



LAKE LAWRENCE LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
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LAKE LAWRENCE
Management District
Steering Committee

Lake Lawrence LMD Annual Report

October 2024 - September 2025

This past year has been one of 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.
- It is shared with residents and contractors and posted on our website.
- It is reviewed during regular LLLMD meetings.

2025 Monitoring:

From April through August 2025, surveys were conducted every month to ensure we have an accurate picture of vegetation trends.

Vegetation Control

Yellow Flag Iris (YFI)

We have made remarkable progress in controlling Yellow Flag Iris (YFI). Treatment volumes have dropped dramatically—an **86% reduction over the past decade**:

- 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)

In 2025, treatment took place on 14-15 May. Follow-up surveys show the treatment worked well.

Thanks to our success, we now need less chemical treatment. 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 6 May, 4 June, and 30 June 2025, contractor treated 31 acres with *Sonar One* herbicide (excluding the southernmost area and east side of Goat Island due to cost). Treatments successfully targeted:

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

Fragrant Water Lily (FWL):

In August 2025, 2.5 acres of FWL mats were treated at the south end of Lake.

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 in 2025.

- Fall 2024: A record-breaking bloom from late 2024 (over 2,400 µg/L) lasted through January 2025
- June 2025: Another bloom peaked at 49 µg/L, well above state safety limits. The advisory was lifted on July 15, 2025. Toxic algae blooms are becoming more frequent and more severe typically occurring between August and November. To address this

LLLMD has contracted with Herrera Inc. to conduct a Cyanobacteria Management Plan (CMP) study to identify root causes and develop solutions. (See Page 5).

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 will provide data-driven recommendations to improve water quality.

Volunteer Activities

Our volunteers are the heart of the LLLMD – giving their time, energy, and skills to protect our lake. In 2025 **hundreds of hours** were logged keeping our Lake safe, clean, and beautiful. Key efforts included:

Thurston County Undeveloped 15 Acre Park

- Weekly trash cleanup, vandalism, and illegal campfire reporting,
- 200 volunteer hours and the removal of 2,400+ pounds of trash in 2025. See Enclosure 2 for photos.
- Improved signage recommendations.

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.
- 7 volunteer hours contributed.

Thurston County Noxious Weeds Department

- Managed Yellow Flag Iris treatment permission and post-treatment signage retrieval.
- 40 volunteer hours contributed.

YFI Floating Island Relocation & Floating Mud Islands

- Volunteers worked with county and state agencies to prevent floating islands from damaging docks and boats.
- In April 2024, quick action prevented dock damage during a breakaway event.
- **20 volunteer hours contributed.**

- The floating island issue remains an ongoing **safety concern** and further outreach to local and state representatives is planned for 2025-2026. 20 volunteer hours contributed.
- On 3 October 2025 a 60x10x5+ foot floating mud island appeared in West Lake Lawrence. Volunteers staked "CAUTION" tape on stakes to the island to warn boaters.

Goat Island Restoration

- Manual removal of invasive plants.
- **70 volunteer hours contributed in 2025**, with more work planned.

Education and Outreach

In 2025, the LLLMD provided open meetings:

- 4 general membership meetings,
- 2 special meetings, to discuss invasive species treatment recommendations by contractor,
- 1 public meeting on the Cyanobacteria Management Plan (CMP), and
- the Annual Meeting on 25 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 90+ educational videos and has had over 42,000 views since June 2023. 300 volunteer hours contributed in 2025.
- 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 3.) 6 volunteer hours contributed annually.

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, educates LLLMD citizen members.

LMD Renewal:

Our current LMD expires 31 December 2026. The renewal petition closed on 30 June 2025 with 205 of 677 parcel owners (38% of acreage) signing-nearly double the 20% required by RCW 36.61. Next steps include a public hearing and a member vote.

Administrative Updates:

- On 1 January 2024, the LMDs in Thurston County were transferred from Public Works Department of Health and Social Services.
- On 2 April 2024, the Thurston County Lake Management District Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) were approved, granting LMDs greater authority and flexibility while reducing county overhead. The SOP is available on our website.

Budget

The Annual Budget and Work Plan is developed by the LMD Steering Committee and submitted to the County. Highlights for 2025 include:

- 2025 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 is 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)
- 2025 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

Cyanobacteria Management Plan (CMP) Study

You spoke—we listened. Lake water quality is a top priority. With new SOPs, reduced overhead, and additional responsibilities taken on by your SC, we have launched an aggressive plan to address toxic algae and water quality issues.

Key Milestones:

- **Contractor:** Herrera Inc. awarded the \$93,000 contract (May 2024).
- **Public kickoff meeting:** July 25, 2024 ([Watch here](#)).
- **Sediment sampling:** September 25, 2024.
- **Water monitoring:** October 2024 – November 2025.
- **Final Plan:** April 2026 (public meeting planned).

