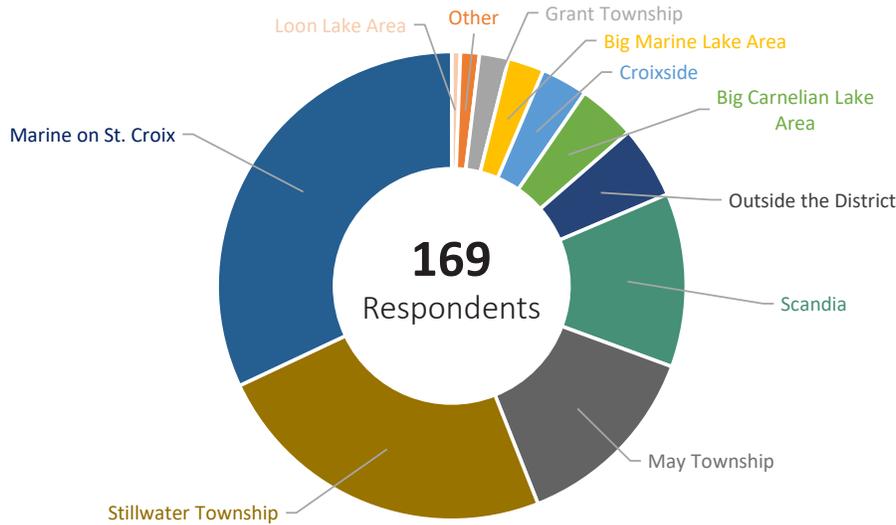




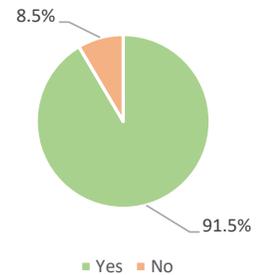
# General Landowner Survey Results

## Who Responded?

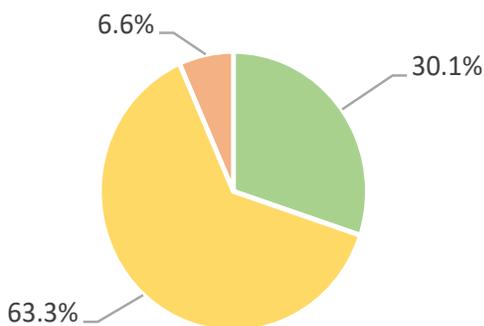


## Are you a year round resident?

The bulk of survey respondents answered that they were year-round residents of the District. The percentage of year-round residents was 91.5%. Some responses received were from seasonal residents. The percentage of seasonal residents was 8.5%.



