the sun is low, winds are calm and temperatures are cooler minimizes evaporation by as much as 30 percent. The best time to water is during early morning hours. Do not sprinkle foliage in the evening. Wet foliage overnight may encourage disease
- ◆ Apply water at a rate of half an inch per hour. Faster application will cause runoff, wasting water and money. Test the application rate for a sprinkler by placing small cans within the sprinkler's reach, and checking the level of water in them at 15-minute intervals.
- ◆ Many plant problems arise not from underwatering, but from overwatering.
- ◆ Reduce areas of thirsty turf grass by adding more mulched beds. Mulch not only helps plants retain moisture, but helps minimize weeds and keeps plants cool!
- ◆ Install water-efficient drip irrigation systems for your landscape.
- ◆ Make sure you're not sending water down the drain. Set sprinklers to water plants, not your driveway, sidewalk, patio or buildings.
- ◆ For more information visit www.norfolk.gov/LSH or www.AskHRGreen.org



Water in the morning!



Don't water the sidewalk!

GOOD to DO

Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!

Aquatic Hitchhikers are potentially harmful aquatic plants, animals and other organisms that threaten a water body. These hitchhikers get a ride on boats, motors, trailers, in your wet-well and on your gear.

There are some simple things you can do to prevent the spread of potentially invasive plants and animals:

- ◆ Remove all visible mud, plants, fish/animals.
 - ⇒ Before leaving any body of water, it is important to examine all of your equipment, boats, trailers, clothing, boots, buckets etc.
- ◆ Eliminate water from all equipment before transporting anywhere.
 - ⇒ Much of the recreational equipment used in water contains many spots where water can collect and potentially harbor these aquatic hitchhikers
- ◆ Clean and dry anything that came in contact with the water (boats, trailers, equipment, dogs, boots, clothing, etc.)
- ◆ Do not release or put plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water. This includes all bait.
 - ⇒ Also, do not release them into storm drains because most storm drains connect to water bodies or wetlands. This is an important prevention step because many plants and animals can survive even when they appear to be dead.

For more information on preventing *Aquatic Hitchhikers*, visit www.protectyourwaters.net.