

Big Plans for Public Boat Launch

Information provided by Daniel Dziekan

Good news is on the horizon for the Loon Lake public boat launch!

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is preparing a grant application to the state Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) through its Boating Facilities Program (BFP). The proposed grant would fund a number of improvements to the public boat launch—many of which have been requested or suggested by people who regularly use the facility. The proposed improvements include:

- **Paving the road** from Shore Acres Road to the boat launch, identified as Arnold Road or Loon Lake Public Access Road.
- **Paving and striping the parking area** at the launch.
- **Replacing the existing floating boarding dock** with a longer and wider float.
- **Replacing the existing boat ramp** with an improved concrete ramp. The current individual ramp planks would be replaced with large sections of concrete anchored together with steel rods. Cinder-block mats would also be added along the edges to help reduce erosion.
- **Additional lighting** in the parking area.
- **Improved signage** to make the facility easier to navigate.
- **An ADA loading platform** to make it easier for people with mobility challenges to get into their boats.
- And perhaps the most significant—and most frequently requested—improvement: **dredging the channel** between the boat ramp and the main body of Loon Lake.

This Is a Grant Request—Not a Guarantee

It is important to understand that this is a request for funding, not an approved project. The Loon Lake WDFW project will be competing with other WDFW projects as well as applications from other state agencies for a limited amount of RCO funding. If the grant is not funded this year because other projects are selected ahead of it, WDFW intends to continue pursuing the funding in future grant cycles.

Dan Dzieken, the local WDFW representative working on the application, emphasized that the proposed improvements have come, in large part, from feedback received from the public over the years. As he put it, “I can’t fix something if I don’t know it’s broken.” Complaints, suggestions and positive comments from people using the launch help identify what needs attention and strengthen the case for improvements.

How LLPOA Members Can Help

One of the factors that can make a difference in a competitive grant application is **community support**. Stevens County has already provided a letter of support and has indicated that it would maintain the paved road if the grant were successful. The LLPOA has also written a letter of support. We would like to encourage LLPOA members and public who use the public launch—or who simply support improvements to this important Loon Lake facility—to add their voices as well.

If you would like to express your support for the proposed improvements, please contact Daniel.Dziekan@dfw.wa.gov or call 509-496-3727 by October 31st. Your individual comments and letters of support can help demonstrate to RCO that these improvements are important to the Loon Lake community and the many people who use the public launch.

The proposed project represents a substantial opportunity to improve safety, accessibility and usability at one of Loon Lake’s important public facilities. We will keep members informed as we learn more about the grant application and its progress.

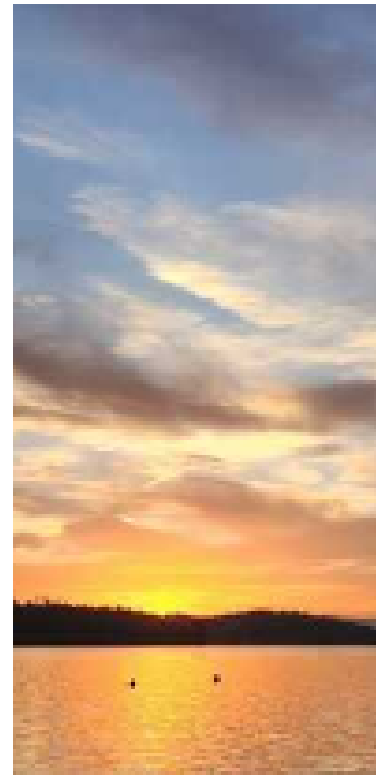


Photo by Rhonda Dormaier

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WHAT’S NEXT?

With fireworks no longer on our summer calendar, we’re looking for new ways to bring our Loon Lake community together! Send us your ideas—and let us know if you’d be willing to help make them happen! Let’s create some new Loon Lake traditions together!

