

Andrew Jones

I believe that Vancouver Lake, Washington should be a high priority for water cleanup, and below details my reasons why.

Vancouver Lake is a beautiful area, the nature is outstanding and it is a source of enjoyment for many. Currently the lake is facing a challenging situation. The quality of the water is deteriorating and the lake is essentially becoming toxic to users and the surrounding nature. If left to continue the lake may cease to be a viable recreation area to many.

The pollution problem is significant, and the lake falls into a category 5 based on temperature, PCBs, Bacteria, Delrin and other toxins. The other joined water bodies such as Lake River, Burnt Bridge Creek and Salmon Creek also add to the issues. Because of this pollution the lake misses out on various sporting events and other opportunities for people to enjoy it. If the lake was seen to be a safe, other activities such as sporting events and boating activities would be attracted to the location. This would also have the advantage of making South Washington more attractive to other visitors and tourism in general making the area attractive. Considering the investment in other local amenities, it seems that that this investment is adversely affected by the poor conditions of the lake. Whilst it should be noted that there is a loss of certain activities on the lake, there are those that still use it, and there is a risk to the health of those users. Many people and animals use the water, and all could face health risks, and by leaving the current water quality to continue to worsen, would increase those risks.

It would seem that certain remedies could be applied with little cost such as improving the flow of water through the lake. Other treatments may be more costly, but would greatly improve the quality of the water. Improving the quality would make the water safer, encourage more visitors, more sporting events, make the whole area more attractive and fit in with the states goals of making the area more desirable. Missing out on this opportunity could lead to the effective death of the lake, and the loss of a significant asset to the City of Vancouver and the State.

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