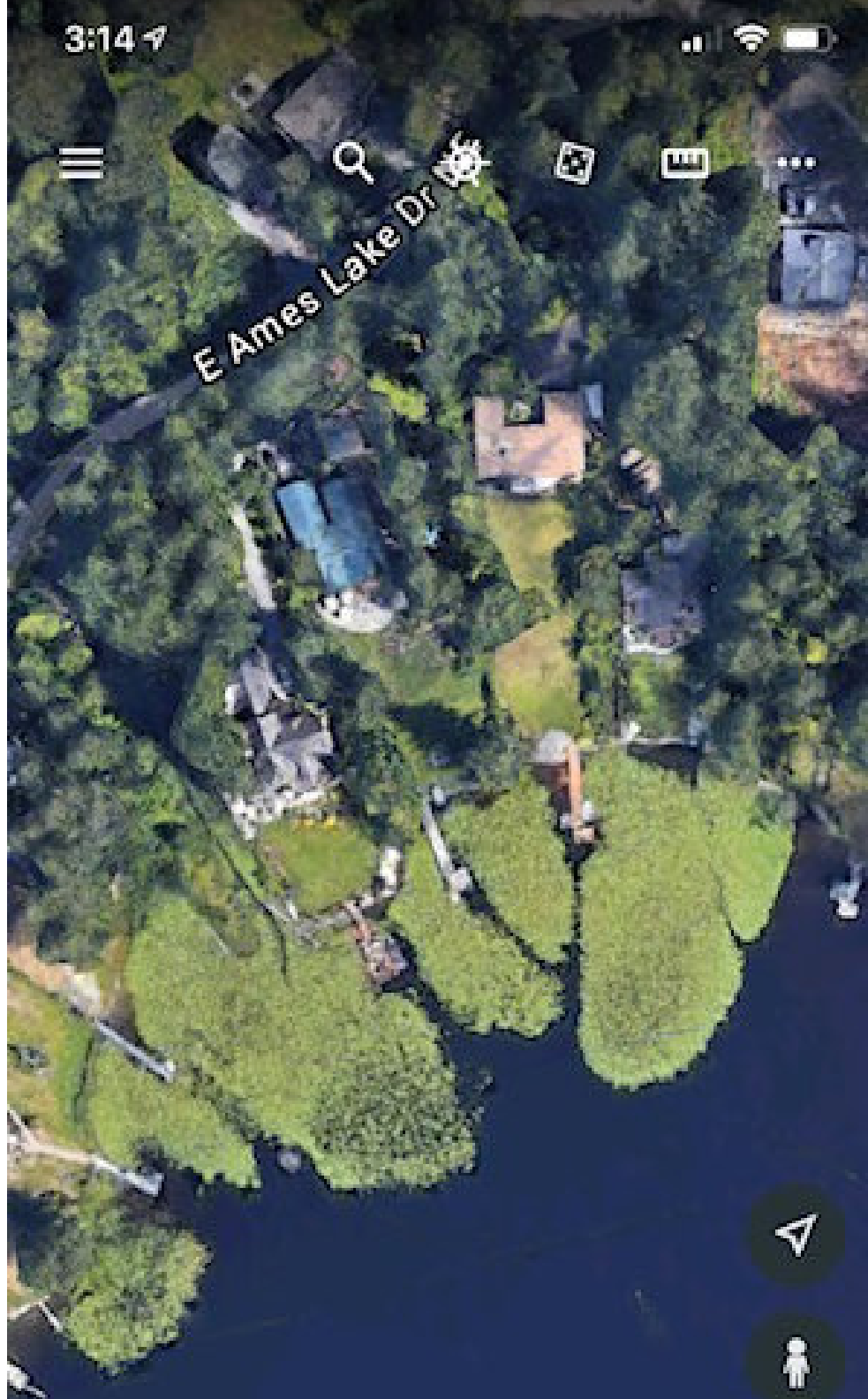


Friends of
Ames Lake



3:14



3D



AERIAL VIEW
OF INVASIVE
LILY PADS
ON AMES LAKE

Google

WELCOME TO



Ames Lake is special! Maintaining its health is one thing that all of us who live on and near the lake know and confidently agree with; however, within our community there is disagreement not on the critical importance of maintaining the health of the lake, but on how to do so.

Friends of Ames Lake is a group formed by homeowners who live on the lake because, while we trust that the ALCC Board shares our concern about the lake's health, the current Board has neither been receptive to our concerns nor responsive to requests and communications regarding the health of our shared gem. Because our voice has not been acknowledged, *Friends of Ames Lake* was formed in February, 2020. Our purpose is threefold:

1. To maintain the health of the lake for all who have access to it and for the creatures that live in its habitat
2. To provide accurate information to all homeowners in the plat so each can make informed, fact-based decisions.
3. To change the nature and tone of the dialogue on the lake's health with the Board and the community

The *Friends of Ames Lake* supports the use of an aquatic herbicide approved by the EPA and State of WA and applied by a licensed professional and aquatic specialist for lily pad control.



