

**Pine Lake Creek Basin Plan  
In-Person Open House Summary**

October 9, 2023



# Sammamish Pine Lake Creek Basin Plan Open House

## Meeting Summary

### INTRODUCTION

The City of Sammamish is in the process of creating a comprehensive plan for the Pine Lake Creek watershed, which includes Pine Lake. This plan, known as the Pine Lake Creek Basin Plan (Basin Plan), aims to assess and address issues related to flooding, erosion, water quality, and ecological health within the basin. In shaping and selecting projects and solutions, the city will take into account considerations for future development and climate resilience.

The Pine Lake Creek watershed encompasses approximately 1,200 acres, primarily located at the southern end of the Sammamish Plateau. This area is notable for its significant environmental resources and values, as highlighted in the Sammamish Retrofit Strategy of 2021. It includes Pine Lake, Pine Lake and Kanim creeks, as well as a sphagnum bog complex and several smaller wetlands. Over the past decade, residential development in the vicinity, especially around Pine Lake, has been on the rise. However, lower Pine Lake Creek continues to flow through some of the largest remaining tracts of contiguous forest within the city. Historically, Pine Lake Creek has supported a thriving kokanee salmon run and remains one of the four primary spawning streams recognized by the Kokanee Work Group, despite recent declines in spawning populations.

To engage and inform the community in the development of the Basin Plan, the city is actively involving the public. This process includes meaningful discussions with stakeholders to gain a better understanding of their priorities. These discussions serve to identify both existing issues and challenges, as well as potential solutions that will contribute to the long-term health and sustainability of the basin.

### PURPOSE

On September 26, 2023, the city held an in-person open house from 5:30 -7 p.m. in the Sammamish City Hall City Council Chambers. The primary objectives of the open house were to inform the residents about the project and to invite the community to actively participate in the identification of issues and prioritization of potential needs.



*Sammamish Pine Lake Creek Basin Plan in-person open house on September 26, 2023.*

## NOTIFICATION

The project team used a variety of methods to promote the September 26 in-person Open House. These included:

- Sending a postcard to approximately 3,000 addresses within the project area
- Social media posts
- Posting event information on the City's [website](#)

## OPEN HOUSE OVERVIEW & FORMAT

Approximately 40 people attended the Open House. The event featured a welcoming booth and 8 display boards in the City Hall's council chambers. The display boards: shared how the public process helps to shape the community's vision for Sammamish Pine Lake Creek Basin plan; described the current feedback and issues raised from the public up to date; and provided opportunities for participants to provide input on potential projects and improvements. Furthermore, attendees expressed their opinions and suggestions by completing comment forms, using sticky notes, and writing on flip charts, which are detailed in Appendix A of this summary.



*Attendees participate in the open house through talking to the project staff, looking at the project display boards, and providing written comments.*

## PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

Participants were encouraged to share their feedback through various means, including talking with the project team, providing written comments on project boards and comment forms to identify community needs and prioritize potential projects. Key themes and suggestions voiced by attendees included:

### Basin-stream issues & challenges:

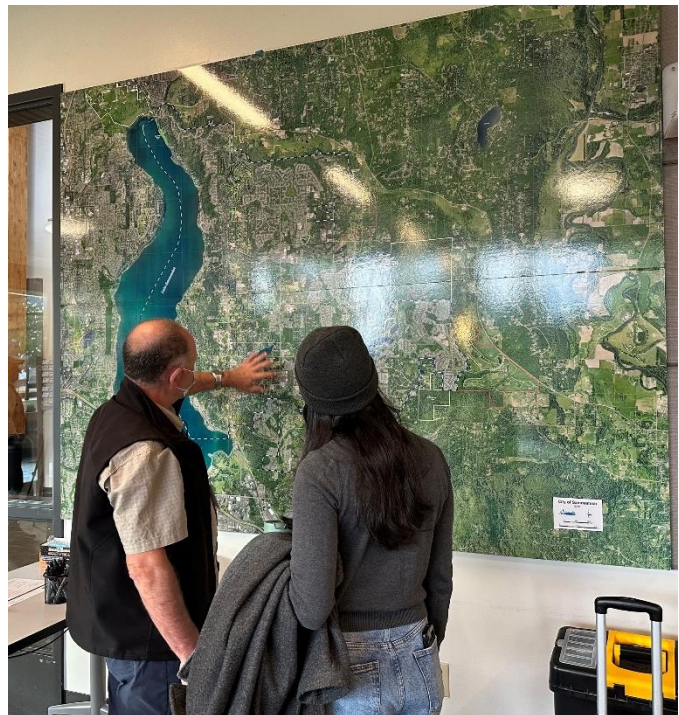
- Sediment capture upstream
- Pollution runoff, especially from pavement

