

Gerald Neuburger

My family has been sailing on Vancouver Lake since the early 1980's. Unfortunately, the lake has slowly degraded over the years. It offers the best option for small boat activities in the Portland Metropolitan area. Portland has nothing like this, only Vancouver does. However as it degrades that advantage disappears. If cleaned up and/or upgraded it becomes a destination for boating activities for the whole west coast. There are some activities that draw from outside now but dirty and clogged conditions are making that more difficult.

There are many levels of remediation that could be undertaken. It is possible to restore it to usable status without major reconstruction. Just clean the water up. It is also possible to upgrade it to a major developmental position. This could spur large development of housing and recreational retail. The level of activities on the water would also greatly expand.

The Vancouver Lake sailing club has had the same level of activity and membership since we joined in early 1980's. The condition of the water has always acted as a brake on the growth. We should be by far the best sailing option in the area and a prime west coast destination. And we are that during limited time during the year when water is high. However, we are in danger of going away if the lake degrades too much.