

# Lost Lake

Lost Lake has low water clarity, moderate to high nutrient levels, and periodic algal blooms. Water clarity has increased in recent years; however, severe oxygen depletion and increasing nutrients are signs of eutrophication. The lake appears to be at risk of future declines in water quality unless nutrient runoff from the lake shore and the watershed is controlled.



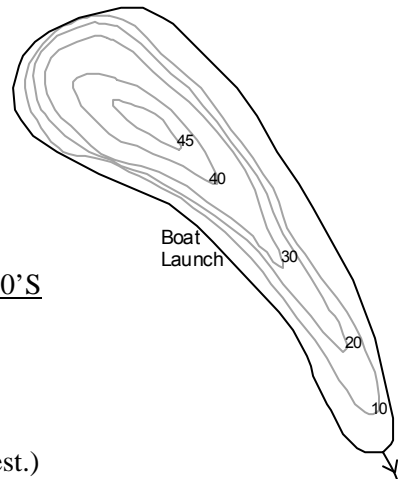
*State of the Lakes Report*  
*March 2003*

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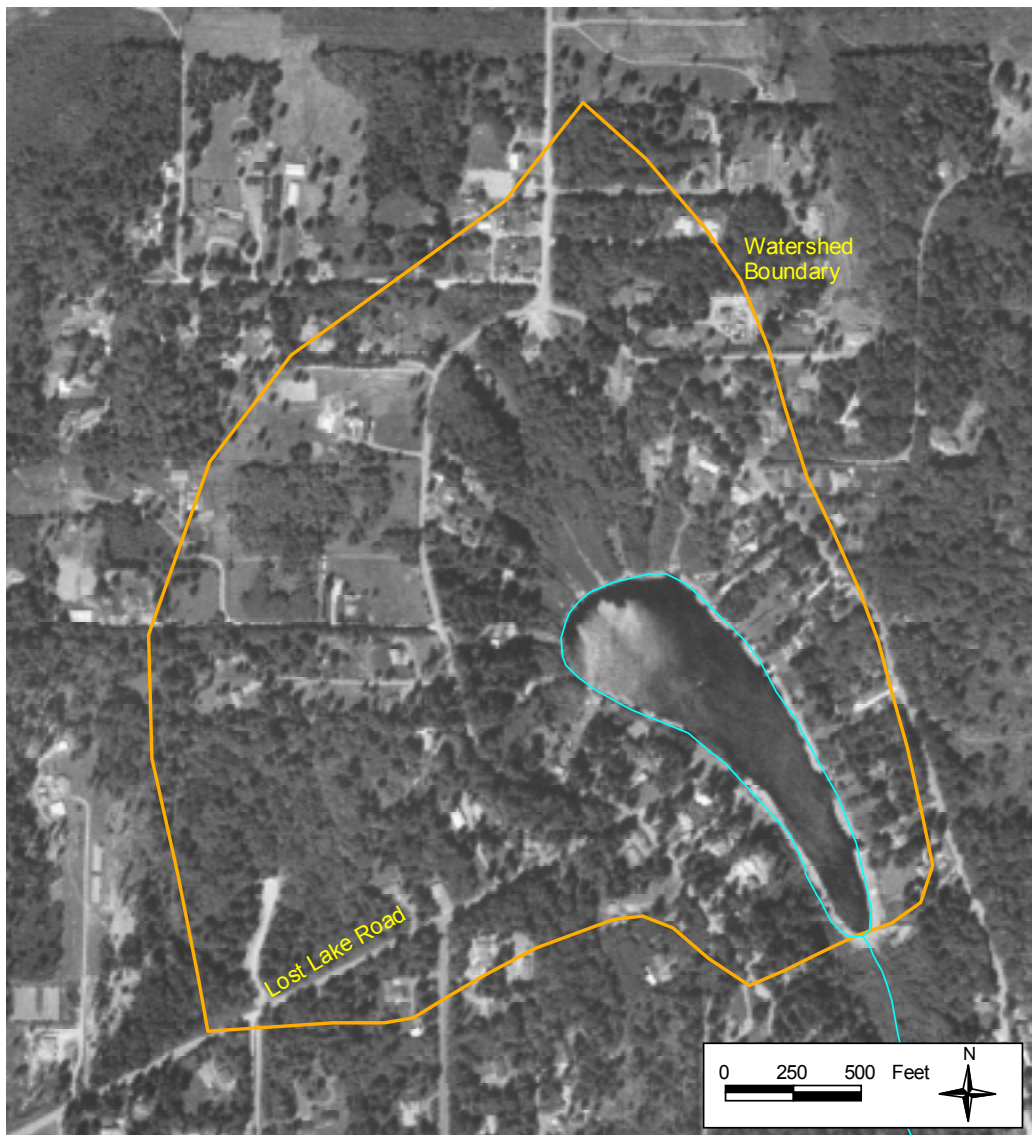
**Snohomish County Public Works  
Surface Water Management**

## **LAKE AND WATERSHED DATA**

Lake Area: 12 acres  
 Watershed Area: 149 acres  
 Watershed to Lake Area Ratio: 12.4  
 Maximum Depth: 45 feet (13.7 meters)  
 Average Depth: 23 feet (7.0 meters)  
 Lake Volume: 310 acre-feet  
 Length of Shore: 0.7 miles



	<u>1973</u>	<u>MID-90'S</u>
# of nearshore homes	19	42
# of homes/1000' of shoreline	5.1	11.4
% of homes with bulkhead or fill		3%
% of homes with some native vegetation near shore		64%
% of watershed developed (residential or commercial)	12%	50% (est.)



