

LAKES ERIE & CAMPBELL

LAKES ERIE & CAMPBELL NEWSLETTER WINTER 2020

The following information has been provided by Skagit County Public Works Department and the Lake Management District No. 3 (LMD3) Advisory Committee to the residents of the Lakes Erie and Campbell Lake Management District with the intent of increasing public awareness and involvement related to lake management issues.

Lake Management District No.3 Expires in 2020!

What is a Lake Management District?

A Lake Management District (LMD) is a self-taxing special assessment district formed by lake communities who vote to charge themselves a special assessment to finance lake management activities in accordance to [RCW 36.61](#). In Skagit County LMDs are typically formed for a 10 year period. There are currently four LMDs in Skagit County:

- LMD 1 - Big Lake
- LMD 2 - Lake McMurray
- **LMD 3 - Lakes Erie & Campbell**
- LMD 4— Clear & Beaver Lakes

Skagit County Public Works Department staff provides technical and administrative assistance to LMDs for the control of noxious and nuisance aquatic weeds.

Each LMD has an **Advisory Committee** of lakefront property owners to provide input to the County on management decisions within the context of the LMD charter. *(LMD3 Advisory Committee members are on Pg3)*

The **Integrated Aquatic Plant Management Plan (IAPMP)** was prepared for Lakes Erie and Campbell in 2000. This comprehensive planning document examines different alternatives and costs for managing the aquatic plant growth while maintaining a healthy ecological balance using the most affordable and effective solutions. As part of the IAPMP, LMD3 implemented a two-pronged approach for

LMD 3 Program Overview

Lake Management District No. 3 (LMD3) for Lakes Erie and Campbell was first established in 2001 for a 10 year duration to manage the aquatic weeds in both lakes. Lakefront property owners voted to reform the District in 2010 for another 10 year duration. LMD3 is currently set to expire August 9, 2020.

The Primary Goals of LMD3:

- **Eradicate Eurasian Milfoil**
- **Control noxious waterlilies**
- **Control problematic native vegetation**
- **Control noxious yellow flag iris and purple loosestrife** (this is less of a priority than the other goals)

Although **algal blooms** have also been an ongoing problem in both lakes, algae control was not included in the LMD3 program due to the high costs associated with it. In addition, when algae is controlled it is often times followed by excessive aquatic plant growth due to improved water clarity.

What has LMD3 Accomplished?

controlling aquatic weeds including **herbicide treatments** and stocking the lakes with **grass carp** in 2003, 2006, and 2009. In addition, some **education and outreach** was incorporated into the program including Milfoil prevention signs at the public boat launches. *The IAPMP and annual aquatic plant maintenance reports are available on the County website: <https://www.skagitcounty.net/>*

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LMD3 Reformation Survey

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Lake Campbell Accomplishments

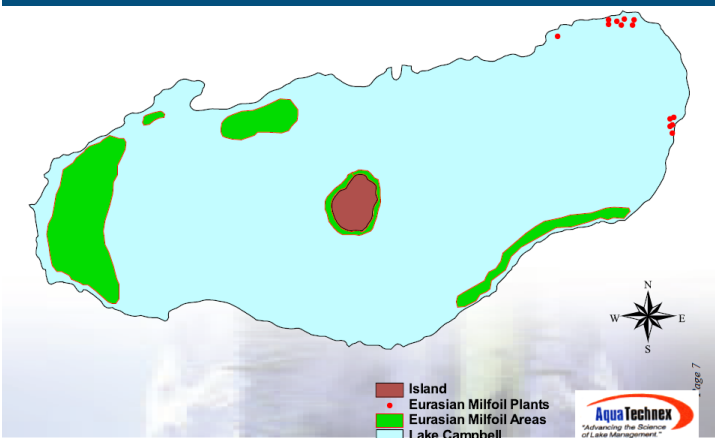
Eurasian Milfoil



Eurasian Milfoil is an invasive aquatic plant that primarily spreads by plant fragments hitchhiking on boats, boat motors, boat trailers, and fishing equipment and can stay alive for weeks if kept moist. Milfoil can also remain undetected beneath lily pads, native spatterdock, and filamentous algae. Milfoil can quickly dominate a lake and is extremely difficult to fully eradicate.

In 2002, the granular 2,4-D **systemic herbicide** was applied to 60 acres of Milfoil along the west end of the Lake Campbell. The treatment was highly effective and eradicated 99% of the Milfoil from the lake. Milfoil did not show up in Lake Campbell again until 2005. Unfortunately, despite our rigorous control efforts, Milfoil continues to be problematic in Lake Campbell. In 2019, seven acres of milfoil were treated with Triclopyr and an additional 12 acres of sporadic Milfoil plants were later treated with Diquat.