Goals:

- Identify root causes of water quality decline.
- Develop science-based, actionable solutions to protect Lake Lawrence.

Legislative Initiative

For three years, your SC has been advocating for Bill S3518.1 which would strengthen RCW 36.61 and benefit all Lake and Beach Management Districts in Washington State.

We have secured state legislative sponsors and Thurston County Commissioner support, while collaborating with stakeholders such as the Department of Fish and Wildlife and Washington State Lakes Protective Association (WALPA). Achieving consensus remains challenging, but we are making steady progress. Regular updates are shared during SC meetings and posted on our website.

YOUR LLLMD LEADERSHIP TEAM

 17 Oct 25
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 Public Works, LMD Leadership for Long, Pattison, and Offut Lakes.

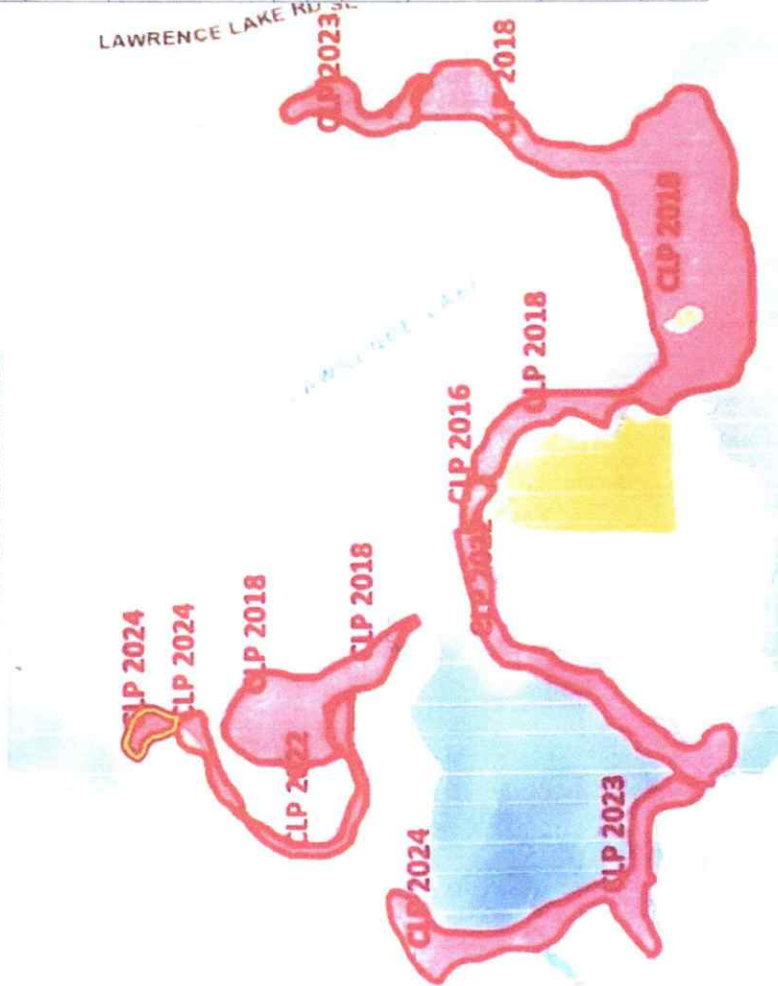
Enclosures:

1. CLP Treatment Map – 2 pages
2. Cleanup Pictures of County Park 2024/25
3. Lake Level Statistics

Enclosure 1 CLP Treatment Map

YEAR	COMMENTS
2015	- CLP first identified by Thurston County ARS at Public Boat Launch in East Basin - Apr-Jun Treated with Sonar Q and Sonar PR (not effective against Curly, but killed Narrowleaf and Elodea)
2017	- Apr-Jun Treated with Sonar Q and PR (not effective against Curly, but killed Narrowleaf and Elodea) - County ARS started working on a new prescription for Aquathol K that LMDs (Long and Lawrence) were told would be effective against CLP
2018	- Aquathol K approved by County early Spring 2018 - Surveys showed CLP had spread south from Boat Launch in the East Basin and around to the southeast side of the East Basin and across the channel north to the southeast end of Goat Island in the East Basin - Jul treated with Aquathol K (Killed CLP) - NOTE: Didn't know until end of 2022 that Aquathol K killed the CLP plant but not the Turion Seed and Tubers (rosetts)
2019	Aquathol K used (Killed CLP plant but not seed/rosetts)
2020	Aquathol K used (Killed CLP plant but not seed/rosetts)
2021	- May-Jun Treated with Sonar PR to kill Narrow Leaf and Elodea - CLP seen throughout Southern end of East Basin - No reduction and appears to have spread
2022	- Surveys showed CLP had spread west of the Boat Launch into the West Basin and from the southeast end of Goat Island north up the canal - LMD leadership started working with County ARS and contractors to identify an acceptable product to kill CLP - Jul 2022 Aquathol K used to at least kill CLP plant in attempt to stop spread
2023	- Surveys showed CLP had spread further north in the West Basin and further north from the southeast side of the East Basin - No treatment in 2023 (contacting issue) - November 2023 secured approval from County to treat CLP with Gallison SC
2024	- Surveys showed CLP has spread even further north and east in the West Basin and from the mouth of the canal north in the East Basin - June & July 2024 treated CLP with Gallison SC

