Forest Lake - Anonymous Stakeholder Survey

Surveys Distributed:	58
Surveys Returned:	44
Response Rate:	76%

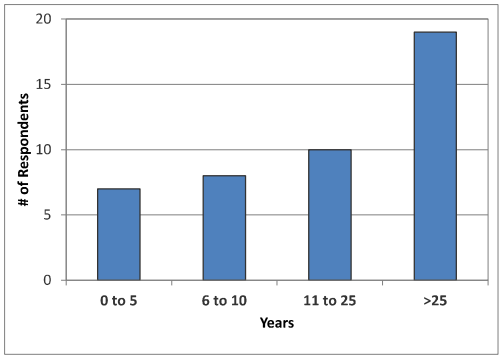
Forest Lake Property

1. Is your property on the lake or off the lake? If you own more than one property, please refer to the property you have owned the longest. Please select one response.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
On the lake	100.0%	44
Off the lake	0.0%	0
answered question		44
skipped question		0

2. How many years have you owned or rented your property on or near Forest Lake? Please select one response.

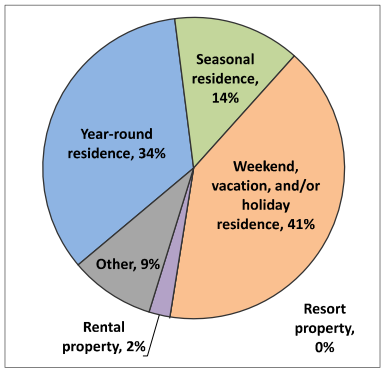
Answer Options	Response percent	Response Count
0 to 5	16%	7
6 to 10	18%	8
11 to 25	23%	10
>25	43%	19
answered question		44
skipped question		0



3. How is your property on or near Forest Lake used? Please select the one option that best describes your property's use.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Year-round residence	34.1%	15
Seasonal residence (continued occupancy for a month or more at a time)	13.6%	6
Weekend, vacation, and/or holiday residence	40.9%	18
Resort property	0.0%	0
Rental property	2.3%	1
Other	9.1%	4
answered question		44
skipped question		0

Number	"Other" responses
1	wishing to build ne house neighbor does not me to build
2	Seasonal random use
3	NOT RESIDENT BUT YEAR ROUND 75% SUMMER
4	year-round 2nd residence

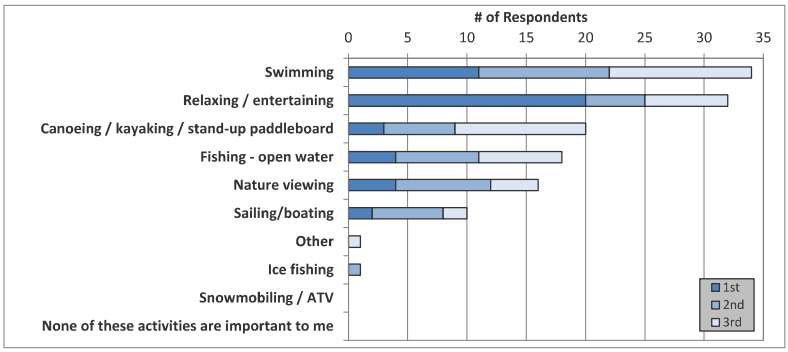


Recreational Activity on Forest Lake

4. Please rank up to three activities that are important reasons for owning your property on or near Forest Lake. Please enter the letters below in order of importance with the 1st being most important.

Answer Options	1st	2nd	3rd	Response Count
Swimming	11	11	12	34
Relaxing / entertaining	20	5	7	32
Canoeing / kayaking / stand-up paddleboard	3	6	11	20
Fishing - open water	4	7	7	18
Nature viewing	4	8	4	16
Sailing/boating	2	6	2	10
Other	0	0	1	3
Ice fishing	0	1	0	1
Snowmobiling / ATV	0	0	0	0
None of these activities are important to me	0	0	0	0
		answered question		44
		skipped question		0

Number	"Other" responses
1	Paddle boarding
2	Very difficult to rate only three. Many others are as important to us.
3	Electric Motor Boat

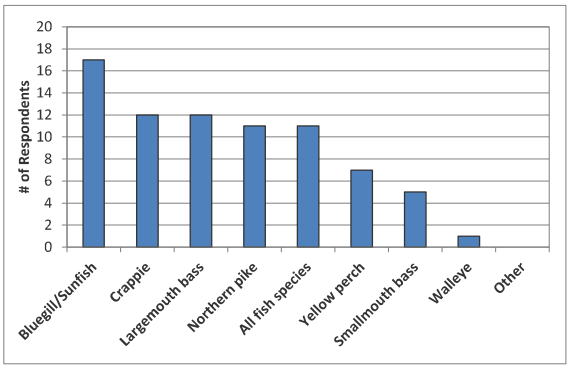


5.Have you personally fished on Forest Lake in the past three years? Please select one response

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	62.8%	27
No	37.2%	16
answered question		43
skipped question		1

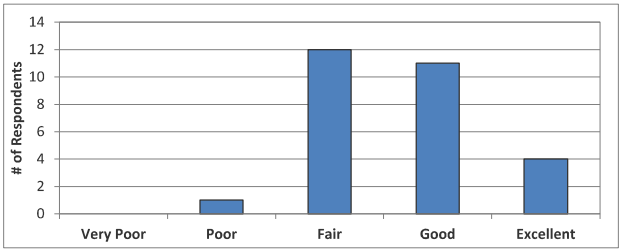
6. What species of fish do you try to catch on Forest Lake? Please select all that apply

