

5. Lake and Watershed Assessment

5.1. Lake Questionnaire Results

The Muskellunge Lake questionnaire was developed to better understand the concerns, goals, and attitudes of homeowners living around the lake. Their thoughts and ideas about the use and the quality of your lake are shown below. The questionnaire was sent to 123 property owners, and 97 property owners responded to the Muskellunge Lake questionnaire.

Muskellunge Lake Management Plan Survey 2004

1. How long have you lived on Muskellunge Lake?

The average time people have lived on the lake is approximately 15.7 years

2. What do you enjoy the most about Muskellunge Lake? (Rank 1 through 8 with 1 being the highest rank. The lower the score, the higher the preference.)

| | Rating | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|--------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Fishing | 60 | 17 | 12 | 7 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Boating/Canoeing | 8 | 19 | 19 | 27 | 12 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Swimming | 2 | 8 | 8 | 14 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 7 |
| Aesthetics/Viewing | 39 | 25 | 12 | 6 | 11 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Wildlife | 20 | 28 | 25 | 13 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| Water sports | 6 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 12 | 32 | 11 | 5 |
| Ice fishing | 1 | 12 | 4 | 9 | 11 | 9 | 14 | 8 |
| Others* | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 19 |

*moderate size, lesser boat traffic, snowmobiling, cross country skiing, peace and quite during week

3. What is the current water quality of Muskellunge Lake? (Water quality indicators are things such as water clarity, algae, weeds or plants, swimming conditions, or fishing conditions.

- 1 Excellent
- 10 Very good
- 39 Good
- 39 Fair
- 13 Poor

4. Since you have lived on or near Muskellunge Lake, the quality has:

- 9 Improved
- 22 Degraded considerably
- 23 Remained the same
- 39 Degraded slightly
- 7 No opinion/can't tell
- 1 Other--Degraded

5. What do you see as the most important issue regarding the lake?

| | Rating | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|--------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| Exotic species | 31 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Poor fishing | 9 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Weeds | 63 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Algae | 23 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Water clarity | 32 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Water level | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Shoreline development | 13 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Crowding on the lake | 16 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Noise | 8 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Harassment of wildlife | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Muck | 31 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |

6. Because Muskellunge Lake is very fertile, there is plant growth in the lake. Aquatic plants are good for lakes. However, some aquatic plants can create nuisance conditions. If you could manage Muskellunge Lake for plant growth, what plant condition would you prefer?

| | Rating | | | | | Additional responses not ranked |
|----------------------------------|--------|----|---|---|--|---------------------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | |
| Mechanical harvesting | 10 | 13 | 1 | 0 | | 21 |
| Chemical control with herbicides | 23 | 11 | 2 | 0 | | 19 |
| Hand pulling | 8 | 6 | 7 | 3 | | 27 |

7. Do you think individuals have an impact on lake water quality? (either positively or negatively)

YES 43

NO 3 (positively 17 negatively 22)

COMMENTS fertilizing lawns, not updating septic

8. Of the following, which do you think are the most responsible for protecting and improving the lake? (rank with 1 being the most important).

| | Rating | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Federal government | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 11 | 14 | 5 |
| State government | 13 | 2 | 7 | 12 | 12 | 11 | 3 | 0 |
| County government | 5 | 7 | 14 | 13 | 15 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| Local government/Cloverland Township | 7 | 9 | 16 | 14 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| MLA | 25 | 25 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Individual property owners | 43 | 17 | 6 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| General public | 7 | 7 | 12 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 0 |
| All of the above equally | 28 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 |

COMMENTS: The DNR can help.

9. What is the age of your septic system?

45 System is ten years old or less--low risk

22 System is between ten and twenty years old--medium risk

19 System is more than twenty years old--high risk

