

# Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association

## RECREATIONAL WATER USE SURVEY RESULTS

October 6, 2005



Total useable returns: **245**      Surveys mailed: **412**      Return rate: **59%**

Grass Lake	Pine Lake	Round Lake	Other
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	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Other	TOTAL %
Full-Time Residents	46	65%	61	45%	17	77%	11	<b>55%</b>
Seasonal Residents	25	35%	72	52%	5	23%	3	<b>43%</b>
Other			4	3%			1	<b>2%</b>
TOTAL	71		137		22		15	

**FINDINGS:**

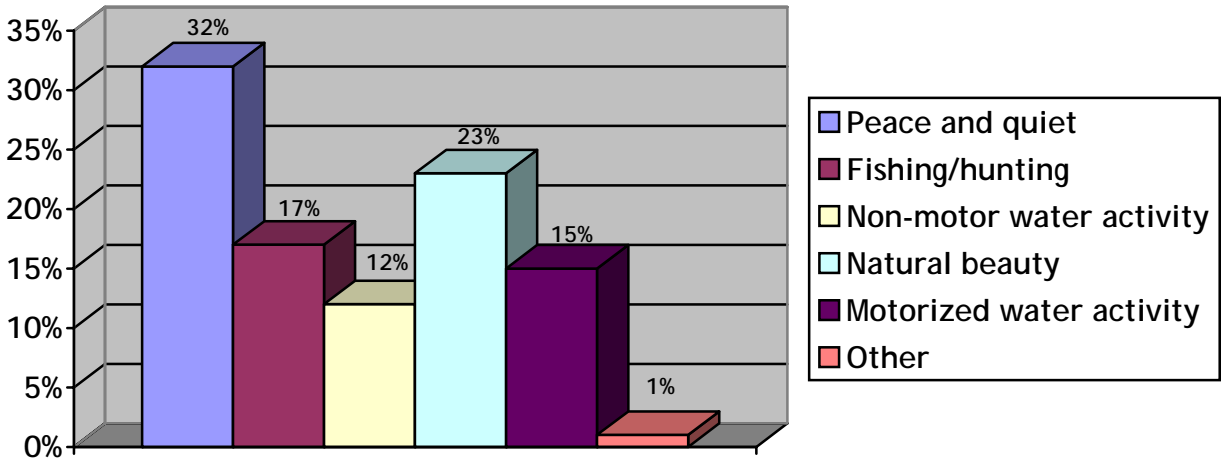
Of the 245 usable surveys returned, 135 reported they are full time residents. 209 of the 412 entries in the Lake Association database are coded as full time residents. Hence the return rate for full time residents was 65%. Using the same methodology, the return rate for seasonal residents was 52%. Responses did not differ significantly for full-time versus seasonal residents or location of home; therefore, this data is presented in the aggregate for all respondents.

**How many years have you lived in this area?**

< 1 year	3%
1-5 years	17%
6-10 years	15%
> 10 years	65%

**FINDINGS:** The majority of participants who returned the survey are long time residents. 65% have lived here more than 10 years and 80% have lived here over 6 years.

**1. I enjoy the lakes for:**



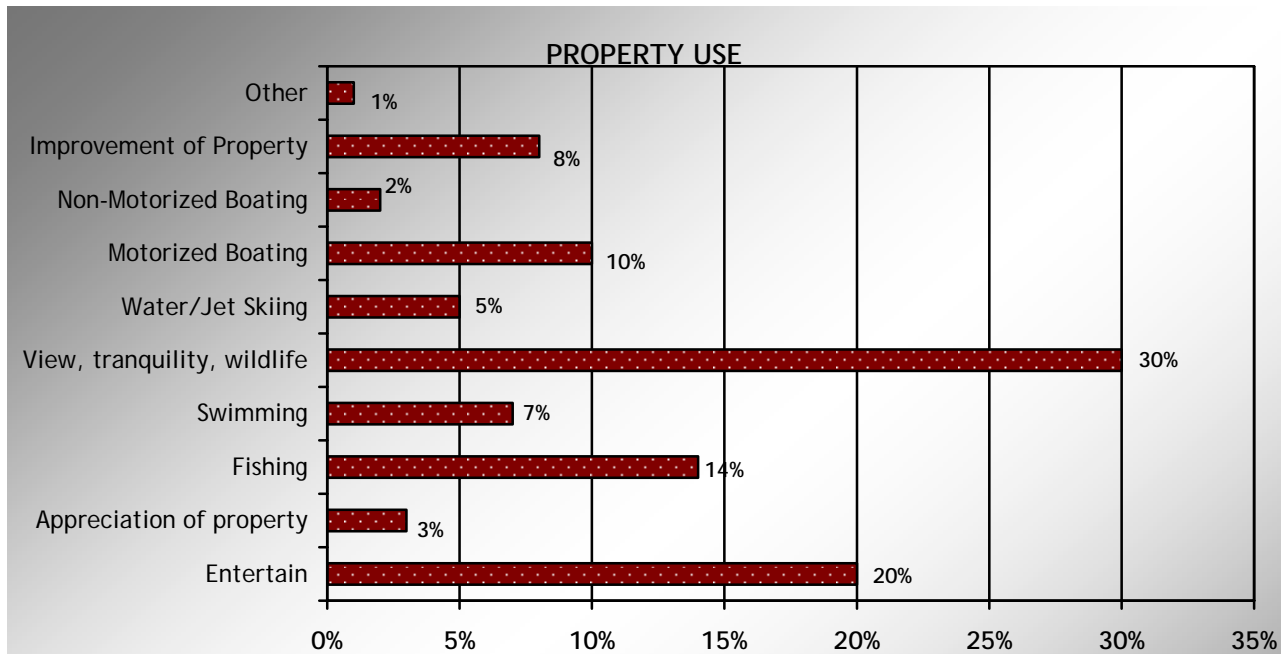
**FINDINGS:** Respondents value the peace and tranquility of the lake environment while also enjoying its recreational opportunities. More than half (55%) rated peace & quiet and natural beauty as important to them. Nearly 45% report enjoying the lakes for their recreational value (fishing/hunting - 23%; non-motor boating - 12%; motorized sport - 15%).

2. How many of the following watercraft are kept at your property?

Type of Watercraft	Number	Percentage	Type of Watercraft	Number	Percentage
Pontoons	111	20%	Jet Skis	38	7%
Canoes	98	18%	Paddleboats	37	7%
Rowboats	62	11%	Sailboats	16	3%
Motor 25-90	60	11%	Kayaks	14	2%
Motor <25	58	10%	Other	6	1%
Motor >90	56	10%			

