

Tiffany Moon

To me, Vancouver Lake is more than just a park for family recreation, fishing and boating. It is also place where my Dragonboat team Catch-22, as well as many other community, high school and college rowing teams gather to practice for our sporting events. It is a place where myself and my teammates grow and learn about ourselves and our community. It is a place where people find peace and comfort in spending time with their families and friends while enjoying nature.

Unless it is the middle of summer that is... because during that time it is a place where one finds the dreaded algae bloom, and harmful bacteria including Ecoli as a result of improper wildlife management. During the peak summer season, a time when people and animals should enjoying this beautiful location for its recreation and wildlife, the lake becomes toxic and life threatening to pets and people. For me personally, this also means my team is forced to stop practicing for our own competitions to be held all over the state and the world and have to cancel large scale community events which bring people together and generate funding to valuable non-profit organizations. This sort of mismanagement and lack of attention to a serious health issue is an embarrassment and we/you can do better.