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Bluegill/Sunfish	60.7%	17
Crappie	42.9%	12
Largemouth bass	42.9%	12
Northern pike	39.3%	11
All fish species	39.3%	11
Yellow perch	25.0%	7
Smallmouth bass	17.9%	5
Walleye	3.6%	1
Other	0.0%	0
answered question		28
skipped question		16



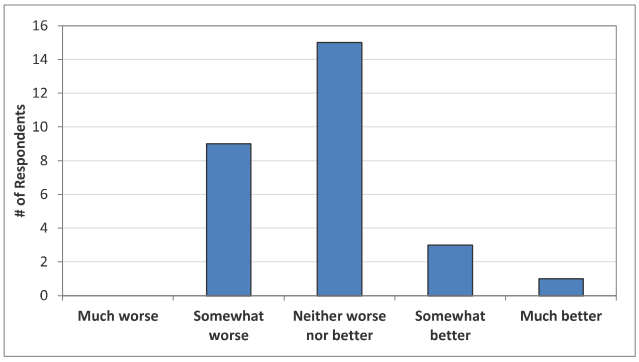
7. How would you describe the current quality of fishing on Forest Lake? Please select one response.

Answer Options	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Response Count
	0	1	12	11	4	28
					answered question	28
					skipped question	16



8. How has the quality of fishing changed on Forest Lake since you have started fishing the lake? Please select one response.

Answer Options	Much worse	Somewhat worse	Neither worse nor better	Somewhat better	Much better	Response Count
	0	9	15	3	1	28
					answered question	28
					skipped question	16

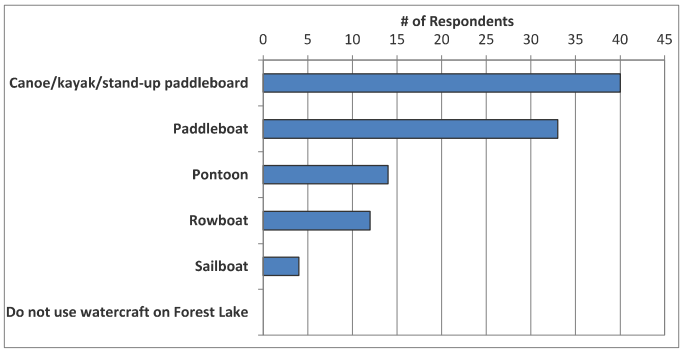


9.Would you be willing to contribute funds, or additional funds beyond what you may currently pay as a member, to support restocking the lake with new fish? Please select one response.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	50.0%	14
No	21.4%	6
Would need more information to make a decision	28.6%	8
answered question		28
skipped question		16

10. What types of watercraft do you currently use on Forest Lake? Please select all that apply.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Canoe/kayak/stand-up paddleboard	90.9%	40
Paddleboat	75.0%	33
Pontoon	31.8%	14
Rowboat	27.3%	12
Sailboat	9.1%	4
Do not use watercraft on Forest Lake	0.0%	0
Do not use watercraft on any waters	0.0%	0
answered question		44
skipped question		0



11. Do you use your watercraft on waters other than Forest Lake? Please select one response.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	6.8%	3
No	93.2%	41
answered question		44
skipped question		0

12. What is your typical cleaning routine after using your watercraft on waters other than Forest Lake? Please select all that apply.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Remove aquatic hitch-hikers (ex. - plant material, clams, mussels)	66.7%	2
Drain bilge	0.0%	0
Rinse boat	0.0%	0
Power wash boat	0.0%	0
Apply bleach	0.0%	0
Air dry boat for 5 or more days	100.0%	3
Do not clean boat	0.0%	0
Other	33.3%	1
answered question		3
skipped question		41

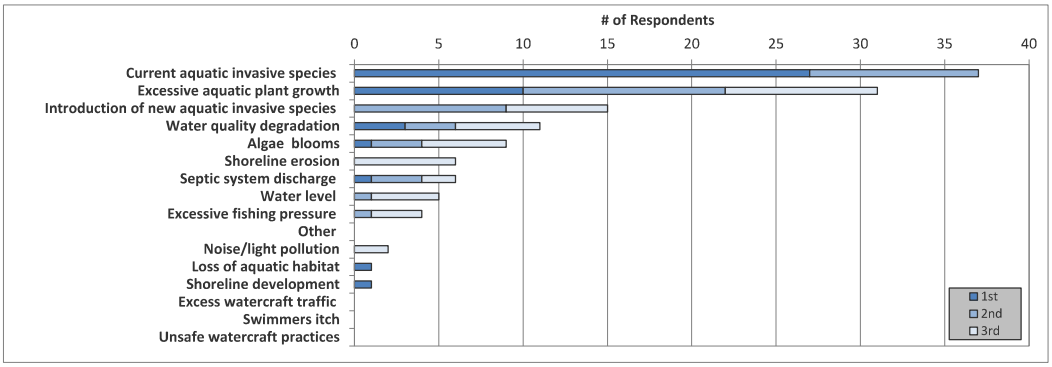
Number	"Other" responses
1	Very rare when a boat leaves the lake

Forest Lake Current and Historic Condition, Health and Management

13. From the list below, please rank your top three concerns regarding Forest Lake. Please select the numbers below in order of concern with the 1st being your top concern.