CURLY LEAF PONDWEED SPREADING AROUND LAKE LITTORAL AREAS



Enclosure 1
2025 Curly Pondweed Treatment Map



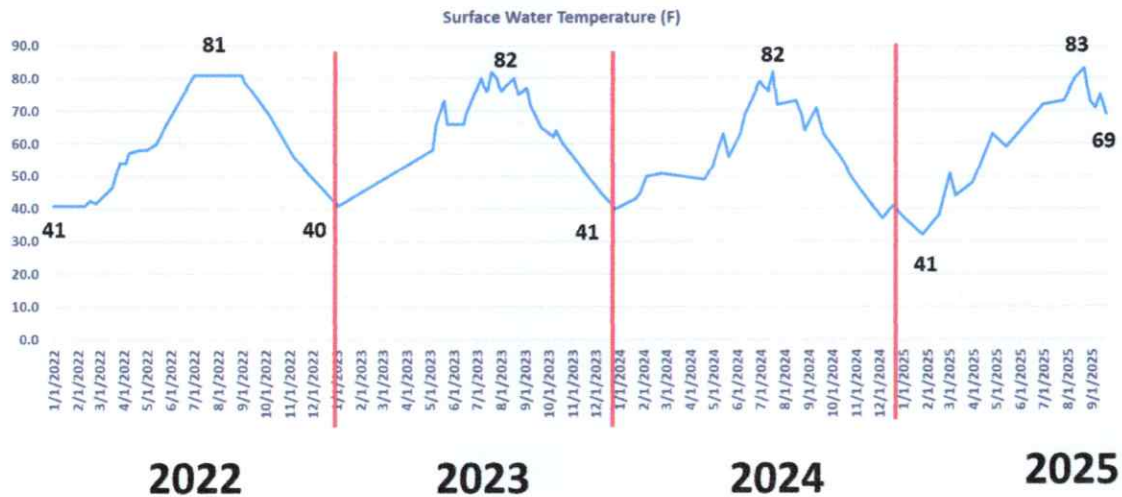
Enclosure 2
Cleanup Photos of County Park 2024/25

County Park Weekly Cleanup Volunteers



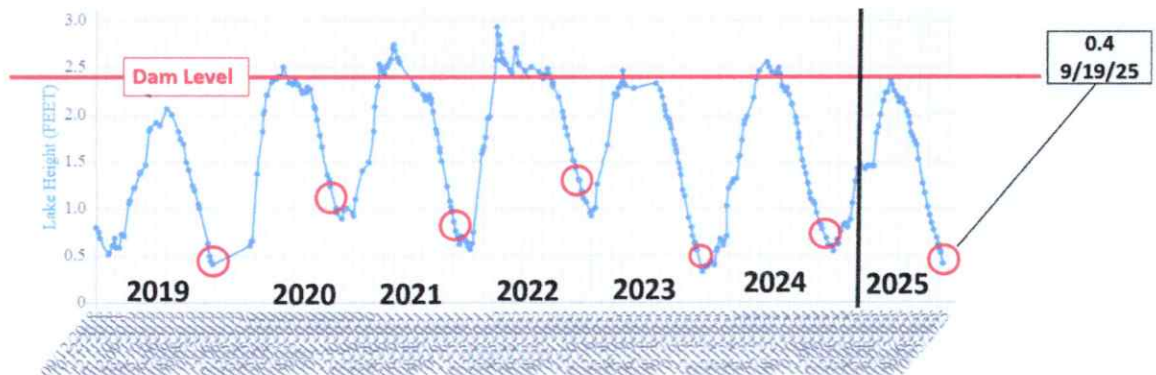
Enclosure 3
Lake Level Statistics

Lawrence Lake Surface Water Temperatures (West Basin near HOA Park)



Lawrence Lake Water Surface Level

ref: <https://liquidearthlake.website/gauge/scaledetailsall/47>



○ Lake levels on 9/19