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I grew up in Camas, WA, along many bodies of water. I swam in Lacamas Lake when the water was high enough, made sandcastles on the banks of the Columbia before the summer algal blooms, and learned to row on Vancouver Lake, despite frequent and severe e. Coli outbreaks and algal blooms. The lake is a popular biking area, hosts a rowing and sailing club, and is the site of several rowing championships each year. I ran my first half marathon when I was 17 at Vancouver Lake.

I learned to row on the lake, which led to a successful collegiate career rowing at Western. The lake is a focal point of the Vancouver community and should be restored. The lake is severely polluted, whether by point-sources or non-point sources, and we must take action to clean it up and restore it for future generations. It has been this way for years, but that doesn"t mean we can"t do something about it now.