Flushing Channel and Vancouver Lake

The Port of Vancouver's flushing channel was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1983 as part of the Vancouver Lake Restoration Project. The channel runs along the western edge of the port's Columbia Gateway property and Parcel 3 Berm, and carries water from the Columbia River under Lower River Road into Vancouver Lake when the elevation of the water in the Columbia River exceeds that of the water in Vancouver Lake.

The twin culverts connecting the channel to the lake are protected by metal grates that keep debris from entering the lake. These grates often collect wood and other debris from the fast-flowing Columbia River, so each year port crews use boats and heavy equipment to clear the culverts and keep water flowing into the lake.

The flushing channel connects Vancouver Lake (left) and the Columbia River (right) to funnel fresh water into the lake to improve circulation.

Vancouver Lake is heavily influenced by the tidal forces of the Columbia River through the flushing channel, and also through Lake River. Tide gates in the flushing channel culverts are designed to allow water to enter, but not exit the lake.

For information on Vancouver Lake visit:

Vancouver Lake Regional Park – Clark County Public Works

Vancouver Lake Watershed – City of Vancouver Public Works

Vancouver Lake – Fishing Locations & Water Access – Department of Fish and Wildlife