



Lake Star Notes

City of Norfolk
Department of Utilities

Spring 2017

Dear Lake Star Resident:

Winter is over and Spring is here. Most of us will go outside as the temperature rises and the flowers begin to bloom. This is the time of year we begin to plan what our yards and gardens will look like for the next 6-8 months. The choices you make can impact the environment.

Do you plan to plant flowers, shrubs and trees? Perennials or Annuals? Have you considered if the plants are native to the area? Will they provide habitat and food for birds and other wildlife? Are there water quality benefits?

See the article on page 2 on the benefits of “going native.”

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

Sincerely,

Reservoir Manager



For More Information

Become a Lake Star
www.norfolk.gov/LSH

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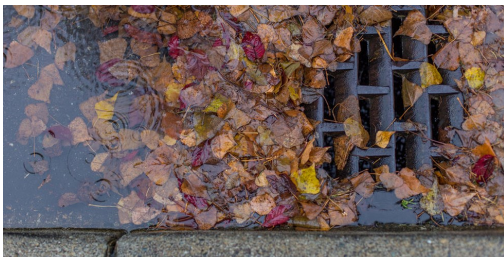
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Keep it clean....

In 2016, Hampton Roads experienced several intense rain storms, some of which caused street flooding. To help combat street flooding, and protect water quality, make sure to keep the curb and street clear.

When you are done mowing the lawn or raking leaves, take a few moments to remove the grass clippings and leaves from the street in front of your home.

Grass and leaves that are left in the street will eventually get washed into the storm drain, which may get clogged. This will not only lead to street flooding, but the grass and leaves carry nutrients to the lake. This can lead to unsightly algae blooms and make the lake more shallow as the leaves accumulate.



Place the leaves and grass in bags for weekly yard waste pickup and help protect the lake.

Water Facts

783 million people do not have access to clean water and almost 2.5 billion do not have access to adequate sanitation. 6 to 8 million people die annually from the consequences of disasters and water-related diseases.

PROTECT IT!



Why Virginia Natives are the Best Choice

There are several guides for Southeast Virginia on the benefits of native plants. Below is an excerpt from “Native Plants for Southeast Virginia, including Hampton Roads Region” with a list of some of the benefits:

- Southeast Virginia native plants provide visual beauty year round. Unique flowers, vibrant fall colors of leaves and stems, fruits shapes and colors, bark textures, are all reasons to purchase native plants
- Local native plants support more wildlife species than non-native plants. Native Plants host specific insects and are essential for pollinator. Native trees, shrubs, and vines that feed the insects, birds and animals are essential for maintaining biodiversity. As natural habitats are lost, home gardeners more than ever need to landscape with native plants.
- There are local native species unique to Southeast Virginia not found in other parts of Virginia. If the general public demands more local native plants the supply will be greater and more plant species will become available for the home garden.
- Planting Southeast Virginia native plants is essential for a healthy watershed. Local native plants provide oxygen and habitat for fresh and salt water ecosystems. Plant roots absorb nutrients and prevent sediment from entering out local waterways; reducing pollution and improving water quality.
- Local native plants are adapted to local temperature and rainfall fluctuations. Once established they require less watering and fertilizing, saving natural resources, time and money.
- Spraying pesticides for insects or diseases is generally not necessary for native plants. Insects that feed on local plants rarely eat enough to hurt the plants as the insects need to come back to feed again.

“Native Plants for Southeast Virginia, including Hampton Roads Region”—<https://goo.gl/xZzncF>

“Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping, Chesapeake Bay Watershed: —<https://goo.gl/46Q1vq>

Community Involvement

The Great American Cleanup™ 2017 is here!

The Great American Cleanup™ is the largest grassroots community involvement program in the United States. Cleanup events will be taking place all across Hampton Roads, and we hope everyone—individuals, families, school groups, clubs and civic organizations—will pick a project and participate this spring. If you’d like to propose a project, please contact your locality’s [representative](#).

Upcoming Events

Find local activities that will help improve water quality and your neighborhood—<http://askhrgreen.org/calendar/>.

Norfolk Botanical Garden

The Norfolk Botanical Garden offers a wide variety of

programs and events—<http://norfolkbotanicalgarden.org/>

Chesapeake Bay Foundation

For more information on regional events, visit the CBF Calendar at <http://www.cbf.org/events/calendar>.

Lynnhaven River NOW

Group committed to restoring the Lynnhaven River calendar of events—<http://www.lynnhavenrivernow.org/events-calendar/>.

Keep Norfolk Beautiful

Through education outreach, interactive programs and community service KNB is growing environmental awareness. [Keep-NorfolkBeautiful](#)

Keep Virginia Beach Beautiful

Working together to provide volunteer opportunities for Virginia Beach residents— [VBCleanCommunity](#)