



LAKE LAWRENCE LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

15735 Topaz Dr. SE, Yelm, WA 98597

Lakelawrence750@gmail.com

LAKE LAWRENCE
Management District
Steering Committee

Lake Lawrence LMD Annual Report

October 2025 - September 2026

This past year has been one of continued progress, persistence, and community effort for the Lake Lawrence Lake Management District (LLLMD). Together—with the support of dedicated volunteers, local agencies, and our community—we have tackled challenges, built on successes, and continued our mission to protect the health and beauty of Lake Lawrence.

This annual summary highlights our key accomplishments, ongoing efforts, and future plans. It also fulfills the Thurston County Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program reporting requirements and supports our eligibility for stormwater fee reductions.

Vegetation Monitoring

Lake Lawrence is divided into 33 Aquatic Vegetation Assessment Sites (AVAS) along the shoreline. Monitoring teams survey these sites by visually checking weeds at the surface and using a rake to collect submerged plants. Following Washington State Department of Ecology guidelines, we record vegetation density on a numeric scale.

The data we collect:

- Helps identify areas that need herbicide treatment.
- Tracks changes in plant species over time.
- Is shared with residents and contractors and posted on our website.
- Is reviewed during regular LLLMD meetings.

2026 Monitoring:

From April through August 2026, surveys were conducted every month to ensure we have an accurate picture of vegetation trends.

Vegetation Control

Yellow Flag Iris (YFI)

Although we have made remarkable progress in controlling Yellow Flag Iris (YFI). Treatment volumes have increased as shoreline property owners have failed to ensure YFI along their shorelines are removed. This is an essential part of the overall program:

- 2015: 8.58 gallons of Imazapyr; 2017: 4.47 gallons; 2020: 3.5 gallons; 2021: 2.6 gallons; 2022: 2.47 gallons; 2023: 1.28 gallons; 2024: 1.2 gallons; 2025: 2 gallons (a slight increase due to targeted treatments);
- 2026: 3.02 gallons of Imazapyr 4SL were used to spot treat 96 acres.

In 2026, treatment took place on 26 May. Follow-up surveys show the treatment did not work well. Treatment in conservation areas was spotty and inconsistent. Contractor used an air boat and traveled back and forth too fast and in too wide a path.

Future chemical treatments will be limited to high-density YFI areas with annual costs capped at \$1,500, funded by state grants and LMD funds.

Homeowner Involvement:

Washington law (RCW 17.10) requires all landowners to control noxious weeds on their property. We're helping residents learn how to do this safely: Demonstrating safe and effective Yellow Flag Iris removal: Watch here <https://youtu.be/wk5AVYtrWhA>.

- Informing residents on control and removal of other noxious and invasive species can be found on the Lake Lawrence YouTube Channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/@lakelawrence>.

Nuisance and Invasive Aquatic Weeds

Chemical Treatment:

On 30 April, 20 May, and 15 June 2026, contractor treated 34 acres with *Sonar One* herbicide (excluding the southernmost area, east side of Goat Island due to cost and canal). Treatments successfully targeted:

- Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP),
- Narrow Leaf Pondweed,
- Water Nymph and
- Common Elodea.

Fragrant Water Lily (FWL):

In 2026, FWL was not treated as lake surveys in June and July did not show sufficient mass to justify treatment. Treatment is expected in 2027 if lake surveys and budget allow.

A LLMD produced YouTube Video shows shoreline residents and HOA volunteers how to manually remove FWL: <https://youtu.be/ms-MfnAhCl8>

Toxic Algae

Toxic algae remained a challenge throughout this reporting period.

- 21 Oct -4 Nov 2025 Microcystin 10.9 ug/L
- 14 – 29 May 2026 - Microcystin 49 µg/L, well above state safety limits.
- 15 Jun -13 Jul 2026 – Microcystin 16.5 ug/L
- 21 Jul – 14 Aug 2026 – Microcystin 9.7 ug/L
- Toxic algae blooms are becoming more frequent and more severe typically occurring between August and November. To address this the LLLMD contracted with Herrera Inc. to conduct a Cyanobacteria Management Plan (CMP) study to identify root causes and develop solutions. That study was completed on 5 June 2026.

For more about toxic algae, reporting, testing or safety information please visit our website at <https://www.lakelawrencelakemanagementdistrict.com>

Water Quality

According to the Thurston Regional Planning Council, Lake Lawrence water quality has declined from “Fair” (pre-2019) to “Poor” (since 2020). The CMP study provided data-driven recommendations to improve water quality with a goal of returning to a rating of “Fair” by 2031.

Volunteer Activities

Our volunteers are the heart of the LLLMD – giving their time, energy, and skills to protect our lake. In 2026 **hundreds of hours** were logged keeping our Lake safe, clean, and beautiful. This website <https://www.serve.love/blog/calculate-volunteer-value-grant-applications/> provides a calculator to figure out the worth of volunteers in all 50 states. In 2026 Washington States hourly rate for a volunteer was **\$41.70**. The following information is intended to demonstrate the worth of our volunteers to the county, state, and our local community.

Key efforts included:

Thurston County Undeveloped 15 Acre Park

- Weekly trash cleanup, vandalism, and illegal campfire reporting, Installation of a WA State Laws information board, shallow water signs on south end of lake, and installation of a pet waste station at the entrance to the county park.
- 250 volunteer hours and the removal of 2,400+ pounds of trash in 2026. See Enclosure 1 for photos.
- Value Calculation - $\$41.70 \times 250 = \$10,425$.