### Lake issues & challenges:

- Need effective water level management
- Overall lake health
- Address weeds issue in Pine Lake
- Combat shoreline decline
- Manage lily pads
- Removal of muck in the south cove
- Geese reduction
- Improve lake water quality
- Water level management of the weir:  
Pine Creek dries up in summer, affecting access.
- Increase in weed problems during summer
- The use of tarps in the lake as weed barriers
- Evaluate the use of creosote logs
- Discuss the status of sphagnum moss and its potential impact on the lake
- Address the buildup of invasive weeds and debris on the south side of Pine Lake
- Sediment buildup in the lake, which hinders fish spawning
- Address algae blooms in spring
- Identify responsible parties for water quality and code enforcement, particularly for failing septic systems and dock cleaning practices
- Raise questions about the management of the weir, with some residents volunteering for its care
- Discuss the potential transfer of weir management to the city
- Highlight the cost of beaver management (\$7,000 per beaver)
- Mention the entombment study concerning four kokanee streams
- Note increased water levels in Pine Lake due to winter runoff, leading to greater lake fluctuations



*A project team member discusses the Pine Lake issues with a group of attendees at the Open House.*

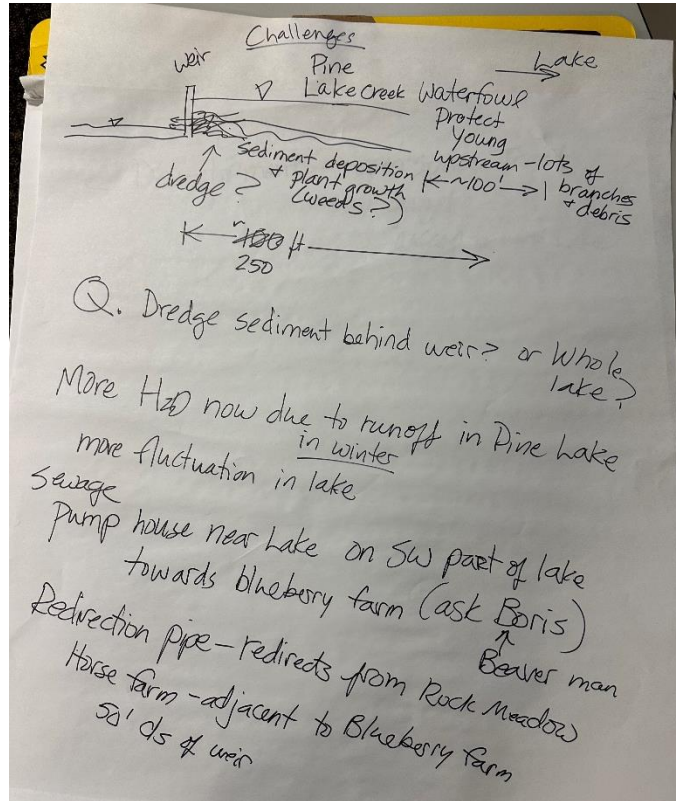


*A project team member points out the project area for an attendee at the Open House.*

- Identify the sewage pump house near the lake's southwest section, close to the Blueberry Farm

Questions raised from the participants included:

- Whether dredged sediment accumulates behind the weir or affects the entire lake
- Strategies to reduce phosphorus levels
- The role of fertilizer uses on grass
- The notification processes for dangerous algae blooms and other issues
- The proliferation of pondweed and the changes in the lake environment
- Seek solutions that specifically address muck, weeds, and lily pads, which appear to remain unaddressed by proposed measures
- Inquiry about the activities carried out in the evaluation of Pine Lake Creek Basin and compare them to activities in other city basins
- Reiterate the involvement of volunteer residents in weir maintenance



Participants wrote comments and questions on a flip chart during the Open House.

