

2010 Circle Lake Association Survey

Lake and Water Quality

1. Which of the following is important to you?

(✓ all that apply)

- Swimming 87%
- Boating 87%
- Fishing 74%
- Ice Fishing 39%
- Ice Skating 30%
- Snowmobiling 17%
- Viewing nature, plants and wildlife 83%
- Other _____

2. What do you think affects our lake water quality?

(✓ all that apply)

- Algae level 83%
- Phosphorus levels 78%
- Coliform levels 48%
- Noxious or exotic aquatic plants
- Sediment sources 61%
- Septic systems 61%
- Agriculture runoff 91%
- Residential runoff 48%
- Shoreline erosion 52%
- Inadequate government regulation and enforcement of pollution sources and zoning restrictions 30%
- Don't know 9%
- Other _____

3. What do you think affects the quality of boating activities on Circle Lake?

(✓ all that apply)

- Lake water level 91%
- Boat use during the year 4%
- Boat use during holidays 0%
- Boater's use (personal water craft) and observation of safety and shoreline protection rules 9%
- Trash/refuse discard in lake and around public landing from boaters 17%
- Condition of public landing and its access road 22%
- Boating water craft noise 4%
- Personal water craft noise 4%

- Boating wakes 13%
- Weeds/rock piles 9%

**4. What factors do you think affect the quality of fishing on Circle Lake?
(✓ all that apply)**

- Game fish population 48%
- Rough fish population 65%
- DNR stocking program 52%
- Winter aeration program 57%
- Fishing pressure 13%
- Other _____

5. During the past 3 years, would you say the quality of Circle Lake has been:

- getting better 26%
- about the same 26%
- getting worse 39%

If your answer was getting worse, what is your thought of why?

Various answers including low water level, abundance of algae, no positive action and agriculture runoff.

6. Name two things over the last few years that have gotten better about Circle Lake.

1. Various answers
- 2.

7. Name two things that have gotten worse about Circle Lake.

1. Two most common answers were high algae levels and the low lake level.
- 2.

8. Would you prefer the water level on Circle Lake to be

- higher 78%
- about the same 17%
- lower 0%

9. Would you support a formal process to increase the water level on Circle Lake?

- Yes 74%
- No 13%
- Unsure 9%

10. How many months per year do you use your lake home/property?

- 12 months 74%
- 4 months 9%
- 7 months 4%

11. Please mark each of the following that you feel contribute to poor lake quality on Circle Lake.

- Pollution due to agriculture runoff 78%
- Inadequate response of public officials 30%
- Lakeshore erosion 30%
- Aquatic plant growth 52%
- Algae growth 87%
- Water pollution due to faulty/substandard septic systems 52%
- Overall water quality 52%
- Zoning ordinances not properly followed 17%
- Water level fluctuations 48%
- Improper alterations to shoreline 22%
- Noise from personal watercraft 4%
- Too few fish 13%
- Litter 13%
- Not enough law enforcement 4%
- Density of development 4%
- Boat access 4%
- Fish stocking 9%
- Rough fish control 35%

12. Would you be willing to support a private or public funding initiative to purchase private property around Circle Lake?

- Yes: 39%
- No: 17%
- Maybe 17%

13. Have you participated in weed control in the past years?

- Yes: 52%
- No: 30%

14. Have you used manual cutting or other means of weed control? If other, what was it?

- Manual: 57%
- Chemical: 4%

15. Would you like to see another aerator installed in Circle Lake? If so where would you suggest.

- Yes: 35%
- No: 17%

16. Do you know anyone owning property on the west side of county road 9 through which the county ditch inlet to the lake flows?

- Yes 22%
- No 65%

Would you be willing to work with the association and landowners towards possible improvements to this ditch which reduce soil erosion and help reduce pollution from this ditch?

- Yes 65%
- No 0%
- Unsure 4%

If yes, to what degree?

Volunteer work, monetary help

Circle Lake Area Association

17. What are three things that you would like to see your association accomplish in the coming year?

Top 5 answers:

- Improve water quality/clarity: 39%
- Increase lake level: 39%
- Address ditch #9: 17%
- Decrease agriculture runoff: 13%
- Reduce # of carp: 9%

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

18. Would you like to become a CLAA board member within the next couple of years?

- Yes 9%
- No 57%
- Unsure 13%

19. Would you support an increase in association dues? (currently \$30)

- Yes 57%
- No 26%
- Maybe 9%

If yes, how much?

- \$40: 9%
- \$50: 30%
- \$50-\$100: 4%

20. List three priorities for how the association dues should be spent.

Top 5 answers:

- Improve water quality: 39%
- Increase lake level: 26%
- Educate lake shore property owners: 13%
- Let the board decide what is best: 13%
- Communicate to members and property owners (newsletters): 9%

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

21. What do you feel are the benefits of our association?

Top 3 answers:

- Advocating for our lake/working with government: 35%
- Improving quality of the lake: 17%
- Gathering and sharing information: 13%

Other

21. Please list, in order, the 5 most critical issues to you concerning Circle Lake.

Top 5 answers:

- Lake water quality/clarity: 48%
- Lake level too low: 44%
- Algae/weeds: 44%
- Fishing quality/rough fish: 13%
- Sediment: 13%
- Agriculture runoff: 13%

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

23. How do you feel the DNR has managed Circle Lake as a resource?

- Meets your expectation 9%
- Not meeting your expectation 57%
- See an improving trend 22%

If not meeting your expectations what else could be done?

Various answers including:

- Help control agriculture runoff
- Raise lake level
- Help fund projects

24 .How do you feel Rice County has managed Circle Lake as a resource?

- Meets your expectation 9%
- Not meeting your expectation 65%
- See an improving trend 13%

If not meeting your expectations, what else could be done?

Various answers including:

Help control agriculture runoff

Raise lake level

Help fund projects

Septic system control

25. Do you have any input from others who utilize Circle Lake but are not members of the association?

If yes, what are their concerns?

Various answers including:

Marking of the shallow rocks

Low lake level

Algae/weeds

26. If you are not a member of Circle Lake Association, why? Please explain.

27. What is your preferred method of receiving communication from Circle Lake Association?

- Regular Mail 52%
- Email 52%
- Website 22%

28. Other comments?