

## Management Objectives

### Objectives for managing Capitol Lake Basin for the next 10 years (2003-2013)

1. Adaptively manage the Capitol Lake basin.
2. Complete an estuary feasibility study to determine a long-range management decision.
3. Restore earthquake damaged state infrastructure within the basin.
4. Complete the development of Heritage Park.
5. Expand and enhance public use of state owned lands and adjacent public spaces within the Capitol Lake region.
6. Develop and implement a flood hazard management strategy for lands adjacent to Capitol Lake.
7. Rehabilitate the fish ladder in the Capitol Lake dam to provide year-round fish passage into and out of Capitol Lake.
8. Relocate the Percival Cove fish rearing operation and rehabilitate Percival Cove for other users.
9. Improve lake edges to be fish, wildlife and people friendly.

### VISION STATEMENT

*Adaptively manage Capitol Lake in a collaborative way to support a variety of public uses and an optimum aquatic environment within an urban setting.*

10. Maintain less than 100 resident Canada Geese on Capitol Lake.
11. Improve water quality in Capitol Lake to meet State standards.
12. Eliminate the Purple Loosestrife and Eurasian Milfoil noxious weed infestations throughout Capitol Lake.
13. Develop and implement a comprehensive sediment management strategy for the Capitol Lake basin.
14. Communicate with the community, legislators, and the State Capitol Committee on a routine basis regarding Capitol Lake.

## CAPITOL LAKE Adaptive Management Plan

### 10 - Year Action Plan



### History of Capitol Lake

Capitol Lake is not a natural lake, but a 260-acre reservoir. It was created in 1951 when the state constructed an earthen dam, 80-foot concrete spillway and bridge along 5th Avenue in Olympia. The dam blocked the tidal flow of Budd Inlet and changed the Deschutes River estuary into an artificial lake. The idea of creating a lake comes from the 1911 Capitol Campus Master Plan, which called for the creation of a reflecting pool for the Legislative Building, known to most as the Capitol Building.

The state Department of General Administration manages Capitol Lake, Heritage and Marathon parks, the Interpretive Center and Deschutes Parkway as part of the Capitol Campus.



1911 Wilder and White Campus Master Plan.

### CLAMP Steering Committee

#### CLAMP - Steering Committee Members

- Department of General Administration
- Department of Ecology
- Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Department of Natural Resources
- Squaxin Island Tribe
- City of Olympia
- City of Tumwater
- Thurston County
- Port of Olympia

In 1997, the Department of General Administration invited three state agencies, the Squaxin Island Tribe, and four local government agencies to help with long-term lake management decisions. This advisory group is called the **Capitol Lake Adaptive Management Plan (CLAMP)** Steering Committee. The committee meets monthly. The public is invited and comment is taken at the beginning of these meetings. The idea to create the committee evolved from General Administration's requests in 1995 and 1996 for state permits to construct Heritage Park and to dredge the middle basin of the lake.

In the first years after being formed, the committee considered a range of long-term management options for Capitol Lake: from dredging sediment to keep an open-water lake, to removing the dam so a saltwater estuary could be restored.

