

Accelerating Water Resource Restoration

Case Study - Lady Bird Lake

Aquatic Features, Inc.

Established 1999

Lake Bird Lake is a 416-acre reservoir located in Austin, TX. The lake is a recreational resource at the heart of Austin and is surrounded by an extensive park and trail system. The local community uses the lake extensively for lake shore recreation with pets, non-motorized boating activities, and fishing.

Lady Bird Lake has experienced recent episodes of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) caused by cyanobacteria production that has accumulated in various areas around the lake. In 2019, multiple dogs died while playing and swimming around the lake sparking large public concern for the safety of the lake. The City of Austin quickly responded by closing parks and putting in place monitoring and communication plans to help the public avoid further negative impacts. Investigation found cyanobacteria were producing concerning levels of the algal toxin - dihydroanatoxin. These cyanobacteria mats were growing on the lake floor and lifting up and floating around the lake.

With this knowledge they began looking for solutions. In 2020, phosphorus mitigation in the sediment was picked as a potential effective solution to the water quality problems impacting Lady Bird Lake. The City of Austin partnered with EutroPHIX to begin inactivating phosphorus in the sediments around Red-bud Isle where the majority of the issues were occurring.

EutroPHIX worked with Aquatic Features Inc. to apply lanthanum modified bentonite (LMB) around the island across three applications during the summer of 2021. The phosphorus in the sediment was sampled and analyzed throughout the project to measure results.

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Aquatic Features, Inc. has been proudly serving the greater Austin area since 1999. Their dedicated team of trained biologists and professionals work diligently to ensure that you are getting the most out of your water resources.



Enjoying Lady Bird Lake