



## Nomination Statement for Friends of Green Lake

I am nominating the Friends of Green Lake because they are a grass roots ensemble of citizens with diverse skills who have been devoted to doing what they can to support Green Lake since 2003. The FOGL draws volunteers from within and beyond the Green Lake neighborhood, working to secure a healthy Green Lake for wildlife and recreation. Their stated mission ***"is to ensure a healthy lake for wildlife and recreation for today and tomorrow."***

They have worked tirelessly with Parks to insure Park staff and elected officials know the importance of the water quality issues as they relate to the health of the lake and the entire park. The group accomplishes a tremendous amount of expert scientific level monitoring of the water, which also means they have been in the park just about every day of the year for the last 10 years. Their consistent presence in the park makes them the best ears, eyes and voice to relay observations and concerns. Which, they do without fail. But they have also been willing to take on a task that doesn't get much notice or credit from the general public. But what they accomplish helps document and communicate the physical condition and quality of the water.

From 2003- 2012 the total volunteer hours reported is 6370. This number probably doesn't capture the unofficial hours this group has spent preparing reports, contacting other volunteers, developing work projects, communicating concerns to the department and just walking around the lake keeping a look out for problems. Parks has benefited from the unfathomable dedication to the lake in so many ways.

It started in the spring of 2003, while trying to gather information about the condition of the lake; FOGL learned no agency was regularly monitoring the lake's water clarity. FOGL decided to begin taking the standard secchi measurements to record water clarity changes through the summer, and also began measuring water temperature and the lake level in the fall. Volunteers gathered weather observations, secchi disk (water transparency), surface water temperature, and water surface elevation. Collection of rainfall was also part of that program. This information was used to solicit support and educate the public and city staff on what was going on with the water quality.

This group evolved from a small core who worked hard to obtain signatures from the community to bring a focus to the problem, which was a blue algae bloom the seemed to occur every year. Not only was water quality affected but the park visitor experience was affected by the sight and smell of the algae bloom.

FOGL volunteers worked near the bike/walk path explaining what was going with the lake and why community support was needed to make a difference. At other times, they attended events at Green Lake to educate and provide information about water quality and why it was important. As a result of these efforts, enough signatures were gathered to make an impression on the superintendent of Seattle Parks and to get an audience with the mayor (Greg Nickels). FOGL had collected 1,500 signatures, enough to persuade the Mayor and City Council to include the 2004 alum treatment in the City Budget. Treatment began March 18, 2004 and was completed on April 7, 2004.

Since 2005, Green Lake has been included in the King County Lake Stewardship Program; FOGL members collect Level II information from kayaks. Samples are taken every two weeks from mid May to mid October. FOGL volunteers Richard Fleming and Gayle Garman note general weather conditions and the number of boats and water birds on the lake. They take Secchi disk readings for water

transparency. Water samples and temperature are taken at one meter below the surface and one meter above the bottom. Precipitation measurements are taken daily year round by Dr. Fleming.

FOGL continues to be involved in the general health and well being of the entire park by organizing work parties the first Saturday of each month to clean up the shoreline and remove blackberry canes and roots, plant native foliage to preserve bird habitat, and remove the non-native Asiatic milfoil fouling areas of the shoreline. FOGL sponsors bird walks for the bird lovers who enjoy learning more about the natural wildlife at Green Lake. They also present a program at their monthly meetings designed to provide educational information about topics pertinent to wildlife, flora and fauna around Green Lake. FOGL continues to participate yearly in the Open Swim at Green Lake and the Milk Carton Derby.

### **Total Reported Volunteer Hours**

**2948.5 hrs. - official monitoring and assessments of Green Lake waters,** shoreline restoration work parties, ongoing individual's hours registered with FOGL and one in the water/shoreline milfoil work party a year for 2003- 2012.

**1950 hrs. - volunteer activities to support FOGL volunteer system** includes presentations, grant writing and monitoring grants, Power Point development, Blog and website Development, upkeep and response back, special projects, other kinds of community meetings, archive development and documentation of lake, education & citizen/school training (environmental education) since 2003

**972 hrs. -** 9 years x 6 meetings x 12 volunteers x 1.5 hours = FOGL meetings since 2003

**500 hrs. - FOGL advocating for Green Lake** hours working to partner and educate and engage other agencies in support of **water quality and monitoring** of Green Lake and the Densmore watershed



*The water in Green Lake was clear when this picture was taken on January 20, 2005 (10 months after the alum treatment). The treatment is expected to provide up to 10 years resistance to toxic algae blooms.*



*Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels with Friends of Green Lake on March 27, 2004. Friends of Green Lake led the successful campaign for the alum treatment.*



Friends of Green Lake members Gayle Garman and Richard Fleming take water samples and collect [information on water conditions](#) from two kayaks positioned side-by-side as part of King County's Lake Stewardship Program.



FOGL members standing on a Green Lake dock use the Secchi disk to measure water clarity.

Photos: Bradley Enghaus  
North Seattle Herald-Outlook

