

Key Words: blue-green algae, aquatic weeds, odors



Photos: The photo on the left shows the location of the SolarBees deployed in the east lake. The middle photo shows the SolarBee in the west lake, and the right photo shows its location in the lake.

System Overview: These two small lakes are considered recharge ponds, and as such have aesthetic value to the city as park amenities. The east lake is approximately 17 surface acres with a maximum depth of about 8 ft. The west lake is about 3 surface acres with a maximum depth of about 8 ft.

Reported Problem Before SolarBee Installation: These recharge ponds had poor circulation, and consequently experienced blue-green algae growth, poor water quality and unpleasant odors. The lakes are relatively shallow with an abundance of aquatic vegetation.

SolarBee Installation: Date: June 2006, installed two (2) SB2500v12 units in the east lake, and one (1) SB2500v12 unit in the west lake.

Results: Since the SolarBees were installed, blue-green algae issues have been resolved in both lakes. Because the City has not had to purchase or add chemicals in response to algal blooms, the City estimates a 3-5 year payback on the cost of the SolarBees. Following the success in both recharge ponds, the City installed an additional SolarBee in another nearby lake in the fall of 2010; early reports are positive. This lake and the recharge ponds are considered park amenities, offering recreational opportunities such as trout fishing and non-motorized boating. The City is very happy that the solar-powered long-distance circulation the SolarBees provide have made these lakes much more aesthetically attractive, without noxious algal blooms and associated odors that would otherwise impair their recreational value to tourists and the local community.

178-USCALK-LOC106.001-2, Last updated: 4-06-11