

Friends of Cottage Lake Update

Friends of Cottage Lake is a 501(c)3 charity and all donations are tax deductible. We are raising money to help fund several projects to improve the health of the lake.

Milfoil:

Last year, we hired scuba divers to hand-pull Eurasian Milfoil, a highly invasive aquatic weed that is spreading in Cottage Lake. The cost of the dive team was similar to chemical treatments (\$7000), but without all the side effects and lake usage restrictions. We were able to pay for the divers using funds from previous fundraising efforts, but, to continue the effort, we need to start fundraising again. 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

You can already see some of the impacts of dense milfoil in the south end, so we really want to stop the spread of this invasive weed. You can also stop the spread of milfoil by checking your boats for milfoil fragments, and scooping out any fragments you see floating on the lake surface as they eventually sink and form new plants. Friends of Cottage Lake has free small nets for anyone interested in helping in this manner.

Fragrant Water Lilies

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. It has been several years since we have treated the lilies and they are spreading again. Lily treatment uses glyphosate and costs around \$2300/year (including the permit costs). We keep our costs down by using volunteers to post signs and notices.

Beavers, Flooding and High Lake Levels

Friends of Cottage Lake is also working with King County to deal with the impact of beaver dams which have caused flooding on 185th Ave NE as well as high lake levels (which contribute to the flooding on 165th). King County received some grant funding to help build pond levelers, and we've been able to work with another funded project to relocate some of the beavers.

Your membership dues, donations, and volunteer efforts are crucial to our ability to continue these projects. We'd like to ask for additional donations this year to help us proceed with the milfoil and lily treatment plans. Please consider donating at least \$100 if you can afford it—we'll do as much as we can based on the funds we raise. See our website for more information about all our projects: www.friendsofcottagelake.org

Thanks in advance for your support,

Jonathan Morrison—President, Friends of Cottage Lake

Phone: (425) 788-8087

Email: jonathanmorrison@hotmail.com

Mailing address for donations and membership dues (\$20):

Friends of Cottage Lake
c/o Jonathan Morrison
17214 185th Ave NE
Woodinville, WA 98072