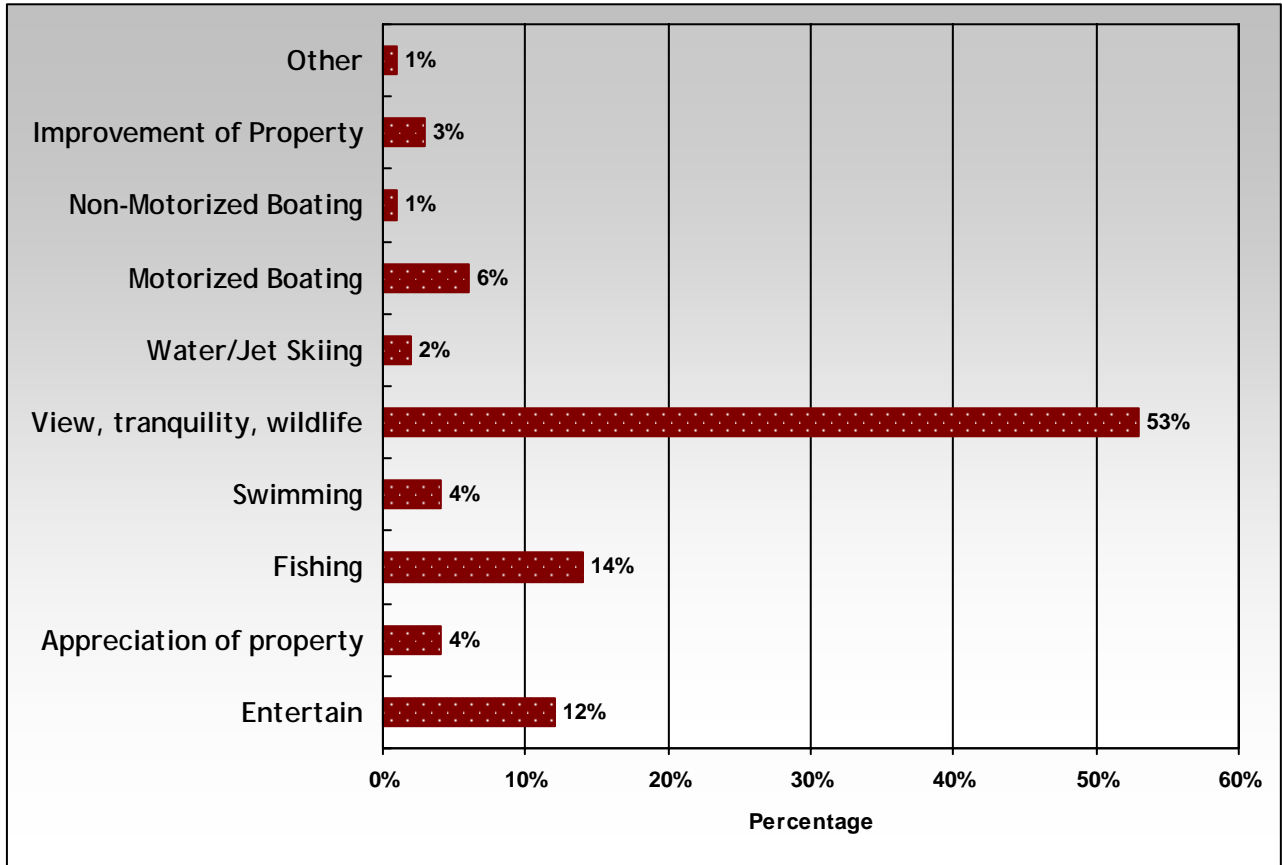
**FINDINGS:** Watercraft of all types are kept at Cloverleaf Lakes. Pontoon boats were the most mentioned (20%) with canoes ranking second (18%).

3. How do you use your property and the lakes?



**FINDINGS:** Consistent with question #1, respondents reported they used their property to enjoy the lake views and tranquility (30%) while also enjoying the recreational value of the lake environment. Entertaining family and friends was highly rated (20%). The combined recreational use of the lakes accounted for 38% of property use (fishing: 14%; motorized boating: 10%; swimming: 7%; water/jet

4. Which is most important to you?



**FINDINGS:** The majority of respondents (53%) reported that “enjoying the view, peace, tranquility, and wildlife” was most important to them of all the choices given in question # 3. The combined recreational uses of the lakes accounted for 27% and entertaining friends and family were reported at 12%.

5. How many days do you fish?

142 respondents (60%) indicated they use the lakes for fishing. This accounts for 3408 fishing days. While some fish more than others, the average for those who fish is 24 days/year.

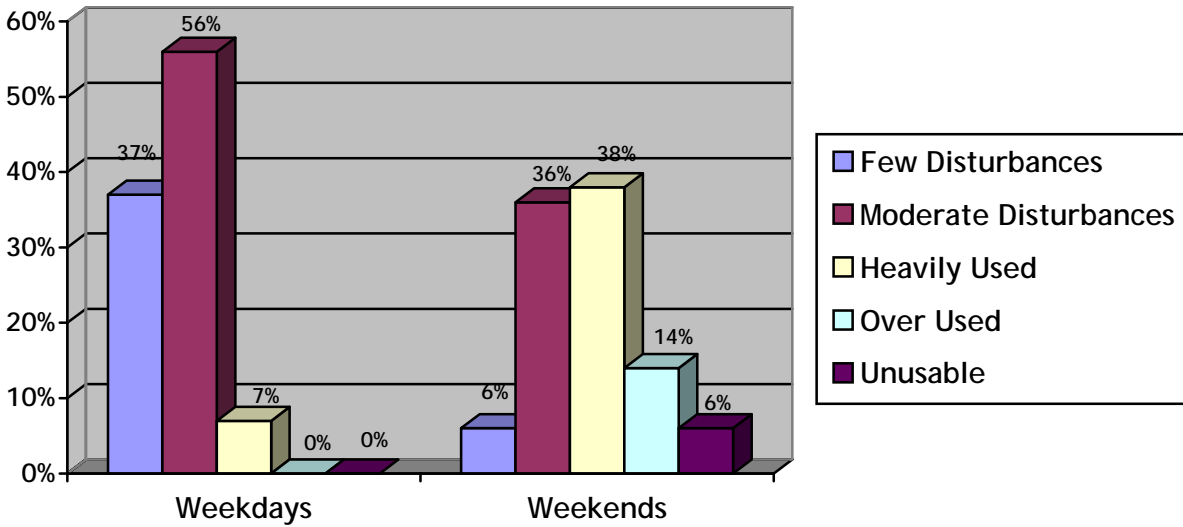
69 respondents (29%) indicated they ice fished. This accounts for 748 ice fishing days. While some fish more than others, the average for those who ice fish is 10.8 days per year.

6. How do you rate the fishing quality?

Excellent	4%
Good	36%
Fair	50%
Poor	10%

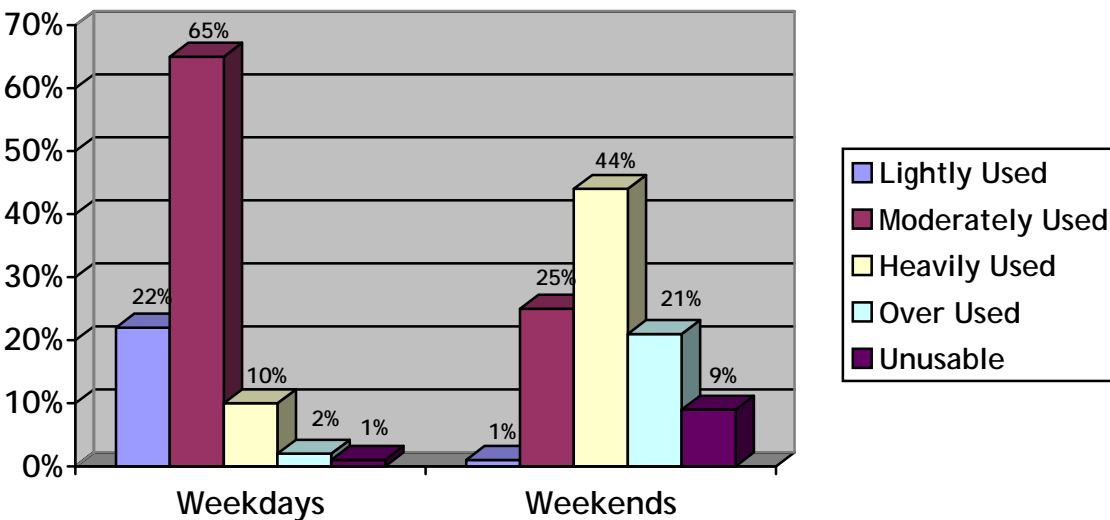
**FINDINGS:** Of those who fish, 40% are happy with the fishing quality. 50% think it’s only fair. Only 10% rate it poor.

