



# Lake Lawrence *newsletter*

## 2007 WINTER

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## Lake Management District Extended Until 2011

It's official: 78 percent of those who voted in the Lake Management District (LMD) elections favored extending the LMD past Dec. 31, 2007. The new LMD begins Jan. 1, 2008 and extends to Dec. 31, 2011.

The new LMD will take a comprehensive approach to managing Lake Lawrence. Among other things, the LMD will use a combination of harvesting and county-approved herbicides to control waterlilies and nuisance weeds. (See the next page for details.)

One difference you will see next spring is an increase in the LMD assessment. This increase was recommended by the Advisory Committee and approved by the voters. This additional funding will enable the LMD to take a more rigorous approach to improving the quality of water in Lake Lawrence. We expect you will notice that the lake has fewer weed problems next year.

You may remember that the LMD had considered using grass carp to control nuisance aquatic plants. The state Department of Fish and Wildlife gave us conditional approval to stock grass carp; however, the LMD Advisory Committee found that meeting the department's permit conditions would cost too much over too long of a period to justify the commitment.

As always, you are welcome to attend meetings of the Lake Lawrence Advisory Committee. The committee is an informal, self-appointed group that makes recommendations to Thurston County on the work program for the LMD. The group meets on the second Tuesday of the month from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Lake Lawrence West Lower Lodge.

Please contact David Christensen at 709-3119 to ask how to get involved with LMD No. 18.



## Lawrence LMD Receives Grants

We are pleased to report that the Lake Lawrence LMD was awarded two grants this year.

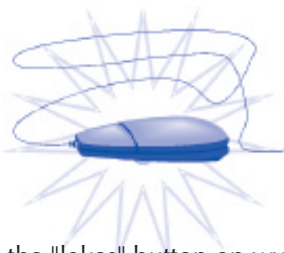
In June, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources awarded the LMD \$15,000. The LMD used the money to complete an extra weed harvest of about 15 acres before the July Fourth holiday. Without this funding, the lake would have only received one harvest in July.

Wal-Mart awarded the LMD \$2,500 for lake improvement projects. The LMD has not yet decided what project to complete with the funding.

The Wal-Mart grant is intended to improve the aesthetics and make Lake Lawrence more usable.

Please come to our meetings in January and February to help us decide which projects are the highest priority.

The LMD thanks the Department of Natural Resources and Wal-Mart for supporting Lake Lawrence.



See the "lakes" button on [www.co.thurston.wa.us/wwm](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/wwm)

The Lake Lawrence Newsletter is published by Thurston County Water and Waste Management to provide information to members of the Lake Lawrence Lake Management District.



# County-Approved Herbicide Planned for 2008

Fewer weeds will likely grow in recreational areas of Lake Lawrence next summer thanks to a new comprehensive approach to weed control. The LMD plans to continue the traditional harvesting program, but also include targeted use of the herbicide "Sonar" to control native nuisance weeds. Sonar is the only herbicide deemed safe enough to provide long-term control of a broad spectrum of nuisance aquatic weeds in Thurston County lakes.

So what exactly are "native nuisance weeds?" This term generally refers to naturally growing plants underneath the surface of Lake Lawrence that grow so thick and tall they interfere with recreation. We do not try to eliminate the nuisance weeds, but instead reduce them in areas where they interfere with lake recreation.

The LMD plans to treat about 45 acres of the 331-acre lake with Sonar next spring. Although this might not seem like a lot of area, it will nevertheless be a great improvement over past years when some residents were disappointed with the results of harvesting alone. Long Lake, located north of us, used a similar treatment this year and residents there reported having fewer weed problems than in any other year in recent memory.

We will also continue the traditional weed-harvesting program. Later in the summer, harvesters will cut weeds that were not identified for herbicide treatment in the spring.

There will be a water-use restriction for about 60 days during the herbicide treatment. During that time, you'll want to discontinue watering plants with lake water, otherwise, the plants may die. We'll advise you when the water-use restrictions are in place.

If you have questions about the program, please contact Dave Christensen at Thurston County Water and Waste Management, 709-3119 or [christd@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:christd@co.thurston.wa.us).



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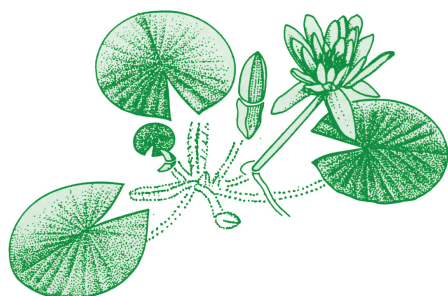
## Lilies Update

You might have noticed a few more white waterlilies in Lake Lawrence. The last lily treatment in 2004 controlled the lilies over a couple of summers; however, the lilies were not completely eradicated because it was not cost effective to treat the few plants that were left.

Those few remaining plants have spread now, and the LMD is planning to treat them with the herbicide Rodeo in 2008.

Both the state and Thurston County have approved Rodeo to control waterlily in lakes.

The Rodeo treatment will be in addition to the Sonar treatment described above.



## Ten Easy Ways to Protect Our Lake

- 1** Leave the shoreline alone. Disturbing the first 18 inches, both in the water and on the shore, is especially damaging to the ecosystem of the lake. This area contains some of the highest concentration of life in and around the lake.
- 2** Maintain your boat engines. Gas and oil do not simply evaporate away. Remember this when you are filling your tank and bailing your boat.
- 3** Keep your septic system in good working order.
- 4** Evaluate and remedy, if necessary, any sources of contamination stored on your property. This includes rusted paint cans, old metal gas tanks and oil tanks, and old piles of shingles. Don't dump any hazardous materials on the ground, like motor oil, paint thinners or gasoline.
- 5** Reduce pesticide and herbicide use so fewer chemicals get washed into the lake by stormwater.
- 6** Use natural, slow-release fertilizers such as bone meal or compost.
- 7** Pick up pet waste. Bury it, flush it, or put it in the trash.
- 8** Preserve and plant native trees and shrubs.
- 9** Don't wash cars near the lake. Use a commercial car wash instead.
- 10** Don't put leaves, branches or other organic matter into the lake. Organic materials feed weed and algae growth.