

City of Black Diamond Eurasian Milfoil Infestation Survey of Lake Sawyer

September 2012

In 2011 an effort was made to obtain grant funds for a weed survey of Lake Sawyer. The grant request was approved and together with local matching monies from the Black Diamond Surface Water utility, an agreement was made with King County to provide the observation and research services desired.

For the survey, the Lake was broken down into sections identified by the King County Weed Watchers Program and is attached for reference to the physical findings.

Physical Findings:

- ✓ Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 8 and 9 were surveyed and Eurasian Milfoil was positively found and identified in all sections, although not in great abundance and would not be considered dense with other Milfoil infested Lakes in King County.
- ✓ Japanese knotweed was found along a property on the point near dock #104 and at the western edge of the Lake Sawyer Regional Park. It is advisable that these plants are dealt with early as they become harder to control as they continue to spread.
- ✓ One very little tape grass plant was found at the inlet channel from Rock Creek into the lake. It can be invasive as it has spread in other King County Lakes and should be monitored.
- ✓ On August 28th, the survey started in section 5 through section 8. Sections 5 and 6 were areas where most of the Eurasian Milfoil was found in bands along several docks.
- ✓ The islands in section 7 and 11 contained dense populations of Eurasian Milfoil, possibly due to the islands providing a buffer from wind that allows the Milfoil to settle and take root.
- ✓ Very few Eurasian Milfoil plants were found in section 12 and section 1, finishing where the survey started at the Lake Sawyer Boat Launch.

The Results:

1. Native pondweeds were very healthy and robust throughout the lake. In these areas Milfoil was found less. Where native pondweeds were less abundant, Milfoil was found in greater numbers.
2. Fragrant waterlily was found throughout the lake.
3. Eurasian Milfoil in Lake Sawyer is light compared to other King County Lakes. This is counter to the finding of the surveys done in 2001, 1998 and the 1970's where it was suggested the Lake was heavily infested.
Why is there a decrease in Eurasian Milfoil? Some theories are:
 - Milfoil weevil is present in the lake that has decreased the population.
 - Colder and wetter springs/summers has stunted growth
 - Earlier studies misidentified the plant
 - Some type of control has been done that has not been documented

Next steps:

- Retain weevil expert from the Department of Ecology to do a weevil survey – determine if the weevil is impacting the Eurasian Milfoil population.
- Convene a public meeting in early November - introducing the community around the lake and other stakeholders to the Integrated Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan process and all the different options that it entails.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The City web site has a copy of the August 2012 Field Survey which can be found at: <http://www.ci.blackdiamond.wa.us/spotlight.html>
- Monitor the City's website for additional information and the public meeting planned for early November 2012.

This study would not have been possible without the generous financial support of these contributing resources:



**Black Diamond Surface
Water Utility Fund**

