



Focus on Cottage Lake Cleanup Plan

from Ecology's Water Quality Program

Did you know that Cottage Lake has too much phosphorus, and needs your help? To help solve this problem, a Water Cleanup Plan to reduce phosphorus in the lake has been developed and is ready for your review and comments. An Open House and meeting will be held so the Department of Ecology and King County can explain what's planned and hear your ideas and opinions.

Please consider joining other local citizens and friends of Cottage Lake at the Open House and Public Meeting

Tuesday, January 27, 2004; 6:00-9:00 p.m.*

Woodinville Public Library

17105 Avondale Road, N.E.

Woodinville, WA 98072

(*Open House: 6:00-7:00 p.m., meeting 7:00-9:00 p.m.)

This meeting will also include information about land use planning and is co-sponsored by King County, Upper Bear Creek Unincorporated Area Council, & the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology)

At the open house, you can:

- Meet and talk to staff from Ecology, King County, Snohomish County, Woodinville Water and Sewer District, and King Conservation District to learn more about current and future activities.
- Hear presentations and answers to questions about Cottage Lake's pollution problems and Ecology's draft Water Cleanup Plan, which is aimed at improving water quality throughout the watershed.
- Obtain a copy of the draft Water Cleanup Plan at the open house, at the Woodinville Public Library, at Ecology's Bellevue Office (see address below), or on the internet at: www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0310085.html
- Comment on the plan at the meeting or provide written comments to Tricia Shoblom (address below) by March 1, 2004.

What is a Water Cleanup Plan?

Also known as a Total Maximum Daily Load Assessment *or* TMDL, these plans are developed for water bodies that are considered polluted under the guidelines of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA). This federal law requires states to identify sources of pollution in waters that fail to meet state water quality standards, and to develop plans to address those pollutants. The plan establishes limits on pollutants that can be discharged to the water body so that state water quality standards can be met.

Where is the phosphorus coming from?

All lakes have a natural life span that can last thousands of years. However, the natural aging process can be dramatically shortened when human activities within the surrounding watershed impact lakes. Excessive nutrients are the biggest problem and can cause the lake to turn boggy. Many contributors cause nutrients to flow into the lake. These include poorly functioning septic systems, improperly managed animal waste, misuse of yard and field fertilizers, and road runoff.

Why is phosphorus a concern?

It's a case of too much of a good thing. While phosphorus is a valuable nutrient, its over-abundance causes the growth of problem algae, other aquatic weeds, and problem organisms. Besides being harmful to aquatic life, these create problems familiar to lake users and property owners.

What can you do to help the water quality of Cottage Lake?

Here are some of the many things you can do in and around your home to help Cottage Lake:

- Ensure proper maintenance and function of your septic system.
- Landscape without fertilizers and pesticides; plant trees.
- Prevent runoff from animal wastes from impacting Cottage Lake.
- Plant buffers between the lake and homeowner properties.
- See information below for how to help with habitat restoration and water pollution prevention.

How can you stay involved?

After the close of the public comment period, Ecology will review and consider the comments received. Following this review, the Water Cleanup Plan may be modified. When complete, the TMDL will be sent to EPA for approval.

Next, Ecology will start developing the "Detailed Implementation Plan." This will list the specific actions needed to clean up Cottage Lake and who will do them. Please let Ecology know if you would like the opportunity to influence and contribute to the Detailed Implementation Plan.

For more information or to send comments:

**Please contact Tricia Shoblom, Dept. of Ecology
Water Quality Program, 3190 160th Ave., SE,
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452. Phone: 425-649-7288; /E-mail: tsho461@ecy.wa.gov**

If you need this publication in an alternate format, please contact DouGlas Palenshus at 425-649-7041 or TTY (for the speech and hearing impaired) at 711 or 1-800-833-6388.