

While it is true that Great Blue Heron are still visible around Green Lake this 2014 season, the pattern is set in motion for them to not return - if the lake clarity is not repaired/restored. The May 11 heron had the luxury of clear shoreline water, to enable it to sight-fish at normal standing height in shallow edge water – its normal method of feeding at Green Lake. All visitors to the lake have enjoyed the exciting and educational experience of standing nearby watching one do its thing:

Stalk, Strike, Eat! One after another!

This however requires that the lake be transparent, not opaque with algae pond scum. The recent poor October 7 fellow on the right is recalling better times earlier this 2014

season, before the algae bloom rapidly expanded. While he and his partners may still arrive for 2014, if the lake is not repaired by alum treatment to restore clarity, they will move on to better waters in following years.

The 2001-2003 sequence of lake deterioration,

leading to similar lake closures during prime Summer fun months – caused over time heron to visit less and less – to eventually not be present at all. They did return in progressively increasing in numbers after the Winter 2004 alum treatment clarified the water. Once again they could see to fish – so they returned and apparently had spread the word to their friends – “The Lake is Back!!”

If we do not repair the lake, but continue to rely on “Lake Closed” signs, we can reliably expect the repeat of the 2001-2003 scenario – with its associated health and safety hazards and general downturn of park attendance.

Friends of Green Lake testified before the Seattle City Council budget meetings on October 8, 2003, leading to the successful alum treatment of 2004 (with its subsequent booster shot). We went again October 7, 2014 and re-pled the case – a repeat of the same plea. This is a repeat of the past, with a proven solution now well understood, safe, available, acceptable, and wanted by the public.

ALL WE NEED IS A SCC/MAYOR DECISION TO ACT.