## How familiar are you with what the Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District does?

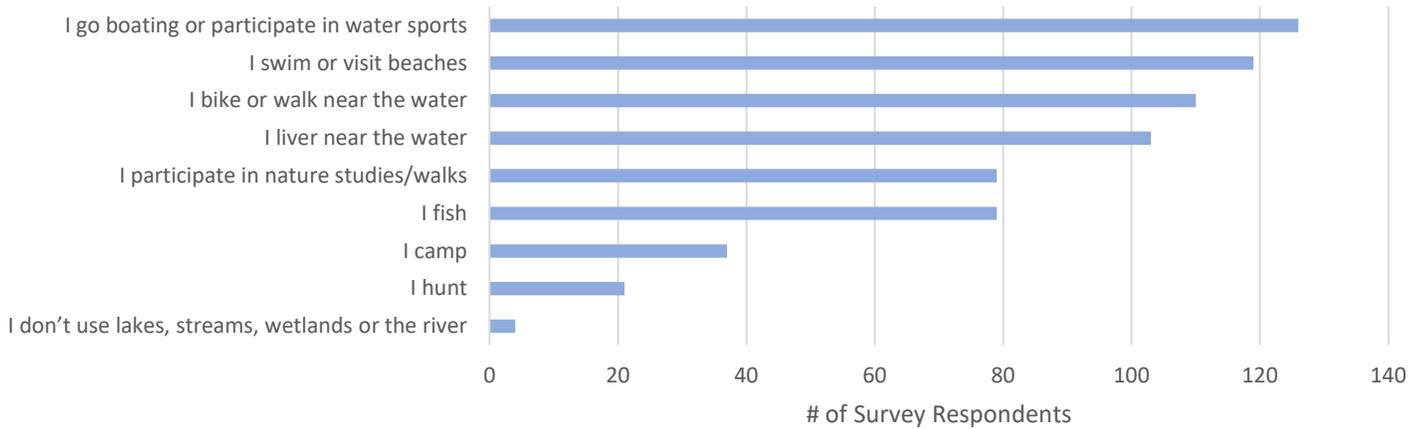


Very Familiar    Somewhat Familiar    Not at all Familiar

To get a deeper understanding our survey respondent's knowledge of the District we asked them how familiar they were with what the Carnelian Marine St. Croix Watershed District (CMSCWD) does? The bulk of respondents admitted that they were somewhat familiar but not confident or knowledgeable enough to respond with very familiar. 30.1% of respondents said they were very familiar with what the District does. 63.3% of survey responses indicated that they were somewhat familiar with what the District does. 6.6% said they were not at all familiar with what the District does.

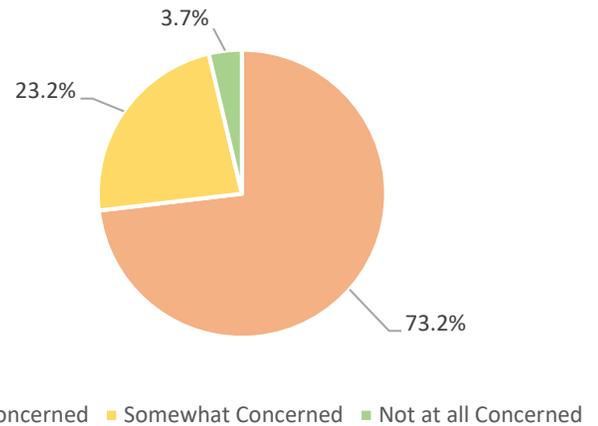
## How do you use lakes, streams, wetlands and the St. Croix River in our District?

When asked how they use lakes, streams, wetlands and the St. Croix River most survey respondents said they use these waterbodies in some way. The most popular way people use the waterbodies in our district is boating and water sports. The second most popular activities were to swim or visit beaches. The least popular activity survey respondents participate in was hunting. Four survey respondents noted that they did not use lakes, streams, wetlands, or the river.

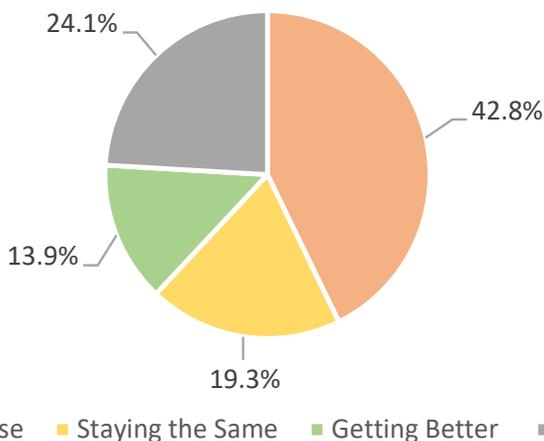


## How concerned are you about water pollution in our area?

The survey results found that people are generally very concerned about water pollution in our area. 73.2% of survey respondents said they were very concerned. 23.3% were somewhat concerned with water pollution in our area. 3.7% answered that they were not at all concerned with this topic.



