

Cottage Lake needs your help . . .

Eurasian Milfoil, a highly invasive aquatic weed, was recently discovered in Cottage Lake. This was devastating news to all of us who care about the lake. Eurasian Milfoil forms very dense mats on the water's surface and impairs recreation and water quality. Dense milfoil can:

- Make swimming dangerous
- Foul fishing gear and electric motors
- Prevent light and oxygen from penetrating to deeper water
- Reduce water quality (raise water temperature, increase nutrients, etc)
- Displace native plants and reduce biodiversity



Friends of Cottage Lake is working with King County to come up with a plan and funding to deal with the milfoil—luckily, the infestation was caught early thanks to the water quality monitoring performed by King County, but it will still take a coordinated effort over many years to eradicate the milfoil. Please come to our community meeting on April 2nd at 7pm (at the Woodinville Library) to hear more about milfoil (and other projects)

In addition to the milfoil, we are continuing our plans to deal with the invasive water lilies which have a similar impact on lake health. We hope to co-ordinate the treatment of the water lilies with the milfoil and are working with King County on the treatment plans for the coming year.

Other Projects:

The Cottage Lake Park shoreline restoration project is part of our ongoing work to improve the water quality by reducing phosphorus and controlling other run-off that enters the lake. We made great progress on this last year, but will still need volunteers to help us finish the planting, control the weeds, and create informative signs for the park. Our first work party will be in the morning on May 17th—please put this on your calendar and look for more information coming soon.

Over the past few years, we have continued to see more severe algae blooms during warm weather. These algae blooms impact the beauty, water quality and the long-term usability of a lake. FOCL is working to reduce phosphorus levels because excess phosphorus is the key contributor to the **blooms. Please look for “no-phosphorus” fertilizer when buying lawn and garden care products this spring—using a “no-phosphorus” fertilizer will still give you a beautiful green lawn, but helps ensure we don’t have an ugly, green lake. We will also be hosting a workshop on septic care later this year as part of this project.**

Your membership dues, donations, and volunteer efforts are crucial to our ability to continue these projects. Please see our website for more information on how you can help:
www.friendsofcottagelake.org

Thanks in advance for your support,

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Don't forget our
Native Plant Sale Fundraiser
for Friends of Cottage Lake

Sat, April 12th from 1pm to 3pm
at
17214 185th Ave NE