INVASIVE:
PURPLE
LOOSESTRIFE

WHY LILY PAD CONTROL IS ESSENTIAL TO THE HEALTH OF A LAKE

"Lily pads, the surface appearance water lilies, a non-native plant, are a threat to our lakes. They are overtaking local lakes and are harmful as they:

(<https://snohomishcountywa.gov/1109/Health-Recreation>).

- Spread aggressively and form dense mats of vegetation
- Impede swimming, boating, or other recreation
- Crowd out and replace beneficial native plants
- Harm fish and other aquatic life"

Despite their beauty, lily pads can take over a body of water very quickly, making it difficult to navigate boats or to use the affected area for swimming, fishing and

other surface activities. They reproduce through rhizomes and seed distribution in the lake bed.

They have the potential to contribute to toxic conditions, such as excess decaying organic material that causes increased nitrogen levels and a depletion of the oxygen in the water. This can cause a fish kill, and toxic algae blooms. Abundant lily pads also lead to a depletion of native plants that fish and aquatic related animals rely on, to a rise in water temperature, and water stagnation, which creates a prime habitat for mosquitoes. Once lakes become infested with invasive plants, it is extremely costly to control them and nearly impossible to eradicate them. All this impacts home values. The best strategy is to prevent them.

PAST EFFORTS TO CONTROL LILY PADS ON AMES LAKE

Prior to 2015, homeowners, individually, would hand pull the lily pads located directly in front of their homes. Occasionally, work parties would pull lily pads from the community beach lot. A local welder custom made tools to encourage residents to cut back their lily pads. These strenuous efforts failed to bring sustainable lasting results.

- After a reported algae bloom in 2015, ALCC Board contacted King County. This was followed by posting of warning signs for no swimming and weekly water testing. After multiple water samples, the lake was found to be cleared and could once again be open for use. This prompted the community to meet and discuss how to handle the lily pad problem which was thought to be a contributing factor. Many options were discussed.

- As the first option, in June 2015, the ALCC hired professional divers experienced in pulling the lily pads. By July it was clear the project was not successful because the lily pads were strongly established creating thick root mats, and the divers could not pull the multiple layers of lily pad roots.
- In 2015 the ALCC Board reached out to engage community members regarding lily pad removal through newsletters, website notifications, letters, Facebook postings, and special scheduled educational meetings.
- In 2016, with a vote and with community approval, the ALCC applied for an herbicide permit and it was approved by King County and the Department of Ecology. The permit allowed Aquatechnex, a licensed full service lake and aquatic management
(cont. on p. 2)

(cont. From p. 1)

firm that serves the western U.S. to treat the lake in the fall of that year.

- Additional treatments were applied in the summer/fall of 2017 and 2018.
- Routine water samples have been tested to assure the health of our lake and the safety of using herbicide in our efforts to eradicate the lily pads.
- The treatments significantly reduced the areas of the lily pads, which has resulted in reducing the amount of herbicide needed at subsequent applications. Lily pads return each spring/summer and continued treatment is required to continue the reduction of the lily pads.



INVASIVE: YELLOW FLAG IRIS

More detailed information on these topics can be found on the Ames Lake Community Club website: <https://ameslakecommunityclub.wildapricot.org/>, Lake Stewardship, Integrated Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan and Appendix documents.

This document is also on file with the state of WA as a guideline for long term management of vegetation at Ames lake. It is based on the biology and ecology of the target plant(s). This document provides a means to make informed decisions that protect human health and the environment. Under the appendix document, Control Method Options begin on page 71. To access this document, you will need to sign in as a member of ALCC. Sign in button is located on the upper right corner of the website homepage in the shape of a person.

COMMON METHODS USED TO CONTROL LILY PADS

1

MANUAL EFFORTS: HAND PULLING, RAKING, etc.

Pros: Least impact on the lake; applicable in small accessible areas (docks and shoreline); best accomplished by scuba divers with hand tools and mesh bags to remove plant fragments (ref. ALCC document referencing WA State Department of Ecology ...) pg. 78 of ALCC referenced above.

Cons: Requires significant effort; must be repeated often during growing season; disposal of pulled plants and frequent monitoring for regrowth. Plants grow from large rhizomatous root systems and seed distribution through water movement and can be as deep as six feet below the water surface. One root can expand lily pads up to a fifteen-foot circle. Complete removal, even in a small area, is very unlikely by manual efforts. Remaining root systems will replicate both lily pads and flowers in that area and expand to other areas. Manual process may require HPA permit and additional permit from WDFW.