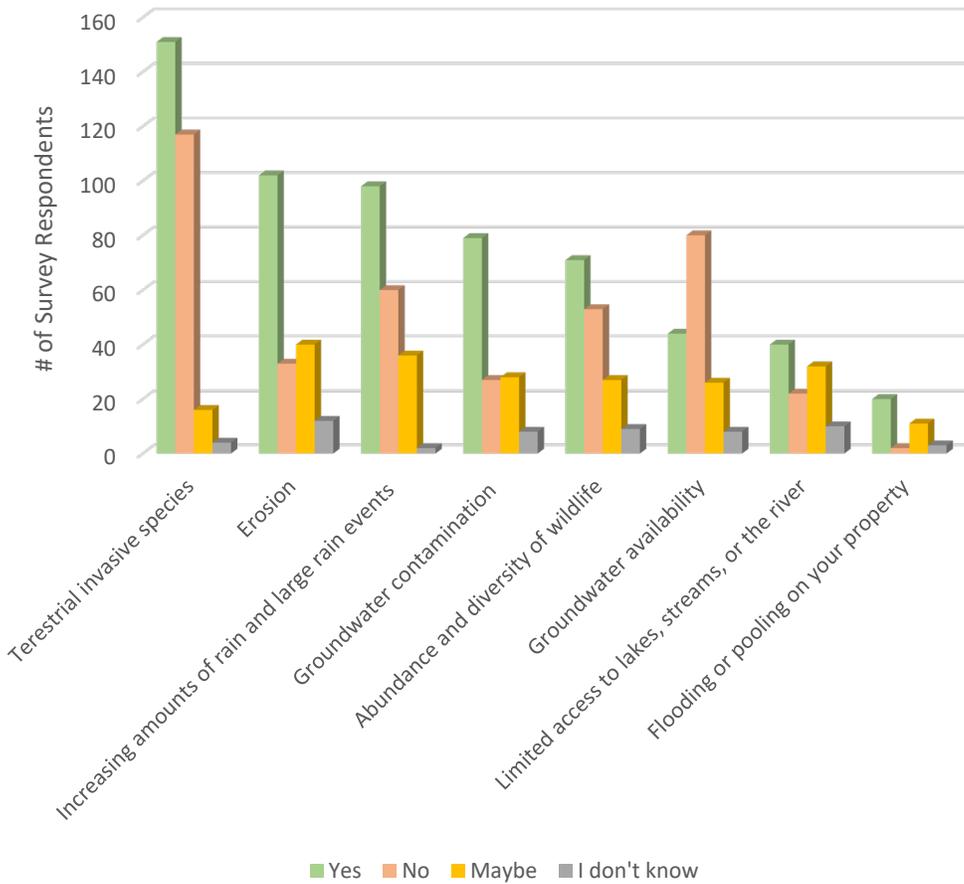
## In general, do you think that streams, lakes, and wetlands in the Watershed District are:



Most respondents believe that streams, lakes, and wetlands in the District are getting worse. 42.9% believed things were getting worse. 19.3% of survey respondents believe the streams, lakes, and wetlands are staying the same. 13.9% believe that streams, lakes, and wetlands are getting better. 24.1% were unsure about the status of streams, lakes, and wetlands.

