

**SECTION 1 – Residency**

**These first few questions will help to determine who is responding to this survey. If you have more than one type of property, please report on only the property you have owned or rented the longest.**

1. Do you own or rent property on Potato Lake?
  - A. I own and rent property
  - B. I own property
  - C. I rent property
  - D. No (*skip to Section 4*)
  
2. How long have you owned or rented the property from Question 1?
  - A. Less than 1 year
  - B. 1-5 years
  - C. 6-10 years
  - D. 11-20 years
  - E. More than 20 years
  
3. What type of property do you have on Potato Lake? (*please select one*)

<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. Permanent residence</li><li>B. Weekend residence</li><li>C. Seasonal residence</li><li>D. Business</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>E. Undeveloped land</li><li>F. Other (<i>please specify</i>)</li></ol> <hr style="width: 100%;"/>
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4. Please indicate what part of Potato Lake the property indicated in Question 2 is on (see Figure 1).

<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. NW Shore</li><li>B. NE Shore</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>C. SW Shore</li><li>D. SE Shore</li></ol>
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**Figure 1: Potato Lake**

5. On average, how many days per year is your Potato Lake property in use?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. On average, how many people are present when your Potato Lake property is in use?

\_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION 2 – Septic System Information**

**These questions are meant to collect information needed to determine the approximate amount of phosphorus and nitrogen that enters Potato Lake from residential septic systems. This information is being collected as part of a larger project which aims to determine from where the sources of nutrients within Potato Lake originate. This project is being funded through a grant awarded to the Potato Lake Association.**

1. Is there any sort of septic system on your Potato Lake property?  
E. Yes F. No (*Skip to section 3*)
  
2. What type of septic system is on your Potato Lake property? (*Select all that apply*)  
F. Holding Tank J. At-grade System  
G. Mound System K. Pre-Treatment system  
H. Conventional L. Unknown  
I. Cesspool System
  
3. To the best of your knowledge, is your septic system currently up to date and functioning as intended?  
A. Yes B. No C. Unsure
  
4. How often is the septic system on your property pumped?  
A. Multiple times a year D. Every 5-10 years  
B. Once a year E. Do not know  
C. Every 2-4 years

**SECTION 3 – Shoreland Stewardship Practices**

**This section of the survey will provide information about the lake stewardship practices of lake property owners and renters.**

1. Have you made any attempts to remove or control aquatic plants in the lake by your lake shore property? (*circle one*)  
A. Yes, I did some myself and I hired someone  
B. Yes, I did some myself  
C. Yes, I hired someone  
D. No

2. Which, if any, of the following water quality/landscaping practices are you familiar with?
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>A.</b> Rain garden   | <b>D.</b> Native flower/tree planting                |
| <b>B.</b> Shoreline buffers   | <b>E.</b> Natural shoreline restoration              |
| <b>C.</b> Diversion- an upslope trench or berm to divert water from directly entering the lake. | <b>F.</b> Native prairie restoration                 |
|   | <b>G.</b> Other ( <i>please describe</i> ):<br>_____ |
3. Which, if any, of the following outcomes might or previously did motivate you to install one of the above mentioned water quality/landscaping practices on your property? (*circle all that apply*)
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>A.</b> increasing the natural beauty of your property               | <b>I.</b> financial assistance that pays a portion of the cost/installation                    |
| <b>B.</b> improving the water quality of Potato Lake                   | <b>J.</b> technical assistance that would evaluate my property for water quality concerns      |
| <b>C.</b> improving the water quality around your property's shoreline | <b>K.</b> technical assistance that would identify appropriate practices to install            |
| <b>D.</b> providing better habitat for fish                            | <b>L.</b> other ( <i>please describe</i> )<br>_____  |
| <b>E.</b> providing better habitat for birds and wildlife              | <b>M.</b> I have no interest in installing a water quality/landscaping practice on my property |
| <b>F.</b> setting an example for other lake residents                  |  |
| <b>G.</b> less lawn mowing time  |  |
| <b>H.</b> a property tax rebate  |  |
4. From the list above, select your first and second strongest motivators. (*write the letters of the corresponding activities in the spaces below*).

