Lake Sammamish Water Level Issues & County Willowmoor Project

Feb. 2015



The following presentation has been prepared for Bellevue's City Council as lake resident input during their review of King County's proposed Willowmoor Restoration Project.

Bellevue's support is sought to assure that lake shoreline properties are not further impacted by high lake water levels; an issue that has been prevalent for more than a decade.

Information is provided which supports resident concerns and actions are recommended as well.

Lake Sammamish residents are concerned about high lake water levels

High water damages shorelines and property improvements

(Examples follow.)

Lake Sammamish Jan 2006

If the lake is "full" and a rare storm hits, shore properties are impacted.

Unnecessary damages follow...

More damage examples...



And more...







Shoreline Erosion and Benching

"Soft" Stabilization is easily destroyed.

An additional impact?

Loss of Property Due to Shifting of OHWM

Persistent High Water Shifts Shore Property Line



Figure 1: Impact of Rising Waters on OHWM



Effective Drainage Is Key To Lake Level Control !

What Controls Lake Drainage?

1960's Corps Built Floodway at Marymoor (Cross section of Floodway)



1990's Corps Agreed to Trial Plantings



Trial Plantings Now Block Flow



"Trial" Plantings Over Twice the Approved Width EO C DO ROAT

2015

1990

85 ft + (instead of 35 ft)

Other Blockages Have Formed



< Sediment removal stopped here

Sediment causes this

Example Obstructions

Location: North End of TZ

Location: Mid-TZ



Example Downstream Obstructions

Location: Park Entrance



Obstructions continue to be allowed downstream.



Will Willowmoor Work?



No! Willowmoor will still be off by 50% from Corps' project

What's Needed?

- Remove Sediment and Obstructions
- Reduce "Trial" Plantings to Agreed 10 ft. Width
- Make Weir "Dynamic" for Water Management
- Guarantee of Robust Annual Maintenance
- Assure Small Craft Navigability/Safety
- Corps must "Reactivate" the Flood Control Project