

Monitoring Program Overview

Level I Overview

Level I monitoring occurs year-round; some tasks are to be completed daily and other tasks on a weekly basis. The monitoring year follows the water year, running from October 1 through September 30 (e.g. WY 2009 = Oct. '08 – Sept. '09). Monitors are asked to do the following:

Daily at approximately the same time each day

- Measure and record precipitation in millimeters
- Measure and record lake level in centimeters
- Note any unusual conditions
- Count geese (optional)

Weekly on the same day each week, if possible

- Anchor your boat at the sampling station
- Measure and record lake temperature
- Measure and record Secchi depth
- Assess and record algae and particle observations and note unusual conditions
- Count geese (optional)



Lake Margaret. Photo D. Johnston.

Monthly

- Make copies for personal records, then mail or email datasheets to King County

Level II Overview (May - October)

The Level II monitoring program occurs each year from May through October – the months of the year when lakes are most biologically active and recreational use is most prevalent. Every other Sunday or Monday during the sampling season volunteers should:

- Anchor at your the sampling station.
- Use the Van Dorn sampler to fill the bottles provided with water from the lake. Collect the water from the depth specified on the datasheet and label on each bottle.
- Note weather conditions
- Measure and record the Secchi depth.
- Measure and record the temperature of the water at one meter depth.
- Assess and record algae and particle observations and note unusual conditions
- Place the completed datasheets and samples in a cooler on the porch for pickup.

Water samples are analyzed for nutrients, biological, and physical parameters that are important in determining long-term water quality trends. These include:

- Total nitrogen,

- Total phosphorus,
- Chlorophyll *a*,
- Phytoplankton species present
- Additional parameters during profile (multiple depth) sample events.



Angle Lake