- Like us on Facebook! 
- www.loonlakepoa.org
- loonlakepoa@gmail.com
- PO Box 165, Loon Lake
- Sue Poe, 509-675-5040

Water Quality Team is Working Out The Kinks

By Joann Caruso and Lisa Egger

Our water quality volunteers have been busy this summer doing as much testing as equipment would allow. This year we tested monthly and at two different sites on the lake. Beginning in May the water quality team started testing with our new sonde. Due to some systems errors, which the manufacturer is working on fixing, we have only been able to collect data on temperature and dissolved oxygen from the sonde. We will be able to start collecting pH information in May of next year after repairs are completed at the manufacturer. We have a couple of water quality forays remaining this fall, one of which will include water capture, where water from different depths will be sent to a lab to give us results on chlorophyll, nitrogen and phosphorous.



Joann Caruso



Tom Pratt

Our process continues to follow the timing of the teams over the last 22 years so results can be compared.

The main trend we continue to see is that the lake is warming year after year. This is consistent with temperate lakes around the world. On average our lake at the surface is increasing in temperature about .4-degree Fahrenheit a year - an approximate 1.2 degrees F every three years. Increased lake temperature affects the dissolved oxygen concentrations by reducing dissolved oxygen solubility. It also increases the metabolic rate of aerobic bacteria which decomposes the organic matter settling into the bottom of the lake.

We will continue collecting data next year and periodically will consult with Dale Chess, consulting Limnologist, to be sure we are doing everything we can to keep our lake healthy.

Escrip is Working!!

Don't forget to shop at Yoke's and support the LLPOA automatically — Yoke's donates up to 5% of your purchases back to us. Simply stop by the customer service desk to pick up your card and get started.

Our group ID number is 500756368.

Our Treasurer has reported deposits from those of you who have signed up!

THANK YOU!!!



Lisa Egger

Chipper Day Changed

The Stevens County Solid Waste Department's semi-annual Chipper Day program was changed to a Chipper Month for September. Materials are no longer be accepted at the former Chipper Day site. You should have received a flyer in the mail or check it out on our Facebook page. Please read the flyer carefully, as load requirements changed. Review the unacceptable materials list. The transfer station will accept all organic materials, but mixed loads will be charged at the \$98-per-ton rate.

Photos by Len Duncan
& Joann Caruso



Tom Pratt

Lisa Egger

Len Duncan

THE BEST EVER!!

Carol Johansen, Boat Parade Chair

The LLPOA was proud to keep one of Loon Lake's favorite Fourth of July traditions afloat—the annual Loon Lake Boat Parade! This year's theme, "Party Like It's 1776," brought out the creativity, patriotism, and playful spirit of our lake community.

With 22 boats registered, the lake was filled with red, white, blue, and plenty of imagination as our decorated boats made their way around Loon Lake. From clever colonial-inspired creations to good old-fashioned patriotic flair, participants proved that celebrating America's 250th birthday is even more fun when you do it from a boat!

A big thank-you to everyone who decorated, participated, cheered from the shoreline, or simply enjoyed watching the parade go by. It was a fabulous way to celebrate our nation's birthday—and our wonderful Loon Lake community!