\_\_\_\_\_Strongest motivator

\_\_\_\_\_Second strongest motivator

**SECTION 4 – Lake Use & Lake Issues**

1. From the list below, circle all activities on Potato Lake that you, your family, or guests participate in.

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| A. fishing from the shore  | I. swimming/wading   |
| B. speed boating           | J. rest/relaxation   |
| C. fishing from a boat     | K. ice fishing   |
| D. jet skiing              | L. water skiing/tubing   |
| E. pontoon boating         | M. other ( <i>please list</i> )  |
| F. sailing                 |  |
| G. canoe/kayak/paddle boat |  |
| H. wildlife viewing        | N. I don't participate in activities on the lake ( <i>skip to Question 3</i> ) |

2. Which 3 activities from the above list do you or members of your family participate in most often? (*write the letters of the corresponding activities in the spaces below*)

I (We) participate in \_\_\_\_\_ most often, \_\_\_\_\_ second most often, and \_\_\_\_\_ third most often.

3. Below are numerous issues that may negatively affect your use of Potato Lake. From the list below, please mark all of the issues that are of concern to you.

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| A. poor quality fishing             | L. nuisance wildlife ( <i>please specify</i> ):                              |
| B. too much algae growth            | _____  |
| C. too much plant growth            | M. too much shoreline lighting   |
| D. too much public use              | N. excessive or uncontrolled water skiing or use of personal watercraft      |
| E. not enough plant growth          | O. introduction of undesirable aquatic plants and animals (invasive species) |
| F. poorly maintained boat access    | P. other ( <i>please specify</i> ):  |
| G. overdevelopment of the shoreline | _____  |
| H. low water level in the lake      | Q. there are no issues of concern to me ( <i>skip to Question 5</i> )        |
| I. high water level in the lake     |  |
| J. foul or offensive odor           |  |
| K. floating vegetation              |  |

4. Which **two** issues from the above list are of the most concern to you? (*write the letters of the corresponding issues in the spaces below*)

I am most concerned about issues \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

5. In the time that you have owned or rented property on or near Potato Lake, would you say lake water quality has:

- A. Gotten better
- B. Gotten worse
- C. Remained the same
- D. I don't know

6. Considering how you answered the above question, what do you think of when assessing water quality? *(Please circle all that apply)*.
- |                                   |                                    |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| A. Water clarity                  | F. Fish kills                      |
| B. Smell                          | G. Algae blooms                    |
| C. Amount of aquatic plant growth | H. Other <i>(Please Specify)</i> : |
| D. Water level                    | _____                              |
| E. Water color                    |                                    |
7. Based on your answer above, which of the following are the TWO most important aspects when considering water quality? *Please circle only TWO*.
- |                                   |                                    |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| A. Water clarity                  | F. Fish kills                      |
| B. Smell                          | G. Algae blooms                    |
| C. Amount of aquatic plant growth | H. Other <i>(Please Specify)</i> : |
| D. Water level                    | _____                              |
| E. Water color                    |                                    |

**SECTION 5 – Aquatic Plant Growth**

**Aquatic plants (rooted and floating) are an important part of any healthy lake system. However, excessive aquatic plant growth can sometimes interfere with or prevent certain lake activities and even impact water quality. This section of the survey evaluates how lake users feel about the aquatic plant growth in Potato Lake.**

