



Dodge Park Sunset

## GLSD SPRING UPDATE

Summer is almost upon us and the GLSD is gearing up for another busy summer. Our staff has been working on spring maintenance of our Conservancy properties, Aqweed harvesters, wastewater system, fish rearing facility, and projects on the County K and Sunnyside marshes.

Around the District, residents may have noticed that the **lake level is up this spring**. We had a mild winter, in which temps dipped below zero only 9 times since January. While most of the lake had ice cover for much of the winter, the **full lake never froze completely** over for an entire day. Only once (in 2001) since records have been kept, has the lake not frozen completely over for at least a few days. The next shortest frozen-over period was in 1957 & 1997 when the lake was frozen for only 3 days. Though the lake didn't freeze completely, the large extent of ice cover did help limit evaporation from the lake. Coupled with late season snowfall in late February/ March along with additional spring rain in April, the lake level has risen. The City of Green Lake has already begun managing the dam to retain as much water in the lake as the DNR will allow for the summer boating season.

While the rainfall & spring melt was relatively mild, we did have a few strong rainfall/runoff events which may have contributed to some **early algae growth**. We have had reports of robust amounts of filamentous algae seen around the lake. Please note that filamentous algae is solid and slightly stringy, as opposed to green algae or the potentially dangerous blue-green algae, which are more likely to look like pea soup or green paint in the water.

The GLSD & DNR released 27,661 lake trout into Big Green Lake from the District fish rearing facility in late April. The average fish released this year was 8.0" in length, which

is the largest size we've ever produced. A sincere thank you to our DNR fisheries partners for their continued efforts on behalf of Green Lake. We'd also like to acknowledge the partners that help fund this program annually including Green Lake County, the City of Green Lake, the Green Lake Association, and several local fishing guides. An additional thank you to the GLSD's own Stuart Marks and Dallas Lewallen who, for 6 months, do the daily management of the lakers to get them ready to hit the lake.

The GLSD is seeing an increase in the number of agricultural best management projects (BMPs) requesting grant funding in the watershed. A big thank you to the Green Lake County Land Conservation Department and our own Hannah Niewoehner, Watershed Coordinator, for their efforts to get these projects on the landscape. The increase in cover crops, as well as structural BMPs like sediment retention basins, will directly translate to phosphorus saved from entering Green Lake. While we still have a long way to go, this up-tick in projects shows we're on the right path to better water quality in Green Lake.

In the past 5 years, we've consistently seen **reduced numbers**



Sunset Park Algae Growth, March 2023