Participants also suggested some potential solutions the challenges.

- Seek safe weed control solutions for lake property
- Advocate for lake living education on the city's website, which includes:
  - o Dock maintenance
  - o Weed removal
  - o Construction guidelines
  - o Vegetation protection
  - o Waste disposal
- Redirect pipe that diverts water from Rock Meadow Horse Farm adjacent to Blueberry Farm and its impact on the weir

## NEXT STEPS

The project team will use the feedback from this Open House to inform the Pine Lake Creek Basin plan.

Please visit the City’s website for updates and ways to stay involved: [Pine Lake Creek Basin Plan | City of Sammamish](#).

## Appendix A: Comments from the Participants

# Challenges

- Tarps in lake (weed barriers)
- Creosote logs
- Sphagnum Bog that used to flow to Pine Lake - Should it be protected?  
*Is it going to turn into a nicer bog-like Queens bog?*  
*wetland 53(?)*
- Build-up of weeds <sup>invasive</sup> & collection of debris of S. side of lake (Education!)
- Sediment build-up in lake (impeding fish from spawning in lake)
- Algae blooms in spring / UW studies of <sup>crowded / ecology</sup> invasive or native ~~John & Hank's~~ <sup>Hank Klein</sup> <sup>Hank's property</sup>

John Smith

A lot of  
links at  
KC

## Challenges

50 ways to Love your Lake

Pr  
Lake living education page  
on City website

- ex. • how to clean docks/moss,
  - remove weeds,
  - building/adding to structures,
  - protecting vegetation,
  - what can go in lake (i.e., for stabilization, building out bulk heads)
  - who to call for WQ, code enforcement
  - failing septic systems
  - washing docks (pressure washing, where does H<sub>2</sub>O go?)
- SIMPLE (frowny faces)





# Challenges

Who takes care of weir?

Volunteer residents have been doing it. City inspects but it isn't

City's weir. Harvey Miller built weir.

↳ Mgmt. of weir would have to be for a specific purpose - until then it hasn't been ironed out that City would take over mgmt.