2002– Lake Campbell Milfoil Locations



In 2015, **Milfoil was discovered growing in four private ponds** located along the shoreline of Lake Campbell. Because Milfoil fragments can easily be spread from the ponds to the lake and back again during periods of high water, the LMD3 Advisory Committee elected to include the ponds in the annual inspection and treatment program for Milfoil.

Lake Campbell Milfoil Inspections in 4 Private Ponds



Native submersed aquatic plants are not yet prevalent in Lake Campbell so there will likely be no need for control for the next three to five years.

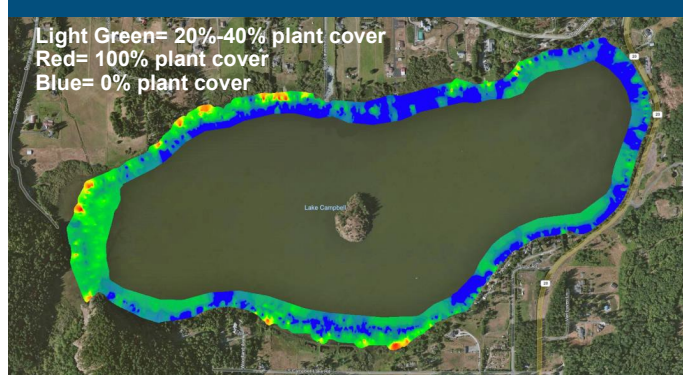
2019– Lake Campbell Milfoil Treatment Areas



2019 Loosestrife and Iris Infestation Treatment Area



2019– Lake Campbell Submersed Aquatic Plant Densities



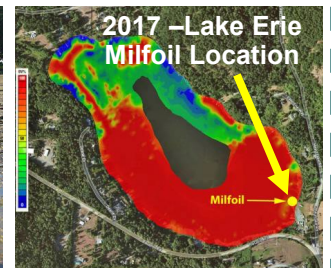
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Lake Erie Accomplishments

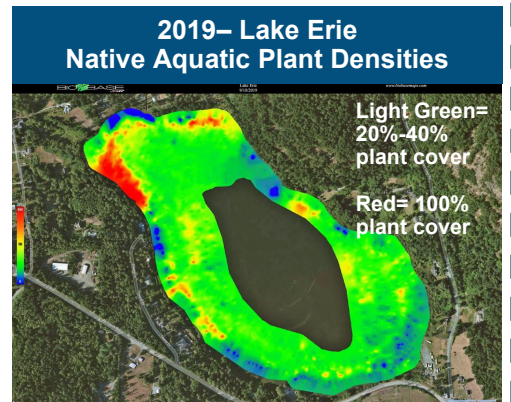
In 2002, a whole-lake Sonar treatment was applied to Lake Erie to eradicate **Eurasian Milfoil**. Milfoil appeared to be completely gone from the lake until 2008. Since then, there have only been a few patches of Milfoil plants primarily located along the shoreline at the south end of the lake. Spot treatments with contact herbicides have been applied each year to control the small patches of Milfoil plants. The good news is, **no Milfoil plants have been observed in Lake Erie since 2017!!**



Because Lake Erie is such a shallow lake, **submersed native aquatic plant growth** can take over pretty quickly and become problematic and potentially dangerous to lake-users. Native aquatic plants are essential to a healthy lake ecosystem, so maintaining a good balance is key. Without a healthy balance of aquatic plants, a nutrient-rich lake like Lake Erie could potentially become an algae dominant lake.

In Lake Erie, native aquatic plant growth varies from year to year. If it becomes too problematic for lake users, it is controlled with spot treatments using a **contact herbicide** such as Diquat along the problem areas. Contact herbicides do not kill the plants at the roots, but will reduce the amount of seeds produced for future plant growth.

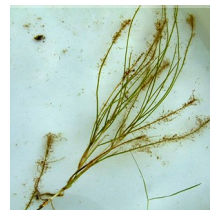
Both Lakes Erie and Campbell were stocked with triploid grass carp in 2003, 2006, and 2009 to help control submersed aquatic plants over the long-term and reduce the use of herbicides. Unfortunately, the carp eventually ended up devouring most of the native submersed aquatic plant populations in both lakes but didn't touch the Milfoil. It took several years for the native aquatic plant densities to recover.



2019 survey results indicate that Lake Erie has a healthy aquatic plant density of around 20%-40% along much of the lake shoreline.

