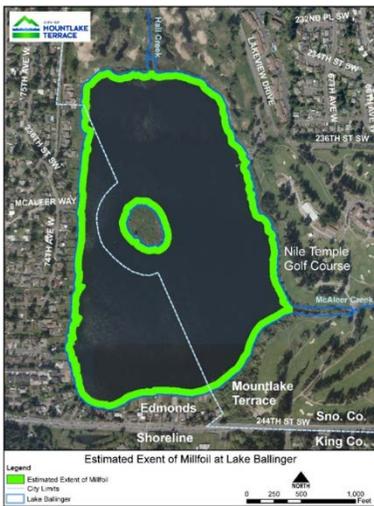


Lake Ballinger Invasive Aquatic Weed Control

Why am I getting this mailing? You are receiving this flyer because the City of Mountlake Terrace has been awarded a permit from the Washington Department of Ecology to use herbicides in Lake Ballinger to control Eurasian watermilfoil, Fragrant water lily, and Curly leaf pondweed in Lake Ballinger.



Why now? As you may have already observed from your property, dense mats of aquatic weeds now cover 80-90% of the nearshore area of Lake Ballinger. A June 2018 plant survey of the lake showed that nearly 18 acres of Lake Ballinger are covered with a mixture of Eurasian water milfoil (a Class B noxious weed), Fragrant waterlily (a Class C noxious weed), and Curly leaf Pondweed (a Class C noxious weed).

Why is it a problem? Lake residents and lake users have reported that the plants restrict movement and make it difficult to

boat or fish. The decomposing plants smell unpleasant when they die off in the fall. There's also a safety hazard; in other lakes, swimmers have become entangled in dense plant stands. Water quality in the lake has also been impacted by the aggressive aquatic plant growth. Plant mats prevent wind from mixing surface oxygenated water through the water column. Low oxygen levels can then trigger increased phosphorus release from lake sediments. These conditions have in the past led to toxic algae blooms on Lake Ballinger.

What's the goal of the treatment? The goal of this invasive control effort is to encourage a more balanced native plant community, improve overall lake water quality, and support recreational activities.

What has been done so far? Since the spring of 2018, a steering committee composed of Lake Ballinger lakefront residents, lake users, the Nile Golf Course, an experienced limnologist, and city staff have been determining the best path forward to address the problem. They reviewed options, considered impacts, and decided on an adaptive management plan. The Lake Ballinger Integrated Aquatic Vegetation Plan (available on the Mountlake Terrace website) includes the use of placed burlap bags of sand for localized control on private property, and selective herbicides to combat the larger problem areas around the lake.

Eurasian watermilfoil *Myriophyllum spicatum*



Fragrant water lily *Nymphaea odorata*



Curly leaf Pondweed *Potamogeton crispus*



8-30-12 Ron Vanderhoff

Next Steps

In late July 2019, a licensed and experienced aquatic herbicide contractor will treat approximately 9 acres of Eurasian water milfoil (50% of the shallow lake area) with Florpyrauxifen-benzyl. In late July, mid-August and early September of 2019, 25% of the lake shallows area (about 4.5 acres) of non-native water lilies and pondweed will be treated with Fluridone. The work is being paid for by an Ecology grant. These selective herbicides were chosen by the steering committee in order to minimize risk to humans, wildlife, and to cause the least amount of restriction for swimming and fishing. Both herbicides have been approved by the EPA for use in potable water sources.

Prior to herbicide treatment, an additional notice to all lakefront property owners will be mailed, and immediately prior to herbicide application, all lakefront property will be posted.

For other concerns or questions, please contact:

Laura Reed, City of Mountlake Terrace, Project Manager at lreed@ci.mlt.wa.us (425) 744-6226.

Remember: always check boats and fishing gear when you enter or leave the lake; remove all plant fragments and toss them in the trash. Never dump aquariums into lakes.



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