
The following was excerpted from the Sunday Lake Algae Control Plan Section 12.4

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK ON RECOMMENDATIONS

This algae control plan is for the Sunday Lake community. Therefore, it was critical to obtain community feedback on the plan to make any necessary changes as well as to include guidance on the next steps. Initially a public meeting was planned to present the draft algae control plan and recommendations to the Sunday Lake community. However, the meeting was cancelled due to CoVid-19 limitations, SWM instead posted an online presentation along with the draft plan and executive summary. In addition, SWM developed an online survey where community members could provide feedback. The presentation and survey were advertised through a mailer, a posting to the NextDoor website and an email to the community members. A summary of the community feedback is presented below. The survey form and full responses can also be found in the Sunday Lake Algae Control Plan Technical Appendix Section F.

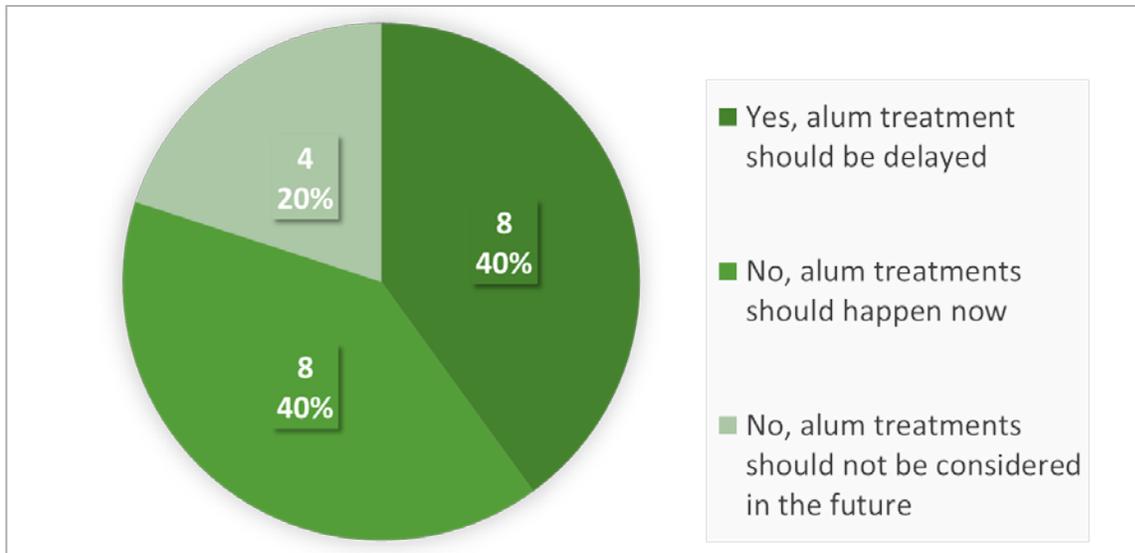
PARTICIPATION RATES

In total 20 households in the Sunday Lake watershed completed the online survey. Fourteen of the participants were shoreline landowners representing 36% of the 39 shoreline landowners. Five households were part of the Sunday Lake Community Club but didn't live on the shoreline representing 5% of the 120 landowners. One participant lived near Sunday Lake but was not a member of the community club.

RECOMMENDATION #1: DELAY ALUM TREATMENTS

When asked if they agreed with the plans main recommendation of alum treatments, eighty percent (16) of the respondents agreed that alum treatments should be performed on Sunday Lake (Figure 12-1). However, within this group 50% (8) agreed with the County's recommendation to delay the treatments because of the high cost and 50% (8) felt that the alum treatment should occur now. Respondents were given a list of reasons to choose from as well as an option to write in their own reason for their response

FIGURE 12-1: RESPONSES TO "DO YOU AGREE WITH RECCOMENDATION TO DELAY ALUM TREATMENTS?"



The 8 respondents that agreed that alum treatments should occur but should be delayed cited four main reasons (Table 12-3). The largest reason was that they did not think their neighbors could afford treatments (7 responses) or they could not afford the treatments themselves (4 responses).

TABLE 12-1: REASONS CITED TO DELAY ALUM TREATMENT (8 RESPONDENTS)

Responses	Number
I don't think my neighbors can afford the alum treatments;	7
I can't afford the alum treatments	4
Removing the invasive aquatic lilies is a higher priority than preventing excessive/toxic algae growth;	3
There are other things I'd like to spend my money on	1

The 8 respondents that thought that alum should occur now and not be delayed indicated the following reasons as shown in Table 12-4.

TABLE 12-2: REASONS CITED TO HAVE ALUM TREATMENTS HAPPEN NOW (8 RESPONDENTS)

Responses	Number
Improving oxygen conditions for fish is critical for Sunday Lake	4
The costs of the program are worth the health benefits to the lake	3
The excessive/toxic algae growth already impairs my ability to recreate in the lake	3
I'm worried about the value of my property decreasing without action	2
Worried about continual decline of lake conditions and risks to pets and children	1

Finally, four of the 20 residents did not feel alum treatments should be performed at Sunday Lake. Their concerns are shown in Table 12-5.