# LAKE ASSESSMENT

## DESCRIPTION

■ Location/Access – Lost Lake (formerly called Devil’s Lake) is located southeast of Maltby between Highway 522 and the Snohomish-King County line. The lake is fed mainly by ground water, and drains south to Ricci Creek and then east to the Snoqualmie River. There is a public boat launch located on the southwest side of the lake. Gas-powered boats are not permitted.

■ Size/Shape – The lake is small, but deep. It covers 12 surface acres, with a maximum depth of 13.7 meters and an average depth of 7 meters. The lake volume contains 310 acre-feet of water.

■ Watershed – The Lost Lake watershed, including the lake, covers 149 acres. The watershed is 12.4 times the size of the lake, which is near the median for Snohomish County lakes. In 1973 only 12% of the watershed was developed in residential uses; the remainder of the watershed was mainly forested. By the mid-1990s, development had expanded to about 50% of the watershed. This land use change is one of the more dramatic in the county.

■ Shoreline – Lost Lake has only 0.7 miles of shoreline. Around the lake, there were 19 homes in 1973. The number of homes increased to 42 by the mid-90s, which is above average density for lakes in the county. Partly because of steep slopes and the wetlands at the north and south ends of the lake, much of the shoreline retains some natural character—only 3% of the nearshore homes have modified the shoreline with bulkheads or fill. Approximately 64% of the homes have also retained some native vegetation along the shore. This zone of vegetation is important for filtering pollution.

## LAKE CONDITIONS

■ Water Clarity – Summer water clarity in Lost Lake is low, averaging 2.0 meters from 1992 through 2002. However, the water clarity has been higher in recent years. Analysis shows that there appears to be a statistically significant increase in



water clarity between 1992 and 2002. The reasons for this apparent increase are unknown, but the changes are so small that they may be related to the degree of color in the water, which can vary from year to year.

■ Color – The lake water is moderately to darkly colored by dissolved organic (humic) material from the surrounding wetlands. The water is usually described as yellowish-brown to dark brown.

■ Nutrients – Summer average total phosphorus concentrations in the epilimnion ranged from 12 µg/l to 19 µg/l from 1996 to 2002, which is moderate for Snohomish County lakes. Total phosphorus averages in the hypolimnion were much higher, ranging from 61 µg/l to 134 µg/l from 1996 to 2002. This suggests a substantial release of phosphorus from the bottom sediments during times of oxygen depletion. Single samples in 1973 showed similar epilimnion and hypolimnion values. Composite samples taken by the Department of Ecology in 1996 showed similar total phosphorus levels in the epilimnion, but lower values in the hypolimnion, possibly because the composite sample was weighted toward the upper portions of the hypolimnion. These composite sample data are not directly comparable to the discrete samples discussed above, but confirm that Lost Lake has at least moderate phosphorus levels. Total nitrogen levels were moderate in the lake in 1973 and 1996, with ammonia being elevated in the hypolimnion in 1973. These data suggest that nitrogen is relatively

abundant and that phosphorus availability is probably limiting algal growth.

■ Oxygen/Temperature – The lake sits in a deep protected bowl that contributes to strong, stable thermal stratification in the lake. Vertical profiles of dissolved oxygen and temperature for the summers of 1995 through 2002 show a distinct separation between warm, oxygenated upper waters and cool, oxygen-depleted bottom waters. Usually by mid to late summer, dissolved oxygen is depleted below 3 or 4 meters depth, indicating the presence of large amounts of decaying organic matter in the lake sediments. During the summers of 1999 through 2002, a somewhat different pattern emerged. The dissolved oxygen was depleted in the metalimnion at 3 to 4 meters depth, but then increased somewhat for several meters below that depth. The reasons for this metalimnetic oxygen minimum might include slow settling and decomposition of organic matter before it reaches the bottom; an abundance of zooplankton at 3 to 4 meters depth; or the unique shape of the lake bottom such that much of the organic decomposition occurs at this depth. Some years also had oxygen spikes at 2 or 3 meters deep, which suggest vigorous algal growth at this depth.

■ Algae – Limited chlorophyll *a* samples from the summers of 1994 to 1996 produced values ranging from 4.3 to 10 µg/l. Four samples in summer 2002 averaged 5.8 µg/l. These data suggest moderate to high amounts of algae in the lake. Analysis of three algae samples in 1994 and 1995 revealed high biovolumes dominated by blue green algae in late summer and gold-browns in the July sample. Lake monitors have noted intense algal blooms on occasion.

■ Aquatic Plants – Few aquatic plants grow in Lost Lake because of the dark water color and steep shoreline slopes. Watershield and yellow water-lily—both natives—are the main plants. In several spots, there are also thick patches of the non-native fragrant water-lily.

■ Waterfowl – Lost Lake sometimes has a problem with excess waterfowl. Canada geese are numerous at times, and a few domestic ducks are year-round residents. Waterfowl droppings are

unpleasant and pollute the water with nutrients and bacteria.

