

## Elliza McGrand

Vancouver Lake is a neglected treasure. As a rower, we go to several major regattas there, and an abiding joy is when the phenomenal coaches of the Vancouver Lake rowing clubs host us in guest rows. Their junior program has not just been producing winning female and male athletes for years, but offering programs that are enriching and guiding kids beautifully, as well as bringing families closer by encouraging parental and sibling participation.

But Vancouver Lake is at risk. There is an underlying pollution problem long overdue for reclamation and preventive measures. An invasive plant species is endangering the already degrading water quality and animal pests are also having negative impacts. The employees make valiant efforts to keep the park welcoming and safe but more investment in this asset is critical. It is still swimmable, but only just, and it will be an unnecessary tragedy if it becomes too polluted for use.

Please, visit this beautiful place for yourselves, and then scoot it way up on the priority list! Thank you for your thoughtful reading of this and other emails about Vancouver Lake.