TABLE 12-3: REASONS CITED TO NOT CONDUCT ALUM TREATMENTS (4 RESPONDENTS)

Responses	Number
I'm concerned about the safety of alum treatments	2
The alum treatments will never be affordable	1
Removing the invasive aquatic lilies is a higher priority than preventing excessive/toxic algae growth;	1
Restoring lake depth is more important.	1
Leave the lake alone. Let nature progress	1

At the end of the survey, residents had an opportunity to provide additional comments regarding the plan. Many of these comments focused on the alum treatment aspect of the plan as follows:

Comments in support of alum:

- *I am for the alum treatment and the large first year fee for lake front owners.*
- *I think alum treatments is the best option and only believe it should be delayed because the costs. I support delaying alum treatment but I think we should begin the financial planning for it by developing a committee and implementing a surcharge to begin collecting funds for alum treatment in the near future.*
- *It's works on many other lakes to improve the health of lakes*
- *I have seen Lake Ketchum and it looks so good. I hope this lake (Sunday) get[s] the help it needs. The lily pads are part of the lakes poor health. I think the county should tax the water shed to clean up/restore the lake.*
- *Would like this done as soon as possible*

Comments not in support of alum:

- *I believe that setting up a fountain system would be more beneficial.*
- *As long as the geese are allowed to live on the lake in the colder months, no amount of alum will solve this problem and I believe that it's unfair to ask residents to fund a project, such as alum treatment when it will never solve the problem as long as the geese are around.*

- *I have lived on Sunday Lake for over 66 years and it has not changed much except a lot more houses. It has always had a muddy bottom.*
- *Human intervention only delays the inevitable*
- *I would happily help fund any efforts to restore the depth of the lake, even if those efforts were very expensive. I would resist funding any solutions that do not address restoring lake depth (dredging or damming).*

RECOMMENDATION #2 THROUGH #5

Survey participants were also asked to indicate whether or not they agreed with the remaining recommendations of the plan and provide comments with regards to these recommendations as shown in Table 12-6.

TABLE 12-4: COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR RECCOMENDATIONS 2 THROUGH 5 (20 RESPONDENTS)

Recommendation	Yes	No	Unsure
#2 - Continue the LakeWise program to reduce residential phosphorus and prevent lake conditions from worsening	14	4	2
#3 - Continue Volunteer Lake Monitoring to track the health of Sunday lake	17	3	0
#4 - Preserve native aquatic plants which prevent algae blooms	18	1	1
#5 - Conduct community lily control efforts with caution (remove plants incrementally versus all at once)	18	1	1

Recommendation #2: Continue the LakeWise program

The recommendation to continue the LakeWise program at Sunday Lake was supported by 14 or 70% of the respondents, four (20%) were not supportive and two (10%) were unsure. There were two comments that were specific to the LakeWise program as follows

- *“The plants for LakeWise are overgrown on most properties & only block the view of the lake... Also, very limited in slowing phosphorus runoff into the lake. The money would be better spent directly on the lake”.*
- *“Some people were very negative on the plantings and removed them. I am not sure this is the answer but if it does make a difference then use planting's that are dwarf species and do not block people's views. That is the complaint I have been told was an issue.”*

The above comments appear to refer to the Healthy Shores component of the LakeWise program. This is an optional certification for lake shoreline residents that is separate from the main program In 2015 & 2016, seven Lake Sunday shoreline properties participated in shoreline restoration program including the Sunday Lake Community Club property. Funds from a previous grant paid for shoreline plantings intended to reduce phosphorus pollution and improve the ecology of the lake shoreline. One of the seven participants elected to remove their plantings.

Recommendation #3: Continue volunteer lake monitoring

The recommendation to continue the volunteer lake monitoring program at Sunday Lake was supported by 85% (17) of the respondents (Table 12-6). Three respondents (15%) did not support continued volunteer lake monitoring. There were no comments that specifically addressed why lake monitoring was supported or not.

Recommendation #4: Preserve native aquatic plants which prevent algae blooms

The third recommendation is to preserve the native plant population. This means that residents do not take actions to actively remove native plants in the lake. 18 respondents (90%) were supportive of this recommendation, one was unsure, and one was not supportive. The only comment specifically addressed native plants as follows:

- *Not sure about how we are to preserve native aquatic plants. I agree that we need to if it will help prevent algae blooms.*

Recommendation #5: Continue community lily control efforts with caution (remove plants incrementally versus all at once)

The last recommendation was specific to the manner in which control of the invasive plant, fragrant water lily is conducted. As previously discussed, Snohomish County does not have a role in invasive lily control. This control work is directed and paid for by residents of Sunday Lake. There were several comments related to lily control as follows:

- *I will do whatever I can to improve lake and wildlife health but I believe most residents will be less concerned about algae levels as long as the invasive lilies are already restricting recreational enjoyment of the lake.*
- *I would like to be able to take my kids fishing in the lake without Lilly and other interference*
- *If the lily pads are sprayed at once it is not safe for the lake*
- *I believe that allowing the native lilies to thrive will help reduce phosphorus levels in the lake.*
- *Lily pad control isn't important to me.*

OTHER FEEDBACK

As mentioned previously, the survey allowed for residents to express any other feedback on the plan. The majority of the feedback not already provided was focused on the costs associated with the plan as follows:

- *I am sorry that it cost so much.*
- *There has to be a way to get the algae under control without costing so much monies. Also what if living on the lake and chose not to contribute monies how would that monies be absorbed?*
- *Surface water management property taxes and grants are at the limit that I would like to contribute to maintaining Sunday Lake.*
- *Difficult to make decisions when financial plan is not agreed upon or set.*

- *I like option 1 but I think we need to get some kind of association going to obtain funding and get everyone on board. However, it has been difficult getting funding for the lily pad removal and with the COVID issue people may not have extra money for this.*

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The final recommendations are shown in Figure 12-2. Recommendation #1 was changed from “delay alum treatments” to “plan for alum treatments” based on the high number of individuals that were interested in seeing implementation sooner despite the high costs.

FIGURE 12-2: FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