Dominant Native Aquatic Plants Lake Erie

Slender Leaved Pondweed
(Potamogeton filiformis)



Naiad
(Najas Guadalupensis)

What Can Homeowners Do to Help Reduce Excessive Aquatic Plant Growth and Algal Blooms?

Reducing nutrient inputs into the lake is a key step to managing excessive aquatic plant and algae growth. As lakefront property owners, there are several things that you can do:

- Inspect & maintain septic systems
- Do not feed waterfowl
- Reduce or eliminate the use of fertilizers and pesticides
- Only use phosphorus free, slow release organic fertilizers
- Properly dispose of pet waste
- Wash vehicles at a commercial car wash
- Reduce lawns and plant native plants along shoreline

For more information: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/plants/algae/lake

Suspect a Blue-Green Algal Bloom?

Remember, not all algal blooms are toxic:

- ◆ When in doubt, stay out!
- ◆ Avoid contact with water containing algae
- ◆ Keep pets out of the water

For questions or to report algal blooms in Skagit County, contact Samantha Russell: srussell@co.skagit.wa.us at the Skagit County Health Dept.

TOXIC ALGAE MAY BE PRESENT Lake may be unsafe for people and pets

Until further notice:

- **Do not swim or water ski in areas of scum.**
No nade ni riegue el esquí en áreas de la espuma
- **Do not drink lake water.**
No beba el agua del lago
- **Keep pets and livestock away.**
Animales domésticos y ganado de la subsistencia lejos
- **Clean fish well and discard guts.**
Limpie los pescados bien y deseche la tripa
- **Avoid areas of scum when boating.**
Evite las áreas de la espuma cuando canotaje



Aquatic Plants & Algae

[Aquatic Plant Identification Manual:](https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gisresources/lakes/AquaticPlantGuide/index.html)

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gisresources/lakes/AquaticPlantGuide/index.html>

[Freshwater Algae Control Program:](https://ecology.wa.gov/Water-Shorelines/Water-quality/Freshwater/Freshwater-algae-control)

<https://ecology.wa.gov/Water-Shorelines/Water-quality/Freshwater/Freshwater-algae-control>

[Lakes Fact Sheets:](https://www.kingcounty.gov/services/environment/water-and-land/lakes/facts.aspx) [https://](https://www.kingcounty.gov/services/environment/water-and-land/lakes/facts.aspx)

www.kingcounty.gov/services/environment/water-and-land/lakes/facts.aspx

[Washington State Toxic Algae Program:](https://www.nwtoxicalgae.org/Default.aspx)

Find the latest toxic algae test results for your lake. <https://www.nwtoxicalgae.org/Default.aspx>



Skagit County Public Works

Natural Resources Division

1800 Continental Place

Mount Vernon, WA 98273-5625



SKAGIT COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon, WA 98273-5625

LMD3 is Set to Expire this Summer..... Now What??

The Lake Management District No.3 (LMD3) for Lakes Erie and Campbell is set to expire on August 9, 2020. Upon expiration of LMD3, there will be no mechanism to finance future aquatic plant management or other lake maintenance activities unless the District is reformed. The LMD3 Citizen Advisory Committee is requesting that lakeside property owners complete the voluntary informational survey insert (on the other side of this page) to help determine if there is any interest in reforming LMD3.

What is the LMD3 Reformation Timeline?

If the majority of surveys completed are in support of potentially reforming the District, the reformation process for LMD3 will take an estimated six months to complete:

February 2020— August 2020

- Identify the goals and the nature of the work to be financed
- Get cost estimates to do the work for the 10 year duration
- Determine special assessment roll, rates, and charges
- **Resolution of Intention** gets signed, and the first public hearing date is set
- Property owners notified about upcoming public hearings
- **Public Hearing #1** to mail ballots
- **20 day period to vote**
- If weighted majority votes "Yes" to re-create the District, the **Ordinance** re-creating the District gets signed
- 40 day appeal period
- **Public Hearing #2** to adopt the **Special Assessment Roll**

What Happens to the Remaining LMD3 Fund Balance?

If LMD3 is reformed any remaining funds would automatically rollover to the newly reformed District. If LMD3 is not reformed, the remaining fund balance (if there is any) would go back into the County's general funds. The Public Works Department would request that these funds be managed under the Drainage Utility to continue lake maintenance activities in Lakes Erie and Campbell.

How Would the Annual Special Assessment Rates be Determined?

The total annual special assessment rates for LMD3 is calculated according to cost estimates for performing the work for the ten (10) year duration of the District. The rate charged to each property is determined according to the type of property and benefits they would receive.

