

Petition to the Thurston County Commissioners To establish a Lake Management District for Offut Lake

June 2022

We request that the Thurston County Board of Commissioners (BOCC) initiate the process to establish a new Offut Lake Management District (OLMD) No. 24 as follows:

1. The purpose of the proposed OLMD Program is to protect the water quality, fish and wildlife, recreation, and aesthetic values of Offut Lake through the implementation of appropriate lake management programs.
2. The District is proposed for 10 years, between January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2032
3. The proposed boundaries of the OLMD are all properties fronting on or having community access to Offut Lake. See map.

About the Petition

Signing this petition does not automatically establish a new Lake Management District. The petition asks the BOCC to begin the necessary steps to form a new lake management district.

1. The BOCC will review the petition to determine if the proposed LMD is in the public interest and financially feasible. If the BOCC determines the proposal meets their public interest and financial feasibility criteria, the BOCC will hold a public hearing for all Offut Lake residents to hear comments on this proposal.
2. Following the public hearing, the BOCC will again determine if the LMD is in the public interest and financially feasible. If the BOCC determines this meets their public interest and financial feasibility criteria, the BOCC will authorize a vote of all property owners within the boundaries of the proposed LMD.

If authorized by the BOCC, a ballot will be mailed to all property owners within the proposed LMD which will allow them to vote YES or NO on forming the new OLMD No. 24.

3. The vote will determine whether a new OLMD is established.

Proposed LMD program

1. Maintain a healthy and ecological balance of humans and wildlife in the lake to ensure safety of boaters and swimmers.
2. Employ best-practice techniques to ensure environmental safety and preservation.
3. Contract with an environmental consultant company to conduct an Integrated Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan (IAVMP) to assess condition of Offut Lake: water quality, identify aquatic plants and noxious species.
4. Control nuisance levels of aquatic vegetation, noxious weeds, and non-native aquatic plants in accordance with an Integrated Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan (IAVMP), as well as prescriptions developed in compliance with Thurston County's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Policy and create a plan for best management practices.
5. Reduce toxic algae blooms and rapidly increasing weed growth, conduct regular water quality testing to identify lake nutrients, and possible pollution sources.

6. Educate and inform the OLMD members on lake water quality and management issues including toxic algae blooms, nutrient levels, boating safety, via e-newsletters and regular OLMD Advisory Committee meetings.

Charges to property

Annual rates and charges will be used to raise funds to support OLMD activities. The estimated amount that will be raised by OLMD rates in 2023 is \$ 82,991.

The following is the formula of rates and charges used to establish the 2023 assessment roll for the OLMD:

We propose these annual rates

- Lakefront parcels (developed): \$750
- Lakefront parcels (undeveloped): \$375
- Upland parcels: \$70
- Habitat Reserve parcels: \$94
- WA State Fish & Wildlife boat launch: \$16,200 (estimate)
- OFFUT LAKE RESORT : \$1500

All LMD residents may be eligible to receive a reduction in Stormwater Fee that is currently a part of their annual tax assessment.

Senior and or Disabled discounts will apply by category to all residents.

OLMD: Preliminary action plan and financing for proposed new Lake Management District – 2023 through 2032 (see attached budget)

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES: 2023 is \$ 31,042

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

1. Develop and submit the required water quality improvement work plan and year-end report that aligns with County water quality goals to comply with requirement so all LMD residents will qualify for Stormwater Reduction Benefit. Complete Year 1 and annually following.
2. Integrated Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan (IAVMP) study will be completed in Year 2.
3. Water quality testing will begin Year 2.
4. Weed treatment will begin in Year 3.
5. Algae Treatment is anticipated to begin Year 6 or sooner if money is available

Future Assessment Increases: During the duration of the LMD, the Advisory Committee will meet annually to determine if a rate increase is needed to cope with increasing costs, not to exceed, 0-5% of each property owners assessment. If such a determination is deemed necessary and prudent, the Advisory Committee will notify members, solicit input, and submit recommendations to the County.

NOTE: Any annual fund balance would be carried over from previous year. This budget assumes no additional grant funding: however successful grant applications will be an ongoing and integral part of our programs to minimize expenses to property owners.