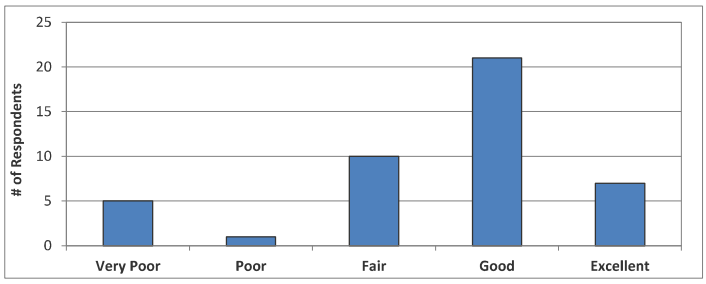
Answer Options	1st	2nd	3rd	Response Count
Current aquatic invasive species	27	10	0	37
Excessive aquatic plant growth	10	12	9	31
Introduction of new aquatic invasive species	0	9	6	15
Water quality degradation	3	3	5	11
Algae blooms	1	3	5	9
Shoreline erosion	0	0	6	6
Septic system discharge	1	3	2	6
Water level	0	1	4	5
Excessive fishing pressure	0	1	3	4
Other				4
Noise/light pollution	0	0	2	2
Loss of aquatic habitat	1	0	0	1
Shoreline development	1	0	0	1
Excess watercraft traffic	0	0	0	0
Swimmers itch	0	0	0	0
Unsafe watercraft practices	0	0	0	0
answered question				44
skipped question				0

Number	"Other" responses
1	Other concerns listed here matter as well
2	Eurasion Milfoil negatively affecting native plants and recreation
3	Poor navigation around the lake due to dense matted weed growth
4	muck



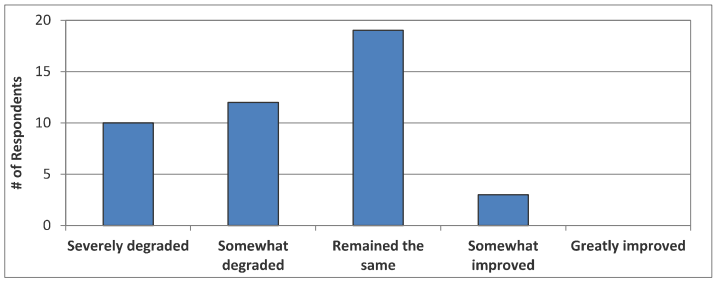
14. How would you describe the overall current water quality of Forest Lake? Please select one response.

Answer Options	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Response Count
	5	1	10	21	7	44
					answered question	44
					skipped question	0



15. How has the overall water quality changed in Forest Lake since you first visited the lake? Please select one response.

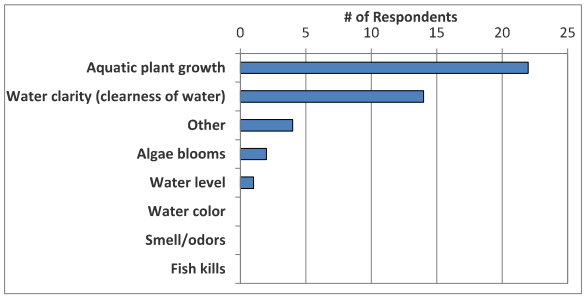
Answer Options	Severely degraded	Somewhat degraded	Remained the same	Somewhat improved	Greatly improved	Response Count
	10	12	19	3	0	44
					answered question	44
					skipped question	0



16. Which of the following would you say is the single most important aspect when considering water quality? Please select one response.

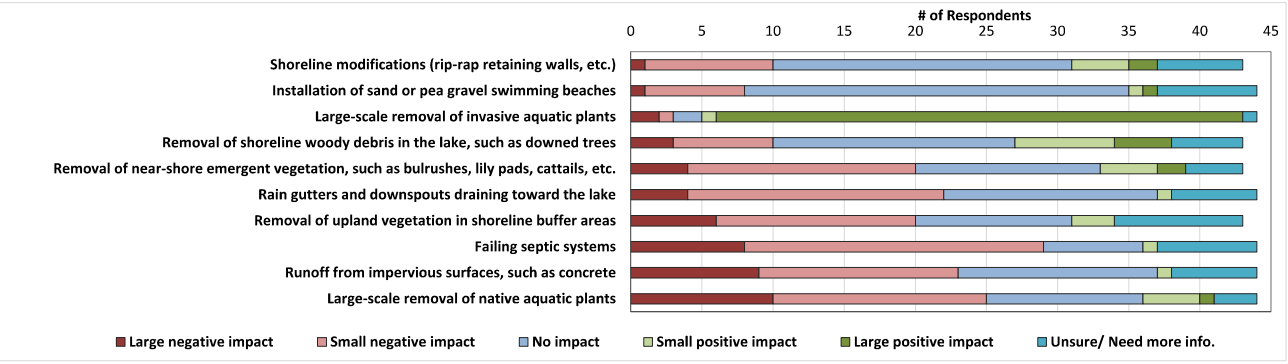
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Aquatic plant growth	51.2%	22
Water clarity (clearness of water)	32.6%	14
Other	9.3%	4
Algae blooms	4.7%	2
Water level	2.3%	1
Water color	0.0%	0
Smell/odors	0.0%	0
Fish kills	0.0%	0
	answered question	43
	skipped question	1

Number	"Other" responses
1	Fish kills impt as well
2	Eurasion Water Milfoil is much worse
3	Invasive aquatic Plants taking over the entire lake
4	The water still seems clean but there are so many more weeds!



17. Using the following scale, what impact, if any, do you believe each of the following practices have on the water quality of Forest Lake? Please select one impact level for each option.

