

# Lake Lily fairing well amid summer heat, humidity

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT — Lake Lily is looking healthy this summer with no sign of an algae bloom. Borough Commissioner Catherine Busch reported Aug. 11 during a meeting of the Environmental Commission that algae was not present even during a heatwave with a low water level.

She said treatments from the Clean Flo company were having a positive effect.

Busch said an irrigation well pump failed at the lake causing some plantings along the lake to appear “crispy.” The pump has been replaced and the failed pump will be reconditioned as a backup, Busch said.

The irrigation system is now working, she said.

Environmental Commission member Elise Geiger asked if parrot feather, an invasive aquatic plant, growing at the end of the lake could be eradicated. Busch said her research has not turned up a good

solution to rid Lake Lily of parrot feather.

“It appears that you would either have to lower the level of the lake to spray it with something that would stick to because it has a waxy coating,” she said. “The other option is lowering the level of the lake sufficiently, so in the winter it freezes and dies, because it’s really more of a tropical plant.”

Busch said when parrot feather was plucked from the lake previously, fragments re-rooted. She said she hoped parrot feather would never cover the lake or move into the neighboring state park.

Environmental Commission Chairwoman Barbara Bassett said pulling out parrot feather may cause it to spread.

The commission also discussed cedar trees dying in Triangle Park. Busch said Rutgers Cooperative Extension Service recommended hiring an arborist or sending a plant sample to its laboratory for



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A swan enjoys the midday sun in an algae-free Lake Lily in Cape May Point.

to build something that goes up over the dune like Cape and Pearl,” Busch said.

Eventually some walkways will need to be elevated or steps installed, she said.

For those who have difficulty walking through sand, the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) access at Coral Avenue was designed for those who cannot walk through sand to get to the beach, Busch said.

“We’ll try to keep up with the shifting nature of our beach entrances,” she said.

Busch said she confirmed Cape May Point’s master plan and the circulation plan specify the borough should not have sidewalks or concrete curbing unless absolutely necessary. She said there was no reason on most of the borough’s roadways to have sidewalks or curbing.

“As we do road projects, we will remove unnecessary sidewalks and concrete curbing rather than pay than have them replaced,” Busch said. She said not having sidewalks was placed in the master plan about 10 years ago to help with infiltration of stormwater into green areas. The borough has the concept that its streets are for pedestrian use as well as vehicles.

analysis.

Busch said it has been verified there has not been a change in the salinity of the groundwater. She said Public Works Director Bill Gibson tests the well water that irrigates the lake and Pavilion Circle each year and the approximate 5 percent salinity has not changed.

New Jersey Audubon sprayed Triangle Park in late June to remove mugwort and other invasives but that should not have

affected the cedars, Busch said.

Busch said she reviewed beach entrances with Gibson and the borough engineer a few weeks ago. She said sand was accumulating at some beach entrances including St. Pete’s Beach.

Commission member Sandy Allison said the Stites Avenue beach entrance from the road had a gully of soft sand.

“Some entrances are going to need pilings in order

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