2

WEED ROLLING, ROTOVATION, CUTTING, HARVESTING, ENVIRONMENTAL MANIPULATION, BIOLOGICAL CONTROL, etc.

Not applicable for Ames Lake due to lake bottom conditions, costs and other factors.

3

NO ACTION

“The water lily infestations [in Ames Lake] are [were] high in density and fairly widespread. If there is no control effort, it is highly likely that infestations will continue to impact Ames Lake, making the lake a potential source of seed spread by yellow flag iris [another non-native invasive species]. Even if some of the residents chose to control the aquatic weeds near their properties, uncontrolled pockets of fragrant water lily would remain. The remaining plants would repopulate by seed and root fragments each autumn, spreading to other areas of the lake, including those that were treated by residents.” op. cit. pg. 88

4

AQUATIC HERBICIDES

(analogous to using antibiotics for our physical health)

Pros: Select herbicides that contain glyphosate, a systemic herbicide, meet the criteria of US Environmental Protection Agency. Systemic herbicides destroy the complete plant, including the root, and are easily applied on a warm day by licensed professionals (in boats) to plant leaves and blooms at the surface. Applications are regulated by state and federal guidelines which specify safe weather conditions, the mixture ratio, the rate of application, the total area that can be treated at one time, how often treatment can be done, and time between applications. Less expensive than other control methods over the course of several years. Requires no removal of plant remains.

**ONLY TO AVOID WASHING THE HERBICIDE OFF THE PLANTS,
PETS & PEOPLE SHOULD STAY OUT OF THE LAKE FOR 24 HRS.**

Cons: Emotional bias against use of herbicides; easily misunderstood and subject to “scare” communications; requires scheduled treatments over two or three years; must be applied by licensed professional with WA State permit; requires community consensus; only effective where applied (ie, untreated areas can spread to treated areas).



INVASIVE AT AMES LAKE:
LILY PADS



WHAT COULD BE YOUR NEXT STEPS?

Learn more and ask questions so we can engage in respectful, fact-based conversations about how to protect our prime shared asset, Ames Lake.

Go to our website: www.friendsofameslake.com. Subscribe to receive updates.

Find reading and resources at our website: www.friendsofameslake.com

Get involved – Contact us at friendsofameslake@hotmail.com with your questions, concerns, ideas and, we hope, your support.

Encourage the ALCC Board to consider the herbicide option in open discussion with all members of the community.

Look forward to future contact from Friends of Ames Lake.

The Friends of Ames Lake genuinely look forward to engaging and resolving lily pad control and other topics in mature, respectful and productive conversations with all interested and impacted community members so we can continue to confidently enjoy another and another and another beautiful day at the lake!

Thank you for your attention and support in efforts to ensure that we all sustain health for our lake and our larger community.

Thank you for reading!

Friends of Ames Lake*

For further reading, visit these websites:

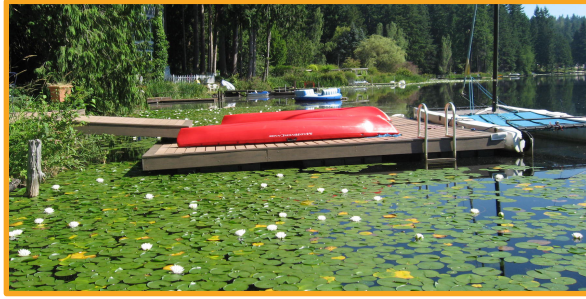
<https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Aquatic-weed-control-technical-assistance>

https://www.nwcb.wa.gov/images/weeds/fragrant-water-lily-control_King.pdf

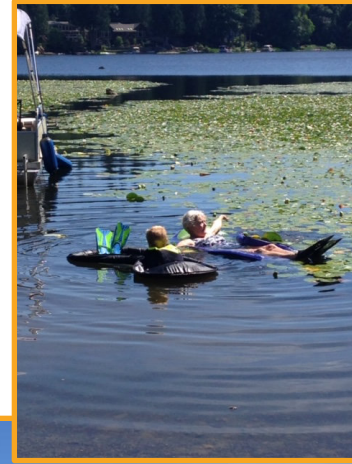
<https://your.kingcounty.gov/dnrp/library/water-and-land/weeds/BMPs/fragrant-water-lily-control.pdf>

<https://ameslakecommunityclub.wildapricot.org>

<https://www.aquatechnex.com/>



RESIDENTS COMPETE FOR SPACE IN THE WATER WITH LILY PADS



BEFORE SPRAYING: LILY PADS IMPEDE LAKE RECREATION

INVASIVE LILY PADS ARE HARMFUL TO THE LAKE AND INTERFERE WITH RESIDENTS USE OF THE LAKE.



AFTER SPRAYING: NO LILY PADS

AFTER THE LILY PADS ARE REMOVED, RESIDENTS HAVE PLENTY OF PLAY SPACE.