Answer Options	Large negative impact	Small negative impact	No impact	Small positive impact	Large positive impact	Unsure/ Need more info.	Response Count
Large-scale removal of native aquatic plants	10	15	11	4	1	3	44
Runoff from impervious surfaces, such as concrete	9	14	14	1	0	6	44
Failing septic systems	8	21	7	1	0	7	44
Removal of upland vegetation in shoreline buffer areas	6	14	11	3	0	9	43
Rain gutters and downspouts draining toward the lake	4	18	15	1	0	6	44
Removal of near-shore emergent vegetation, such as bulrushes, lily pads, cattails, etc.	4	16	13	4	2	4	43
Removal of shoreline woody debris in the lake, such as downed trees	3	7	17	7	4	5	43
Large-scale removal of invasive aquatic plants	2	1	2	1	37	1	44
Installation of sand or pea gravel swimming beaches	1	7	27	1	1	7	44
Shoreline modifications (rip-rap retaining walls, etc.)	1	9	21	4	2	6	43
			answered question				44
			skipped question				0



18. Which of the following descriptions do you believe most accurately describes the development (residential and commercial) of the Forest Lake shoreline? Please select one response.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Under developed	0.0%	0
Just right	81.8%	36
Over developed	11.4%	5
Other (please specify)	6.8%	3
answered question		44
skipped question		0

Number	"Other" responses
1	Just right, but wired high speed internet is needed
2	Concerned for the future. Trending to become over developed.
3	increased pressure from airbnb

19. Before reading the statement above, had you ever heard of aquatic invasive species?Please select one response.

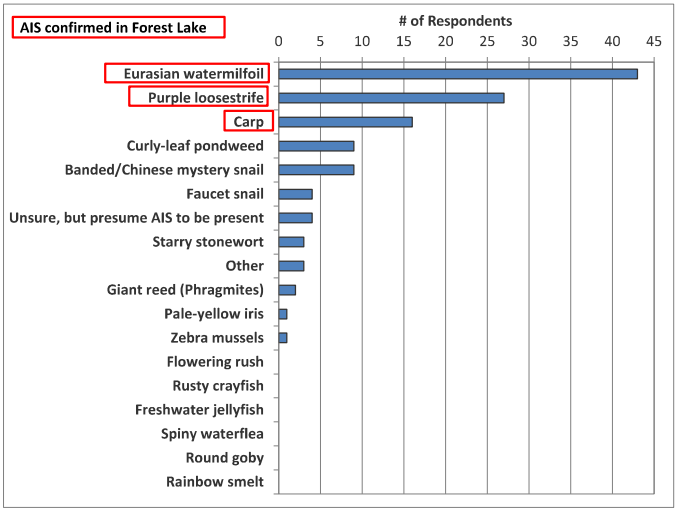
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	100.0%	44
No	0.0%	0
answered question		44
skipped question		0

20. Do you believe aquatic invasive species are present within Forest Lake?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	100.0%	44
I think so but am not certain	0.0%	0
No	0.0%	0
answered question		44
skipped question		0

21. Which aquatic invasive species do you believe are present in or immediately around Forest Lake? Please select all that apply.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Eurasian watermilfoil	97.7%	43
Purple loosestrife	61.4%	27
Carp	36.4%	16
Curly-leaf pondweed	20.5%	9
Banded/Chinese mystery snail	20.5%	9
Faucet snail	9.1%	4
Unsure, but presume AIS to be present	9.1%	4
Starry stonewort	6.8%	3
Other	6.8%	3
Giant reed (Phragmites)	4.6%	2
Pale-yellow iris	2.3%	1
Zebra mussels	2.3%	1
Flowering rush	0.0%	0
Rusty crayfish	0.0%	0
Freshwater jellyfish	0.0%	0
Spiny waterflea	0.0%	0
Round goby	0.0%	0
Rainbow smelt	0.0%	0
answered question		44
skipped question		0

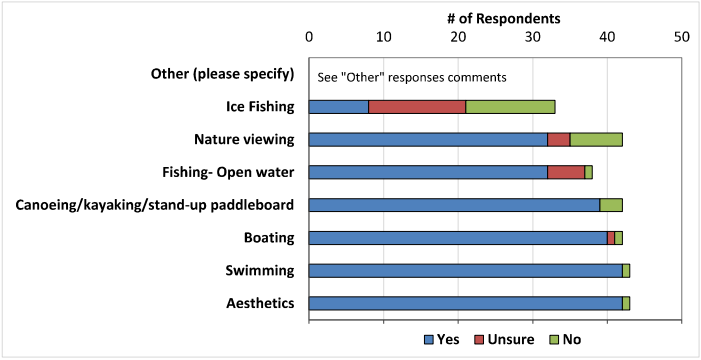


Number	"Other" responses
1	Buckthorn, garlic mustard, various plants in woods
2	some type of snail in last few years
3	Not sure what the crunchy smelly bottom growth is called

22. Has the Eurasian watermilfoil/Hybrid watermilfoil population ever had a negative impact on your enjoyment of Forest Lake? For each activity, please select the appropriate box.

