

VANCOUVER LAKE WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP OVERVIEW

Formed:

October 2004

Founding Partners:

Port of Vancouver, City of Vancouver Department of Public Works, Clark County Department of Public Works, Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation, and Fruit Valley Neighborhood Association

“Unrestrained” Vision:

Vancouver Lake is valued as a regional community treasure and environmental resource. It supports healthy, diverse native plant and animal communities and offers a wide variety of recreational uses. The Lake is fishable and swimmable, acclaimed for its high water quality. It thrives amid economically vibrant neighboring development. Contributing watersheds are actively and holistically managed. A watershed council provides ongoing collaborative oversight and accountability.

Partnership Members

Agency Members:

Port of Vancouver
City of Vancouver Public Works
Clark County Public Works
Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation
Clark County Health Department
Clark Public Utilities
Port of Ridgefield
Washington Department of Ecology
Washington Department of Natural Resources
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland division

Citizen Members:

Nancy Ellifrit, retired U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist
Don Jacobs, Vancouver attorney and area resident
Gary Kokstis, past Commodore of Vancouver Lake Sailing Club
Clark Martin, area resident and citizen-at-large
Lee McCallister, President of Fruit Valley Neighborhood Association
Thom McConathy, founder of Clark County Water Resource Quality Council and Friends of Vancouver Lake Lowlands
James Meyer, BPA environmental manager and adjacent landowner/resident
Jane Van Dyke, executive director of Columbia Slough Watershed Council
Vern Veysey, real estate consultant, former County commissioner and former Clark Parks and Recreation staff member

OVERVIEW VANCOUVER LAKE AND ASSOCIATED WATERSHED:

Location:

Vancouver Lake lies five miles west of downtown Vancouver.
(Clark County pop: 391,500)

Related Water Bodies:

Columbia River, Lake River, Burnt Bridge Creek, Salmon Creek, and other connected tributaries.

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Public Facilities:

Includes Vancouver Lake Park, Frenchman's Bar Park, Frenchman's Trail, Shillapoo Wildlife Area, South Vancouver Wildlife and Wetlands Preserve, and Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

Resource Highlights:

- More than 10,000 acres of protected parks and habitat areas from Vancouver Lake to Lewis River.
- Includes most productive water resource area in Clark County as identified under the Washington State Water Resource Inventory Area (WIRA) Note: Troutdale Aquifer has been classified as a sole source aquifer by U.S. EPA.
- Attracts more than 100,000 visitors each year for swimming, canoeing, fishing, hiking, picnicking, wildlife viewing and more.
- Provides habitat for more than 200 bird species and is part of the Pacific Flyway that supports more than 200,000 wintering waterfowl each year.
- Provides habitat and supports migration for ESA-listed lower Columbia salmonid populations in Columbia River system.

Identified Issues to Date

Include but not limited to: water quality, hydrology, siltation and frequent bluegreen algal blooms

Funding allocated for 2007-08:

- City of Vancouver Public Works: \$50K budgeted per year for Partnership efforts.
- Clark County Public Works: \$75K budgeted per year for Partnership efforts.
- Port of Vancouver: \$60K budgeted for Partnership efforts in 2007, including approximately \$10K for flushing channel monitoring, pending Commission approval on 11/28. Also, \$250K expected to be spent on dredging flushing channel.

Studies completed or proposed:

- Port of Vancouver: Flushing channel flow monitoring study in progress and expected to continue through December 2007. Work includes continuous measurements of water flow through the flushing channel culverts and water level measurements in the channel and Vancouver Lake.
- WSU Vancouver: Study of cyanobacteria in Vancouver Lake expected to begin in 2007. Work may include preliminary investigations into factors influencing algae blooms and analysis of existing data for patterns and trends.
- US Army Corps of Engineers:
 - Completed study: Under Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) 2000 Section 536, Lower Columbia River ecosystem restoration program authority, a Preliminary Restoration Plan (PRP) for Vancouver Lake was completed in 2006. Cost: \$10K. Findings: improved hydraulic conditions and introduction of riparian vegetation and large woody debris may improve salmonid fish habitat conditions.
 - Proposed study: A feasibility study, based on the PRP study findings is scheduled for FY07 (starting Oct. 1, 2006). Scope and focus: a) quantify lake salmonid baseline; b) improve flushing channel tide-gate for better migration potential; c) improve hydraulic conditions through dredging, and; d) create habitat diversity. Federal funds allotted for this study: \$100K. Any remaining feasibility phase costs above and beyond \$100K are subject to 50/50 share with the project sponsors (Clark County, City of Vancouver and the Port of Vancouver).

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