1. In the time that you have owned or rented property on or near Potato Lake, would you say the amount of aquatic plant growth (excluding algae) in the lake has:
- A. Increased
  - B. Decreased
  - C. Stayed the same
  - D. Unsure
2. Thinking about aquatic plant growth in Potato Lake, would you say there is too little, too much, or about the right amount of aquatic plant growth?
- A. Definitely too little
  - B. Probably too little
  - C. Just the right amount
  - D. Probably too much
  - E. Definitely too much
3. At what time period during the year do you consider the aquatic plant growth in Potato Lake to be **excessive**?
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| A. April – June  | E. Aquatic plant growth is never excessive |
| B. July – September  | F. I don't know                            |
| C. October – December  |  |
| D. Aquatic plant growth is excessive the entire open water season. |  |

4. Who do you feel should be responsible for managing aquatic plant growth in Potato Lake?  
(circle all that apply)
- |                                       |                            |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| A. Local township government          | F. Potato Lake Association |
| B. The property owner                 | G. Other (please specify)  |
| C. County government                  | _____                      |
| D. Mother Nature (i.e. no management) | H. I don't know            |
| E. Wisconsin DNR                      |                            |
5. Since you have owned or rented your property on or near Potato Lake, would you say the amount of algae growth (both the small green particles suspended in the water and the longer, green algae attached to rocks, docks, and other plants) has:
- Increased
  - Stayed the same
  - Decreased
  - I don't know

**SECTION 6 – Aquatic Invasive Species**

**This section of the survey seeks to determine how much lake users know about aquatic invasive species. Aquatic invasive species are plants and animals that are foreign to Potato Lake and do not belong there.**

Some, but not all, of the following aquatic invasive species are known to be in Potato Lake. However, at some point any of them could be accidentally introduced into the lake, or may be there already but not formally identified.

- Please circle all of the following aquatic invasive species that you have heard of.
 

A. Zebra mussels	F. Eurasian watermilfoil
B. Rusty crayfish	G. Purple loosestrife
C. Spiny waterfleas	H. Yellow flag Iris
D. Chinese mystery snail	I. Japanese knotweed
E. Curly-leaf pondweed	
- Would you be willing to take part in a training session to help you identify aquatic invasive species in the lake? *This is not a commitment but rather a measure of possible interest.*

A. Definitely yes	B. Probably yes	C. Unsure	D. Probably not	E. Definitely not
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**SECTION 7 – Aquatic Plant Management**

**Aquatic plants can be managed in many different ways. In most cases management is ongoing and long-term. The Potato Lake Association has not completed any plant management, and sometimes no management may be the best option.**

- Do you feel that some form of aquatic plant management (excluding algae) is necessary to control vegetation in Potato Lake?
 

A. Definitely yes	B. Probably yes	C. Unsure	D. Probably not	E. Definitely not
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Aquatic Plant Management Results

Below are several possible results for aquatic plant management of aquatic plants in Potato Lake. Total removal or eradication of aquatic plants is not a reasonable or responsible management outcome.

2. Please place a 1 and a 2 in order of preference by the two outcomes you would most accept for Potato Lake. If you are unsure about these management results, or would not accept any of them, please check the appropriate blank.

- \_\_\_ No management, aquatic plants are left to run their natural course in the lake
- \_\_\_ Aquatic plant growth in the entire lake is reduced seasonally
- \_\_\_ Aquatic plant growth in only designated areas of the lake is reduced seasonally
- \_\_\_ I am unsure or need additional information before I can make a decision
- \_\_\_ I would not accept any of these management results

Common Aquatic Plant Management Methods

Below are several common aquatic plant management methods that either alone or in combination could be used to control aquatic plants in Potato Lake.

3. Please indicate if you support or oppose each of the following aquatic plant control methods for Potato Lake. If you are unsure about these management methods, or would not accept any of them, please check the last column.