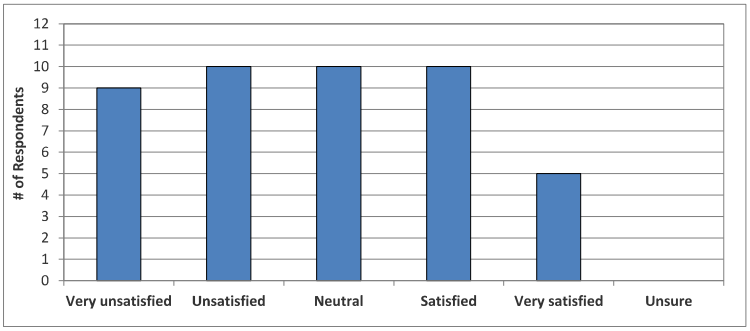
Answer Options	Yes	Unsure	No	Response Count
Aesthetics	42	0	1	43
Swimming	42	0	1	43
Boating	40	1	1	42
Canoeing/kayaking/stand-up paddleboard	39	0	3	42
Fishing- Open water	32	5	1	38
Nature viewing	32	3	7	42
Ice Fishing	8	13	12	33
Other (please specify)				2
			answered question	43
			skipped question	1

Number	"Other" responses
1	Spend literally hundred of hours raking weeds instead of enjoying the lake
2	crowds out native aquatic plants



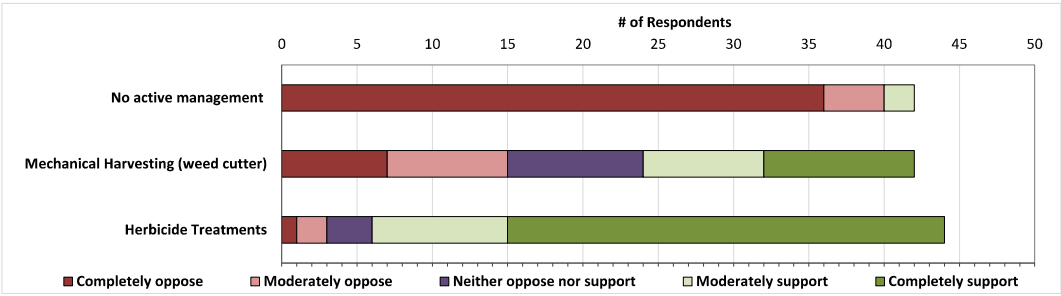
23. In the past, the management of non-native Eurasian watermilfoil/Hybrid watermilfoil has taken place on Forest Lake following a WDNR-accepted Aquatic Plant Management Plan. How satisfied are you with the Forest Lake Improvement Association's overall aquatic plant management program on Forest Lake? Please select one response.

Answer Choices	Response Percent	Response Count
Very unsatisfied	20.5%	9
Unsatisfied	22.7%	10
Neutral	22.7%	10
Satisfied	22.7%	10
Very satisfied	11.4%	5
Unsure	0.0%	0
answered question		44
skipped question		0



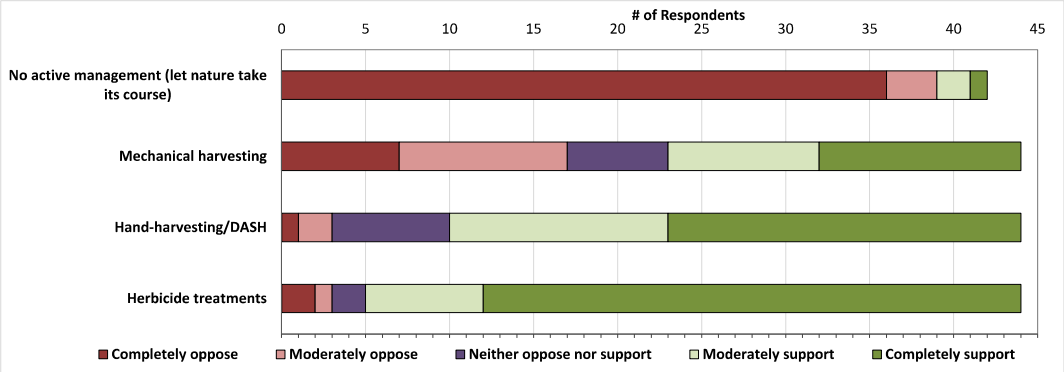
24. What is your level of support or opposition for the past herbicide treatments and/or mechanical harvesting to target Eurasian watermilfoil/Hybrid watermilfoil in Forest Lake? Please select one number for each control technique.

Answer Options	Completely oppose	Moderately oppose	Neither oppose nor support	Moderately support	Completely support	Response Count
Herbicide Treatments	1	2	3	9	29	44
Mechanical Harvesting (weed cutter)	7	8	9	8	10	42
No active management	36	4	0	2	0	42
				answered question		44
				skipped question		0



25. What is your level of support or opposition for future herbicide treatments, hand-harvesting/DASH (Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting), and/or mechanical harvesting to target Eurasian watermilfoil/Hybrid watermilfoil in Forest Lake? Please select one response for each control technique.

Answer Options	Completely oppose	Moderately oppose	Neither oppose nor support	Moderately support	Completely support	Response Count
Herbicide treatments	2	1	2	7	32	44
Hand-harvesting/DASH	1	2	7	13	21	44
Mechanical harvesting	7	10	6	9	12	44
No active management (let nature take its course)	36	3	0	2	1	42
				answered question		44
				skipped question		0

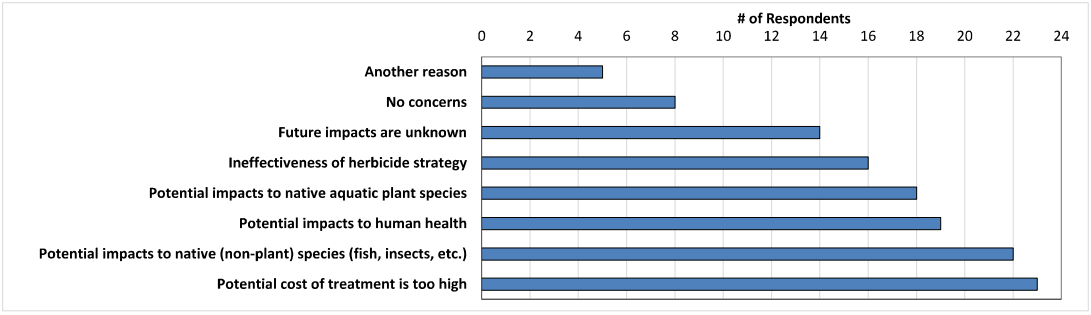


26. What concerns, if any, do you have for the future use of aquatic herbicides, hand harvesting/DASH (Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting) and/or mechanical harvesting to target Eurasian watermilfoil/Hybrid watermilfoil in Forest Lake? Please select all that apply.