7. Which statement best describes the peace and tranquility at the lakes?



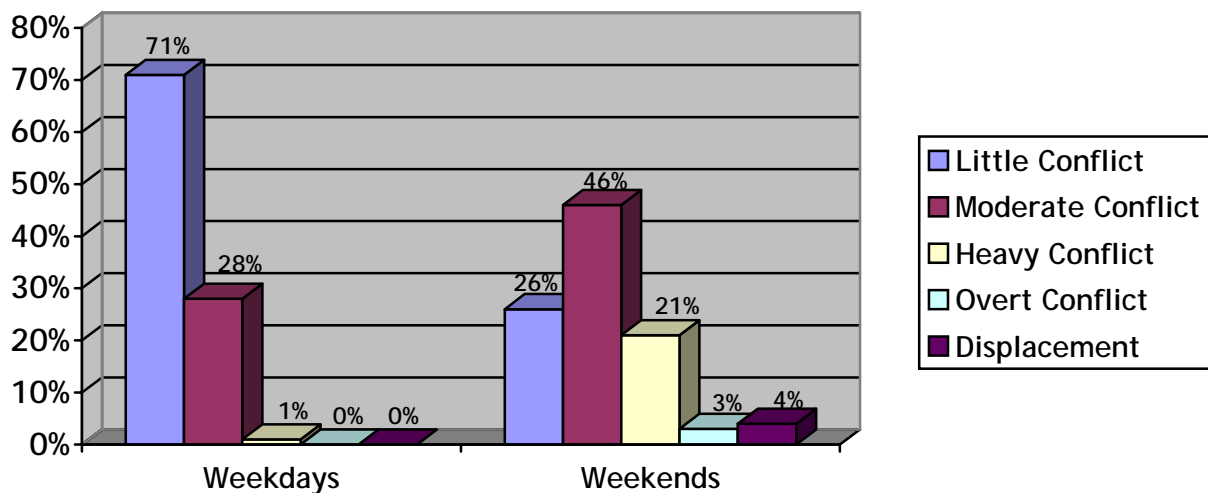
**FINDINGS:** The data clearly demonstrates that weekdays are more peaceful and tranquil than weekends. Respondents overwhelmingly report that there are few to moderate disturbances on weekdays (93%). On the weekends, residents report less peace and tranquility (42% report few to moderate disturbances) and report that the lakes are more heavily used (38%). Those who feel it is over-used or unusable on the weekends make up 20% of the respondents.

8. Which statement best describes the boat traffic the lake receives?



**FINDINGS:** The data clearly demonstrates that weekdays receive far less boat traffic than weekends. In describing boat traffic, respondents once again are satisfied with the amount of use on weekdays (87% report light or moderate use). On weekends, boat traffic increases with 44% feeling the lakes are heavily used and 30% believe the lakes are over-used (21%) or unusable (9%). 26% still believe boat traffic is light or moderate on the weekends.

## 9. Which best describes your experience with other boaters on the water?



**FINDINGS:** Respondents report more conflict on weekends than on weekdays. During the week, conflict is at a minimum with 99% reporting little to moderate conflict. While this figure decreases (72%) on weekends, conflict is still not a major issue. 28% believe conflict is high: heavy (21%); overt (3%); displacement (4%)

## 10. Comment Section

121 respondents (49% of the total) wrote comments that accounted for 192 statements regarding specific issues. These comments are organized into seven (7) categories plus a miscellaneous grouping. Residents who responded tended to have strong feelings about their concerns. What follows is a summary of these remarks. The full verbatim list of comments are in Appendix 2.

### **Need for Better Enforcement** (14% of the 192 statements made by 121 respondents)

Nearly half (13) of the comments in this category were concerned about the abuse of the no-wake ordinance in general (not specifically related to channel). While these comments called for better enforcement, several responses cautioned about over-regulating our lakes. Several commented on the limited knowledge of rules as a problem. Other issues raised were: pontoon boats coming too close to shorelines, enforcing speed limits on the roads around the lakes, drunk party-goers on the sand bar, and fireworks beyond the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

Recommendation: Reinforce the “laws” of the lake so lack of knowledge is not causing the abuses. As a possible deterrent, consider intermittent enforcement (particularly at busy times) and publish the number of citations given and for what.

### **Limit Jet Skis and Large Motors** (14% of the 192 statements made by 121 respondents)

Of the 26 comments in this category, half advocated for limiting the motor size on boats that use our lakes while the other half were annoyed by disturbances caused by jet skis. These comments directly support the strong survey response for peace and tranquility. As the survey pointed out, this is primarily a problem on summer weekends.

Recommendation: Educate residents about regulations regarding the use of public lakes. This would also be an opportunity to define a “public lake” and how this designation benefits lake residents.

### **Usage of Lakes (13% of the 192 statements made by 121 respondents)**

Of the 25 comments received in this category, half (12) felt the lakes are over-used, primarily by non-residents. Specific concerns were expressed about lengthy congregating of boats on the southwest shoreline of Pine Lake. The remainder of the comments acknowledged the expected increase of lake usage on weekends and during summer months.

Recommendation: Educate residents about the concept of a lake "carrying capacity," and provide estimates of the capacity of our lakes as compared to our actual usage.

### **Slow No-Wake (12% of the 192 statements made by 121 respondents)**

This survey was administered in the summer of 2005 at the same time the channel slow no-wake ordinance was implemented. Understandably, this change resulted in strong comments on the survey. Of the 23 remarks in this category, five (5) were pleased with the change, 16 were unhappy, and two (2) wanted to see a no-wake zone in the Adams Beach area. Of those unhappy with the new ordinance, nine (9) were concerned about the crowding effect on Pine Lake.

Recommendation: Educate residents as to why this ordinance was enacted. Describe the width of the channel and then state DNR regulations. Focus on safety concerns.

### **Lake Levels (9% of the 192 statements made by 121 respondents)**

16 comments were made about this year's lake levels, probably resulting from low water levels caused by drought conditions and the man-made lowering of our lake levels. While a couple people are happy with the lake levels, the majority (14) of the comments were unhappy with low water levels.

Recommendation: Educate residents as to how the optimum level was determined, and how it will be monitored.

### **Boat Launch Fees (3% of the 192 statements made by 121 respondents)**

Of the 10 comments regarding the newly instituted boat launch fee, more than half (6) didn't understand why residents needed to pay a fee to launch their boats since they support the lakes through their taxes. A few others believe fees should be higher.

Recommendation: Publish the rules that prohibit charging some and not others for launching at a public boat launch facility.

### **Miscellaneous Comments (33% of the 192 statements made by 121 respondents)**

These miscellaneous comments were put into 10 categories:

1. Enjoy the Lakes (4%): Eight (8) individuals reflected on their enjoyment of lake living.
2. Appreciate Work of Association and Volunteers (4%): Seven (7) respondents took time to express their appreciation for work being done on their behalf. Four (4) specifically appreciated the survey.
3. Fish Stocking (3%): Fish stocking and protecting the lake habitat were 6 concerns expressed regarding fishing as a recreational use of the lakes.
4. Weeds (2%): Of the four (4) comments, three (3) were concerned about too many weeds.
5. Safety Concerns (2%): Four (4) people expressed concern about unsafe conditions resulting from speeding on roads along the lakes and inadequate street lighting.

6. Long-Term Residents (2%): Three (3) people commented on how long they have lived on the lakes.
7. Gibson Island (2%): Three (3) of the four (4) comments were favorable toward the purchase of the Island.
8. Shoreline Concerns (2%): Four (4) comments call on the Association to pay attention to shoreline habitat erosion.
9. Light Pollution (1%): Two people commented on the over-use of lake lighting.
10. Other single issues (11%): 22 other issues were raised by individuals, including: concern about taxes, keeping the lakes clean, dog issues, no representation for 2<sup>nd</sup> home owners, widening the culvert, swimmer's itch, dredging the channel, and enforcement of the no-wake ordinance on Round Lake.

