

What is Covering Lake Anza?

Azolla, a small aquatic fern, is currently covering most of Lake Anza's surface. It is not hazardous to human or wildlife health.



Commonly called Mosquito Fern, *Azolla* is a native plant and important to the aquatic food web. It usually occurs in smaller, seasonal patches, but our mild winter has allowed it to spread across this 10-acre lake.

Though presently a nuisance, this blanket of *Azolla* benefits the lake by using up excess nutrients that harmful blue-green algae need to bloom and keeps water temperatures cooler for our native trout.

In combination with the hypolimnetic oxygenation system (HOS) that began pumping oxygen into the lake in July 2020, the *Azolla* is helping the Park District manage and improve the complex water quality conditions of this beautiful lake.