	Support	Oppose	Need more Information
Maintaining the current frequency of hand-pulling and raking in shallow waters			
Increasing the frequency of hand-pulling and raking in shallow waters			
Small-scale (less than 10 acres) chemical treatment to reduce aquatic plant abundance			
Large-scale (10 acres or greater) early season chemical treatment to reduce aquatic plant abundance			
Whole lake chemical treatment to reduce aquatic plant abundance			
Small-scale (less than 10 acres) mechanical plant removal (aquatic plant harvesting machines)			
Large-scale (10 acres or greater) mechanical plant removal (aquatic plant harvesting machines)			
Biological control (using one live species to control another)			
Removal by scuba divers or snorkelers			
No management			

**SECTION 8 –Lake Association Satisfaction**

1. What is your affiliation with the Potato Lake Association (PLA)?
  - A. Current member (*skip to Question 3*)
  - B. Former member
  - C. Never been a member
  
2. What, if anything has kept you from being a member of PLA?
 

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Not interested</li> <li>B. I disagree with what they are doing</li> <li>C. Dues are too high</li> <li>D. I haven't been asked to be a member</li> <li>E. I did not know it existed</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>F. I feel there is no benefit for being a member</li> <li>G. I do not have enough time</li> <li>H. Other (<i>Please Specify</i>) _____</li> </ol>
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3. Have you ever attended a PLA meeting?
 

A. yes (*skip to Question 5*)    B. no
  
4. What has prevented you from attending a PLA meeting?
  - A. Not interested
  - B. I don't have time
  - C. I never know when they are occurring
  - D. other (please explain) \_\_\_\_\_
  
5. How satisfied are you with the following aspects of PLA activity? If you are unfamiliar with an activity, please check the last column.

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Unfamiliar With Activity
Communication with community						
Meeting frequency						
Meeting atmosphere						
Execution of PLA business						
Management of PLA finances						
Addressing property owners' needs and concerns						



6. Following are activities that lake constituents could participate in. ***Please check all those activities you might be willing to volunteer your time if additional assistance is needed. This is not a commitment but rather a measure of possible assistance if needed.***
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| A. Watercraft inspection at the boat landings such as Clean Boats Clean Waters | F. Water quality monitoring   |
| B. On the water monitoring for aquatic invasive species                        | G. Wildlife monitoring (ex. frogs, turtles, loons, other waterfowl, mussels & clams)  |
| C. Shore land monitoring for aquatic invasive species                          | H. General project administration (ex. tracking volunteer hours, volunteer outreach,) |
| D. Assistance installing water quality landscaping projects                    | I. Some other activity_____   |
| E. Native aquatic plant monitoring and identification                          | J. I am not interested in volunteering any time                                       |
7. Donated service needs are varied and somewhat unknown, but could include any of the options listed below. Which, if any, of the following services might you be interested in providing? ***This is not a commitment but rather a measure of possible assistance if needed. (circle all that apply)***
- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| A. GPS use               | K. Sewing  |
| B. Graphic design        | L. Gardening/ landscape design   |
| C. Web development       | M. Gardening/ landscaping Implementation   |
| D. Grant writing         | N. Other ( <i>please specify</i> ):<br>_____   |
| E. Legal services        | O. I am not interested or unable to provide assistance ( <i>skip to Question 9</i> ) |
| F. Scuba diving          |  |
| G. Printing services     |  |
| H. Construction services |  |
| I. Outdoor sign design   |  |
| J. Physical labor        |  |
8. How much time would you be willing to contribute to support any of the activities in Questions 6 and 7 above?
- A. a few hours a year                      B. a few days a year                      C. longer periods of time
9. A Lake District is a special purpose governmental body with authority to levy a tax and impose special assessments to those living within the District. A Lake District may be in a better position to deal with other units of government than a Lake Association and has some powers that a Lake Association may not. Would you support ***exploring the potential impacts*** of creating a Lake District for Potato Lake?
- A. Definitely yes      B. Probably yes      C. Unsure      D. Probably not      E. Definitely not
10. When information from the PLA is available, how would you most prefer to be contacted? (***please circle one***)
- A. Mail      B. Email      C. Phone      D. In-person      E. I do not want to be contacted

**You have completed this survey. Thank You. Providing your contact information is optional, but if you wish to, please do!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, & zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_