An error in the online programing inhibited the respondent from selecting which technique each potential concern applied to. Therefore the total response count is shown for each concern, not distinguished by each individual management technique.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Potential cost of treatment is too high	53.5%	23
Potential impacts to native (non-plant) species (fish, insects, etc.)	51.2%	22
Potential impacts to human health	44.2%	19
Potential impacts to native aquatic plant species	41.9%	18
Ineffectiveness of herbicide strategy	37.2%	16
Future impacts are unknown	32.6%	14
No concerns	18.6%	8
Another reason	11.6%	5
	answered question	43
	skipped question	1

Number	"Other" responses
1	No concerns using aquatic herbicide
2	I cannot answer this question because it lumps together two very different approaches to treating AIS. Really a very confusing question.
3	As much as it would be great to greatly control the milfoil, we need to protect the lake waters for our children and future generations. Repeated use of chemicals that offer only temporary fixes is not a wise strategy. Folks need to work on their own beaches rather than rely on continued chemical treatments that offer temporary relief.
4	Poor removal of cut weeds from lake
5	WITH PROPER SUPORVISION & APPROVE PROGRAMS- NO PROBLEM



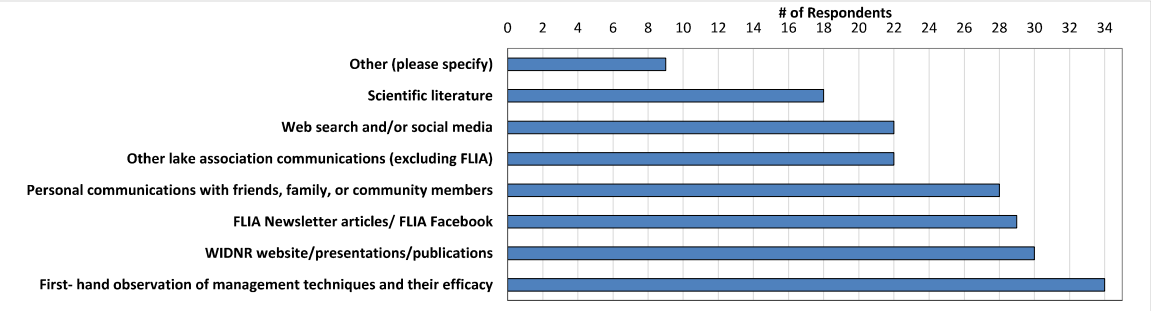
Forest Lake Improvement Association (FLIA)

27. From what source(s) do you draw the majority of your information for each of the three listed aquatic plant management techniques? Please select all that apply.

An error in the online programing inhibited the respondent from selecting which technique each information source applied. Therefore the total response count is shown for each source, not distinguished by each individual management technique.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
First- hand observation of management techniques and their efficacy	81.0%	34
WIDNR website/presentations/publications	71.4%	30
FLIA Newsletter articles/ FLIA Facebook	69.0%	29
Personal communications with friends, family, or community members	66.7%	28
Other lake association communications (excluding FLIA)	52.4%	22
Web search and/or social media	52.4%	22
Scientific literature	42.9%	18
Other (please specify)	21.4%	9
answered question		**42**
skipped question		**2**

Number	"Other" responses
1	This series of questions seem to be not taking my answers. I cannot select all that apply, therefore this section of the survey is not able to take my answers correctly.
2	This table doesn't really work. I let the science guide me.
3	I don't really understand the question. We have relied on all of the various resources listed for all of these techniques listed - for many years.
4	This survey question doesn't work correctly-- my answers are AH-web search, HH-first hand, MH-first hand.
5	All techniques are researched
6	COMPRENSIVE USING ANY AND ALL INFO & RESOURCES
7	The above would not allow me to choose properly. I receive most of my information on all three from FLIA, first hand observation, and our Forest Lake management group (can't think of their name)
8	Not 100% sure that I understood this question
9	Poorly composed question - we wanted to answer WDNR to each method but test would not allow.

