



Potter Lake News

Survey Update – Summer, 2024

A Word from the Chair

I'm sending a big "thank you" to everyone who took the survey in June. When we looked at the responses to concerns about the lake, we noticed there were several similar themes. The purpose of this newsletter is to address some of those concerns, including:

- ❖ Weed Management of the Lake
- ❖ Lake and Boating Rules
- ❖ Water Quality
- ❖ Miramar Park

If you have other questions or concerns after reading this newsletter, and/or just want to hear the latest information, please plan to attend the Annual Meeting at 9:00am on September 14th.

Sincerely,
Cathy Schulz, PLPRD Chairperson
cathyschulzplprdchair@gmail.com

Concern #1: Weeds and Weed Control

Many respondents shared a concern regarding weeds in the lake. Some asked about whole-lake chemical treatments or weed issues close to piers and shorelines. Keeping in mind that grasses and plants are important for a healthy lake environment, we have a two-pronged system for dealing with the weeds on Potter Lake.

Our chemical treatments are done by Lake and Pond Solutions, LLC. They do a survey of the lake and apply for a permit from the DNR for areas with invasive weed species to treat. Once the permit has been approved, only those permitted areas are treated. Unless there is a demonstrated need for a whole lake treatment, this would not be permitted. We also receive a separate permit from the DNR to harvest weeds. This permit identifies specific areas and conditions under which we may remove weeds from the lake. Harvesting along shorelines is not permitted. Our weed-harvesting team works very hard to keep weeds under control within the areas that can be cut.

Homeowners are allowed to rake/remove weeds from the water at their shoreline. Generally, people place these at the edge of their property, allow them to dry, then compost or burn them. Keep in mind that lily pads may not be removed from the lake as they are a protected species. There are also companies that will come in and pull weeds from your shoreline area. My understanding is that, in the past, groups of neighbors have paid for someone to come in and pull the weeds. I do have some names, but have no personal knowledge of or experience with any of these companies. Let me know if you would like that information.

Concern #2: Lake and Boating Rules

There were many comments about people not following lake rules. Complete rules for boating can be found on our webpage under [Lake Rules](#). Some important rules to remember include:

- Boats and Personal Watercraft (PWC) may not be operated within 100 feet of another boat or person being towed.
- All boats / PWC must navigate in a counter-clockwise direction on weekends and holidays.
- Boats to the right have the right-of-way. Pass to the right. Motorboats must yield to non-motorized boats.
- Watersports such as skiing or tubing are allowed on weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to sunset, and on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- It is the responsibility of Potter Lake homeowners to inform their guests of the rules.

Boat and lake rules are in place so that everyone may enjoy the lake safely. Potter Lake is a public lake which is open to anyone, whether they are property owners or not. It is important for everyone to be aware of the rules, and we all share the responsibility for their communication. Beyond the rules, we should all keep in mind that common sense and common courtesy will go a long way towards mutual enjoyment of our beautiful lake.

PLPRD Commissioners

Elected Commissioners

Chairperson: Cathy Schulz
Secretary: Bob Rice
Treasurer: Bill Roeber

Appointed Commissioners:

Walworth County Representative:
MaryJo Jones
Town of East Troy Representative:
Elizabeth Sanders

See [Commissioners](#) page on the Potter Lake website for contact information.

Concern #3: Water Quality

Concerns were expressed about past and future water levels and the clarity of the lake at the present time. We are pretty much at the mercy of Mother Nature for water levels in our lake. The couple of years prior to this one were years with drought conditions in most of the area. Consequently, water levels were low. It did force many to remove their boats from the water earlier than they would have liked. Unfortunately, there is nothing we can do to raise lake levels in years with less precipitation. This year is quite different, as we have had abundant rain! The purpose of the dam is to keep water levels from getting too high. There is only so much the dam can do, however, which may make it necessary to institute "Slow, No Wake" times, as we needed to do in the spring. As of today, it looks like the water levels will be great for boating for a while.

Water sampling has been done by Lake & Pond Solutions, LLC this year. Jeff Seltzer reported on this at the Spring Meeting. At that time, Jeff shared the results of the water sampling that was done on April 9, 2024. Overall recommendations were that "everything looks good and there are no real concerns". I contacted Jeff again mid-July. He reported the following:

We've been out in June and July to check chlorophyll a, total phosphorus, and take Secchi disk measurements. Secchi is a measure of water clarity and it did drop in July as total phosphorus increased. This corresponds to all the curly-leaf pondweed dying back

and the rains in June bringing in runoff and nutrients. The influx of nutrients and warm days has led to planktonic algae impacting the lake. These types of measurements hadn't been taken since 2012 and 2013 but give us a glimpse of how this year stacks up.

SUMMER SECCHI DISK RANGES (in feet)

- *2012: 3.3 - 5.2 feet (July 31st reading - 5.2 feet)*
- *2013: 1.1 - 3.6 feet (July 30th reading - 2.5 feet)*
- *2024: 3.75 - 7.0 feet (July 9th reading - 3.75 feet)*

So, although clarity had dropped significantly with the CLP die-off and rain this year, it is within typical ranges from previous sampling (this is why it is good to sample). We'll have a more formal report at the end of the season.

Concern #4: Beach Area

Several people had questions about the beach area(s) on Potter Lake. There are 3 areas identified as Parks on the Miramar subdivision side of the lake. All three of those parks belong to the Miramar Properties Association. They are responsible for their use and upkeep. There are several homes on Potter Lake who also pay the HOA annual dues to be part of the Miramar Properties Association. Only those homeowners are allowed to use those parks. If you are one of those homeowners and have questions about the parks, you would need to direct those to that association. The majority of homeowners on Potter Lake are not members of the Miramar subdivision and, therefore, are not allowed to use the parks and beach area.

Stay Informed & Get Your Questions

Answered – Upcoming Meetings:

Tuesday, Aug. 20th, 6:30 pm Special (Board) Meeting

Saturday, Sept, 14th, 9:00 am Budget & Annual Meetings