# Residents Main Concerns and Factors Causing Problems on Their Property

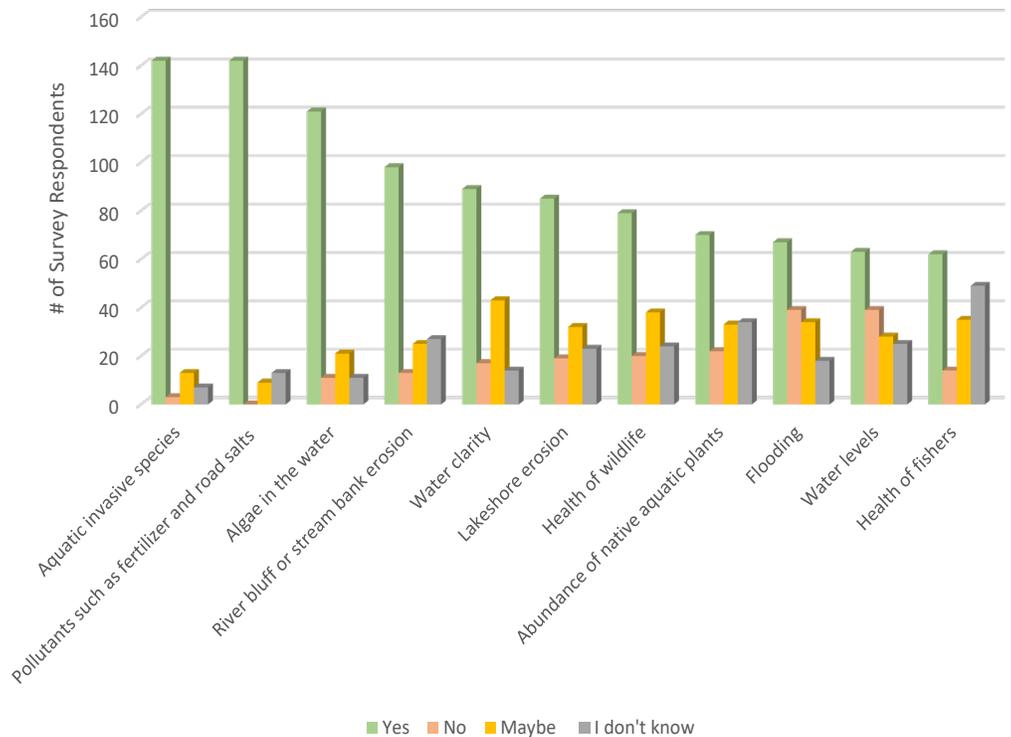
## CONCERNS



Residents were asked “Thinking beyond lakes, rivers and streams, which of the following do you believe to be concerns in our area?” Some of the biggest concerns property owners in the District have are terrestrial invasive species, increasing amount of rain and large events, and erosion. Things that were less concerning included flooding and pooling of water, amount of access to the lakes, streams, and the river, and Groundwater availability.

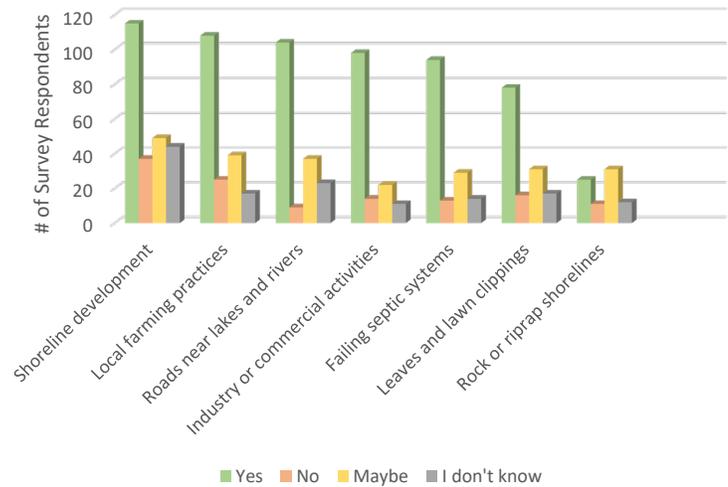
## PROBLEMATIC FACTORS

Residents were asked “In your opinion, which of the following factors are problems for lakes, streams, wetlands, and the St. Croix River in our District? It was their combined opinion that aquatic invasive species was a major factor causing problems in their area. On the other end of the spectrum, the least problematic was water levels and the health of fisheries.



