Pamela WRIGHT

I am writing out of frustration and disappointment that the water quality in Vancouver Lake is too dangerous for recreational activities. We moved to the Northwest neighborhood of Vancouver several years ago with our daughters (now 7 and 9). It has been very frustrating to not be able to share our love of the water with our children due to persistent water quality issues at Vancouver Lake. We love family adventures swimming, playing in canoes, on paddle boards and on small sailboats as well as observing wildlife at the Lake, but last year we had very few opportunities to use Vancouver Lake because water quality restrictions made it too dangerous, especially for children. The persistent water quality issues kept us from entering Vancouver Lake most of the summer. I considered signing my daughter up for a rowing camp at the Lake, but they weren't even able to enter the water during some of the camps because of dangerous water quality. I ended up driving my boat (pulled by a gas powered vehicle) to clean water ways 1-2 hours away rather than expose myself and my children to dangerous water quality. We have been stuck with the choice of not recreating in the water or contributing to air quality emissions and traffic congestion in order to recreate in water.

We played at Vancouver Lake at the County Park in previous years when water quality was not as poor, and we were pleased by the diverse community of people enjoying the park; it's not just people with human/wind powered boats nor is English the dominant language spoken on many days we've visited. Vancouver has no public outdoor pools, so the only outdoor swimming options are private pools, Klineline, Vancouver Lake or driving into Portland. Vancouver Lake could keep so many more locals recreating locally if it were managed to maximize its recreational potential. How can we improve the water quality of the Lake so that we capitalize on and enjoy this wonderful resource? Please prioritize water quality at Vancouver Lake!

Thank you for your time.