Survey distributed and compiled: Summer 2005

Data entered and compiled by Mary Pardee, *River Muse*  
Data analyzed and reported by Esther Letven, Facilitator

Report reviewed and submitted to Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association  
October 6, 2005

Recreational Use Study Team  
*Jim Aumann, Jim and Nancy Green, Marv and Esther Letven, Carol Wegner, Mary Wetzel,  
Bob Korth, UW-Extension, UW-Stevens Point, (consultant)*



**Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association  
Recreational Study Team Survey**

July 2005

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

We are conducting this survey to determine your opinions regarding the recreational use of our Cloverleaf Lakes. We appreciate your willingness to answer these questions. Your answers will help guide the stewardship of our lakes and your enjoyment of its waters. While your answers to some of the following questions may vary greatly from year to year or month to month, your response on the survey should represent your normal annual lake use.

Please take a few minutes to provide us with your opinions and responses to the following questions and return your thoughts to us in the prepaid envelope provided. Your responses will be kept in strict confidence. The results of the questionnaire will be shared with the membership -- however, the individual responses will remain confidential.

Thanks for your participation. If you have any questions, feel free to contact any of our team members (see below).

Sincerely,

Recreational Use Study Team

Jim Aumann

Jim and Nancy Green

Reid Hundertmark

Marv and Esther Letven

Carol Wegner

Mary Wetzel

Bob Korth, consultant to team

**Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association  
RECREATIONAL WATER USE SURVEY**

1. Do you live on (please circle):

- A. Grass Lake
- B. Pine Lake
- C. Round Lake

2. How many years have you lived in this area (please circle)?

- A. Less than one year
- B. One year to five years
- C. Six years to 10 years
- D. More than 10 years

C. My/our property is: (pick those that apply; 1 highest 3 lowest)

1<sup>st</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 3<sup>rd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

- A. My permanent/official residence
- B. A vacation or second home
- C. Used as a seasonal rental
- D. Owned by my family for multiple generations.
- E. Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please tell us about your use of the Lakes:

4. I enjoy the lakes for? (List your top three reasons in order of importance: 1 high; 3 low)

1<sup>st</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 3<sup>rd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

- A. Peace and quiet
- B. Fishing/hunting
- C. Non-motor: swimming/canoe/ wildlife watching/etc.
- D. Natural beauty
- E. Motorized: boating/skiing/etc.
- F. Other \_\_\_\_\_

5. How many of each of the following watercraft are kept at your property?

_____ canoes	_____ sailboats	_____ rowboats	_____ jet skis
_____ motor boats under 25 HP		_____ motor boats between 25-90 HP	
_____ motor boats over 90 HP		_____ pontoons	
_____ other (please list) _____			

6. How do you actually use your property and the lake? (List the letter of your top three uses in order of time spent:)

1st \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd \_\_\_\_\_ 3rd \_\_\_\_\_

- A. Entertaining friends and relatives
- B. Holding property for appreciation in value
- C. Fishing
- D. Swimming/scuba/snorkeling
- E. Enjoying the view, peace, tranquility, and wildlife
- F. Water skiing/jet skiing
- G. Motorized boating
- H. Non-motorized boating/canoeing/rowing/sailing/wind surfing
- I. Working to maintain/improve the property
- J. Other (please list) \_\_\_\_\_

7. Regardless of the amount of time you can spend doing it, which of the above uses from Question 6 is most important to you? \_\_\_\_\_

8. If you use the lake for fishing, approximately how many days do you fish per year? \_\_\_\_\_

A. Which water bodies do you fish? (circle all that apply)

- 1. Grass Lake
- 2. Pine Lake
- 3. Round Lake

B. How do you rate the fishing quality? (circle one)

- 1. excellent
- 2. good
- 3. fair
- 4. poor

C. How many days did you ice fish over the past year? \_\_\_\_\_ days

9. Which statement best describes the peace and tranquility at the lake?  
(check one in column #1 for weekends/holidays; check one in column #2 for weekdays)

#1 #2

- Few disturbances** -- Rarely see and hear another person.
- Moderate disturbances** -- It is easy to share the lake.
- Heavily used** -- Sometimes the noise and activities of others disturb me.
- Over used** -- I have to regularly plan around the noise and activities of others.
- Unusable** -- There is so much noise and activity that I normally can't enjoy the peace and tranquility of the lake

10. Which statement best describes the boat traffic the lake receives?  
(check one in column #1 for weekends/holidays; check one in column #2 for weekdays)

#1 #2

- Lightly used** -- Rarely see another boat.
- Moderately used** -- Not enough to bother my use.
- Heavily used** -- On occasion I have to modify my plans because of boat traffic.
- Over used** -- I have to regularly change my plans because of boat traffic on the lakes.
- Unusable** -- There is so much boat traffic that I don't use the lake much any more.  
(Boating isn't safe anymore.)

11. Which best describes your experience with other boaters on the water?  
(check one in column #1 for weekends/holidays; check one in column #2 for weekdays)

#1 #2

- Little conflict** -- Boaters have been courteous and law abiding.
- Moderate conflict** -- A few boaters have been discourteous and broken rules.
- Heavy conflict** -- Significant # of boaters have been discourteous & broken rules.
- Overt conflict** -- Some boaters intimidate and harass other boaters.
- Displacement** -- I have generally quit boating due to the behavior of other boaters

12. Comments are welcome.

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## TRANSCRIPTION OF COMMENTS

## NEED FOR BETTER ENFORCEMENT

## No Wake Law

- The 6pm no wake rule does not seem to apply to some boaters. Why?
- No trolling and no wake rules are not adhered to on Round Lake.
- The fishermen want the no wake rules and they are the first ones to speed to their fishing spot. The sign for no wake on Round Lake should be made bigger and brighter so people could read it!!
- A lot of boaters are not slowing down for the no-wake through the channel. Big signs should be put up on the island stating no-wake. Print up the rules and laws of the lake and hand out copies to all boaters and send a copy to owners - members or not, so there is no excuse for not knowing. A lot of boaters do not bother to read the signs when putting the boats in at the landing. The workers at the landing could advise the boaters of the rules - the no wake hours for skiing, etc. I would be glad to volunteer to sit in my boat and take down some numbers by the channel - if word gets out maybe they would slow down knowing they are being watched. If this sounds good, put in the newsletter for some one to watch the channel.
- On occasion, some boaters have not obeyed the rules regarding slow no wake times.
- Need someone to stop the boats from water skiing, tubing and jet skiing after 6 pm and it is not just the visitors who are doing this!
- Your no wake rule is a fucking joke! I'll bet less than 10% of the boaters really know what the WI statutes and definition of no wake is! Including the committee!! Why pass a law if you cannot enforce it! Or educate people of it. 90% of the violators are property owners.
- The rules of the lakes need to be regulated more. Especially the no wake rule.
- More enforcement needed for no wake after 6:00 pm.
- There is no enforcement done concerning Town of Bell Plaine laws or rules and DNR rules: No wake 6-10
- Some boats do go fast after 6pm
- Some boats do go with tubes after 6 pm, even up to 7 or 8:00.
- I feel someone needs to monitor the no wake on the lakes. Also please post the no wake at all boat landings! I found some of the locals are the ones that ignore the no wake!

