Lake Goodwin and Shoecraft Milfoil Control

Spring, 2019

Snohomish County
Public Works
Surface Water Management

Problem

Lake Goodwin and Lake Shoecraft have an infestation of Eurasian watermilfoil, or milfoil, a non-native, invasive aquatic plant. Milfoil grows rapidly, forming thick mats of vegetation which:

- Interfere with boating and swimming
- Crowd out and replace beneficial native plants
- Harm fish and other aquatic life

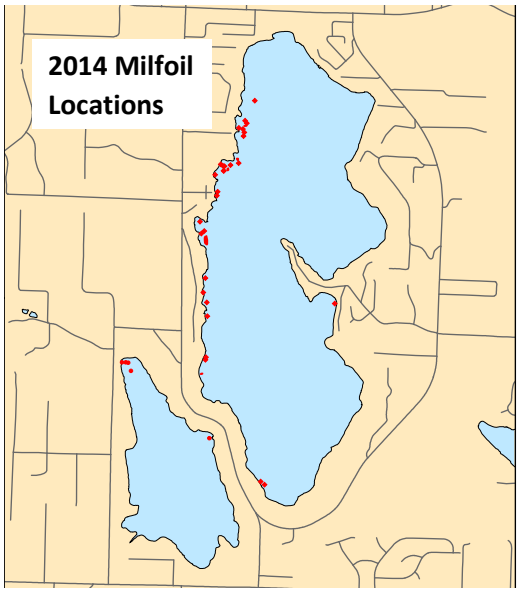
Solution

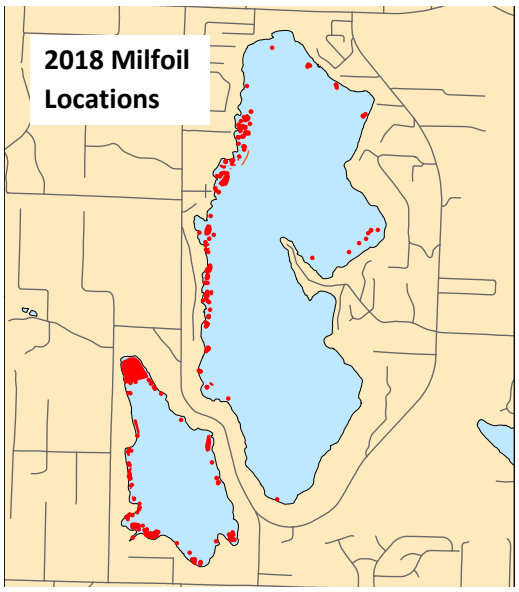
In the 1990's, Snohomish County Surface Water Management (SWM) and lake residents collaborated to develop the 7 Lakes Milfoil Control Plan. Since milfoil is difficult to completely eliminate, the current strategy is to conduct annual control efforts to minimize impacts to the lakes and prevent the spread. Control is achieved through diver hand-pulling and occasional herbicide treatments for large infestations. The County oversees the control work, with oversight from residents who volunteer on the 7 Lake Milfoil Advisory Committee.

Project Status

Milfoil control efforts have largely succeeded in meeting the project goals in most years over the last two decades. However, in recent years it has been increasingly difficult because of:

- Decreased hand-pulling due to changes in diving regulations that doubled the costs for diver services, resulting in fewer diving days per year
- New, large patches of milfoil that easily spread to non-infested areas of the lakes.
- Longer milfoil growing seasons due to warmer, earlier springs
- Increased resistance to herbicides making treatments less effective





Project Funding & Annual Expenditures

Milfoil work is funded through surface water utility charges and local residents. In 2005, the County Council established an aquatic plant control fee for residents (SC25.20.050) which replaced an administratively costly Lake Management District. The fee was renewed in 2010 and 2015 and will expire in Dec 2019.

Year	Plant Charge Total	SWM Total	% Paid by Residents	% Paid by SWM	Total Milfoil Control Costs
2005	$20,597	$5,760	78%	22%	$26,357
2006	$20,055	$28,794	41%	59%	$48,849
2007	$20,874	$0	100%	0%	$20,100
2008	$21,291	$1,709	93%	7%	$23,000
2009	$21,190	$7,410	74%	26%	$28,600
2010	$21,186	$11,414	65%	35%	$32,600
2011	$21,112	$1,288	94%	6%	$22,400
2012	$20,605	$14,595	59%	41%	$35,200
2013	$21,603	$15,797	58%	42%	$37,400
2014	$19,846	$10,354	66%	34%	$30,200
2015	$21,119	$13,036	62%	38%	$34,155
2016	$31,758	$13,242	71%	29%	$45,000
2017	$32,063	$17,341	65%	35%	$49,404
2018*	$31,576	$33,688	48%	52%	$65,264
2019 budgeted	$31,974	$13,180	71%	29%	$45,154

Aquatic plant fee recommendation:

The 7 lakes advisory committee proposes that the fee be renewed with the schedule below in order to:

- Establish a fund reserve in 2020 to allow for rapid response to large infestations
- Allow for a return to previous level of efforts for diver hand-pulling and to prepare for larger herbicide treatments as needed.
- Incrementally increase the fee to account for future cost increases

Year	Water Front Lots (494 Total)	Community Beach Lots (178 Total)	Public Recreation - per linear foot frontage (2178.2 feet)	Total Revenue
Current (2016 - 2019)				
2019	$60	$12.00	$0.35	$32,032
Proposed (2020 – 2024)				
2020	$160	$32.00	$0.93	$85,412
2021	$90	$18.00	$0.53	$48,059
2022	$95	$19.00	$0.55	$50,709
2023	$100	$20.00	$0.58	$53,380
2024	$105	$21.00	$0.61	$56,051

Questions? Call 425-388-3204 or email lakes@snoco.org