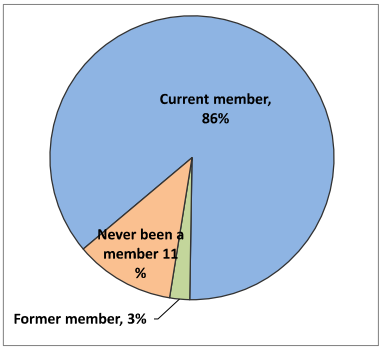


28. Before reading the above, had you ever heard of the Forest Lake Improvement Association? Please select one response.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	100.0%	44
No	0.0%	0
answered question		**44**
skipped question		**0**

29. What is your membership status with the Forest Lake Improvement Association? Please select one response.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Current member	86.4%	38
Former member	2.3%	1
Never been a member	11.4%	5
answered question		44
skipped question		0



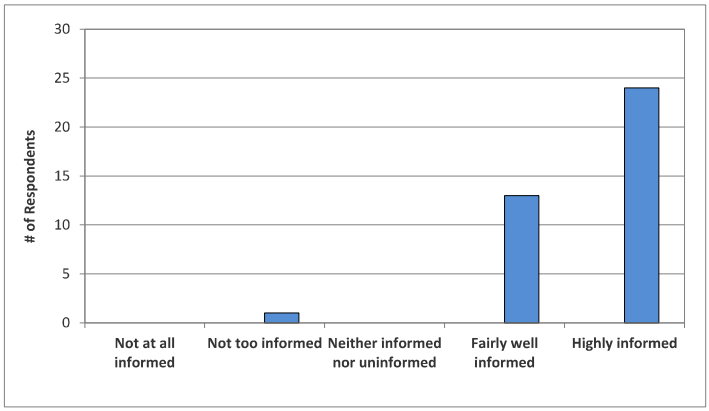
30. Which of the following best describes why you are not a member of the Forest Lake Improvement Association (FLIA)? Please select one response.

Answer Choices	Response Percent	Response Count
Dues are too expensive	7.14%	1
Unaware of FLIA	0.00%	0
Do not agree with policies of FLIA	7.14%	1
Just don't care to join	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	85.71%	12
Answered		14
Skipped		30

Number	"Other" responses
1	I am and have always been a member.
2	I am a member
3	I am a member
4	Time consuming
5	We Are members
6	Not applicable, I am a member.
7	I am a member
8	member since 2013
9	Father was owner until he passed in recent years
10	time pressure when actually at Forest Lake
11	Lack of support to us as an individual home owner
12	I am a member

31. How informed has (or had) the Forest Lake Improvement Association kept you regarding issues with Forest Lake and its management? Please select one response.

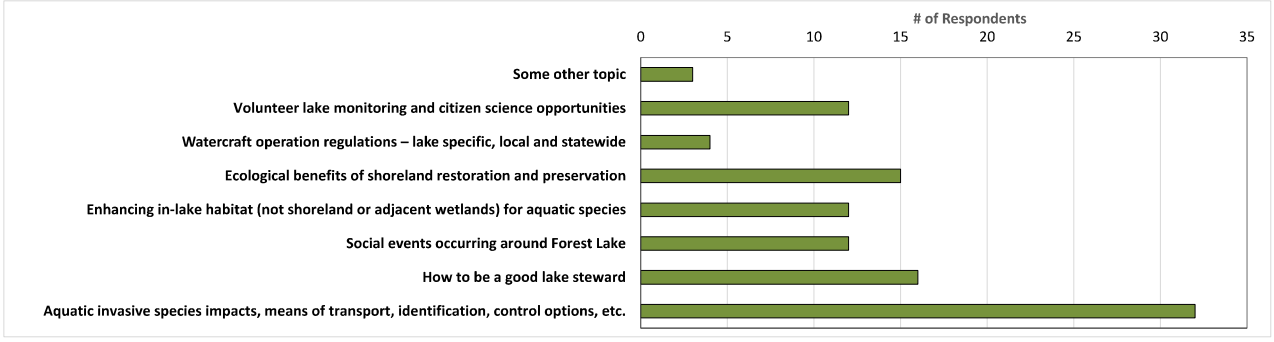
Answer Options	Not at all informed	Not too informed	Neither informed nor	Fairly well informed	Highly informed	Response Count
	0	1	0	13	24	38
				answered question		38
				skipped question		6



32. Stakeholder education is an important component of every lake management planning effort. Which of these subjects would you like to learn more about? Please select all that apply.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Aquatic invasive species impacts, means of transport, identification, control options, etc.	76.2%	32
How to be a good lake steward	38.1%	16
Social events occurring around Forest Lake	28.6%	12
Enhancing in-lake habitat (not shoreland or adjacent wetlands) for aquatic species	28.6%	12
Ecological benefits of shoreland restoration and preservation	35.7%	15
Watercraft operation regulations – lake specific, local and statewide	9.5%	4
Volunteer lake monitoring and citizen science opportunities	28.6%	12
Not interested in learning more on any of these subjects	7.1%	3
Some other topic	7.1%	3
	answered question	42
	skipped question	2

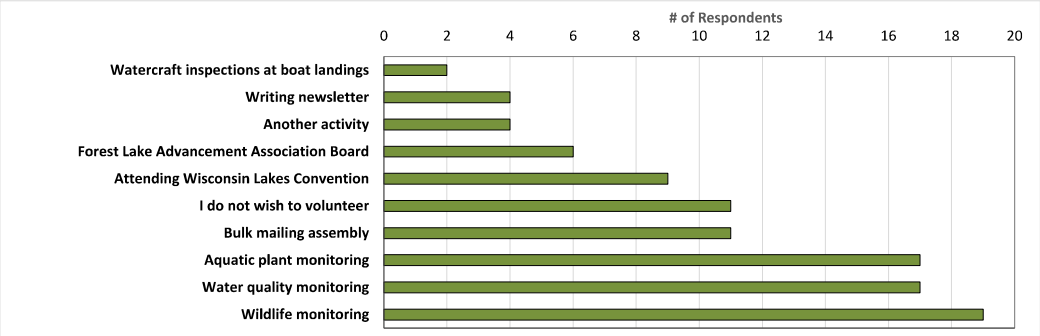
Number	"Some other topic" responses
1	We feel we get all this info from FLIA already but are always open to hearing more.
2	We feel we are very informed.
3	Happy to learn about all of the above, and think FLIA does a good job of that



