

August 8, 2020

## 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 Update:

We last treated the lake for Eurasian milfoil in June of 2018 – we saw some milfoil return last year and continue to get reports of milfoil and milfoil fragments from around the lake in 2020.

In addition, we've seen some large weed patches develop especially in the south end. When employees from King County were out looking for [purple loosestrife](#) (an invasive weed with mandatory control requirements), they took a look at the weeds. Although there were some milfoil fragments, most of the weeds were identified as [Ceratophyllum](#) (coontail) – this is a native plant with both floating and rooted varieties. Coontail is generally easy to differentiate from milfoil as it keeps its shape when removed from the water (one challenging case is dead coontail).

Our contractor (Woodland Resources) has been tracking new treatments for milfoil – one newer chemical, [ProcellaCor](#), should be approved for use in Washington State soon (still in trials) although we don't have information on pricing. The biggest challenge with previous treatments (using 2,4-D) was the irrigation restrictions, but there was also come community concern about the herbicide. 2,4-D also kills coontail, so another concern is adding a lot of decomposing biomass to the lake while removing plants that maybe helping reduce phosphorus levels (and therefore algae blooms).

Please report large milfoil infestations when you see them in the lake and provide feedback on future treatment plans. We will have to treat again to deal with this invasive weed before it gets back to the level of infestation we saw before treatments in 2017 and 2018. You can read about our problems with invasive weeds in the [Integrated Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan](#). Previous treatments were around \$8000, but we did receive a small grant from King County (\$2000) to help with treatment and education.

### Algae Blooms:

One of the long term challenges for Cottage Lake is excess phosphorus – we worked with King County and the Washington State Department of Ecology to explore the sources of phosphorus and try to reduce them (see the [final report from 2011](#)). Although significant work was done, excess phosphorus still continues to be a problem and the main cause of our 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 four 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. Algae (even when not toxic) also makes the lake less appealing for recreation and fishing.

Friends of Cottage Lake has continued researching solutions to our lake's problems. Reducing phosphorus entering the lake is one of the keys – encouraging residents in the watershed to use phosphorus free



fertilizer (or not fertilize at all), pick up pet waste, and other behavior changes can help (see page 10 of our [Welcome to the Lake](#) booklet for more suggestions).

We are also researching water treatments to remove phosphorus from the water and other treatments that might reduce [harmful blue-green algae blooms](#). So far, treatments are very expensive or unproven, but I am still hopeful we will be able to do something in the future. The most common lake treatment is Alum (aluminum sulfate) which binds with the phosphorus and also forms a “cap” over the lake bottom to reduce additional phosphorus from leaching back up into the water. Alum was used at Heart Lake (a very similar sized lake near Anacortes) and you can find a detailed report on the treatment and monitoring [here](#). The basic treatment cost (not including up-front permitting, research, and post treatment monitoring) was \$142,472 (see table 4 in the report). Alum has also been used successfully at [Green Lake in Seattle](#), although they have had to re-treat the lake approximately every 12 years.

Friends of Cottage Lake will continue to work with King County and the Department of Ecology to find a solution (and hopefully some funding) to our phosphorus and algae problems.

### **Finances:**

Friends of Cottage Lake relies on your donations to pay for treatments - remember, all donations are tax deductible.

Last year, we had a great fundraising year with many donations and a fundraising concert. Friends of Cottage Lake ended the year with approx. \$24000 in the bank. We paid for our permit renewal (so we can pursue future treatments), but otherwise have not had any expenses yet this year.

### **Public outreach and website:**

Friends of Cottage Lake uses email, Facebook, and our public website to keep people updated on lake projects, issues, and other relevant information. Please let me know if you would like to be added or removed from our email list – here are the other relevant links:

Website: [www.friendsofcottagelake.org](http://www.friendsofcottagelake.org)

Facebook public site: [www.facebook.com/FOCL.Woodinville](https://www.facebook.com/FOCL.Woodinville)

Facebook private group: [www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofcottagelake](https://www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofcottagelake)

Thanks in advance for your support,

Jonathan Morrison—President, Friends of Cottage Lake

**Phone:** (425) 788-8087

**Email:** [jonathanmorrison@outlook.com](mailto:jonathanmorrison@outlook.com)

[www.friendsofcottagelake.org](http://www.friendsofcottagelake.org)

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

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



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

***Friends of Cottage Lake***

**2020 Membership and Donation Form**

- Yes, I would like to be a member (2020 annual dues) \$ 20.00**
- Yes, I would like to make a donation to support FOCL programs (water lily and milfoil eradication, phosphorus reduction, water quality monitoring, shoreline restoration, \$\_\_\_\_\_ etc.) in the amount of:**

**Total enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_**

Please mail this form along with your check made payable to Friends of Cottage Lake  
***Your membership dues & donations are tax deductible***

**Please provide contact information if you would like to be added to our email and mailing lists to be notified of upcoming meetings, issues, etc.**

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address:

You can also join our group on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/FOCL.Woodinville> or watch our website for the

latest news: <http://www.friendsofcottagelake.org>