

April 2023

RE: Aquashade treatment to control algae growth

Dear Resident,

Strathcona County will be applying a vegetable-based dye to two stormwater ponds in Sherwood Park during the first week of May. The dye, called Aquashade, will be applied to Village on the Lake and Clover Bar Ranch stormwater management facilities. Further applications may occur throughout the summer as the concentration of the dye may drop over time, especially after heavy rainfall.

Aquashade has previously been used for algae/vegetation control in County stormwater management facilities, but results have been mixed. This year the County is performing a controlled experiment to study the effects of its application to help inform whether treatment with Aquashade should continue in the future. If the results show that it has minimal benefit, applications will not continue in future years.

Following the application, you may notice an aqua-blue color to the water. The color tint will vary somewhat depending upon depth, sediment on the bottom and the bottom color. Please keep pets away and avoid contact with the stormwater ponds during this time as the dye may stain fur, skin and clothes.

Algae requires sunlight to grow. The Aquashade dye is intended to temporarily block sunlight from the algae, slowing its growth and reducing the occurrence of the algal blooms on the pond. Other wildlife, including ducks, geese and pets will not be harmed by the blue dye, but feathers and fur may be temporarily discolored following contact with the water.

For more information, call Strathcona County Utilities at 780-467-7785.

Regards,



Randy Fisher, C.E.T.
Supervisor, Distribution & Collection
UTILITIES