## Avoid Over-Regulating

- We have to be very careful of not over regulating, property owners do not won the lake. It seems like we just push the tension factor. Social behavior cannot be corrected by more laws and restrictions.
- We need to be cautious regarding limiting the use of our lakes. We must be careful. Young families not buying homes on our lake because too restrictive rules. I know of three homes all over \$400,000 that would have been sold to young professionals in Green Bay but 6 pm rule stopped them. Only could use lake on weekends, not week nights when home from work. Older people need to be concerned that property values will decrease because of restrictions and high taxes!
- Hourly restrictions have helped preserve quiet times, yet allow active boating in mid-day. I do not want to see any more restrictions on use of water ways.

## Concerns About Pontoon Boats

- Pontoon boats should stay at least 100 feet from shore.
- Our biggest annoyance is the pontooners coming way too close to docks to "snoop" at others - and they violate the no wake speed after 6 pm.
- Some lake residents with pontoon boats (assuming this) are becoming more discourteous, ignoring no-wake, distance to piers, etc.

## Limited Knowledge of Rules

- Heavy traffic in general on the weekends is a problem, so few people know the rules. The DNR does help to enforce.
- All residents, members or not, of Cloverleaf Association should receive a copy of laws on lakes. Most violations seem to be committed by lake residents or guests they have.
- Most boaters follow a counter-clockwise direction, which allows for smooth traffic. Those that drive against this direction, pose a threat and need to be educated.

## Miscellaneous

- Enforce the speed limits on the roads around the lake.
- I can accept private setting off of fireworks right around July 4 but the continuing shooting off in late July and into August is too much. Time for the county sheriff to make some arrests.
- There is no enforcement done concerning Town of Bell Plaine laws or rules and DNR rules: Water levels being kept at legal DNR orders; too big of motors and boats for size of our lakes
- Consider more enforcement: 1. DNR fish limits being violated regularly (winter); 2. Summer, drunk party goes on sand bar. Too many!
- There does not seem to be any enforcement of common boating rules (i.e., 10am - 6pm skiing, or counter-clockwise direction).

## LIMIT JET SKIS AND LARGE MOTORS

### Limit Motor Size

- Consider a limit on horse power and boats
- I would like to see a size limit on motors - 100 HP or less
- Too many BIG BOATS - The kind that shouldn't be on these small lakes - anything over 100 HP. Thanks for asking!!
- To help save this lake, I would recommend maximum motor horse power no more than 20 HP (10 HP would be better) for all boats on and entering the lake (no jet skis allowed).
- Oversized speed boats shouldn't be allowed on the lake, especially on busy days.
- Ideally there should be a limit on boats using the lake based on a weight and horsepower ratio.
- Some of the boats are far too fast or large for our lakes - limit the size not speed. Who can tell how fast a boat is traveling and we still like to ski, but not 3 skiers on a big motor boat.
- Limit horse power of boats.
- There needs to be a size limit on motors - perhaps 25 HP max. This lake is too small for 300 HP units.
- If wakes and shoreline erosion are the problem, maybe a motorized boat size limit would be a better solution rather than putting useless restrictions on everyone.
- Should be regulations as to maximum horse power limits on all lakes!
- Prohibit large noisy boats from the lake. (There's NO REASON for these types of watercraft on the Cloverleaf Lakes.)

### Jet Ski Complaints

- Jet skiing, water skiing, and people that only race around the lakes for fun with large boats, that are way too large, especially for Grass Lake, they don't belong here. They tear up the lake on the south side of the spawning bed on the south side of Grass Lake.
- Had encounter where large ski boat almost hit us while we were fishing on our little boat. Came really close til I screamed and he saw us. Kept skiing around us the whole afternoon. Jet skis and speed boats go too fast, are too loud, and come too close to docks. Jet skis are loud and keep going around in circles and disturb wildlife and people. Big boats with powerful motors tear up weeds which drift to our shore in huge amounts.
- (The no wake rule after 6 pm affords some quiet time on the lakes for fishing, however, it does not protect fish habitat from the effects of motorized vehicles in shallow water, particularly jet skis. I am a 28 year resident of the Cloverleaf Lakes. The quality of fishing in these lakes has been drastically reduced over the past few years. I feel one significant contributing factor is irresponsible jet ski operation.)
- (Down with) Ski jets, etc.
- Jet-skis are the most annoying watercraft on the lake due to the way they are used. I do not operate the seaplane during heavy use times because of potential conflicts with predominately jet skis. One never knows where they are going to be at any moment because they are capable of rapid directional changes.
- A major negative outcome of jet-skis and big ski boats is the windrow (?) of cut weeds washed up to rot on my shoreline. Too many jet-skis and big boats, too shallow, tear up the bottom.
- Reduce erratic ski jet activity.
- Jet skis have been extremely disturbing on the lakes. The way that jet skies are used and abused is very annoying and dangerous.
- Remove or limit jet ski boats.
- Some of the boats and jet skis are loud and obnoxious - they are tearing up the natural habitat for fish and wild life!!

- Ban jet skis. They never follow the rotation of the lakes. Makes it more dangerous when skiing. Also much louder than boats.
- It is not boaters, but jet skiers not following rules.
- During the last few years we have become very disappointed in the lack of courteous boaters. Most jet skiers have no regard for other boaters - making it very dangerous for boaters, fisherman & water skiers. I believe that the jet skiers have added to the excessive noise and created hazardous situations for all boaters and water skiers alike.

The biggest problem I see is skiers coming too close to fishing boats and jet skis too close to docks. If personal watercraft were to use center of lake, skiers would not be as troubled with rough water.

## USAGE OF LAKES

### Over-Used

- These lakes are over used by large boats and motors. The lake owners are not ruining the lakes that large boats and motors are. If you don't believe me come to my house after a weekend and help clean up my shoreline.
- The amount of boat traffic is in excess for these small lakes.
- Water activity too heavy on weekends. Maybe the high wake boaters should be banned after 5 pm.
- Too many boaters.
- During the week and especially on weekends the area near the outlet has been turned into a public beach. This is a major nuisance and public health hazard. There are no restrooms for people who stay there 8-10 hours per day. I would like the health dept. to sample that area for e-coli after heavy use
- The continuing influx of day-boaters, whether fishing or skiing, has increased beyond carrying capacity (based on # acres needed per boat).
- We don't like the swimmers who stay all day and use the lake as a bathroom.
- On 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend, there were 33 boats and trailers parked at the Shamrock - too many outside boats. Should be a heavier charge for outside boats - especially on weekends.
- Do not allow pontoon boats to congregate all weekend on the southwest shoreline of Pine Lake - the partying goes on all day into the evening- it should be off limits - roped off! These people do not pay our taxes!
- We do not need the town board to make a parking lot to accommodate more boaters and promote lake use.
- There's too much "non-resident" boat traffic on the weekends. Also, we live near the sand bar and, on any given weekend there can be anywhere from 10-20 boats there. What can be done about this??
- Boat traffic is an ongoing problem, especially by "non-Cloverleaf residents." Too many "non-resident" boats on the lakes! Especially with low water levels and high weeds.
- Excessive traffic on weekends has made the lake much too noisy and dangerous. While we are ski boat owners, we recognize that we need to be respectful of others - especially paying close attention to safety rules.

### Acceptable Usage

- Little conflict if we stay off the lake on holidays and weekends. Thanks for the survey as we appreciate your extra effort.
- Overall I think that the lakes cannot be considered to be over used except for select weekends.
- There are 2 busy weekends of the year - 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend and the fishing derby 1 day. Overall it is great.
- Holiday weekends tend to have more boat traffic, but this is to be expected. If rules are followed, I see no issues.
- Compared with lakes closer to Milwaukee area, there is very little boat traffic.

### Timing Issues

- As a fisherman and canoeist, I see many different people - from teenagers with 100+ HP boats to retirees on pontoon boats - who don't always maintain a respectable passing distance. On the plus side, the majority of these "close calls" at least take place at very low speeds. Of course, I usually only boat before 10 am and after 6 pm.
- For me the best times at the lakes are April, May before Memorial Day or school being out and September after Labor Day and school starting; October and early November.