## SUMMARY

■ Trophic State – Based on low water clarity, moderate to high phosphorus concentrations, severe oxygen depletion in the hypolimnion, and occasional blue-green algal blooms, Lost Lake may be classified as meso-eutrophic.

■ Current Conditions/Trends – Lost Lake is currently in satisfactory condition, and monitoring data show a statistically significant trend toward improving water clarity since 1992. However, the lake shows signs of accelerated eutrophication, such as severe oxygen depletion, build-up of phosphorus in the bottom waters, and periodic algal blooms. Therefore, the lake appears to be at risk for future declines in water quality.

■ Future Concerns/Targets – The primary concern with Lost Lake is the potential for reduced water quality from the impacts of future development in the watershed and around the lake shore. Maintaining the current water clarity while reducing phosphorus levels are targets for the lake.

■ Recommendations – The lake should be monitored carefully to track changes in water clarity and to determine if nutrient levels increase or algal blooms become more severe. New development in the watershed should take precautions to control runoff and reduce nutrient pollution. Because of the steep slopes draining to the lake, existing homes on the lake shore should be encouraged to reduce fertilizers and re-create buffers of native vegetation to filter pollution.

## CITIZEN VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to Gwen DeFrank, Anita Robinson, and Guy Borgen for volunteer monitoring of the lake.

## ***DATA SUMMARY TABLE***

<b>Source</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Secchi Depth (meters)</b>	<b>Total Phosphorus (ug/l)</b>		<b>Color (Pt-Co scale)</b>	<b>Chlorophyll a (ug/l)</b>
			<b>Surface</b>	<b>Bottom</b>	<b>Epilimnion</b>	<b>Epilimnion</b>
Bortleson, et al, 1976	<b>8/3/73</b>	2.1	11	49	60	-
Volunteer	Summer <b>1992</b>	1.2 - 2.7 (1.7) <i>n</i> = 7	-	-	-	-
Volunteer	Summer <b>1993</b>	0.4 - 1.4 (0.9) <i>n</i> = 14	-	-	-	-
SWM Staff or Volunteer	Summer <b>1994</b>	1.8 - 3.2 (2.5) <i>n</i> = 10	-	-	35 - 45 (40) <i>n</i> = 2	4.3 - 8.8 (6.6) <i>n</i> = 2
SWM Staff or Volunteer	Summer <b>1995</b>	1.6 - 2.3 (1.9) <i>n</i> = 6	-	-	45	10
SWM Staff, Volunteer or DOE	Summer <b>1996</b>	1.5 - 2.2 (1.9) <i>n</i> = 10	10 - 21 (16) <i>n</i> = 2	43 - 89 (66) <i>n</i> = 2	-	5.4 - 8.3 (6.9) <i>n</i> = 2
SWM Staff or Volunteer	Summer <b>1997</b>	1.1 - 2.3 (1.6) <i>n</i> = 7	11 - 20 (16) <i>n</i> = 2	38 - 112 (75) <i>n</i> = 2	-	-
SWM Staff or Volunteer	Summer <b>1998</b>	1.2 - 2.2 (1.7) <i>n</i> = 11	10 - 20 (15) <i>n</i> = 4	105 - 159 (134) <i>n</i> = 4	-	-
SWM Staff or Volunteer	Summer <b>1999</b>	1.7 - 2.5 (2.1) <i>n</i> = 9	10 - 26 (19) <i>n</i> = 4	31 - 107 (61) <i>n</i> = 4	-	-
SWM Staff or Volunteer	Summer <b>2000</b>	2.1 - 3.8 (2.7) <i>n</i> = 6	6 - 17 (12) <i>n</i> = 4	58 - 200 (123) <i>n</i> = 4	-	-
SWM Staff or Volunteer	Summer <b>2001</b>	1.7 - 2.4 (2.0) <i>n</i> = 6	12 - 23 (17) <i>n</i> = 4	44 - 133 (92) <i>n</i> = 4		
SWM Staff	Summer <b>2002</b>	2.2 - 2.9 (2.5) <i>n</i> = 4	10 - 16 (14) <i>n</i> = 4	11 - 99 (53) <i>n</i> = 4	-	3.2 - 8.5 (5.8) <i>n</i> = 4

### ***NOTES***

- Table includes summer (May-Oct) data only.
- Each box shows the range on top, followed by summer average in ( ) and number of samples (n).
- Total phosphorus data are from samples taken at discrete depths only.
- DOE = Washington Department of Ecology

## ***SUMMARY OF OTHER DATA***

■ ***Total Phosphorus*** – composite samples taken by the Department of Ecology in 1996 ranged from 18 -- 19 µg/l in the epilimnion and 19 -- 26 µg/l in the hypolimnion. These are not directly comparable to the discrete samples shown above, but confirm that Lost has moderate to high phosphorus levels.

■ ***Total Nitrogen*** – single samples in 1973 showed 0.44 mg/l in the epilimnion and 1.03 mg/l in the hypolimnion with high (0.83 mg/l) ammonia in the hypolimnion; two 1996 Ecology samples averaged 0.43 mg/l in the epilimnion and 0.84 mg/l in the hypolimnion; these data suggest that nitrogen is abundant and does not limit algal growth.