The nature of the work currently being financed by the LMD includes the following:

- Aquatic plant surveys to identify and map noxious aquatic plants and plant densities.
- Permits, signs, and public notification.
- Controlling noxious aquatic plants such as Milfoil, waterlilies, yellow flag iris, and purple loosestrife.
- Controlling problematic native aquatic plants in Lake Erie.
- Program administration, reports, and communications.

The annual assessment rates for LMD3 have remained the same for **20 Years!** However, the costs for maintaining the lakes have significantly increased.

Current Total Annual Assessments= \$29,055
***Estimated Annual Costs= Over \$50,000**

The annual special assessment rates would need to be increased by the following amount to cover the costs to do the work over the ten (10) year duration of the District (see table below):

Estimated Annual Rate Increase

| Property Type | # OF Parcels | Current Rate | *New Rate | *Rate Increase | *New Annual Revenue |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------|----------------|---------------------|
| Residential Waterfront Parcels | 89 | \$195 | \$332 | \$ 137 | \$29,548 |
| Multiple Access Parcels | 5 | \$390 | \$633 | \$ 273 | \$ 3,315 |
| Public Boat Launch | 2 | \$3,900 | \$7,630 | \$2,730 | \$15,260 |
| Commercial Parcels | 2 | \$975 | \$1,658 | \$ 683 | \$ 3,316 |
| Annual Revenue | | \$29,055 | | | \$51,439 |

Lake Management District No. 3 Re-formation Survey (Lakes Erie and Campbell)

***Please note:** this informational survey is completely voluntary. It is not a petition, ballot, or vote. **Survey results will help determine whether or not to proceed with the reformation process.** If the majority of survey responses are in support of reforming the District, the process would take at least six months to complete and would include two public hearings and voting **ballots**.

Please complete the following voluntary informational survey and return by **February 21, 2020**. There are three different options for completing and returning the surveys:

OPTION 1: Complete the survey below and mail it back in the enclosed prepaid envelope addressed to:

Skagit County Public Works
Attn: Tracy Alker
1800 Continental Place
Mount Vernon, WA 98273-5625

OPTION 2: Email completed surveys to: tracya@co.skagit.wa.us

OPTION 3: Complete the survey online at this link: <https://publicinput.com/K455>

**This survey, and any responses provided, will be subject to public disclosure pursuant to applicable law (including RCW 42.56).*

1. Would you be in support of reforming LMD3 for another ten (10) years if your annual special assessment rates increased to cover the costs of maintaining the aquatic weeds in both lakes? See table below for proposed rate increase.

These proposed rates would remain the same for the ten (10) year duration of the District: Yes or No or Not Sure

| Property Type | # OF Parcels | Current Rate | *New Proposed Rate | *Rate Difference | *New Annual Revenue |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Residential Waterfront Parcels | 89 | \$195 | \$332 | \$ 137 | \$29,548 |
| Multiple Access Parcels | 5 | \$390 | \$633 | \$ 273 | \$ 3,315 |
| Public Boat Launch | 2 | \$3,900 | \$7,630 | \$2,730 | \$15,260 |
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| Annual Revenue | | \$29,055 | | | \$51,439 |

2. If LMD3 is reformed, please rank in order of priority (1= highest priority), each of the lake maintenance activities you think should be financed. Leave blank the activities that should not be financed.

- a. Aquatic plant surveys/mapping to look for Milfoil and other noxious and problematic aquatic weeds
- b. Control noxious submersed aquatic weeds such as Eurasian Milfoil
- c. Control noxious floating aquatic weeds such as waterlilies
- d. Control noxious emergent aquatic weeds such as yellow flag iris and purple loosestrife
- e. Control nuisance native submersed aquatic plants
- f. Water quality monitoring (herbicides) and/or (nutrients, fecal coliform, temperature, pH) circle one or (ALL)
- g. Education and outreach (e.g. Informative newsletters, brochures, workshops, etc.)
- h. Algae control (**estimated costs for Lake Erie=\$ 290,000 and Lake Campbell=\$865,000**)
- i. Carp screen and outlet maintenance (currently maintained by volunteers as needed)
- j. Other? Please describe _____

Additional Comments: _____

Please clearly print your name and address (or parcel number) below and return the completed survey to Skagit County by **February 21, 2020**. If you would like to receive treatment notices or other LMD 3 related information by email, please provide your email address.

| Print Full Name | Address (or Parcel Number) | Email Address (Optional) |
|-----------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | |