

LAKES - Pollution

In chain of lakes Outlook 3-30-89

Feeding ducks may cause lake pollution

By MISSY CLARK

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WINTER PARK—The feeding of ducks and other animals along lake shores may be hazardous to their health. The lakes' health, that is.

That's one of several conclusions arrived at recently by Briley, Wild & Associates, consultants studying the pollution problem in the Dinky Dock area of Lake Virginia.

"We're still getting significant levels of bacteria, which we believe to be caused by animal as well as human waste contamination," said Boyd Brownfield, consultant with the firm. He suggested the city take steps to either remove the ducks that live there or post signs discouraging people from feeding them.

In addition to animal waste, Brownfield said, he believes raw sewage from septic tanks or the city's sanitary sewer system may still be leaking into the lake and polluting it.

City officials thought they had essentially solved the problem of raw sewage contamination last month when the consultants discovered a faulty plumbing connection underneath the 7-Eleven store on Park Ave. A crossconnection between the sanitary and the storm sewer lines had for many years been routing human waste into the lake at Dinky Dock.

After correcting the problem, workers tested the lines for other

cross-connections in the downtown area but didn't find any.

Brownfield said last week, however, that data collected from the lake over the past month still shows high levels of organic bacteria.

It would cost Winter Park nearly \$500,000 to implement all of Briley Wild's recommendations, but Brownfield said the city could see some positive results if it would spend about \$20,000 to build a retention pond or shallow swale on Ollie Ave., and discourage people from feeding the animals that live in or around the Dinky Dock area.

Storm water runoff is still considered one of the leading causes of pollution in Lake Virginia as well as other lakes in the Winter Park chain, and Briley Wild's consultants also suggested that the city develop a plan for regular cleaning of the storm sewer system.

In related news: The city's proposed new storm water management ordinance, which passed its first public reading this week, will require commercial as well as residential property owners to provide on-site or underground retention features for all new construction and major renovations.

Existing properties of one-half acre or greater will also be required to provide on-site retention regardless of whether they are redeveloped. These property owners

would have five years in which to implement their storm water retention features.

A storm water board of appeals would be created to hear requests and make recommendations for variances where existing conditions make it difficult or impractical to comply with the ordinance.

The purpose of this ordinance, explained city planner Jeff Briggs, is to provide retention and treatment of rainwater before it is discharged into the storm water system — and ultimately the lakes — carrying with it such pollutants as trash and garbage, oils and grease, pesticides, herbicides and leaves.

It is these materials, not the rainwater itself, which are the primary pollutants, said Briggs.