*Photos by
Carol Johansen
Kathy Weinand
&
Sue Poe*



1st Place - Boston Tea Party



2nd Place - We the People



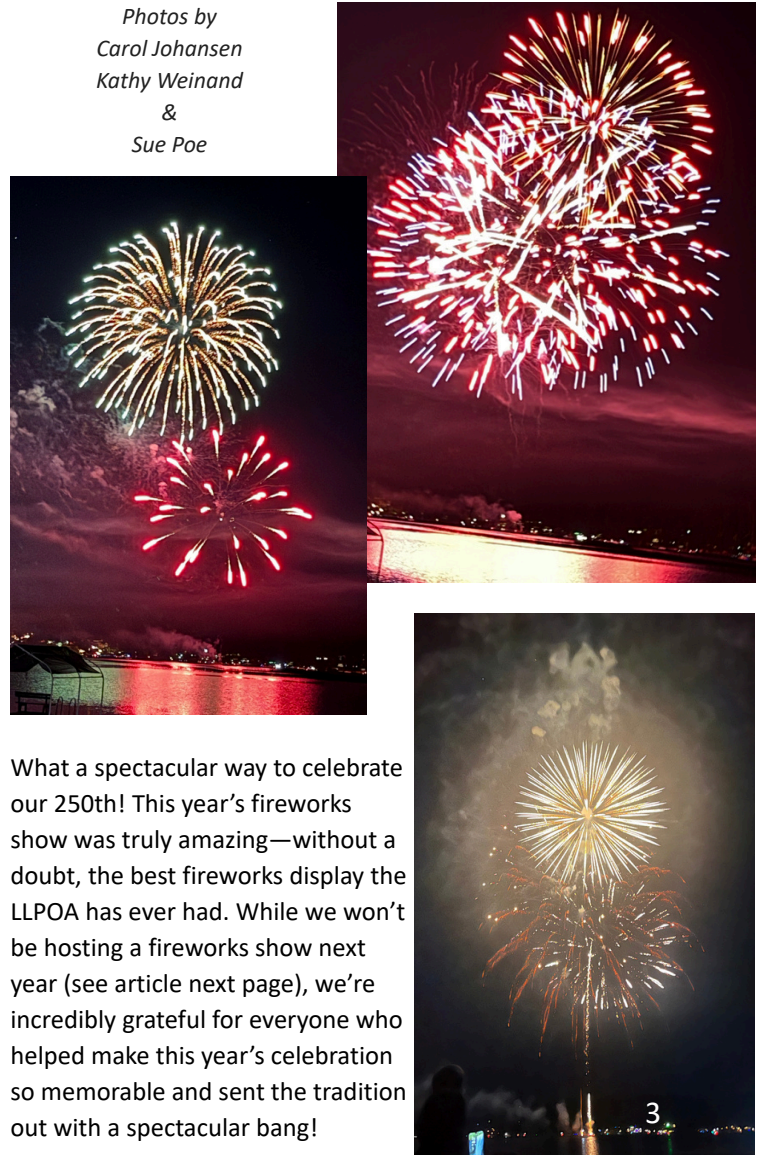
3rd Place - Red, White & Bananas



4th Place - Uncle Sam & His Family



5th Place - Rocket Balloon



What a spectacular way to celebrate our 250th! This year's fireworks show was truly amazing—without a doubt, the best fireworks display the LLPOA has ever had. While we won't be hosting a fireworks show next year (see article next page), we're incredibly grateful for everyone who helped make this year's celebration so memorable and sent the tradition out with a spectacular bang!



The lake's first-ever two-barge fireworks show was nothing short of spectacular! A huge thank-you to KCHW and Chuck Richie for joining us in person to announce the music and help make the evening even more special. It was truly a show to remember! We even were blessed with seeing the Northern Lights (see below).

Fall Bear Aware, bear spray practice and apple pressing event

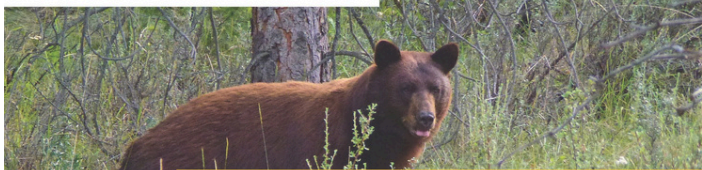


Photo by Don Ashmore

Join WDFW, the Pend Oreille County Library District, and the Kalispel Tribe for a free day devoted to bears

Saturday, Oct. 3, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Usk Community Hall, 2442 Black Rd., Usk

Learn about bear biology and how to avoid bear conflicts around your home and in the woods

Practice using inert bear spray provided by WDFW

Bring apples from your trees (a major attractant to bears) and we will press them into cider with our electric press for you to take home!

More about bears in the western U.S. at igbconline.org

Request this information in an alternative format or language at wdfw.wa.gov/accessibility/requests-accommodation, 833-885-1012, TTY (711), or CivilRightsTeam@dfw.wa.gov.

08/26

News About the Fireworks Show

Many years ago, the Loon Lake Property Owners Association chose to organize a fireworks show hoping that one large show on the lake would encourage residents to put money toward the organized show instead of buying and shooting off as many fireworks individually, hopefully to reduce debris going into the lake. For the first few years it appeared to be making its goal. Over time it appears that the local beach fireworks have become even more popular and prevalent.