■ ***Alkalinity*** – data from 1994 and 1995 ranged from 20 -- 28 mg/l CaCO<sub>3</sub>, which suggests that Lost has a moderate buffering capacity.

■ ***pH*** – readings from 1994 through 2000 averaged 7.0 near the surface and 6.2 near the bottom, which is within the normal range for Snohomish County lakes. Readings in 2001-2002 were similar.

■ ***Conductivity*** – 1994-2000 data averaged 69 µmhos in the epilimnion and 102 µmhos near the lake bottom, indicating moderate levels of dissolved materials in the water. Readings in 2001-2002 were similar.

■ ***Iron*** – limited 1994-95 data showed high levels in the epilimnion (avg. 247 µg/l) and higher levels in the hypolimnion (avg. 800 µg/l, high of 1100 µg/l), which indicates release of iron and phosphorus from the bottom sediments under low oxygen conditions.

■ ***Algae*** – the following table shows the total biovolume and percent biovolume of the main types of algae from three samples collected in 1994-95. The data show that the total algal volumes were high and that blue-greens and gold-browns were most prevalent. Cell counts of the same samples revealed a similar pattern of abundance.

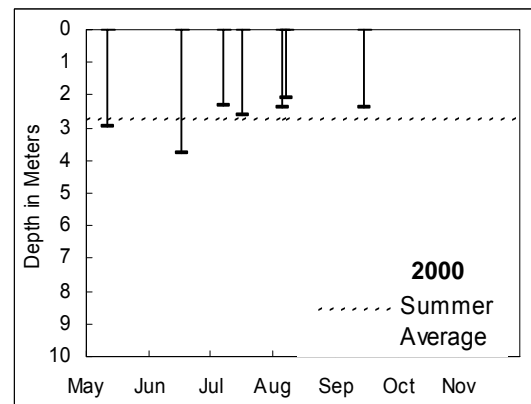
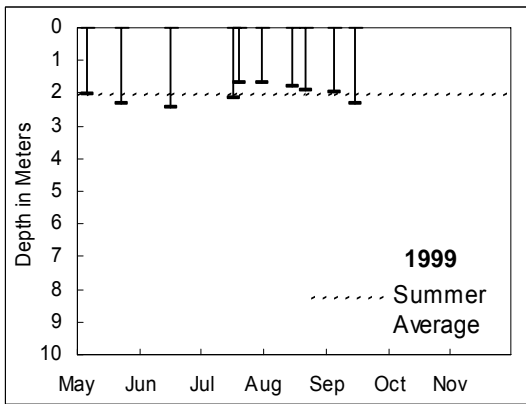
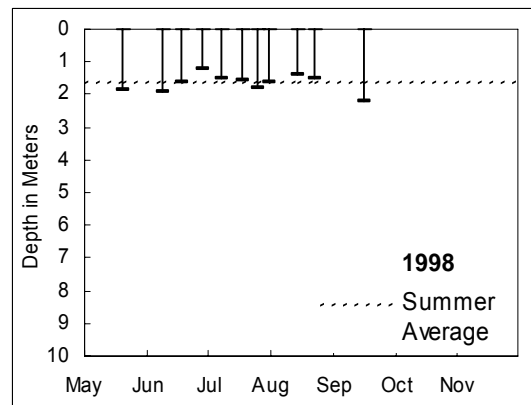
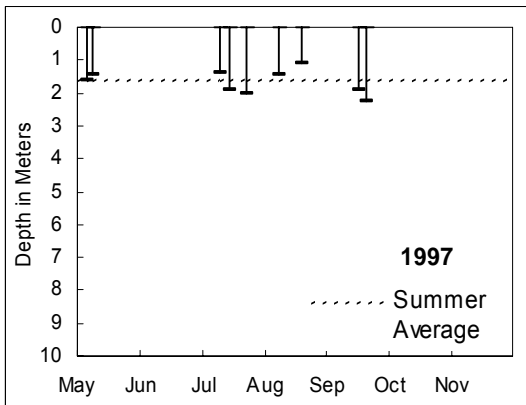
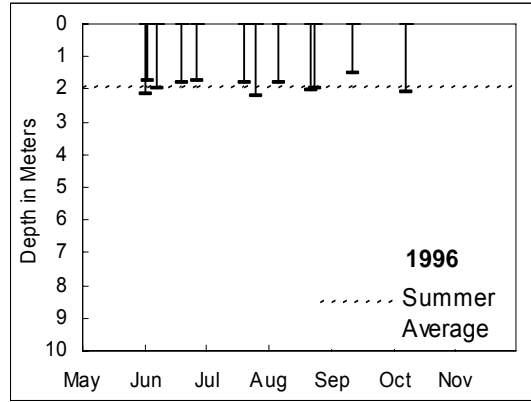
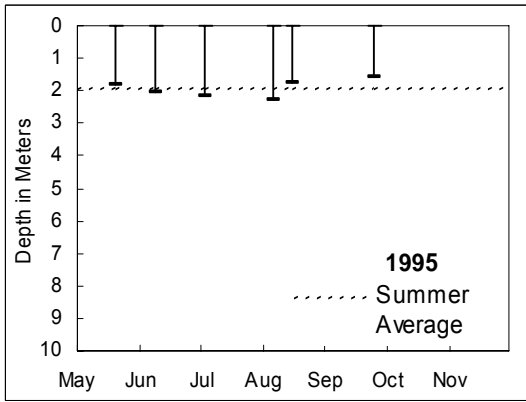
ALGAE TYPES	7/13/94	9/13/94	8/17/95
Cyanophyta (Blue-greens)	1%	75%	74%
Chlorophyta (Greens)	9%	3%	2%
Chrysophyta (Golden/diatoms)	85%	6%	12%
Cryptophyta (Cryptomonads)	3%	5%	5%
Euglenophyta (Euglenoids)	0%	1%	0%
Pyrrhophyta (Dinoflagellates)	2%	9%	7%
<b>TOTAL BIOVOLUME (mm<sup>3</sup>/l)</b>	4.803	2.181	4.704