• Beaver mgmt. - 1 beaver = \$7k

KC data study - 2023 3rd year

- entombment study - 4 kokanee streams



SUPERSTICKY EASEL PAD  
TABLEAU A FEUILLES MOBILES SUPERCOLLANTES  
SUPERADHESIVAS BLOC DE HOJAS REPOSICIONABLES



30

25 IN/PO x 30 IN/PO  
63.5 cm x 76.2 cm  
5.2 SQ. FT/PIE (0.48 m<sup>2</sup>)

3M

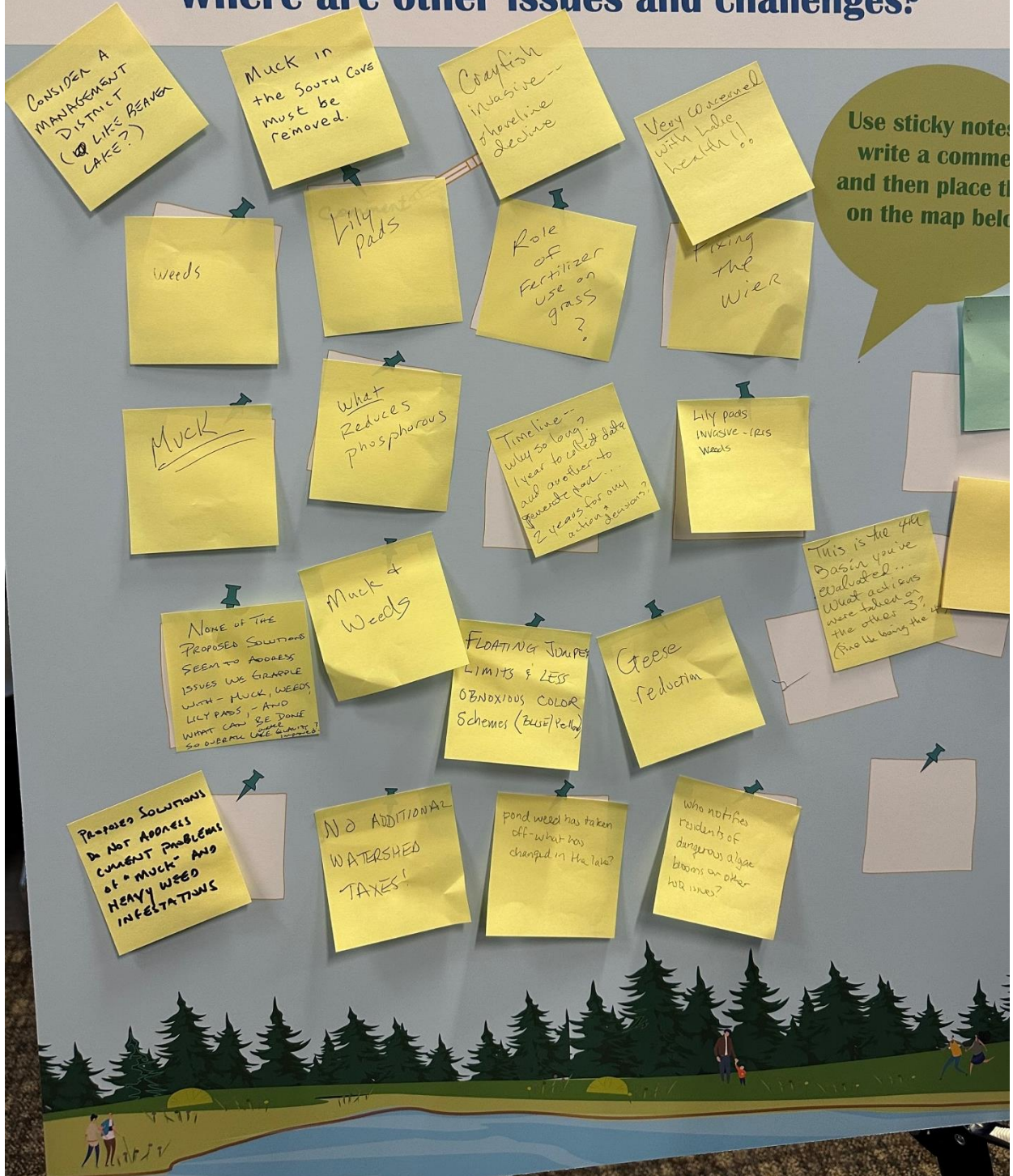
# Tell us what you think!

- Lake water quality improving
- Trampoline s
- Collective organization to help address issues - potential solution
- I would like to see a relief map of the Plateau. We get an East wind that comes across Pine L. in fall / winter months. It comes from Snoqualmie Pass. Down on E.L. Sammamish Parkway --- completely still.

HD Fowler - pipe into Kemnck

# WHAT ELSE?

## Where are other issues and challenges?





# Sammamish Pine Lake Creek Basin Plan Comment Form

## What are the issues and challenges within the Pine Lake Creek Basin?

Tell us what you think!

**BASIN/STREAM**

**LAKE**

WATER LEVEL - MANAGEMENT OF THE WEIR  
 PINE CREEK DRIES UP IN SUMMER + RESIDENTS ON THE CREEK LOSE THEIR WATER ACCESS  
 WEEDS GETTING WORSE WITH SUMMER HEAT  
 WHAT WEED KILLERS ARE SAFE TO USE ON LAKE PROPERTY?

Name (optional): KATHY AYE  
 Email Address (optional): KATHLEENAYE@GMAIL.COM



# Sammamish Pine Lake Creek Basin Plan Comment Form

## What are the issues and challenges within the Pine Lake Creek Basin?

Tell us what you think!

### BASIN/STREAM

- SEDIMENT CAPTURE UPSIDEAM
- POLLUTION IN RUN OFF FROM PAVEMENT ETC.

### LAKE

- WATER LEVEL MGMT
- TOO MUCH ~~WATER~~ <sup>WATER</sup> LAKE WEEDS?
- FISH - STOCKED TROUT WORKING A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON NATIVE SPECIES + HABITAT ??

THIS IS A QUESTION NOT A KNOWN ISSUE!

Name (optional): IAN  
Email Address (optional): IANMCK@GMAIL.COM