Lake Stevens
2022 Health Report

Lake Health = **EXCELLENT**
The lake health is excellent as alum treatments keep phosphorus and algae low. Actions are still needed to prevent pollution and improve shoreline health.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Indicators</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Water Clarity</strong></td>
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<td>Excellent – Average clarity is 25.6 feet and is getting better.</td>
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<td>Visibility in water</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Phosphorus</strong></td>
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<td>Excellent – Phosphorus levels are low as a result of ongoing alum treatments.</td>
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<td>Keeping it low prevents algae</td>
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<td><strong>Algae</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Excellent – Algae levels are low. The lake rarely has toxic algae blooms.</td>
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<td>Problematic if too much</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Shorelines</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Poor – Only 16% of the lake shoreline has trees and shrubs rather than lawns.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shoreline plants protect the lake</td>
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Possible ratings include: Poor Fair Good Excellent

Based on data collected from 2013-2021. For additional details and data, visit www.lakes.surfacewater.info.

Take Action to Keep Stevens Healthy

- **I Love Lake**
  Make small changes on your property to prevent phosphorus pollution (see reverse side).

- **Retain Trees & Shrubs**
  Keep or plant more trees and shrubs. They reduce and clean polluted runoff.

- **Prevent Milfoil**
  Clean, drain and dry your boat before launching or leaving the lake to prevent the spread of invasive plants.

See back for details on how you can help.

Lake Stevens Watershed
The properties inside the yellow line drain to the lake and make up the lake’s watershed. The area outside the yellow line drains to other lakes, streams or rivers.

Lake Stevens Facts
- Lake Stevens is the largest and deepest natural lake in the county, and is a destination kokanee fishery.
- To reduce phosphorus pollution the world's largest aeration system was installed in 1994.
- In 2013 the aerator was replaced with cost-effective alum treatments that reduce phosphorus and prevent algae.
- Lake Stevens has the highly invasive plant Eurasian watermilfoil, which is treated annually in the spring.
Phosphorus pollution is the culprit behind excessive algae growth. It comes from houses draining to the lake from common sources like lawn fertilizers, fecals (waterfowl, pet waste, livestock, septic systems), and lawn clippings. Even though the current water quality in Lake Stevens is classified as healthy, that’s largely because of the current Alum treatments. While Alum is an effective short term solution, it’s expensive and not the most sustainable long term solution. Check out the Lake-Friendly actions below to help protect Lake Stevens.

Avoid fertilizer that contains phosphorus.
The zero in the middle signifies how much phosphorus is in the bag.

Properly dispose of lawn clippings.
Either dispose in a green bin, or leave them on your lawn as a natural fertilizer.

Use a commercial car wash facility.
When cars are washed at home, the soap and grime run into the closest stormdrain or ditch and into local waterways.

Always pick up your pet’s waste, even in your yard.
Pick up dog poop, bag it and place it in the trash (not in the yard waste bin).

Maintain a leak-free septic system.
If you have a septic system, check it regularly, and pump as needed. Remember to get an inspection every 3 years.

Practice shoreline friendly landscaping.
Replace shoreline lawns with other shrubs, trees, or perennials.

Visit ilovelake.org to learn more

I Love Lake is a partnership between the City of Lake Stevens and Snohomish Conservation District. The campaign aims to raise awareness and promote community-wide lake-friendly actions to keep our lake healthy for years to come.