



Love Our Lakes

Learn how you can help
keep your local lake
healthy and thriving

Why are our urban lakes important?

Our City is home to 20 urban lakes dotted within our streets and parks. These lakes **filter our stormwater, provide habitat and freshwater for wildlife, and support our biodiversity.**

Urban lakes acting as a refuge for wildlife is especially important during the hotter, drier months.

These lakes are also an important place of connection, with the community choosing to gather, exercise or appreciate nature in these spaces. Connecting our RAMSAR-listed wetlands to residential areas, they bridge the gap between our urban and natural environment. For each unique value of our lakes, it is important to protect them now for a healthy and strong environment in Mandurah for generations to come.



Human impacts

Good water quality means a happy lake and lake life. Unfortunately, some human activities have negatively impacted the water quality of most urban lakes in the City.

Legacy nutrients

Old farming land stores large amounts of nutrients in the soil which leach into our lakes over time, contributing to high nutrient levels in the lake.



Incorrect fertiliser use

Lawns may need fertilising during key growing times however, any fertiliser application should be carried out carefully. It is best to apply in small amounts during Autumn and Spring and away from drainage areas.

In Winter, grasses are dormant and do not need to be fertilised. During this time, when rainfall is at its highest, any fertiliser runs off into stormwater drains and pollutes our waterways. During Summer, high amounts of fertiliser also end up in our waterways from runoff because of the increased watering requirements of lawns and non-native plants.



If fertiliser is applied too close to roadsides and street drains, polluted runoff can enter our groundwater and waterways causing algal blooms that suffocate aquatic life.



Feeding the wildlife

The foods we eat are very different to the natural diets of our wildlife. Human foods are very high in nutrients and are hard for native wildlife to digest. Feeding wildlife can also make them reliant on humans, impacting their behaviour.

Did you know?

Birds are reluctant to leave the areas they are typically fed, and may fail to find other water sources in the drier months.

Feeding the ducks and other wildlife also encourages population growth around our lakes. This can cause aggressive behaviour and leads to more droppings that reduce the water quality of our lakes. Additionally, the bacterium that causes avian botulism thrives in nutrient-rich water, spreading to our birds causing illness and death.

Wildlife may appear to enjoy the free feed, but it ultimately causes them harm. Instead, simply appreciate them from a safe distance.

Dog poo

Dog poo left in the environment pollutes our lakes and waterways during rainfall events, spreading harmful bacteria and viruses.



Ducks and other native wildlife are vulnerable to botulism, caused by the rotting of human foods in our lakes.

Images courtesy of Western Australia Seabird Rescue.



What is the City doing?

The City monitors our lakes quarterly to track their health.

This involves water quality tests that measure the nutrient levels of the lakes. The majority of our lakes are currently eutrophic.

This means there are high amounts of nutrients in the water that encourage algal blooms which out-compete other life in the lakes.

Ways we manage this issue include:

- Water fountains and aerator diffusers which incorporate more oxygen into the water and disturb algal blooms.
- Added beneficial bacteria to help out compete favourable algae bloom conditions.



Aeration fountains at Bridgewater Lakes

While these are important steps for managing water quality, it is equally important to stop pollution at its source. This is why the City is working with the community through the **Love Our Lakes** program, hosting educational workshops around Mandurah about the challenges our urban lakes are facing and how you can help.



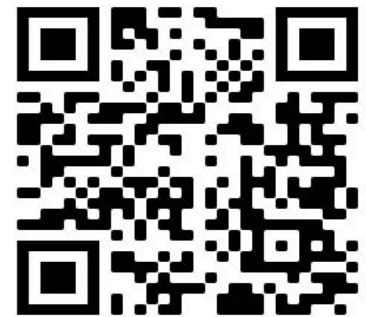
How can you help?

Fertilise wise

Only use fertiliser if necessary and apply during Spring or early-Autumn in a few, small applications over time. This will help your lawn make the most of the fertiliser and reduce the amount needed. Do not fertilise in Summer or Winter when fertiliser is likely to enter our waterways through runoff.

Reduce the amount of fertiliser needed by planting native plants that need less nutrients. Choosing the correct fertiliser can also reduce nutrient runoff into our waterways.

For more information and helpful tips visit:
<http://www.sercul.org.au/fertilisewise>



Choose natives and plant a Waterwise Verge

Consider planting native plants and gardens that require less water and fewer nutrients than non-natives. Join one of our Waterwise Verge workshops that run each Winter to learn from experts how to set up your new verge and take home some free plants!



Dispose of waste correctly

Make sure you are binning your dog's poo in the correct bins and not leaving it in the environment. Always bring dog waste bags with you on walks – there are many bag dispensers attached to bins throughout the City or you can repurpose plastic bags you would otherwise throw out.

If you notice littering, report it to Ranger Services at 9550 3777 or ranger.admin@mandurah.wa.gov.au

Embrace A Space and organise a planting day

If you want to get hands-on and become a steward of your local lake, you and your neighbours can start an Embrace A Space group, or join an existing one. The Embrace A Space program will support events at your space, such as community planting days, working-bees, or clean-up days.

Learn more under **Environment** at mandurah.wa.gov.au



Don't feed the wildlife

Wildlife should be left alone. Instead of feeding the ducks and other wildlife, appreciate them from a safe distance. Consider protecting their habitat by attending community events such as planting or clean-up days.

Feeding our native wildlife is an offence and fines do apply.

Found an injured bird?

Report to Ranger Services at 9550 3777 who will assess and advise on the situation.

For injured ducks and seabirds, contact WA Seabird Rescue at 6102 8464.

For other injured wildlife, contact DPAW Wildcare Helpline at 9474 9055

