

Sunday Lake Algae Control Plan – Response to Frequently Asked Question and Comments:

Restoration Alternative Questions

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).

Dredging was explored in Section 10.1.1. While this would be an excellent option to restore lake depth and remove phosphorus-rich sediments from the lake, the cost estimates are between \$21 and \$35 million based on comparable recent dredging projects in Washington. Therefore, this option was excluded from the final recommendations.

The plan did not explore damming of the lake outlet as the lake level would not change the availability of phosphorus that causes toxic algae. However, should the lake community wish to control lake levels, the most likely process is to go through the lake level adjudication process as outlined in Washington state law ([RCW 90.24 Regulation of outflow of lakes](#)). This process allows lake residents to petition superior court for an order to regulate lake levels. This may be requested for a variety of reasons, including aesthetics, recreational needs and flood control. Regulation of lake levels is usually handled on a case-by-case basis, depending on the reason for the request.

I believe that setting up a fountain system would be more beneficial.

There were several options in the plan that explored lake aeration. Whole-aeration coupled with alum injection as described in 10.2.4 is one of the final options chosen. Aeration of the lake bottom (hypolimnetic aeration) was explored in the plan in Section 10.1.3 but was rejected due to the cost.

Surface aeration by fountains was not an option explored in the plan as this only achieves a small amount of localized water circulation which would have no impact on the phosphorus concentrations in the lake. If a blue-green algal scum is present on the lake surface, a fountain may help to circulate it and break up the scum. However, the algae and the phosphorus would still be present in the lake.

I believe that allowing the native lilies to thrive will help reduce phosphorus levels in the lake.

Native lilies are also known as yellow lilies or spatterdock and are distinguished from the invasive species, fragrant water lily, by their yellow flowers and more elongated leaves. There is also another native plant called watershield that look similar to lilies but have small oval-shaped leaves. These plants along all aquatic plants compete with algae for nutrients which could help to reduce the amount of toxic algae in the lake during the growing season. They do not, however, reduce the overall amount of phosphorus in the lake and sediments as the phosphorus they take up is re-released when they die back in the fall.

It should also be noted that the majority of lilies on Sunday Lake are the invasive fragrant water lily which is the target of community control efforts and not the native lilies. As mentioned previously,

invasive lily control is outside of the scope of the algae control plan and is being conducted by resident at Sunday Lake and not Snohomish County.

Cost & Funding Related Questions:

What happened to the grant money?

The Washington State Department of Ecology grant was an award of \$45,000 over two years to develop an algae control plan for both Sunday Lake and Lake Loma. Approximately \$27,000 of the grant funds were used to develop the Sunday Lake plan. Grant funds were used to pay for water quality sample costs, sediment core analysis and the limnological consultant to analyzed data and develop the restoration alternatives for each plan. In addition, Snohomish County Surface Water Management provided the required matching grant funds of \$15,000 and more in staff time. SWM staff spent approximately 1,040 hours to complete the plans at the two lakes over the grant period, Staff time was used to apply for and manage the grant, conduct the water quality sampling, write the algae control plans, and conduct outreach to the community including the presentation and collecting and incorporating community feedback.

There has to be a way to get the algae under control without costing so much money?

The plan includes a thorough analysis of all potential restoration options based on the best available science for lake restoration. The options presented were identified as the most effective with the lowest cost. While there is some uncertainty in the nutrient load from the waterfowl in particular, we provided the best estimate possible to ensure the community sees positive results from their investment.

Is the alum treatment financial plan (element 2) spread out over the entire watershed or just the lakefront owners and Sunday Lake Community?

The financial scenario presented in the executive summary and Section 12.2 includes only the lakefront owners and residents in the Sunday Lake community club that have partial ownership of the community property (see next two questions for more details). Funding options are further explained in Section 14. The funding structure can take a variety of forms and is one of the decision points that will need to be made by community members.

How was the breakout of the costs between lakefront and community determined? - Why is it so substantially higher for lakefront owners?

The cost share scenario presented in the executive summary and the plan (Section 12.2) is just one potential scenario. We chose this scenario as an example it was the one adopted by the Lake Ketchum community who has a very similar situation with two community access sites. It is also comparable to Lake Goodwin/Lake Shoecraft that are working on milfoil control work. However, the distribution can be anything the community decides upon. If the funds are collected via a formal structure (e.g. a lake management district or a surface water fee surcharge), the distribution will require approval by community members as outlined in the Section 14 of the plan.

Will the decision to move forward be based on a majority vote or need to be unanimous? And by who? Entire watershed or SL community and lakefront owners?

The recommended next step laid out in Section 13 of the plan is to create a committee of Sunday Lake residents. Their responsibility would be to decide on the final plan options, the funding strategy, timeline for implementation etc. They would then work with the greater community to see if there is general support of the plan with the approval process decided by the community. However, a more formal approval process would be required should the community seek to collect funds from all community members through either a Lake Management District or Surface Water Management Fee surcharge as laid out in Section 14 of the plan. The community would also need to seek approval from Snohomish County Surface Water Management should any part of the plan require commitments of their staff time or financial contributions as laid out in Section 14.3.

What if people chose not to contribute monies how would that monies be absorbed?

If funds were collected on a voluntary basis then other landowners would need to absorb the cost. However, a more formal funding structure such as the Lake Management District or Surface Water Management Fee surcharge would have collection processes similar to property tax collection. Further details are laid out in Section 14 of the plan.

What is the age to qualify as a senior for fee exemption?

The senior fee exemption is relevant should the community seek to collect funds via a Surface Water Management fee surcharge. SWM fees are collected in the same bill as property taxes and would follow the same exemptions. You can see the policy for exemptions on the assessor's website at <https://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/328/Property-Tax-Exemptions>.

Do not spend money for LakeWise, septic maintenance rebates, workshops etc.... Spend the grant & county money on alum (algae)/phosphate (lily pads) for the lake.

The LakeWise program is currently funded by Snohomish County Surface Water Management utility charges and was designed to help residents prevent phosphorus pollution from their property. LakeWise is open to lake watershed residents at all Snohomish County lakes. Septic system care workshops and rebates are open to all residents in unincorporated Snohomish County. These workshops are geared towards preventing nutrient and bacteria pollution to all of our County waterways. Therefore, it is unlikely that these programs will be discontinued. Furthermore, the small amount that is spent at Sunday Lake each year would not significantly contribute to the restoration funding. However, the LakeWise program is completely voluntary, so there is no requirement for Sunday Lake residents to participate.