

Thank you for taking the time to take the survey. Your input will aid in guiding the document to meet the needs of the landowners around the lake and in the watershed.

SECTION 1: Define priority areas

1. This survey asks about your property on or around a lake in Cook County. Which lake are you filling this survey out for? Note: If you own property on more than one lake, please fill out a survey for each lake.

(lake)

2. Check your top 3 concerns for lake conservation:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Presence and prevention of AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) | <input type="checkbox"/> Lake water level |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Overall water quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Declining fisheries/fishing pressure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Runoff control | <input type="checkbox"/> Boat traffic/safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife preservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Tax pressure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shoreline development | <input type="checkbox"/> Septic system runoff |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shoreline erosion | <input type="checkbox"/> Winter safety |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Drinking water |

3. Which, if any, of the following do you think causes or may cause problems for surface waters near you? (Check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic Invasive Species | <input type="checkbox"/> Septic systems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fertilizers/pesticides from lake property | <input type="checkbox"/> Pollution from roads |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improper disposal of chemicals | <input type="checkbox"/> Lawns mowed to water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Erosion | <input type="checkbox"/> Motor boats |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Storm water runoff | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High-density development | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry in the watershed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High-density usage | |

4. Aquatic invasive species are a concern in Minnesota. Spiny water fleas are becoming more prevalent in our region, can you identify it?

- No idea what it looks like
 Not sure
 Pretty sure
 Very confident



Photos:
David Lilja

Note: If you spot spiny water flea in your lake, please contact cookcountyaais@gmail.com

SECTION 2: Property ownership and use

5. Which statement best describes how your property was used in the last 12 months?

- Not used at all
 Year-round use
 Summer use (most or all of the time)
 Summer use (mostly on weekends, holidays, vacations)
 Spring, summer, fall use (mostly on weekends, holidays, vacations)
 Spring, summer, fall, winter use (mostly on weekends, holidays, vacations)

Other. Explain _____

6. If you have a dwelling on your property, in what year was it originally built?

7. Approximately what year did this property first come into ownership by you or your family?

8. Does your lot include shoreline property?

Yes No

a. If yes, does your lot include 150' of shoreline or more?

Yes No

9. Was your property rented out as a short-term rental in the past year?

Yes No

a. If yes, approximately how many days? _____

10. How do you use your property and the lake? (check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Sailing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pontoon boating | <input type="checkbox"/> Ice fishing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Speed boating | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobiling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jet ski/personal watercraft | <input type="checkbox"/> Cross country skiing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canoe/Kayak/Paddle boarding | <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paddle boats | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife observation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seaplanes | <input type="checkbox"/> ATV |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming/snorkeling | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water skiing/wake boarding/tubing | |

11. If you fish, how would you rate the quality of fishing this past season compared to the last 10 years?

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Better | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Worse | <input type="checkbox"/> Didn't fish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> About the same | |

12. Have you had your well water tested?

Yes No

13. How often do you have your septic tank pumped/checked?

- Every 2 years
 Every 3-4 years
 Every 5 years or more

14. Do you have internet connections at your lake property?

Yes No

a. If yes, do you have broadband?

Yes No

b. Has having internet connection in your home increased the length of your stay?

Yes No

Comments:

15. What type of lakeshore do you presently have along your property? (choose all that apply)

Landscaped/ornamental plants

Trees and shrubs

Sandy (beach)

Turf grass

Rip rap (rocky shoreline)

Native perennials

No-mow zone (area next to the lake that you do not mow or weed whip)

No lakeshore

SECTION 3: Lake Information

16. What economic contributions does the lake offer your community? (check all that apply; name examples when relevant)

Property tax

Recreation/tourism _____

BWCA access _____

Fishing tournaments _____

Ski/boat shows _____

Festivals/fundraisers _____

Airport _____

Snowmobile trail access _____

Cross-country ski trails _____

17. What services are available at the lake?

Restaurant

Public boat landing

Carry-in access

Motorized access

Public beach

Campground

Gas station

Bait/convenience store

Boat wash station

Airport

SECTION 4: Natural resource knowledge

18. Indicate your level of engagement with the shoreline improvement practices listed below:

	Have implemented	Familiar with but haven't tried	Not familiar with
Not fertilizing			
Zero phosphorous fertilizer			
Shoreline buffers			
Rain gardens			
Septic upgrades			
Native tree/flower planting			
Diversion of surface water			
Runoff reduction			
Do nothing approach			
Minimal view corridor to the lake			
Haven't installed anything			

19. What are your barriers to using shoreline improvement practices? (check all that apply)

- Don't have the time
 Not sure what plants to use
 Too expensive
 I don't see the benefit
 Not sure how to design

20. What would motivate you to install additional shoreline improvement Practices? (check all that apply)

- Improving water quality in the lake
 Financial assistance
 Improving water quality by my shore
 Technical assistance
 Better fish habitat
 Less mowing time
 Habitat for birds and wildlife
 Just not interested
 Increasing natural beauty
 Other _____

SECTION 5: Role of the lake association

21. What do you believe are the 3 most important roles of your lake association?

- Control AIS
 Advocacy regarding watershed development
 Improve lake water quality
 Connecting with new residents
 Improve fishery
 Advocacy with local agencies (e.g. planning commission)
 Increase lake safety
 Other:
 Lake cleanup/trash removal

22. Are you aware:

- a. If someone is monitoring your lake water quality?
Yes No
- b. If your lake has invasive species?
Yes No
- c. That best practice suggests a 40' natural buffer at the shoreline?
Yes No
- d. That items removed from a lake with invasive species should be cleaned with hot water and be dried for five days before using in other lakes
Yes No

SECTION 6: Future Planning

23. Check the following that you would want more information on:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rain gardens | <input type="checkbox"/> Drinking water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lake scapeing | <input type="checkbox"/> Your local watershed (e.g. lake water sources) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shoreline filtration by plants | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Controlling runoff | |

24. As we move through the process of developing a lake management plan, what is the best way to engage with you?

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Email | <input type="checkbox"/> Boreal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Radio | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighbors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Direct mailings | <input type="checkbox"/> Social media |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper | |

SECTION 7: Resorts only

25. In which year was your resort established?

26. In which year did you take ownership?

27. How many visitors does your resort host annually?

28. Have you had an increase in guests in the last 10 years?

- Yes No

29. Have you increased the number of dwellings on your property in the last 10 years?

- Yes No

If you are interested in participating in the plan development in some way, please contact your Lake Association President or Irene or Ilena mentioned in the letter accompanying the survey.