

## 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



Milfoil was first reported in Cottage Lake in 2007, but the previous weed survey was in 1995 so it has probably been in the lake for some time. From 2008-2010, FOCL worked with King County to treat the milfoil with a herbicide (Triclopyr) – the results were good, but some of the milfoil remained and it has been spreading year-over-year. In 2014 and 2015, we tried hiring scuba divers to hand-pull the milfoil, but the results were not very good. Last year, we started looking into other options (herbicide again) and we would like to pursue this option in 2017. Also, at our meeting in May, milfoil was highlighted as the problem residents would like to focus on.

The most common herbicide is 2, 4-D and the estimates for treatment are approximately \$7000 per year (with at least 2-3 years of treatment if we want to make a substantial impact and move towards eradication). The herbicide will impact those residents that use the lake for irrigation (for approximately 30 days), but the treatment needs to be done during the summer. There is no specific impact to recreational uses (swimming or fishing). We are currently targeting mid-August for the treatment.

**Friends of Cottage Lake relies on your donations to pay for treatment – remember, all donations are tax deductible.**

If you have questions about milfoil, the treatment, or are interested in discussing long term plans for invasive weed management, Ben Peterson, an Aquatic Noxious Weed Specialist with King County, is organizing a set of meetings to create a Cottage Lake Integrated Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan. The first meeting will be at the Woodinville library on July 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

### **Fragrant Water Lilies**

In addition to the milfoil, Friends of Cottage Lake has been working to reduce the spread of invasive fragrant water lilies (which also have an impact on water quality and recreational uses of the lake). We worked with a contractor to treat the water lilies last year, and so far, the feedback has been very positive.

### **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. For the past two years, toxic algae was detected in the samples at the end of the summer 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,

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