

Re: A request to resolve the problem 8110297439 you reported has been closed
From: Richard Plinston <riplin@azonic.co.nz> (Azonic Associates)
To: "EnquiryDefault@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz"
<EnquiryDefault@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz>
CC: Carol Bergquist <Carol.Bergquist@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz>, Mike Renner
<Mike@merel.co.nz>, Judy Salthouse <Judy.Salthouse@gmail.com>
Date: 16 March 2020 09:56:55

On Monday 16 March 2020 08:52:00 noreply@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz wrote:

> Dear Richard Plinston,
>
> You reported: There's a pest plant or weed growing at R 24 TARAHANGA STREET
> NORTHCOTE 0627, Onepoto Domain on 24.02.2020
>
> We've taken a look and this is part of our scheduled maintenance and will
> be completed in the next few months.
>
> Kind regards,
> Auckland Council
> 09 301 0101

The problem is wide spread and continuing new growth of algae in Onepoto Domain Lagoon.

The last time that this occurred was in 2007 when the council relaid the sports fields and fertilizer washed off into the pond feeding growth that, at its height, covered 40% of the pond surface which interfered greatly with model yacht sailing. This eventually was solved by yacht club members raking out the weed from around the edges and having 'working bees' where long chains were dragged over the pond bed to free the algae from the bed so that it could drift away into the corners where it could be dealt with. (see <http://Azonic.co.nz/NZRYS/PDF/onepoto.pdf>).

After some months the leaching of fertilizer slowed down and the problem became contained. However, much of the dead weed fell to the bottom and was covered by silt and this led to the need to dredge the pond in 2014/15.

Late last year you again started re-laying the sports fields, presumably adding fertilizer, and again we had large amounts of algae growing. Raking this out of the pond is only effective for a few feet away from the edge. We had another working bee at the end of February and dragged chains across the pond and raked out much of the growth (see <http://Azonic.co.nz/NZRYS/PDF/2020/2020Mar01.pdf>). Much of the algae had died and turned black and this may be due to the high salt levels in the pond due to lack of rain and evaporation.

Some rain in the last week or two seems to have washed additional fertilizer into the pond and this has caused rapid new bright green growth. Several man hours of raking has cleaned this up around the path, but this will regrow and will also grow further out away from the path where it cannot be easily reached.

In relation to the problem 8110297439: No it has not been resolved and should not be closed. The problem continues.

We would like the council to take the following actions:

1. Clear away the piles of dried weed that we have raked out of the pond, and will need to continue removing.
2. Get the fountains working. These were designed to oxygenate the pond water to keep control of this weed. High oxygen levels will inhibit algal growth but the fountains don't seem to have been active at all for some months. Leakage into the pond at high tide will stop the pond stagnating but the oxygen levels are probably too low.
3. Try to prevent fertilizer runoff into the pond. There has been almost no rain for some months now but when the rain arrives it is likely to raise the nutrient levels in the pond and cause large amounts of algal growth, again.

Richard Plinston
NZRYS President

From: Frank Tian <Frank.Tian@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz>
To: Carol Bergquist <Carol.Bergquist@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz>, Margot Mirbach <Margot.Mirbach@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz>, Caren McNee <caren.mcnee@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz>
CC: Richard Plinston <riplin@azonic.co.nz>
Date: 16 March 2020 10:43:07

My answers to the following questions in red:

1. Clear away the piles of dried weed that we have raked out of the pond, and will need to continue removing. - **No problem. Please let Caren know when we need to do this.**
2. Get the fountains working. These were designed to oxygenate the pond water to keep control of this weed. High oxygen levels will inhibit algal growth but the fountains don't seem to have been active at all for some months. Leakage into the pond at high tide will stop the pond stagnating but the oxygen levels are probably too low. - **I understand that the fountain is working between 8 pm and 5 am each night. However, I will check with our contractor.**
3. Try to prevent fertilizer runoff into the pond. There has been almost no rain for some months now but when the rain arrives it is likely to raise the nutrient levels in the pond and cause large amounts of algal growth, again. - **Can CF do something about this? It seems that Healthy Waters cannot a lot.**

Subject: Onepoto Sprinklers

Afternoon Frank,

I can now confirm that the sprinklers located at Onepoto pond were completely blocked with silt and other debris, this would explain why the original pump had burnt out.

We managed to remove the sprinkler heads and flush the line clean with the new pump.

The sprinklers are now operational and working on the timer system.

Regards

Joseph Scarlett

Senior Supervisor, Stormwater