Thurston County Health & Social Services

- Reporting algae outbreaks to County officials
- Posted and removed algae advisory signs at the Public Boat Launch, LLCC, Wildaire, and Scenic Shores HOA parks.
- 5 volunteer hours contributed.
- Value Calculation - $\$41.70 \times 5 = \208.50

Thurston County Noxious Weeds Department

- Managed Yellow Flag Iris treatment permission and post-treatment signage retrieval. 2026 Permission Letters included a 5-year period so are valid through 2030.
- Continue to monitor Purple Loosestrife and Knotweed. In August 2026 eleven parcels on the shoreline were treated for Purple Loosestrife – Knotweed was not present.
- 40 volunteer hours contributed.

- Value Calculation - $\$41.70 \times 40 = \$1,668.00$

YFI Floating Island Relocation & Floating Mud Islands – In 2026 we experienced fewer islands

- Volunteers worked to prevent floating islands from damaging docks and boats.
- In May 2026 one YFI floating island washed up along the Wildaire Community Swim Area
- 10 volunteer hours contributed to cutting up and hauling off the island.
- The floating island issue remains an ongoing **safety concern** and further outreach to local and state representatives is planned for 2027.
- 10 volunteer hours contributed.
- Value Calculation - $\$41.70 \times 10 = \417.00

Goat Island Restoration

- Manual removal of invasive plants.
- 15 volunteer hours contributed in 2026.
- Value Calculation - $\$41.70 \times 15 = \625.50

Education and Outreach

In 2026, the LLLMD provided open meetings:

- 4 general membership meetings,
- 1 special meeting, to discuss invasive species treatment recommendations by contractor,
- 4 public meetings on the Cyanobacteria Management Plan (CMP), and
- the Annual Meeting on 24 September.

Key outreach efforts:

- A postcard mailing directing members to the LLLMD website and YouTube Channel
- Expansion of the Lake Lawrence YouTube Channel which includes comprehensive information about Lake Lawrence and good lake stewardship. It now hosts 100+ educational videos and has had over 70,000 views since June 2023.
 - 200 volunteer hours contributed in 2026.
 - Value Calculation - $\$41.70 \times 200 = \$8,340.00$
- Regular email updates on treatments, algae tests, and important lake issues.
- **Water level and temperature measurements** for NASA's global lake monitoring program. (See Enclosure 2.) Testing was required weekly vs. bi-monthly to meet requirements of CMP Study.
 - 20 volunteer hours contributed in 2026.
 - Value Calculation - $\$41.70 \times 20 = \834.00

LMD Administration

Lake Management Districts are administered by Environmental Health (EH) under Thurston County Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), with lake specific Steering Committees (SC) made up of dedicated citizen-volunteers. The SC creates and implements lake stewardship plans, develops budgets, coordinates meetings, directs contractors, interacts with County staff, and educates LLLMD citizen members.

LMD Renewal:

On 19 May 2026 the Board of County Commissioners approved the renewal of the LMD for 35 years, expanding its scope of work to include Toxic Algae Mitigation. Our new LMD expires 31 December 2061.

Budget

The Annual Budget and Work Plan is developed by the LMD Steering Committee and submitted to the County. Highlights for 2026 include:

- 2026 Revenue:
 - \$118,000 collected in Thurston County property taxes for parcels included in the management district. This represents a 3% increase from 2024. No increase was budgeted for 2026.
 - \$50,000 Grant written and submitted by the Lake Lawrence SC and approved by the Washington Department of Ecology to help fund the 2-year Cyanobacteria Management Plan Study (See details below)
- 2026 Expenses:
 - \$74,600 for Nuisance Weed Program
 - \$60,000 for Cyanobacteria Management Plan
 - \$6,000 for County administration costs
 - \$4,360 for meetings, mailers, supplies

Legislative Initiative

For three years, your SC has been advocating for Bill S-5638 which would strengthen RCW 36.61 and benefit all Lake and Beach Management Districts in Washington State.

We have continued to work with all stakeholders, Department of Fish and Wildlife and Washington State Lakes Protective Association (WALPA). On 16 July 2026 a joint meeting with all stakeholders hosted by WALPA showed agreement on most of the recommended changes with minor adjustments needed on several others. The biggest hurdle is a request from WDFW regarding public land assessments. Additional meetings were held to address this and achieve consensus. We are making steady progress. A draft of the bill has been written and sent to all stakeholders for review and comment. There is good reason to believe this bill can be successfully brought before the Senate Local Government Committee during the 2027 legislative session, get a hearing, and hopefully move forward with the support of the committee. Legislators on both sides of the aisle and houses are needed to make this happen. Regular updates are shared during SC meetings and posted on our website.

YOUR LLLMD LEADERSHIP TEAM

Barry Halverson
Co-Chair
Lake Lawrence Lake Management District

Copy to:

State Senators John Bruan and Jim McCune; State Representatives Peter Abbarno, Ed Orcutt, Andrew Barkis, and Matt Marshall; Thurston County Board of County Commissioners; Thurston County Pest and Vegetation Management Advisory Committee; Thurston County Environmental Health, Thurston County Public Works, LMD Leadership for Long, Pattison, and Offut Lakes.

Enclosures:

1. **Cleanup Pictures of County Park 2025/26**
2. **Lake Level Statistics**

Enclosure 1
Cleanup Photos of County Park 2025/26

DRAFT

Enclosure 2
Lake Level Statistics

DRAFT