

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](mailto: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

