

Sophia Prentice-Wattson

Vancouver Lake is a special place to a lot of people, myself included. I had the honor and wonderful opportunity to use this body of water for crew when I was in high school. This lake offers a place for kids to unite, a second home to some, and it breaks my heart to hear about what condition it's currently in and that it hasn't been bumped to a higher priority. Even 5 or 6 years ago when I was actively involved with the Lake, there were times where it wasn't safe to swim or row in. Not only do the health risks affect kids like me on the crew team, but also to other residents of Vancouver. Across the lake from the crew boathouse, Vancouver Lake hosts the Vancouver Sailing Club. Just to the south of the sailing club is a small fishing spot, yet no fish to catch. Moving around the lake to the west side, there is a great little beach where many people take their kids swim, paddle board, and kayak. Going northwest down Lake River, the water inlet for Vancouver Lake, there are people who live in house boats. You see, I only participated in rowing, yet I know so much about our neighbors and the amazing community that Vancouver Lake has to offer. I am one of many extremely saddened to hear about the current state of the lake and ask that it gets aid immediately.