

Barnes Lake Management District

Help us improve Barnes Lake

2024 Annual Update

[Aquatic Vegetation Management Update](#)

Northwest Aquatic Ecosystems provided aquatic vegetation management services during the summer of 2023. The treatments focused on the lily pad growth along the shoreline as well as lake wide bladderwort and pondweed growth. Past efforts to control bladderwort have proved difficult because of the plant's ability to grow within the surrounding wetland areas in the lake. These areas become landlocked when water levels are low.



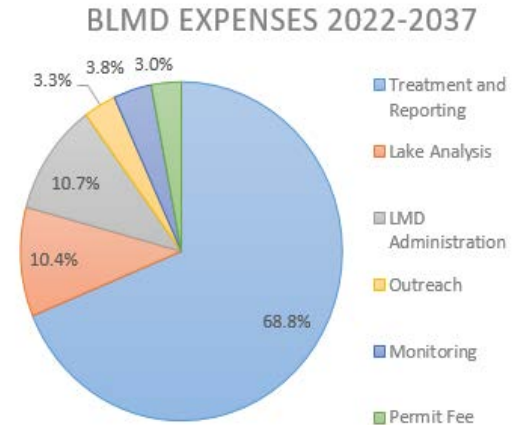
Consequently, there are still areas where bladderwort has survived the lake-wide treatment application. Continued efforts to control these plants are required to maintain recreational uses of the lake.

Barnes Lake Management District has contracted Northwest Aquatic Ecosystems, owned, and operated by Doug Dorling, for the past 17 years. Doug passed away unexpectedly this past winter causing his business to close operations as of January 2024. Doug provided our LMD with exceptional service over the last 17 years and will be greatly missed. With his unfortunate passing, the BLMD is currently searching for a new contractor for future treatment services. The Lake Management District Steering Committee will be conducting interviews to select the most qualified firm to provide treatment services in the future. Treatments for 2024 may be delayed until a new contractor is hired and their services become available.

Lastly, wetland habitat preservation continues to be a top management priority. Preserving intact wetland habitats around the lake continues to be a part of a management strategy for keeping the lake free of unwanted algae by reducing phosphorous levels. Recent research suggests that wetland habitats are efficient at removing phosphorus from water bodies. Phosphorus is a key nutrient for algae growth in Barnes Lake and keeping phosphorus levels low can help reduce algal blooms during the summer months. Barnes Lake is currently listed on Ecology's 303d list for impaired waters because of high phosphorus levels. Most wetland habitats around the lake are considered conservation areas and are excluded from treatment activities.

BLMD Rate Increase

In 2022, the Barnes Lake Steering Committee voted unanimously to increase Barnes Lake Management District (BLMD) rates by 5% annually through 2037 to address annual inflation and rising contract costs. Most of the assessment rate goes towards chemical applications to manage unwanted vegetation. Annual assessments are needed to keep the lake healthy, looking beautiful, and available for recreation.



2024 Rate Assessment

CLASS	5% ANNUAL INCREASE	TOTAL # OF UNITS	2024
1	Residential with Frontage	26	\$ 277.83
2	Undeveloped Residential w/ Frontage	3	\$ 138.92
3	Public / Commercial	3	\$ 555.66
4	Condominium w/ Frontage & View	21	\$ 222.26
5	Condominium w/ Frontage; No View	45	\$ 111.13
6	Residential w/ View Only	5	\$ 111.13
7	Undeveloped Residential w/ View Only	1	\$ 55.57
8	Condominium w/ View Only	5	\$ 89.14

Lakeside Perspectives

The late BLMD Chair, Gary Bodeutsch, was posthumously honored by the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) for his outstanding leadership and service for his significant volunteer efforts. NALMS is an international society comprised of professionals, academic researchers, lake associations and other interest groups, volunteers, and anyone interested in the protection, management, and love of lakes. They currently have about 1,000 members spanning the US and Canada. Each year, as a part of their annual symposium, NALMS gives two leadership and service awards to recognize and honor individuals or groups for successful projects, volunteer efforts, and public education/outreach. Nominations are collected throughout the year for projects throughout North America, and winners are selected by the Board of Directors.

Gary Bodeutsch was selected from a pool of nominations for his volunteer efforts at Barnes Lake, as the 2023 winner. NALMS wished to thank Gary for his dedication to aquatic plant management at Barnes Lake and his countless hours volunteering and leading the BLMD

Steering Committee. He was nominated for the 2023 award by Kathy Peterson on behalf of the Barnes Lake Management District Steering Committee.

The BLMD's nomination made it clear that Gary was passionate about making Barnes Lake a place for families and wildlife to enjoy for generations to come. In the words of his fellow BLMD Steering Committee Members:

"Gary Bodeutsch has chaired our Lake Management group for several years. In his leadership of our group, he has been level-headed and low-key, encouraging input from all. I would call him more of a facilitator than a chairman. He is knowledgeable about our lake's issues, and about the concerns of lake area residents. He has been an important part of improving the health and maintenance of Barnes Lake."

"Gary has always been a calm presence and a voice of reason. People listen to Gary because we all know his comments are both thoughtful and helpful. He has a love of Barnes Lake that runs deep. When I suggested we put together a lighted boat parade on the lake for Christmas, Gary has been one of my most enthusiastic participants – decorating his canoe with a beautiful lighted angel."

Congratulations to Gary and his family.

Volunteers Needed!

The BLMD has used volunteers to help collect water quality data on Barnes Lake since 2019. Volunteers play an integral role in protecting and improving the health of Barnes Lake and are essential to the success of the monitoring program. Their time and efforts provide data and information that could not be collected with City resources alone.



Volunteer activities include measuring water clarity, temperature, dissolved oxygen, and collecting water samples. City staff will provide training and monitoring equipment.

The information collected by volunteers is used to:

- Determine the current conditions of the lake.
- Educate lakeside landowners on how to improve lake health.
- Evaluate changes in lake health over time.
- Identify problems affecting the lake in the early stages.
- Demonstrate the effectiveness of treatment strategies on water quality.

If you are interested in participating in the Barnes Lake Volunteer Monitoring Program, please contact [Dave Kangiser](#) via email or at (360) 754-4140.

[Barnes Lake Management District Steering Committee Meetings](#)

Barnes Lake Management District Meetings are open to the public and held in person at Tumwater City Hall in the Sunset Room or via Zoom. Find the meeting agendas and Zoom link on the City of Tumwater's [Meetings Page](#).

Meeting dates for 2024:

- January 31
- April 3
- May 8
- June 12
- September 11 (Lake Walk @ 5:00 p.m.)
- October 9
- November 13

Do you have questions about the Barnes Lake Management District or want to get involved? Contact the [Water Resources & Sustainability](#) Department and find out how to participate in the Lake Management District!

BLMD Steering Committee representatives:

Chair: Linnea Madison (Lake Park Drive)

Vice-Chair: Tom Sparks (Barnes Lake

Condos) Kathy Peterson (Lark Street)

Dana Day (Lark Street)

Judith Loft (Lake Park Drive)

Rusty Weaver (Lake Terrace Drive)

Lalani Shelton (Lake Terrace Drive)

Jody Keys (Daisy Lane)

City of Tumwater representatives:

[Dan Smith](#), Water Resources and Sustainability Director

[Patrick Soderberg](#), Water Resources Program Manager

[Dave Kangiser](#), Water Resources Specialist

[We're on Facebook!](#)

Barnes Lake Conservancy is a closed group Facebook page managed by your neighbors. Join the group to share photos of the lake and start up a conversation.