- Decrease recreational use from 10am to 6pm to 10am to 4pm!! People take advantage and stay out to as late as 7pm.
- Never boat on weekends.
- Our data from boat monitoring and boat launch fee envelopes show the highest period of boat use is Sunday afternoons. The norm for the summer months for boat fee envelopes is 10/weekday, 20 on Saturday and 30 on Sunday.

#### Lakes Are Public

- Thank you for the interesting survey. Remember these lakes belong to the PUBLIC - not a few from Pine Lake who think they own the water, and can regulate anything they want.
- Wisconsin owns the lakes - Not CLPA. It must remain available and useful for all of WI to enjoy.

#### SLOW NO-WAKE

##### Happy with Current Rules

- Much improvement in channel since no-wake rule.
- "SNW" Zone in channel was a good step in right direction!
- I'm pleased that the channel has been made a slow-no wake zone though because that area has had too high a probability of an accident due to narrow width.
- Living on the channel with the no wake ??? ??? has really slowed down the traffic - We put over 300 ton of rock in shoreline to protect it. This sure helps and watching - it seems a lot safer!!!
- The no wake hours seem to work well, seem to be respected.

##### Unhappy with Current Rules

- Decisions of late have been ??-like and frankly stupid: 1) no wake area ☹
- We don't like the new NO WAKE rule between Grass and Pine Lakes because we have trouble with the prop issue.
- We enjoy the lake a lot less since the no wake in channel. We can never go in Grass Lake to ski, tube, fish, or just for a ride. Very upsetting after doing so for 25 years. Many friends and family members are also disappointed. I think this also makes traffic on Pine Lake heavier as many other boats have to stay in one lake or the other.
- No wake thru the channel is going to cause accidents and congestion.
- Allow skiing through channel 10-noon and 4-6.
- I think that the new ordinance proposed by the Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association on the NO wake in the channel stinks!!!! I have lived on these lakes for over 40 years and have never had a problem coming through the channel. I think that a no skiing or tubing there would have been a better solution. The main reason that I am against this ordinance is that I own an inboard/ outboard that doesn't go very well in shallow water. It is very hard to control the boat with the lower unit tilted up because the prop is at a different angle than the prop on an outboard motor when tilted.
- After Labor Day weekend, I see a problem with the no wake zone relating to safety. Rather than traffic flowing from Pine to Grass to Pine, boats tend to clump in one lake (especially Grass). This creates more boat traffic that circulates in one area, which in my mind raises risk of collision.

##### Effect on Pine Lake

- Too crowded on Pine Lake now with no one skiing on Grass Lake with no wake thru channel.
- I see the reasons for making the channel slow no wake, but now with everyone skiing on Pine because it's the biggest has just turned the lake into an all day long race track of skiers. It will only be a matter of time before boating accidents increase. I've had a boater get within 50 ft of my scuba flag because of watching for other boaters around him and not in front with so much traffic on one lake.
- I disagree with the channel now being no-wake. For skiers and tubers, you have essentially taken 300 acres and condense it to 200 acres, with the majority of activity now staying on Pine. This makes Pine more congested. If rules were posted and enforced I feel it would be more effective (i.e., skiers staying in the wake, set up two lanes). During the hours of 10 am - 6 pm restrict boaters from parking in the channel or near the entrance. Maintaining 100 feet from boaters parked at the middle near the entrance is impossible and poses a danger.
- Have noticed that with no wake thru channel more boaters are staying on one lake and creating more congestion.



- Would have been considerate to have a questionnaire before ruling was made on channel. Inactivity in channel only raises usage in Pine - boaters are already increasing time on Pine. Grass wins; Pine loses!
- There is more traffic in Pine Lake since the channel is "no wake." Remove the buoys. There is no shore erosion on the island. Adams Beach was built on muck. It is unstable naturally. The no wake rule is not necessary.
- I have spent a lot of time at Pine Lake throughout my life and I have enjoyed my experience but I feel it was a big mistake to make the channel a no wake zone. It has put too much pressure on Pine Lake (because it is the best lake to ski on, etc.). I have not talked to one person that agreed with this and can't believe it passed when voted upon. I feel we should of received an absent ballot in the mail to vote on this and I also know that people that live on the lake feel the same way. We may not call this our primary residence but we are taxed the same as people that do. Thanks for your time and I would like some response.
- I wish the channel was open to skiing - it makes Pine Lake very busy and that's where the accidents will happen.
- The slow no wake ordinance is a major mistake. The channel area is now more congested because of all the slow traffic moving through it. Also, Pine Lake traffic is much heavier due to boaters, skiers, and tubers staying on Pine Lake. The perceived safety issue in the channel started with placing the buoys in the channel so close together it restricted the normal and safe traffic flow. Government officials continue to create the problems and make them worse year after year. I've been boating at Cloverleaf Lakes over 40 years and the lake use traffic cycles every 5-7 years. Only since the "experts" have gotten involved have we seen a congestion problem. Perhaps the experts should apply common sense before making problems worse.

#### Adams Beach Area

- (Jet skiing, water skiing, and people that only race around the lakes for fun with large boats, that are way too large, especially for Grass Lake, they don't belong here. They tear up the lake on the south side of the spawning bed on the south side of Grass Lake.) This part should be no-wake, as the piers are only 125 feet from reeds (during the winter I measured the feet myself). They can't possibly race through there and be 100 feet from my pier, so I can't fish on weekends, because they are running over my lines, water skiers more often than not, come within 20-50 feet from me, a lot of jet skiers also. When I call their attention to it, they don't care, because they know it's not possible to be 100 feet from me, that's another reason it should be no-wake. This is an accident waiting to happen for a water skier, to hit one of the piers as they fly towards them on a wide turn around the spawning bed.
- Would like to see the water between the weed bed and Adams Beach be a no wake area - would help reduce the shoreline erosion.

#### LAKE LEVELS

- The water level has finally come down.
- At times in past years prior to this summer the water level has been too high causing erosion of shoreline and the burning out of sump pumps because of continual pumping. Hopefully action taken recently regarding beaver dam removal and lowering of the dam at Green Tree will have a continued effect on taking care of this problem.

#### Too Low

- Lake level is too low; affecting boating and fishing.
- Water level is too low.
- It used to be enjoyable to have friends and relatives come, but the water level on Grass Lake has given us nothing but more muck and smell. Can hardly get the pontoon away from shore. You should leave a bit more water out - talk to anyone on Grass Lake. I can understand why many people do not join the Association or pay dues!!
- Decisions of late have been ??-like and frankly stupid: 2) water level lowering ☹
- Current water level has made it very difficult to take my boat on and off our boat lift. I run aground when trying to go in and out of the boat lift. It has also made it very difficult to load multiple people on to our boat and pontoon from our dock. Thanks for volunteering!
- Also concerned with this year's low water level - way too low.
- We find the lake level is very low; in many places it's only 2 ft. and we have trouble using our boat because the prop hits bottom.

- Please raise level of lake!
- The level on the lake has to be raised I have a 60 foot dock and have to raise my motor (no automatic tilt) and now my boat ??? the middle of the lake at 30 yards before I can use my motor.
- At this time, I believe the water level is too low. I hope the association will revise their thinking and look at higher levels. There are problems getting boats in and out of shore and along shore lines. Motors are kicking up muck and weeds.
- A primary concern is the continued effort to keep the lake at too low level - again, outlet gates left open too long during period of no rain.
- Raise the level of the lake NOW!
- I'm concerned about the lake water level right now. I believe it's about at least a foot low. Is the lake taking any water out right now or is it all the drought, which just need rain?
- Lake levels are very low (no rain?).

