

EUGENE & KAREN FOSTER

Dear Sir;

Originally Residents from Washington State, both my wife and I returned to the Great Northwest after living in numerous other locations. We have always loved our State for its natural beauty and accessibility to countless outdoor recreational activities. Our home for ten years prior was very near Vancouver Lake. We enjoyed the scenery and wildlife associated with the Lake. Four years ago, we were fortunate to locate on the Lake itself. We are now able to enjoy the beauty and wonder of The Vancouver Sail Club, and Vancouver Rowing Club activities and observe many forms of wildlife from our front yard. The bald Eagles, North American Pelicans, are stunning in this habitat. We often see cormorants, Canadian geese, ducks and osprey, as well as coyote, deer, racoons, and pheasant etc. daily.

It has been concerning and disappointing to watch the deterioration of the Lake's quality in the last 4 years. The milfoil is rapidly spreading to the point that it is now visible in virtually every area including our shoreline. If you should want to take a boat to the north side of Turtle Island, it is impassable.

Both the Lake and the Lake River need dredging. The recreational viability of the lake is decreasing. Lack of adequate water flow and contaminants from Burnt Bridge Creek are rapidly stifling the Lake. If nothing is done to reverse the causes of the deterioration to the lake, it may soon be known as Vancouver Swamp.

Loss of the use of the lake would be a travesty, impacting numerous kinds of wildlife as well as the recreational, aesthetic and economic value of the community.

We urge you to raise Vancouver Lake on your list of priorities for cleanup and restoration.

Sincerely,

Gene & Karen Foster

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