

Nancy Hays

Please consider clean up of Vancouver Lake. I am a member of the Vancouver Lake sailing club. Despite its long status as a Category 5 303(d) impaired water body, Vancouver Lake has not been prioritized for clean up by the State of Washington.

Please see the following 5 reasons to make clean up of Vancouver Lake a priority.

1 Severity of the pollution problem – the Lake falls into Category 5 on temperature, PCBs, turbidity, bacteria in the water, total phosphorous, Deldrin and other toxins. Conjoined water bodies such as Lake River, Burnt Bridge Creek and Salmon Creek add to the Lake's woes with their own Category 5 issues.

2 Risks to public health – each season the Lake and this community miss out on the opportunity to host thousands of competitive athletes and visitors to the largest lake within a 50-mile radius of a major West Coast city and international airport (Portland) for world, national, west coast, regional, and state competitive rowing competitions, dragon boating competitions and outrigger canoe events due to blue-green algae blooms and E.coli issues. The same conditions affect swim beaches and community recreational uses such as sailing, kayaking, and paddle boarding. Risks to health from cyanobacteria are well established.

3 Risks to threatened and endangered species – The Lake temperature, toxicity and shallow depth threaten salmonids, lower Columbia chum, Chinook and steelhead.

4 Vulnerability of water bodies to degradation – As temperature, toxicity, flow and dilution issues remain unaddressed, the Lake faces a new foe – Eurasian Milfoil Weed taking hold throughout the shallow waters threatening swimmers and recreation. Failure to address increased flow of colder Columbia River water through the existing Flushing Channel – a waterway with only one Category 5 designation for temperature – warrants an updated hydrological study.

5 Local support and interest in a watershed – For more than 40 years, the Vancouver and Clark County communities have understood the enormous possibilities that Vancouver Lake represents for outdoor recreation, economic development and the important personal well-being that results from time spent recreating with families and friends in the beautiful outdoors.