

Barnes Lake Management District 2025 Newsletter

For a Healthy Lake and Community

Barnes Lake Management District Steering Committee 2025 Meeting Schedule

- January 29
- April 9
- May 14
- September 10
(walk about)
- October 8
- November 12

Meetings are held at 6:00 pm at South Puget Sound Community College Building 32 in the Watershed Room or virtually on Zoom. Find the meeting agendas and Zoom link on the City of Tumwater's website: <https://tumwater-wa.municodemee tings.com/>

Aquatic Vegetation Management Update

In 2024, the Barnes Lake Management District ushered in a new contractor to conduct annual treatment on the lake to control invasive and nuisance aquatic plant species. Aquatechnex was offered a three year contract to continue the work of keeping Barnes Lake's health at a high level while balancing the recreational, wildlife, water quality, and aesthetic values of the lake. AquaTechnex has been at the forefront of lake restoration and management for over five decades, specializing in combating invasive aquatic plants and harmful algal blooms (HABs).

Plans for treatment in 2025 include targeted treatment for invasive fragrant water lily and bladderwort. Effort will also focus on nuisance water shield lily to allow access for recreation.



Budget Update

The 2025 budget will be impacted by the planned Integrated Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan (IAVMP) update as well as the fluridone treatment that was recently approved by the Barnes Lake Management District Steering Committee. An IAVMP is used to guide the direction of lake management to balance recreational and aesthetic uses with habitat and water quality goals. Fluridone is an aquatic vegetation treatment that targets the root of invasive species such as bladderwort. Both of these budgetary needs are only planned for 2025, making the impact only felt this year. Routine property assessments will help recover the budget in the coming years.

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT TYPE	TOTAL # OF UNITS	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Residential with Frontage	26	\$ 291.72	\$ 306.31	\$ 321.62	\$ 337.70	\$ 354.59
Undeveloped Residential w/ Frontage	3	\$ 145.86	\$ 153.15	\$ 160.81	\$ 168.85	\$ 177.29
Public / Commercial	3	\$ 583.44	\$ 612.62	\$ 643.25	\$ 675.41	\$ 709.18
Condominium w/ Frontage & View	21	\$ 233.38	\$ 245.05	\$ 257.30	\$ 270.16	\$ 283.67
Condominium w/ Frontage; No View	45	\$ 116.69	\$ 122.52	\$ 128.65	\$ 135.08	\$ 141.84
Residential w/ View Only	5	\$ 116.69	\$ 122.52	\$ 128.65	\$ 135.08	\$ 141.84
Undeveloped Residential w/ View Only	1	\$ 58.34	\$ 61.26	\$ 64.32	\$ 67.54	\$ 70.92
Condominium w/ View Only	5	\$ 93.59	\$ 98.27	\$ 103.19	\$ 108.35	\$ 113.76

Lakeside Perspectives (value of the LMD in the community, steering committee perspectives, etc.)

[Insert Photo]

Lake Stewardship – Fertilizer Best Practices

Contrary to popular belief, healthy lawns need only a small amount of nutrients. More importantly, they need healthy soils. Applying more fertilizer than what the label says will NOT make your grass healthier, but it will cost you more money and could result in excess nutrients washing down storm drains into streams, lakes, Puget Sound or even into our drinking water. Excess fertilizer can “burn” your lawn, lead to excess thatch build up and excess salts in your soil. Research shows that phosphorous is critical to root development and plays an important role when first establishing a lawn. Generally, our soils have enough phosphorus already. Too much phosphorous causes algae blooms, which can result in low dissolved oxygen levels and suffocation of fish and other aquatic organisms.

When choosing a fertilizer for your yard, make sure you are not adding too much unnecessary nutrients. A soil test can help determine the correct needs for your yard. Fertilizer bags will show three numbers that reflect the Nitrogen (N) – Phosphorous (P) – Potassium (K) ratio. In Western Washington, the optimal ratio of N-P-K is 3-0-2. In other words, 3 parts nitrogen to zero parts phosphorous to 2 parts potassium.

For more information, visit the Thurston County Healthy Gardening website:

<https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/departments/public-health-and-social-services/community-wellness/healthy-home-yard/gardening>



Living with Beavers on Barnes Lake

Did you know that Barnes Lake is home to several beaver families? Beavers create their own habitat by building dams that also creates habitat for other wildlife. Weasels, raccoons, and herons hunt frogs and other prey along the marshy edges of the lake. Migratory waterbirds use lake as nesting areas and resting stops during migration. Ducks and geese often nest on top of beaver lodges since they offer warmth and protection, especially when lodges are formed in the middle of a pond. The trees that die as a result of rising water levels attract insects, which in turn feed woodpeckers, whose holes later provide homes for other wildlife.

If left unchecked, the beavers in Barnes Lake could flood waterfront property. The City of Tumwater installed a flexible leveler at the south end of the lake to help regulate the water level during the rainy season. A flexible leveler is a flexible piece of pipe that runs through the beaver dam allowing water to pass through it without compromising the beaver dam. Barnes Lake has had a flexible leveler in place for almost a decade!



Barnes Lake Management District Steering Committee Meetings

Do you have questions about the Barnes Lake Management District or want to get involved? Contact the Water Resources & Sustainability Department at waterresources@ci.tumwater.wa.us and find out how to participate in the lake management district! Find the meeting agendas and Zoom link on the City of Tumwater’s website: <https://tumwater-wa.municodemeetings.com/>

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)
Rusty Weaver (Lake Terrace Drive)	Lalani Shelton (Lake Terrace Drive)
Jody Keys (Daisy Lane)	

City of Tumwater representatives:

Patrick Soderberg, Water Resources Program Manager: psoderberg@ci.tumwater.wa.us

Dave Kangiser, Water Resources Specialist: dkangiser@ci.tumwater.wa.us