

Freeing Mission Lake

Oregon State Parks and Willamette Riverkeeper are working to improve Mission Lake.



What is the Problem?

As recently as 2005, Mission Lake provided open water for swimming, paddling, and fishing. Waterbirds, turtles and frogs flourished, and algae blooms were infrequent. Today, non-native plant species have changed the lake, impacting water quality, limiting recreational and wildlife use, and contributing to frequent algae blooms.

What is Ludwigia?

Ludwigia hexapetala (Uruguayan primrose willow) is a plant from South America, now listed by the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture as a noxious weed, possibly introduced to Oregon when someone dumped an aquarium or failed to properly clean their boat. Ludwigia biomass doubles every 20 days to form dense mats. The mats choke out entire waterways, block sunlight (killing off native aquatic plants), and then decompose, depleting oxygen levels in the water and increasing sediment build up. The plant spreads by floating downstream.



Before and after Ludwigia control at a site similar to Mission Lake

What's Happening?

We are working to reduce Ludwigia in Mission Lake so that water quality, recreational access, and fish and wildlife habitat improves. We will be controlling the plants with hand-pulling and careful spraying of an aquatic-approved herbicide by state-licensed applicators. After a few years of summer treatments, remaining Ludwigia will be controlled through hand-pulling. Trails around Mission Lake will be temporarily closed during control efforts. Treated plants will show signs of blue dye; avoid areas that have been treated until the herbicide has dried.

For More Information Please Call 503-393-1172