■ ***Fish*** – according to the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), fish species found in Lost Lake include rainbow trout, cutthroat trout, and largemouth bass. WDFW usually stocks the lake each year with rainbow trout.

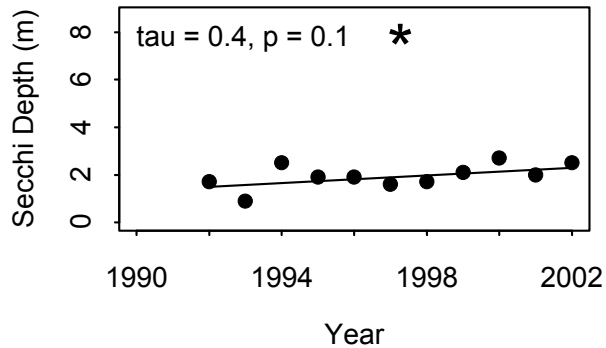
### **DATA SOURCES**

In addition to data from Snohomish County SWM staff and citizen volunteers, data for Lost Lake are also available from: Bortleson, et. al., 1976. Please refer to the full list of references in the County-Wide Summary.

# WATER CLARITY

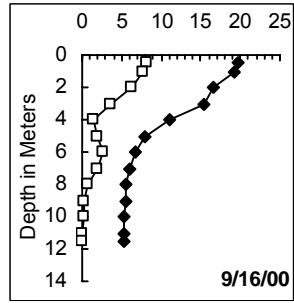
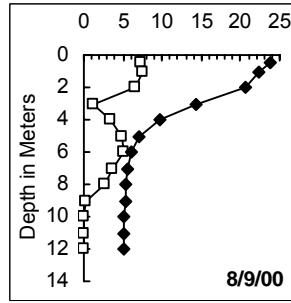
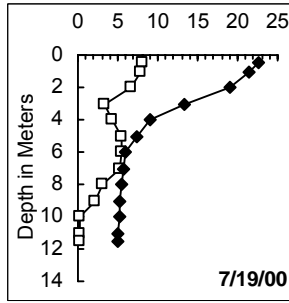
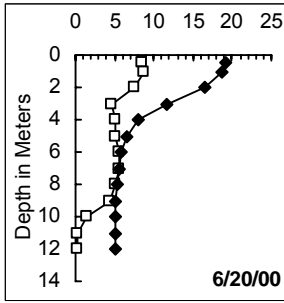
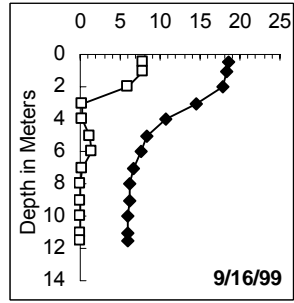
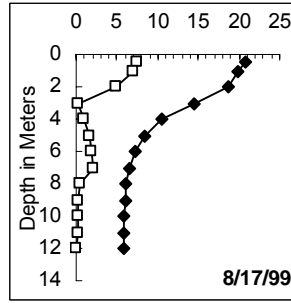
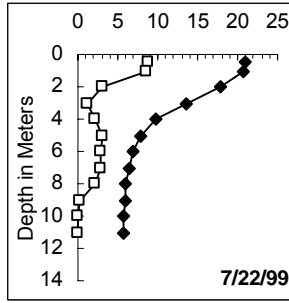
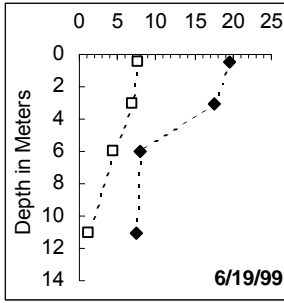


