

# Friends of Cottage Lake – State of the Lake

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:

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
- Displace native plants and reduce biodiversity



You can already see some of the impacts of dense milfoil in the south end and around many docks where the water is shallow. We really want to stop the spread of this invasive weed before it impacts more areas of the lake. You can also help 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.

For the past two years, we hired scuba divers to hand-pull Eurasian Milfoil, a highly invasive aquatic weed that is spreading in Cottage Lake. Last year's results were not very good so we stopped this treatment since it did not seem to be cost effective. The milfoil is spreading rapidly again (in fact, it didn't even die back because of the warm winter) and there is definitely more milfoil year-over-year.

This year, we'd like to look into chemical solutions to see if we can make more progress towards eradicating this highly impactful weed. The most common herbicide is 2, 4-D and the estimates for treatment are approximately \$7000 per year. There may be some grant opportunities in the fall if we create a new noxious weed management plan for the lake (and write a grant application).

## 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. We plan to treat the first week of August this year. 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 worked 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 water levels have definitely been better since the work was completed. We'll continue to work with King County on monitoring the dams and the water levels.

### **Algae Blooms**

As part of our volunteer lake monitoring in partnership with King County, we collect algae samples when large blooms are seen on the lake. Last year, toxic algae was detected in one of these samples, and warnings were posted and sent around to lakeside residents. Toxic algae is very dangerous to pets (especially dogs that might drink the water), and can also be harmful to people. We need to continue these monitoring efforts as well as create another set of educational material for residents on the main cause of algae blooms (excess phosphorus). Using phosphorus free fertilizer for your lawn (or not fertilizing at all) is one of the key ways you can help.

### **Donations**

Your membership dues, donations, and volunteer efforts are crucial to our ability to continue these projects. See our website for more information about all our projects: [www.friendsofcottagelake.org](http://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