

Lakes in Clark County

Lakes are unique resources which provide a variety of recreational opportunities and diverse habitats. Lakes are not abundant in Clark County, but each of our lakes is heavily used and provides enjoyment to thousands of people every year. Vancouver Lake, Lacamas Lake, and Battle Ground Lake are discussed below. Yale Lake and Lake Merwin, two large reservoirs along the North Fork Lewis River, also provide recreational opportunities but have very limited water quality data.

Unfortunately, lakes are also easily degraded by human activities in their watersheds. Problems such as algae blooms, low oxygen levels, invasive plants, sediment, bacteria and toxic pollutants can be issues in our lakes. Careful lake and watershed management is required to protect these resources and maintain their benefits to our community.

Clark County Environmental Services and its partners, which include volunteers, Vancouver Lake Watershed Partnership, Washington State University, Clark County Public Health, Ecology, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Protection Agency, and the United States Geological Survey, are working to learn more about the lakes and improve lake management. You can find out more by visiting the websites below, or contacting Clark County Environmental Services at (360) 397-2121, or www.clark.wa.gov/water-resources.

Vancouver Lake



Size: 2,400 acres

General health: Poor



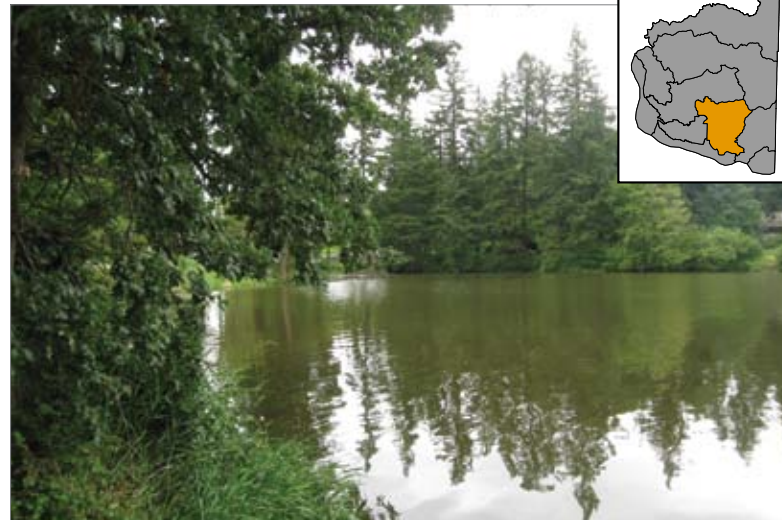
Uses to protect: sailing, rowing, swimming, paddling, fishing, wildlife habitat

Problems: algae blooms, sediment accumulation, nutrients, toxic pollutants

Years of data: 2005 to present

Contact: For information about ongoing research, planning and rehabilitation, see the Vancouver Lake Watershed Partnership website at <http://www.ci.vancouver.wa.us/publicworks/vancouverlake/index.htm>

Lacamas Lake



Size: 300 acres

General health: Fair



Uses to protect: power boating, skiing and boarding, fishing, paddling, wildlife habitat

Problems: algae blooms, low oxygen, invasive plants, sediment accumulation, nutrients

Years of data: 1995 to present

Contact: For water quality reports, ongoing research efforts, and citizen lake guides, see the Clark County Environmental Services' website at <http://www.clark.wa.gov/water-resources/monitoring/lakemonitor.html>

Battle Ground Lake



Size: 60 acres

General health: Fair



Uses to protect: swimming, fishing, paddling, scuba diving, wildlife habitat

Problems: invasive plants, nutrients

Years of data: 2003

Contact: For more information about Battleground Lake State Park, see http://www.cityofvancouver.us/parks-recreation/parks_trails/parks/battleground/battlegroundlake.htm or, contact Clark County DES at the website above