

August 28, 2022

## 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.

### A Little History:

Friends of Cottage Lake has been active for many years working to improve the Lake and the community which surrounds it. In the mid-2000's, we removed massive patches of lily pads (fragrant water lilies) that were choking out lake access at the north and south ends of the lake and since then have been working to control invasive milfoil. We educate newcomers on purple loosestrife removal and the importance of septic maintenance, and we work with King County to mitigate the effects of beaver dams. Over time we have formed friendships, united in concern for what is best for the Lake. We don't always agree on the best answer, but the organization gives us a forum for discussion and progress.



### 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 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 five years, toxic algae was detected in the samples at the end of the summer and the lake was closed to recreation. 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. Last year was one of the earliest closings with the lake exceeding limits for toxic algae (Microcystin) on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. We have tested several times already this August but have not yet detected toxins. See the [Washington State Toxic Algae](#) site for more information.

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](#). This year, we are partnering with Aquatechnex on treatment options. Terry (the owner of the company) gave a presentation to a community meeting in May – you can view the [presentation from Aquatechnex](#) on our website. Aquatechnex has been treating lakes in Washington State for many years and recommended we try a Lanthanum treatment (the commercial product is [Phoslock](#)). Based on their analysis of the lake, an initial treatment will cost between \$30,000 and \$40,000.

With the recommendations in mind, we updated our lake treatment permit to include the new treatment options (also see the milfoil section). We are working with Aquatechnex on the feasibility of a phosphorus treatment (need the ability to launch a larger boat so may need to work with King County Parks on options).

**Milfoil Update:**

The lake was treated on Monday, August 1st by Aquatechnex with ProcellaCOR – we saw some milfoil die back, but not in all areas – the contractor will be out on the lake the week of Aug 29<sup>th</sup> to assess the results from the treatment.

You can read about our problems with invasive weeds in the [Integrated Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan](#). Invasive fragrant water lilies are also slowly coming back, so we will need to treat them again in the future.

**Lake Level:**

The lake level is controlled by beaver dams and the pond levelers (beaver deceivers) we worked with King County to install through the original dams. This year, we are waiting on a permit from the state to repair the pond levelers and also seeing new beaver dam construction closer to the lake on the outlet stream. This is keeping the lake level high, although it has been a very dry summer. If you are interested in learning more about the beaver dams, previous efforts on relocation, or other ways to help, please let me know.

**Finances:**

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

Last year, we continued collecting donations and [Friends of Cottage Lake](#) ended the year with approx. \$40,000 in the bank and donations have continued to come in. At this point, we are able to pay for both the milfoil and phosphorus treatments but will continue to fundraise as it is likely we will have to do follow-up treatments next 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

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



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*Friends of Cottage Lake*

**2022 Membership and Donation Form**

- Yes, I would like to be a member (2022 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>