Also, putting on a fireworks show takes a significant amount of time and expense and require volunteers to organize the event. For the past several years the LLPOA has attempted to recruit community members to share the responsibilities involved, but has not been able to build the level of participation needed to make the effort sustainable. In addition fire risk has become increasingly concerning.

Following this year's show, the board took a close look at the event and decided it was not meeting the original goal. Also, volunteers have not been available, and fundraising has been challenging. After much discussion, the Board decided to place a one-year moratorium on the fireworks show - the LLPOA will not put on the fireworks show next summer.

The Board is aware that the show has been a popular event for families on the lake and would be happy to provide support and advice to anyone who would take on this event. If an individual or group would like to consider organizing and putting on the fireworks show, contact the LLPOA at loonlakepoa@gmail.com.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PAST SUPPORT!!



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Lake Management District meets

The Loon Lake Management District (LMD) continues to monitor and manage invasive aquatic plants through annual surveys, mapping and targeted treatments by licensed professionals. **(Not a committee of the LLPOA)**

While treatment is an important tool, community education and prevention remain key to slowing the spread of invasive plants. We encourage everyone who enjoys Loon Lake to learn how to recognize and prevent the spread of these unwanted plants.

Chair Lee Evans recently shared a timely Spokesman-Review article about milfoil, written by former Loon Lake resident Matthew Callaghan. The August 17, 2026 article, "Don't Have the Means to Fight It," provides additional perspective on the challenges communities face in managing invasive aquatic plants. Matthew has given permission for the article to be reprinted, but space does not allow us to include it in this newsletter.

Understanding Loon Lake's Ecology

At the end of last season, we formed a new committee to better understand the changes we're seeing in Loon Lake—including reduced fisheries and the lack of aquatic vegetation in some areas, even where chemicals have not been used.

The committee has not yet held its first meeting, as we've been discussing the best way to move forward. To better reflect its broader purpose, we have renamed the group Lake Ecology, with Water Quality as a subcommittee.

One of our volunteers will be attending the Washington Lake Protection Association (WALPA) conference, and we're hopeful he'll return with new information, ideas, and perhaps a good place to begin our work. Our goal is to better understand what is happening in our lake and identify ways we can help protect its health for years to come.

We've adopted some roadways

Since roadside litter is a constant, costly to control and time-consuming problem for the Stevens County Public Works department, the LLPOA has decided to adopt the majority of the roadway (that isn't already taken) surrounding the lake.

Our plan to have at least two workdays per year, starting in the spring of 2027. We expect to divide the perimeter of the lake into sections that will be coordinated by a board member who lives nearby or possibly the nearest beach association, if they desire, and break into small groups of 2-6 to do the work.

We also anticipate hosting a gathering of the entire group, either before we set out or after all is completed, where we might enjoy doughnuts and coffee, or chili and hotdogs—or both!

Safety vests, gloves, litter bags and litter grapplers will be provided for every official member of the group. There will be no charge for the collected litter at any transfer station or landfill.

The Adopt a Roadway program provides an opportunity for concerned citizens to donate their time and effort in support of anti-litter campaigns. It will help the county reduce litter, promote beautification, educate about litter control and help achieve a positive image for our county.

LOON LAKE BEACH ASSOCIATIONS

Arnold Beach	<i>No official association</i>		
Cedar Beau Bay	<i>No official association</i>		
Cottonwood Bay	Steve Nepean		pnepean@yahoo.com
Granite Point	New Ownership		
Independence	Liz Johnson		liz.burke.johnson@gmail.com
Lake Shore Homes	Ward Kellogg		LakeShoreHomesPOA@gmail.com
Larson Beach	Laura Wintersteen-Arleth	509.999.6282	nursemom39@msn.com
Meadowview POA	Ken Hannum	208.841.2521	
Morgan Park Lot Owners	Robert Palmquist	509.464.9736	robobem@gmail.com
North Shore Homes	Dave Zimmerman	509-990-8301	zimmhome@comcast.net
REBA (NEW)	Ritva Manchester	213.509.0004	ritvamanchester@gmail.com
Shore Acres Estates	Tim Peterson		shoreacresstates@gmail.com
Silver Beach Homes	Patricia Coates	509.233.2967	lldahlias@msn.com
Sunset Bay Beach	<i>No official association</i>		
Sunset Bay Subdivision	Mike Cahill	509.546.1639	macbo34@hotmail.com
Totem Beach	Dave Miller	509.795.6440	dave.millermymhome@gmail.com

The new Rockford Estates Beach Association (REBA) is between Cedar Beau Bay and Lake Shore Homes.