## TREND ANALYSIS



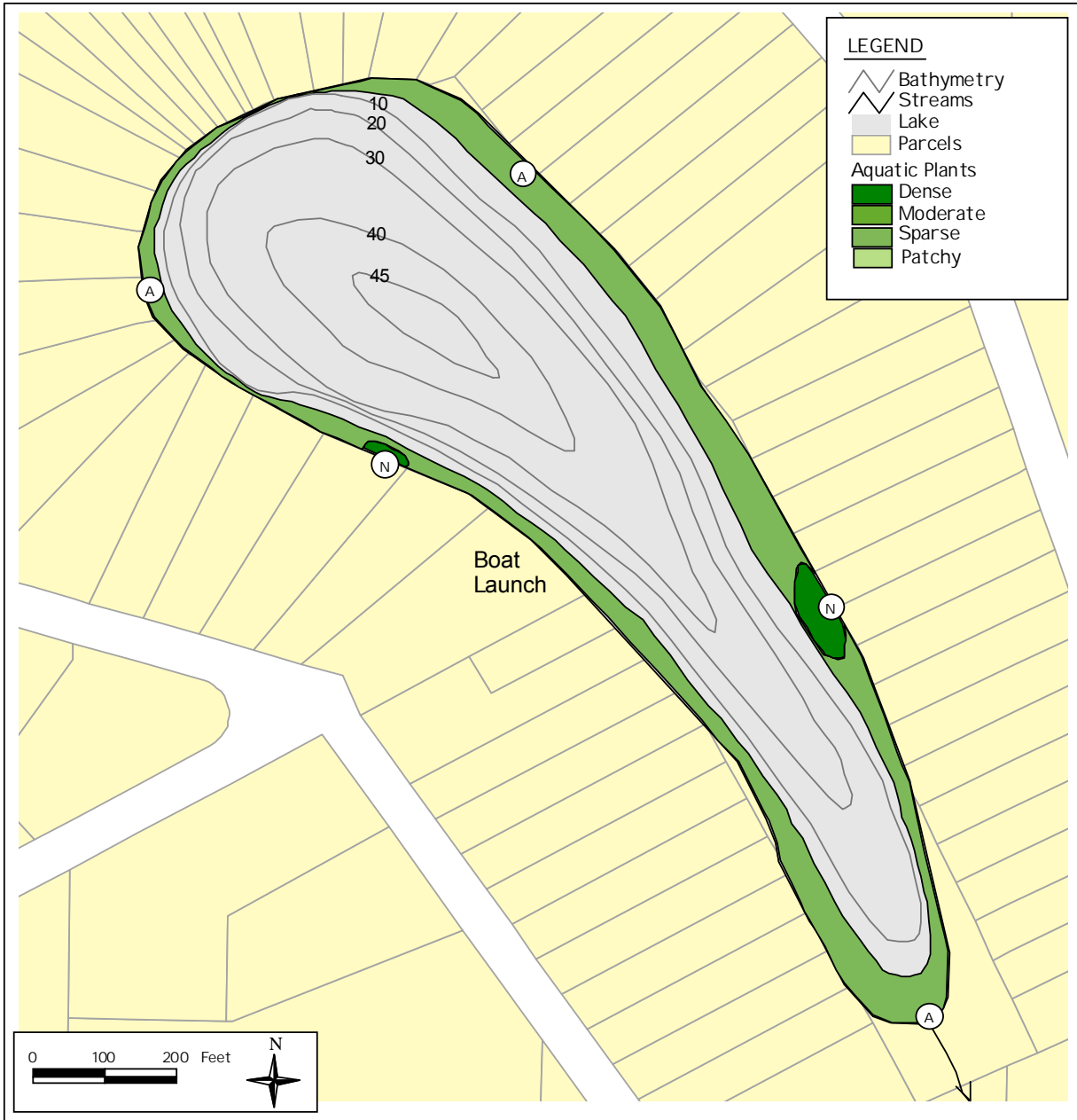
\* Statistically significant trend ( $p \leq 0.10$ )





—□— DO (mg/l)      —◆— Temp (°C)

# AQUATIC PLANTS



Area	Density	Dominant Plants	Other Plants
A	Patchy	<i>Brasenia schreberi</i> (Water shield) <i>Nuphar polysepalum</i> (Yellow water-lily)	<i>Potamogeton amplifolius</i> (Large-leaf pondweed)
N	Dense	<i>Nymphaea odorata</i> (Fragrant water-lily)	

## **BASIC MONITORING DATA**

1995									
DATE	Secchi Depth (meters)	Air Temp (C)	Water Temp (C)	Lake Level (in)	Clouds (%)	Rain	Wind	Color	COMMENT
4/3/95	1.6	18	15	14	25	light	light	dk yellow	Moderate to heavy algae, moderate algae scum, slight aquatic plants. Moderate musty odor (algae-like). 8 ducks/geese. New clearing on one lot, burn piles not contained. Some new clearing on 2 other lots.
5/23/95	1.8	18	20.5	16.5	0	none	light	lt brown	Slight algae, aquatic plants, odor (H <sub>2</sub> S). Approx 12 adult ducks/geese.
6/12/95	2.1	17.5	18	18.8	50	light	breezy	lt yellow	Slight algae, moderate aquatic plants. Very light musty odor. Approx 12 adult ducks/geese. Appearance of water shield growth on lake shore perimeter is heavier this year.
7/6/95	2.2	22.5	22.5	20.5	100	light	light	grn brown	Moderate algae, aquatic plants, slight musty odor. Approx 25 ducks/geese, a wood duck and ducklings were seen also. Had trouble calibrating the PH meter.
8/8/95	2.3	19.5	19.5	23	90	mod	breezy	yellow	Strong rotten egg odor at bottom. Dark green algae near shore, bloom week of 8/1. Approx 8 ducks/geese.
*08/17/95	1.8				100	moderate	calm	medgreen	H <sub>2</sub> S odor at 8 meters. Lots of zooplankton in epilimnion; a few phantom midges in hypolimnion. Many logs covered with thick periphyton and some sort of sponge(?) or slime.
9/26/95	1.6	18.5	18	25	75	trace	calm	grn brown	Heavy algae. Moderate scum and aquatic plants. Rotten egg odor moderate at 3 meters and heavy at 11 meters. Approx 20 ducks/geese.
9/26/95	1.6	18.5	18	25	75	trace	light	grn brown	Garbage. New clearing on 2 lots (they have silt screens). Heavy algae in water, moderate algae scum and aquatic plants, moderate sulfur smell at 3m, heavy at 11m.