## BOAT LAUNCH FEES

### Raise Fees

- Launch fees need to be much higher and strictly enforced.
- Increase launch fees to \$10 for repairs and up keep.
- Launch fees should be a minimum of \$5/use for non-residents.

### No Fees for Residents

- Also, why do people on the lake who own property have to pay at putting their boats in. We already pay CLPA fees and taxes!!
- Don't think boat fee is needed for the amount of taxes we pay.
- No boat fees for residents.
- I think lake people should not have to pay to put boat in water. Let all the people who come from other lakes or cities pay.
- Increase the launch fees for "day-trippers" - give a discount to Bell Plaine residents with ID.
- Decisions of late have been ??-like and frankly stupid: 3) boat launch charge ☹
- Residents shouldn't have to pay a fee to launch their boats - we pay enough already - regardless of the cost of launch fees.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Fishing Issues

- Over harvest and low stocking numbers have made significant impact on Musky and other premier game fish populations the last few years. Severe boat traffic forces me to fish nights or not at all until fall. Also the invasive weed spraying has been good to a point but since the inception I have noticed a lot of the natural weeds dying off such as the cabbage. I think this is more pleasing to skiers while ignoring fishermen and women.
- If the Lake Association along with the Town of Belle Plaine feel we have enough money to buy an island and 10 acres across from Shamrock, then it would be nice to see the same effort placed on fish stocking. This chain is heavily fished. The stocking of 1000 walleye last year is a poor attempt of generating any type of fishery.
- The no wake rule after 6 pm affords some quiet time on the lakes for fishing, however, it does not protect fish habitat from the effects of motorized vehicles in shallow water, particularly jet skis. I am a 28 year resident of the Cloverleaf Lakes. The quality of fishing in these lakes has been drastically reduced over the past few years. I feel one significant contributing factor is irresponsible jet ski operation.
- Greater emphasis on planting fish (walleye)!
- Stock the lakes with more fish. Maybe the boat launch fees could be used.
- Fishing pressure is extreme, definitely changed in the past 10-15 years. Consider catch and release limits for one year only? Increase fish in lake, stocking.

### Weeds

- Appreciate the efforts of Committee for weed control. Still a problem but has been reduced greatly- commend the efforts for boat checks coming unto our lakes. Good job - Keep up the good work.
- Too many weeds
- More needs to be done concerning weed control.

- Weed problem is getting out of control. We have a cottage on Pine Lake. By mid-summer it is difficult to get our pontoon out because of the weeds. Our children can't swim in front of our cottage due to the weeds.

#### Light Pollution

- Light pollution on and around the lakes.
- I wish the DNR or someone would regulate the lighting on shore at night!! There are some homes that have street lights on the lake front!! It is very obnoxious and ruins the lake front for others during the night hours. It is also very difficult at times to enjoy the quiet night hours because this neon light illuminates the entire shoreline for over 100 yards which upsets numerous property owners! Please . . . do something about this. Thank you.

#### Enjoy the Lakes

- Lived here for many years and just enjoy it here.
- It sure isn't the same place it was 40 years ago when we started coming here, but we love our lakes and will do what we can to protect them. The CLPA will help with that!
- For the most part we enjoy living here. There are a few problems but that can be wherever you live.
- I have and do enjoy the lake. I don't fish or swim any more (arthritis). I do donate to funds needed (I am on social security only). I am an old Navy vet - 83 years old. I thank you for your concern - I do what I can.
- I do not live directly on the lakes, but enjoy the peaceful community around the lakes.
- No complaints.
- I enjoy the lake very much. Most people are friendly.
- #9 (B) says it all - we can easily share the lake!! Thank for your effort.

#### Safety Concerns

- Wish there was more street lights for walking, etc. in the evenings for safety and enjoyment.
- Sidewalks around all the lakes are very much needed for the safety of all.
- Wish there were more street lights for walking, etc. in the evenings for safety and enjoyment.
- I live on Cloverleaf Lake Road and the speeding traffic is ridiculous! Someone is going to be hit by a car and seriously hurt!

#### Gibson Island

- Keep working for the purchase of Gibson Island.
- Greatly appreciate work of CLPA and others to purchase Gibson Island.
- The most benefit received from the purchase of the island are those that live on the lake. All others will have to help with the lost tax revenue.
- I suggest charging at least a \$10 launch fee at the boat landing and utilize the revenue for the "Island Purchase Project."

#### Appreciation for Work of Association and Volunteers

- We do appreciate all the volunteer work the Association people do to keep the lake clean and have found so many friendly people in the area.
- The lakes association committees are looking great.
- Greatly appreciate neighbors. Greatly appreciate work of CLPA over the years.
- Great survey. Will results be ready for late-August newsletter? Bless the fishermen! Exalt the pontoons!
- This is an excellent survey. It would be appropriate to survey other issues as well. Thanks for your time and effort your committee has put into this survey.
- Thank you for your efforts.
- Thank you for your time and effort.

#### Long Term Residents

- I have used these lakes my entire life - I'm 53.
- We have lived on Pine Lake permanently for the past eight years. My parents owned the property since 1921. The cottage was built in 1939 and we built our new home in 1997 on the same property. My father was a charter member of the CLPA.
- This is the first year that I did not put my dock or boat in. By the Grace of God I reached the age of 86. I was a visitor of this lake as a youth about 76 years ago - a friend of the Burdicks. I built the cement block boat house about the year 1950.

### Shoreline Concerns

- The destruction of shoreline habitat must stop. Lot frontage must leave 80-90% of shoreline in a natural state. Placing fieldstone on entire frontage must be stopped. Those already "rocked" should have 80% restored to natural. Why? This destruction reduces: water quality, fishing quality, aesthetic quality and property values. Increases: Fertilizer runoff, weeds, and undesired species of insects and fish.
- CLPA has not educated water front owners. Most have no idea the damage. The excessive fertilizer and shoreline destruction do to the wildlife, aesthetics, property values. See exhibit A: Shawano Lake
- Check for use of grass fertilizer and run-off. Continue all beneficial programs.
- WAY TOO many homes on Pine Lake per frontage.

### Other Single Issues

- Signs could be put up at boat landing and sandy beach saying "please keep this area clean." There's a large amount of trash in both areas. We know because we pick it up every morning on our walk around the lakes.
- Widen the culvert - for full size pontoon.
- The land across from Micksters on the Round Lake shoreline should be made into a park like setting for fishing, with grills and park benches and picnic benches. Very little trees would need to be cut. We need to make the lakes accessible to all of the community, not just property owners.
- It's too bad we can't enjoy the lake like we used to. It was great to live here for 25 years.
- Please keep the lake clean. Swimmers itch is a great problem.
- What's with the amateur fireworks every weekend?
- Have dog owners pick up after their animals.
- Question is there any leash rules for pets in townships (dogs)?
- Concerned about impact on remodeling; theft of gas from motorboat; behavior of outside boaters.
- Many 2<sup>nd</sup> home owners have no representation!
- We have a back lot and do not use the lake waters very often.
- When we used the lake most people were courteous. But only one boat can cause problems - going too fast - coming too close when we are anchored fishing - skiing too close to docks - no one should go thru channel except slow speed.
- Both the house and cottage are rental property (same lot). The house used to be a 2<sup>nd</sup> home until I retired in 1995. The cottage has always been a rental.
- Keep the lakes as we expect - for all ages, not the gray.
- Our taxes are ridiculous compared to Lake Winnebago. We have no amenities like fire dept. & rescue (only volunteer). No garbage pick-up and we're the last roads to be plowed in the winter.
- Dredge the channel to at least 6 feet deep.
- Problems remain with violation of 'no-wake" on Round Lake. Thirteen years ago I asked for a buoy to be placed in Round Lake that is stenciled "No-Wake Lake" not just No-wake (which is ambiguous and could just mean the culvert/channel). This has never happened, and often people go full speed around the lake. The sign leading into Round Lake (falling over and hidden by weeds) says "Round Lake No-Wake." This is also ambiguous and to most boaters not living on the lakes it could mean the culvert/channel. Most of these 13 years I have been an association member, but I think my frustration with this issue has kept me from paying my dues a couple times. I think Round Lake members sometimes feel like second class members who don't really count, but I'll continue to push for this issue to be addressed.
- Will not answer any questionnaire. I feel the Lakes Association is once again trying to curve or eliminate my boating usage of the lakes. You catered to fishermen last time, closed our channel down. What do you have in mind now, putting a cell tower closer to our lakes? Maybe on the Island?
- While pontooning around the lake we counted over 100 pontoon boats. What a disappointment to see so few in the pontoon parade. Maybe it's time to think about giving out larger prizes and letting the people around the lakes vote for best ones instead of a committee.