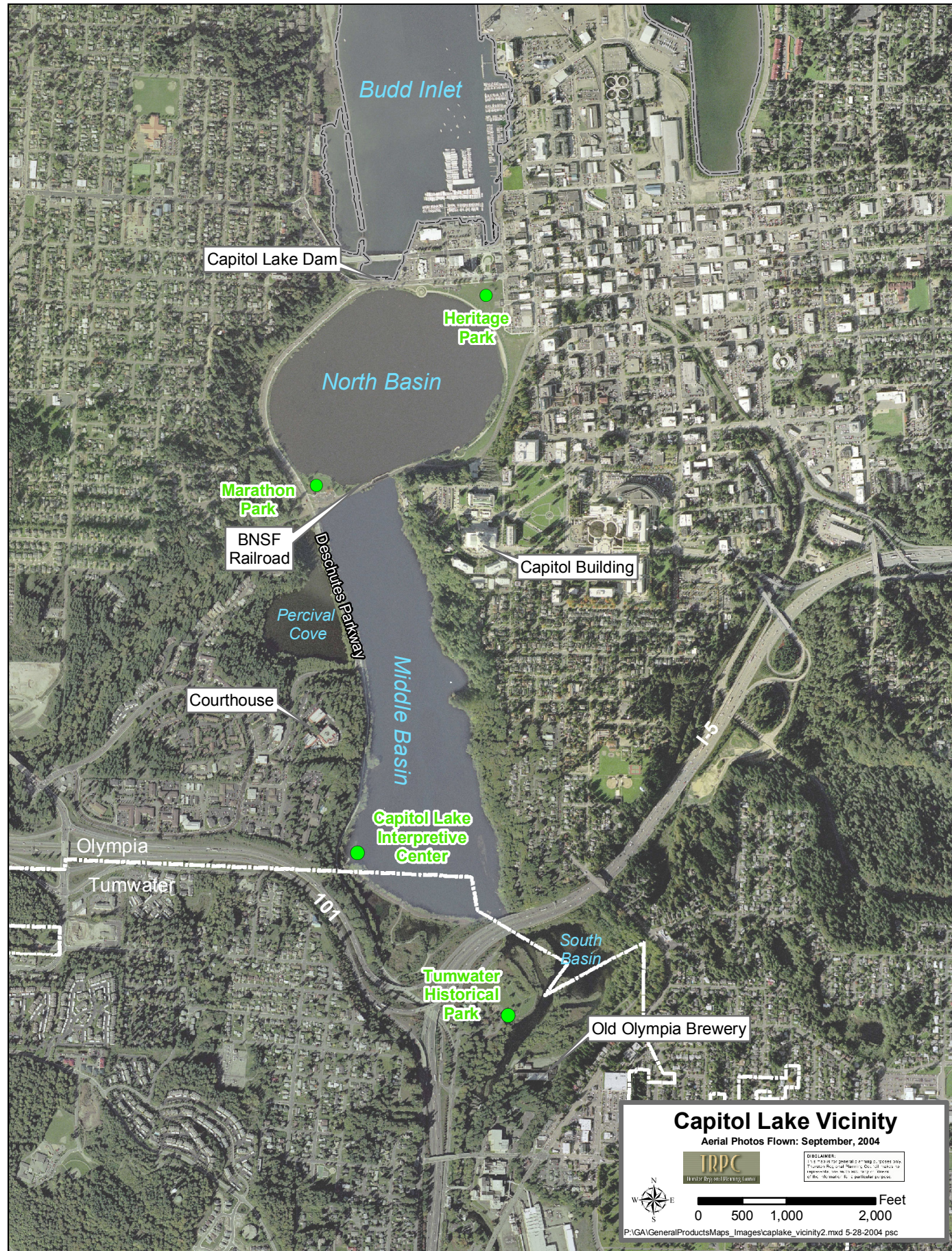
After a review of the costs and environmental permits associated with different management plans, the committee agreed to maintain a freshwater lake during the next 10 years. In the meantime, the committee decided to establish a set of goals for improving lake management.



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## Adaptive Management 10-Year Plan

The CLAMP Steering Committee completed a 10-year lake management plan in 2002. The plan identifies 14 objectives meant to improve water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and public recreational opportunities, while also managing for flood control, sediment deposits and the adjacent infrastructure. These objectives provide guidance on a wide range of day-to-day management activities.

A basic principal of adaptive management is to continually modify the objectives as new scientific information and the results of management practices become available. Another committee goal is to communicate with the public and stakeholders on a regular on-going basis, which includes hosting an annual community meeting.

The entire ten-year plan is available at: [www.ga.wa.gov/CLAMP/index.html](http://www.ga.wa.gov/CLAMP/index.html).

### Adaptive Management

*The concept of adaptive management is to treat management practices as experiments, learn from them and use them as a basis for changes and adjustments. Adaptive management is a flexible approach where best judgement is utilized to implement action, test hypotheses, evaluate results and adjust subsequent actions accordingly. Under adaptive management, learning becomes ongoing, interactive and self-correcting.*

#### Adaptive Management:

- Treats management practices as experiments from which learning occurs,
- Mimics the scientific method,
- Highlights uncertainties,
- Specifies hypotheses or questions,
- Structures actions to test the hypotheses,
- Evaluates results, and
- Adjusts subsequent actions accordingly.



North Basin of Capitol Lake and downtown Olympia - looking north.