Non-summer data indicated by shading.

\*Indicates data collected by Snohomish County staff.

1996									
DATE	Secchi Depth (meters)	Air Temp (C)	Water Temp (C)	Lake Level (in)	Clouds (%)	Rain	Wind	Color	COMMENT
6/5/96	1.8	15.5	18.5	13	0	none	breezy	lt brown	Moderate algae - primarily Anabaena, no scum, slight plants, odor. 18 ducks and/or geese.
6/10/96	2.0		21		75	none	light	lt brown	No scum, moderate algae. A rotten egg smell at 11 meters & bottom. On 6/8/96 there was a large white? (looked like a hull) at the south end of the lake; could be junk. Possible blockage.
6/22/96	1.8	17	19		100	none	light	lt brown	No algae, scum, slight plants 20' from shore, slight to moderate rotten egg smell. 2 ducks. 6 fishers on lake-4 on tubes, 2 on boats.
6/29/96	1.8	19	18	17	10	trace	breezy	lt brown	No scum, slight musty odor, slight to moderate algae, moderate plants. 34 ducks.
7/22/96	1.8	24.5	22.5	20	0	none	breezy		No scum, slight algae, musty odor, moderate plants. 25 ducks.
7/27/96	2.2	28	25		10	none	light	lt brown	No algae, scum, slight plants at edges/border, and odor of rotten egg. 4 adults & 6 baby ducks/geese. 2 kids swimming.
8/7/96	1.8	19	21	21.3		none	light		
8/23/96	2.1	18.5	19.5	23.8	0	none	light		2 more shoreline properties doing clearing.
8/25/96	2.0	19	20		10	none	light	lt brown	No algae, scum, moderate plants at entrance, heavy plants at exit, heavy odor of rotten egg at bottom only. Slimy goop was on anchor. 3 dogs in 2 different yards at north end of lake.
9/12/96	1.5	19.5	18.5	24.5	90	trace	breezy	lt brown	
10/8/96	2.1	15.5	15.5	22	0	none	strong	lt brown	

1997									
DATE	Secchi Depth (meters)	Air Temp (C)	Water Temp (C)	Lake Level (in)	Clouds (%)	Rain	Wind	Color	COMMENT
4/5/97	1.7	9.5	8	13	0	none	light	yellowgrn	15 ducks/geese.
4/6/97	1.4	31	13		0	trace	light	grn brown	Moderate plants near shore. 4 geese. 3 small boats.
5/10/97	1.6	18	17		0	none	light	lt brown	No algae, odor, moderate plants at north end. No ducks/geese. 4-6 fishermen in boats and on shore for last 2 days.
5/12/97	1.5	25.5	24.5	13.5	75	none	light		Slight algae, plants, odor. Approximately 10 ducks/geese
7/12/97	1.4	20	18		90	mod	light	lt brown	Slight algae, plants near shore, odor from 12 m. 3 ducks/18 geese. New concrete bathroom at boat launch. 2-3 loud bullfrogs. All geese were in one yard only.
*07/17/97	1.9				25	none	light	dk brown	Evidence of more algae at 2 meters. Also a lot of zooplankton at 2m.
7/25/97	2.0	18	21.5	16	0	none	light	yellow	Moderate plants, slight musty odor.
8/10/97	1.5	22	22		0	none	light	lt brown	Slight algae - center of lake, moderate algae - near shore, slight to moderate H <sub>2</sub> S smell. 3 ducks. Water level has dropped ~ 0.5 m.
8/21/97	1.1	23.5	23	20.8	0	light	breezy	lt yellow	Slight algae, scum, moderate plants. 20 ducks.
*09/17/97	1.9				100	mod	light	dk brown	A lot of brasenia.
9/21/97	2.3	17	16		0	moderate	light	lt brown	Slight algae, scum, moderate plants (near shore only), slight odor at 4 m. increasing with depth, heavy at bottom. 4 ducks, 100+ geese.