## CLOVERLEAF LAKES PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION RECREATIONAL WATER USE SURVEY RESULTS

*Data entered and compiled by Mary Pardee, 715/787-4640, mary@rivermuse.org*

Total useable returns: 238

Total from Grass Lake: 67

Permanent residence: 45

Vacation home: 22

Seasonal rental: 0

Owned for generations: 0

Other: 0

Total from Pine Lake: 134

Permanent residence: 54

Vacation home: 68

Seasonal rental: 1

Owned for generations: 7

Other: 2

(No answer to Q3: 2)

Total from Round Lake: 22

Permanent residence: 17

Vacation home: 5

Seasonal rental: 0

Owned for generations: 0

Other: 0

Total other: 15

Permanent residence: 11

Vacation home: 3

Seasonal rental: 0

Owned for generations: 0

Other: 0

(No answer to Q3: 2)

Q2 - How many years have you lived in this area?

Total of all answers:

<1 year: 6

1-5 years: 40

6-10 years: 35

>10 years: 157

Grass:

<1 year: 4

1-5 years: 12

6-10 years: 8

>10 years: 44

Pine:

<1 year: 0  
1-5 years: 22  
6-10 years: 17  
>10 years: 94

Round:

<1 year: 2  
1-5 years: 2  
6-10 years: 5  
>10 years: 13

Other:

<1 year: 0  
1-5 years: 4  
6-10 years: 5  
>10 years: 6

Q4 - I enjoy the lakes for:

Item	Rated 1 <sup>st</sup>	Rated 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Rated 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Total of 1 <sup>st</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup>
A	98	53	25	176
B	34	45	35	114
C	15	37	44	96
D	53	49	49	151
E	29	35	40	104
F	2	2	5	9

Q5 – How many of each watercraft?

Totals:

Canoes: 98  
Sailboats: 16  
Rowboats: 62  
Jet skis: 38  
Motor <25: 58  
Motor 25-90: 60  
Motor >90: 55  
Pontoons: 111  
Others:  
Paddleboat: 37  
Kayak: 14  
Seaplane: 1  
Ski Toon: 1  
Jetboat: 1  
Windsurfer: 3  
Skiff: 1

How do you use your property and the lake?

Item	Rated 1 <sup>st</sup>	Rated 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Rated 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Total of 1 <sup>st</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup>
A	43	49	37	129
B	7	5	13	25
C	29	32	32	93
D	10	25	21	56
E	94	43	32	169
F	8	12	16	36
G	17	30	21	68
H	1	9	10	20
I	15	16	28	59
J	4	0	1	5

Q7 – Which is most important to you?

- A: 25
- B: 9
- C: 31
- D: 8
- E: 117
- F: 4
- G: 14
- H: 1
- I: 7
- J: 3

Q8 – How many days do you fish?

142 indicated how many days they fish.

Min. 1 day to max. 150 days for a total of 3408 fishing days.

Ave. is 24 days/yr for those who fish.

Grass Lake was fished by 120 people.

Pine Lake was fished by 143 people.

Round Lake was fished by 72 people.

Fishing quality:

Excellent: 6

Good: 60

Fair: 83

Poor: 16

69 indicated how many days they ice fished.

Min. 1 day to max. 80 days for a total of 748 fishing days.

Ave. is 10.8 days/yr for those who ice fish.

– Peace and tranquility (WE = Weekend, WD = Weekday)

	Grass		Pine		Round		Other	
	WE	WD	WE	WD	WE	WD	WE	WD
Few Disturbances	4	28	5	42	2	9	1	2
Moderate Disturbances	17	29	40	73	8	12	4	8
Heavily Used	27	8	52	5	4	0	3	2
Over Used	12	1	14	0	3	0	3	0
Unusable	3	0	9	0	1	0	0	0

Q10 – Boat traffic on lake (WE = Weekend, WD = Weekday)

	Grass		Pine		Round		Other	
	WE	WD	WE	WD	WE	WD	WE	WD
Lightly Used	1	15	0	28	0	3	0	1
Moderately Used	15	34	27	81	8	14	1	7
Heavily Used	24	7	52	7	7	3	7	4
Over Used	13	4	23	0	3	0	4	0
Unusable	4	0	13	1	1	0	1	0

Q11 - Experience with other boaters (WE = Weekend, WD = Weekday)

	Grass		Pine		Round		Other	
	WE	WD	WE	WD	WE	WD	WE	WD
Little Conflict	13	36	20	86	7	13	4	8
Moderate Conflict	27	18	59	28	4	5	7	5
Heavy Conflict	10	2	27	0	5	0	2	0
Overt Conflict	2	0	4	1	0	0	0	0
Displacement	3	0	3	0	1	0	1	0

NOTES:

- How many watercraft question (#5) – many people put a checkmark instead of a number. I entered “1” if they used a checkmark.
- Some people listed more than three choices for #4 and #6. I used the first three in the order they wrote them.
- If a person merely circled their choices for #4 and #6, I did not use them as they weren’t rated.
- If a person checked more than one box in either the weekend or weekday columns in #9-#11, I did not use them.
- Some people made a check in only the weekday or weekend column for #9-#11, and some checked sporadically. For this reason and the reason above, the total numbers will not be equal.
- Some indicated which lakes they fish and rated the fishing, but did not indicate how many days they fished (resulting, for instance, in 142 fishers total but 143 fishers on Pine Lake).
- Some indicated a range of days for fishing; I used the average of their range.



# OVERLEAF LAKES PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION RECREATIONAL WATER USE SURVEY RESULTS

## *Extra questions*

*Q4 – How did permanent residents vs. non-residents (vacation or 2<sup>nd</sup> home) respond for the top two responses (A & D)?*

Response A – I enjoy the lakes for peace and quiet. (using those who indicated A as highest importance)

Permanent residents – 52 (of 127 = 41%)

Vacation or 2<sup>nd</sup> home – 40 (of 98 = 41%)

Response D – I enjoy the lakes for natural beauty. (using those who indicated D as highest importance)

Permanent residents – 35 (of 127 = 27%)

Vacation or 2<sup>nd</sup> home - 17 (of 98 = 17%)

I also looked at Response E – Motorized. (using those who indicated E as highest importance)

Permanent residents – 12 (of 127 = 9%)

Vacation or 2<sup>nd</sup> home – 15 (of 98 = 15%)

*Q7 – What did permanent residents vs. non-residents (vacation or 2<sup>nd</sup> home) respond for the top choice (E)?*

Response E – Enjoying the view, peace, tranquility and wildlife is most important to me.

Permanent residents – 66 (of 127 = 52%)

Vacation or 2<sup>nd</sup> home – 45 (of 98 = 46%)