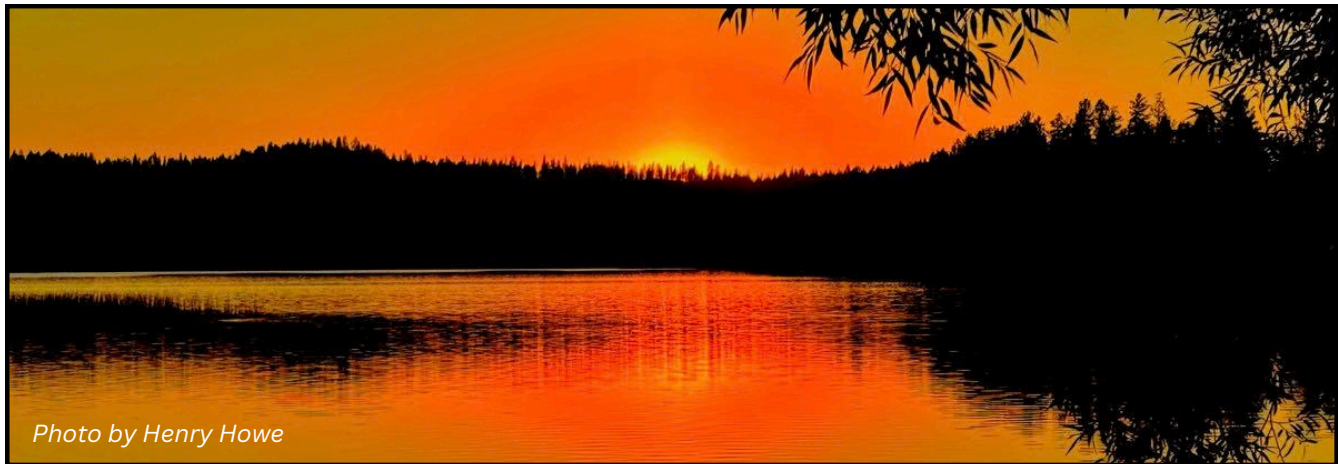


Photo by Henry Howe



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Local Resources

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Loon Lake Library	233.3016
Loon Lake Transfer Station	233.8941
Loon Lake Health Clinic.....	233.8412

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Enclosed Envelopes

Please use the enclosed envelopes to mail in your annual dues (if you didn't already pay them), donations, and any updated contact information.

We've aligned our fiscal year with the calendar year to simplify recordkeeping and make it easier to track your dues payments.

And don't forget to let us know if you'd like to volunteer (New this year Roadside Cleanup and Lake Ecology) —we'd love to have your help!

LLPOA Officers & Board of Directors

President:	Sue Poe	Vice President:	Joann Caruso
Treasurer:	Lisa Egger	Secretary:	Cindy Knapp
Directors:	Mark Whittaker		Dick Davies
	Scott McDougall		Larry Gaddis
	Ritva Manchester		Sondra Collins
	Sally Robinette		Emily Bierce
	Seth Watkins		

Loon Lake Organizations

FRIENDS OF LOON LAKE LIBRARY (FLLL): President Holly Shamberger, hshamberger46@gmail.com. Book sales the first Friday & Saturday of every month in Loon Lake, 3992 Pine St, Loon Lake. ***Like us on Facebook!!***

LOON LAKE LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (LLMD): President Lee Evans, 509-233-0179, lgevans@spocom.com. Meetings 2nd Monday monthly April thru October.

LOON LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY (LLHS): President Kate Robbins, www.loonlakehistoricalsociety.com Open Saturdays—May-September, Old Schoolhouse.

LOON LAKE LAND CONSERVANCY (LLLC): President MJ Lovell, loonlakeland-conservancy.org, loonlakeconservancy@gmail.com. Summers Eve in August. Please send an email if you'd like to be added to our Constant Contact list.

