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Vancouver Lake was a find for the Northwest rowing community in the early 1990s. Prior to that time there had been no feasible site for very popular rowing regattas, but the lake proved so good that the USRowing Nationals were held there in 1993, and the Nike World Masters regatta in 1998. The USRowing Masters and Junior Regional regattas have been held there almost every year since, drawing more masters rowers than any other area in the country. But the outlook is not good.

-Severity of pollution: Vancouver Lake was closed in July of 2019 due to an E. Coli outbreak, and the blue-green algae advisory was not lifted until October. In addition, because of the blue-green algae issue, the Milfoil problem has yet to be addressed despite sufficient fund-raising to pay for eradication.

An article in the Vancouver Columian, 8/28/18 stated "Vancouver Lake is an impaired waterway that struggles with high levels of nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen, poor water clarity, high temperatures and occasional cyanobacteria blooms, which can be harmful to people and animals in the summer months, according to a 2013 report drafted by the Vancouver Lake Watershed Partnership. Swimming at the lake has also been closed in the past due to high levels of E. coli bacteria."

-Vulnerability to degradation: The berm that was built last year to help endangered Sandhill Cranes, is problematic to the lake due to its effect on the flushing channel.

-Public Health: The lake is one of a few safe non-pool swimming sites in the Metro area and includes a lovely park area with picnic tables and barbeque pits. As noted before, the pollution has caused closure and advisories. However families do come to picnic and people do swim.

-Threatened species: The lake supports a large number of waterfowl, including American Pelicans, several species of grebes, loons, ducks. I don't know what the effects of algae or the other pollutants are on these birds, however my guess is that they would be healthier in healthier water.

-Local support: Thousands of rowers, from the local area as well as California, Washington, and British Columbia come to the lake for events several times a year. A rowing club and a sailing club are based on the lake. Families and individuals in the growing Metropolitan area make use of the lake for picnicking, swimming, kayaking and triathlon training.

I hope you will see the dire need to prioritize Vancouver Lake for clean-up.

Thank you.