1998									
DATE	Secchi Depth (meters)	Air Temp (C)	Water Temp (C)	Lake Level (in)	Clouds (%)	Rain	Wind	Color	COMMENT
5/23/98	1.9	18	17		75	moderate	light	lt brown	No scum, odor, slight algae, slight to moderate plants. No ducks/geese. New construction of a house on SW side.
6/12/98	1.9	18	19.5	16	10	light	strong	yellow	Heavy algae near shore only; no scum; moderate aquatic plants; slight odor (musty); 25 ducks/geese.
6/21/98	1.7	22	19.5		5	light	light	lt brown	moderate algae and aquatic plants (outer border); moderate odor (rotten egg) @ 8M; heavy odor (rotten egg) @ 12M; 3 ducks; 11 geese in Eastside yard; constr. of 2 new homes, S.W. side; substantial algae 1-6 M; substantial pollen on surface, N. end of lake
7/1/98	1.2	15.5	21	16.5	100	none	light	yellowbrwn	Mod. plants; slight musty odor; 35 ducks/geese; Lots of garbage, including a tire.
7/10/98	1.5	18	21.5	17.5	75	none	calm	yellowbrwn	Slight algae, scum & odor (musty); mod. plants; 35 ducks/geese.
7/20/98	1.6	27	24		0	trace	light	lt brown	Temp. taken @ 11m = 8; Mod. algae, scum & odor (rotten egg); 6 ducks; 14 geese; sediment found in 3 surface samples.
*7/27/98	1.8				0	none	light	dk brown	24 ducks/ 24 geese, slight algae, scum, plants. Major problem with waterfowl.
8/2/98	1.7	18	22	20.5	100	light	breezy	grnbrown	Moderate algae, scum & plants; slight musty odor; 16 ducks/geese; garbage, clearing & bldg., on 2 more lots late spring & summer.
8/16/98	1.4	17	23		100	moderate	light	lt brown	Slight plants; moderate rotten egg odor; rain began to pour during observation period.
8/24/98	1.5	17.5	20	24.3	75	none	light	grnbrown	Slight algae & odor (musty); moderate scum & plants; 20 ducks/geese.
*9/17/98	2.2				25	none	breezy	dk brown	5 ducks; no scum; slight plants, algae; moderate odor in bottom sample.

1999									
DATE	Secchi Depth (meters)	Air Temp (C)	Water Temp (C)	Lake Level (in)	Clouds (%)	Rain	Wind	Color	COMMENT
5/10/99	2.1	11.5	12	16.5	10	trace	light	yellowgrn	Trout were not stocked this spring.
5/26/99	2.4	14	17.5	17	0	light	breezy	lt yellow	
6/19/99	2.5	21.5	19.5		75	trace	calm	lt brown	Moderate odor from bottom sample. 2 new homes on SW side of lake.
7/19/99	2.2	19	21.5	17	0	light	breezy	yellow	
*7/22/99	1.7	18	21		100	light	calm	dk brown	
8/2/99	1.7	21	21	19	0	none	light	yellowgrn	
*8/17/99	1.8	21	21		0	moderate	light	dk brown	
8/23/99	1.9	24	20.5	21	0	none	breezy	lt yellow	
9/6/99	2	14.5	17.5	22.3	90	light	calm	lt yellow	
*9/16/99	2.3	17	18.5		100	none	calm	dk brown	Moderate odor from bottom sample.

## 2000

DATE	Secchi Depth (meters)	Air Temp (C)	Water Temp (C)	Lake Level (in)	Clouds (%)	Rain	Wind	Color	COMMENT
4/3/00	3	13	13	14	0	none	breezy	yellow-tan	4 ducks and no algae, algae scum, or aquatic plants.
4/18/00	3	14.5	13	13.5	10	none	light	lt yellow	Pollen "scum". 10 ducks and no algae, algae scum, or aquatic plants.
5/15/00	3	19.5	19	15	10	none	breezy	yellow-tan	10 ducks, no algae or algae scum, and slight aquatic plants.
*06/20/00	3.8	22	19.24		10	none	light	medbrown	Good clarity. Less color than usual. The nuisance ducks seem to be gone. 4 ducks, slight algae and aquatic plants, and no algae scum.
7/10/00	2.3	17	20	19.5	90	none	light	yellow-tan	25 ducks, slight algae scum, and moderate aquatic plants.
*07/19/00	2.6	19	22.51		25	none	calm	dk brown	6 ducks, slight algae and aquatic plants, and no algae scum.
8/7/00	2.4	18	20.5	24	0	none	light	yellow-tan	Slight musty smell. 25 ducks, slight algae, no algae scum, and moderate aquatic plants.
*08/09/00	2.1	21	23.78		0	none	calm	dk brown	6 ducks, heavy algae, no algae scum, and moderate aquatic plants.
*09/16/00	2.4	21	19.79		75	none	calm	dk brown	3 ducks, slight algae, no algae scum, and slight aquatic plants.

[Click here to view more recent data.](#)

## ***HOW YOU CAN HELP LOST LAKE***

- Educate yourself about lake ecology and the lake's health.
- Use lawn and garden fertilizers sparingly; test your soil first; choose low or no phosphorus fertilizers.
- Retain or plant native vegetation adjacent to the water to protect the shoreline and filter pollution.
- Infiltrate or filter the runoff from rooftops, patios, and driveways rather than piping it to the lake.



- Cover or mulch bare soil areas.
- Use pesticides, herbicides, and household chemicals sparingly and never near the water.
- Maintain your septic system—have it inspected every two years and pumped when needed.
- Conserve water both inside and outside.
- Clean up pet wastes and keep livestock away from the lake shore.

- Learn to identify non-native invasive aquatic plants and animals; check your boat and trailer for invaders; never empty an aquarium into the lake.
- Do not feed geese or ducks.
- Join with neighbors or the local property owners' association to work together to protect the lake.



Contact Snohomish County Surface Water Management at 425-388-3464 for information about these topics or if you have questions about Lost Lake.

(TTY users call 425-388-3700)