33. Please note that because this survey is anonymous, your answer to this question will not be regarded as a commitment to participate, but instead will be used to gauge potential participation of stakeholders in the Forest Lake Improvement Association.The effective management of Forest Lake will require the cooperative efforts of numerous volunteers. Please select the activities you would be willing to participate in if the Forest Lake Advancement Association requires additional assistance. Please select all that apply.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Wildlife monitoring	45.2%	19
Water quality monitoring	40.5%	17
Aquatic plant monitoring	40.5%	17
Bulk mailing assembly	26.2%	11
I do not wish to volunteer	26.2%	11
Attending Wisconsin Lakes Convention	21.4%	9
Forest Lake Advancement Association Board	14.3%	6
Managing social media account(s) and/or website	11.9%	5
Another activity	9.5%	4
Writing newsletter	9.5%	4
Watercraft inspections at boat landings	4.8%	2
answered question		**42**
skipped question		**2**

Number	"Another activity" responses
1	Unavailable at this time
2	Fish stocking/ management
3	shoreline management and invasive species control
4	Fundraising



34. Please feel free to provide written comments concerning Forest Lake, its current and/or historic condition and its management.

Answer Options	Response Count
answered question	28
skipped question	16

Number	Response Text
1	Lake was perfect 25 years ago. Public launch brought in milfoil. Last chemical treatment eliminated milfoil but created algae. Harvesting was a joke. Caused more problems than solved. Would contribute to future herbicide treatments.
2	Huge “thank you’s” to all that volunteer!
3	The invasive milfoil is obviously a major issue but FLIA does a wonderful job. We are lucky to have so many caring, reasonable and nature-loving property owners around the lake who want to preserve the lake for the future. I trust we’ll all figure out reasonable ways to approach the problem together in partnership with the DNR.
4	Good work
5	Glad for the commitment to trying to keep the lake an enjoyable place to be.
6	Thanks for putting together the survey!
7	My parents enjoyed their time at Forest Lake (Russ and Bonnie Hitchcock). My family looks forward to many more years of enjoyment.
8	It's a tough problem and I think the committee is doing as best as possible.
9	The current leadership needs to expand their focus to include importance to issues such as the preservation of the overall natural ambience of the lake. In addition, to focus on improving the status of the quality of gamefish fishing, and taking a look at adapting regulations with an emphasis on improving the size structure of panfish. We are very glad we have had, and currently have such a strong Association! We appreciate all of the past and current volunteers efforts.
10	Our biggest concern is the presence of the weeds and algae. Both from a safety and usage perspective as well as the aesthetic of the lake with the overgrowth. We would favor a human/environmental safe option but overall just want it remedied.
11	I believe REGULAR chemical spot treatment and effective maintenance is the appropriate direction. We will never be completely rid of Eurasian Milfoil. We can only control it.
12	When the Association is permitted to use herbicide treatments to control HWM, the results have been very good but short-lived (a couple of good years). Wish control measures could be more frequent. The Association has worked diligently to do everything it can, and has helped property owners become better stewards. It's a strong organization with great participation, and the lake is better off because of the efforts of the Association and its members. We greatly appreciate all the efforts of all the volunteers.
13	I believe the management of Forest Lake has been very thorough and pro-active. I'd hate to see the lake fail and become unusable for swimming and fishing.
14	Some questions on water quality included things we are not currently doing such as large quantity removal of native and invasive aquatic plants. We are not removing down trees from lake, some cases they have been added. Some of the lake shoreline is state forest and left untouched. Milfoil is negatively impacting the native species and the recreational use of the lake.
15	I have no comments.
16	The association could use more active volunteers when called upon.
17	Too many shoreland areas altered from their natural state with beach sand. Increase in noise and pollution. Too many loud renters. Visitors and renters not following lake rules.
18	Greatly appreciate the dedication of past and present board members and volunteers. However would like to see faster progress in eliminating the serious milfoil invasion.
19	We appreciate the fellowship of all of our neighbors.
20	I don't think the state gives enough $ support to organizations that effective partners and do comprehensive partnering to weed problems through the state. also continuous monitoring and control must be maintained. the research and use of safe chemical effectiveness should continue. Natural control would be best but I think it is far to agressive.
21	I am concerned that if we can’t somehow get control of the milfoil, Forest Lake will no longer be a lake that can be enjoyed. This will have an effect on our quality of life, our property values, and our ability to rent. If I can’t enjoy the lake, why own property here? I well know how hard the board and committees work to try to find solutions. I am just concerned that there might not be a practical solution.
22	The invasive weeds have got to be treated with herbicide.
23	I REALLY appreciate the efforts of all involved and regret that, as a part time visitor to the lake most of my time is spent in some sort of maintenance (ex: weed cutting/harvesting) leaving little time to volunteer.
24	We have exhausted all options of the removal of hybrid eurasian milfoil except treatment. Treatment is crucial for the survival of the lake and for property owners.
25	We feel the current FLIA board is doing a very good job educating residents and promoting environmental health of the lake. At times FLIA members appear to want a swimming pool environment vs promoting/accepting the lake as a living/changing bio system.
26	The association needs to be more aggressive, progressive and lean into new solutions. Way too much "I remember when" or "back in my day"
27	Invasive aquatic species are at a all time high. We are in favor of a herbicide treatment.
28	The invasive milfoil is the worst it has been in years. As we have tried other methods to eradicate them with little effect, we are 100% in agreement to treat the lake with a herbicide.