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As a Category 5 303(d) impaired body of water Vancouver lake should already be in the process of restoring. Seeing as funding is always an issue I'd like to take a moment to share why Vancouver Lake should be at the top of the list for restoration. Vancouver Lake is a vital piece to the health, sustainability, and watershed of Clark County and beyond as it connects to the Columbia river which has an effect all the way to the Pacific ocean and beyond. This fragile eco-system and community center have degraded quickly over the last 10 years. This degradation affects water, land, and air eco-system as well as the well being of vulnerable youth and disabled athletes. The lake is so full of various matter that it is shallow across the entire lake allowing the lake to heat to unhealthy levels each summer as exhibited by the mass dying off of fish, birds, and toxic algae blooms. And you must remember that this toxic water travels down Lake river to the Columbia River going through the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

(<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Ridgefield>) opening additional environmental and eco-system harm downstream! Vancouver lake is also home to the Vancouver Lake Sailing Club(<https://vlsc.org/>) and Vancouver Lake Rowing Club and Aquatic Center

(<https://www.vancouverlakerowingclub.com/>) both incredible contributors to the community of Clark County. They provide resources, community, and outlets to children, youth and adults of South West Washington. These clubs also offer support to vulnerable children and youth as a place to make connections with positive adult support. They also offer opportunities for disabled youth and adults to participate in water sports. This lake is so much more than a body of water!

Vancouver lake has a ripple effect that touches so many. Vancouver Lakes eco-system includes SouthWest Washington, North West Oregon, and the Pacific ocean. It is time to stop putting off what needs to be done to return this vital and fragile lake back to where it needs to be for it to continue to be a healthy contributor to its eco-system instead of allowing it to spread toxins further due to lack of attention. Vancouver Lake cannot heal on its own. The pollution and degradation are not a product of the natural cycle of a body of water but are a result of man-made interference that we are responsible to correct.

Our family has greatly enjoyed the lake during the spring, winter, and fall months over the last 10 years, via special events and the Vancouver Lake Aquatic Center. We don't enjoy it in the summers as it smells awful and the algae blooms make it unusable. As someone who loves the water and grew up on Lake Tapps (Auburn, WA) it's beyond horrible how we have let the lake become so gross and unusable. We have had numerous events and celebrations over the years with family, friends, and others from our community. It's a part of what makes SW Washington so special and it is worth our time, effort, and finances to make it a usable beautiful resource again.

Thank you for your time.