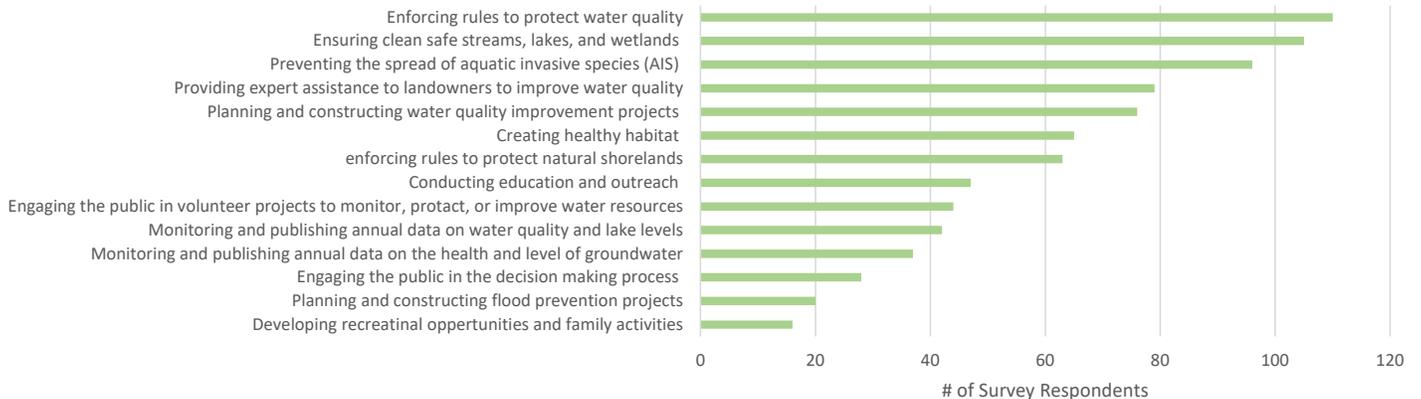
## Which of the following do you believe to be harming lake and river health in our District?

Issues that survey respondents believe are harming lake and river health include shoreline development, local farming practices, failing septic systems, leaves and grass clippings, and rock or riprap shorelines. The action survey respondents believed to be harming lake and river health the most was shoreline development. The shoreline stabilization practice of using rock and riprap was believed to be the least harming action for lake and river health.

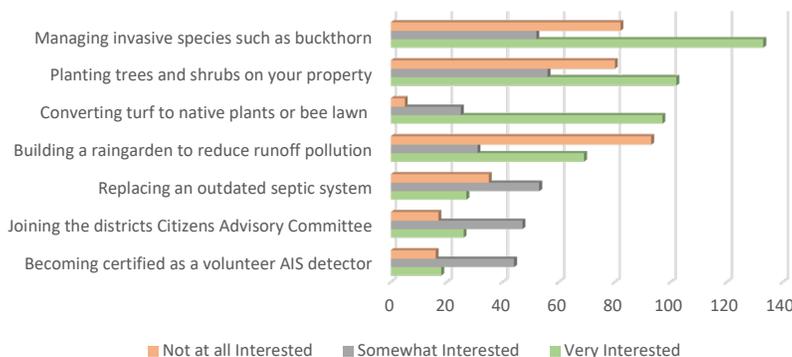


## What should be the highest priorities for the District in the next ten years?

Residents were asked to choose which five (5) subjects they thought ought to be the highest priorities for the watershed district in the next ten years. The top priority was enforcing rules to protect water quality. The second highest priority was ensuring clean and safe streams, lakes, and wetlands. The third highest priority was to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS). The last two in the top 5 priorities were Providing landowners with expert assistance improve water quality and planning and constructing water quality improvement projects.

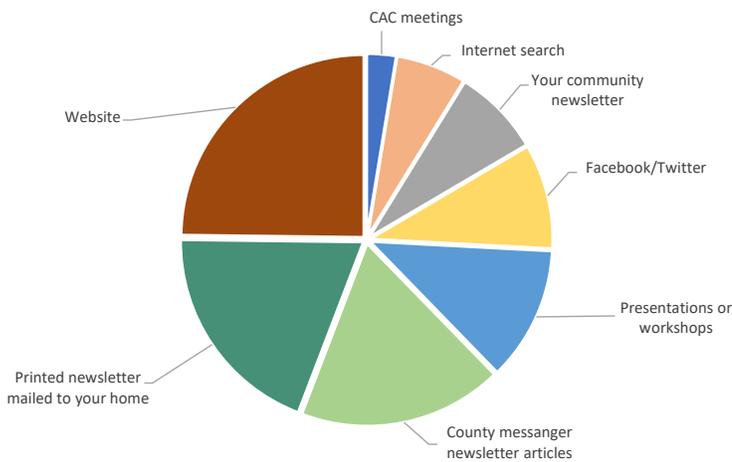


## How interested are you in taking the following actions?



The Districts survey gave a list of 7 activities that they believed may be of interest to survey respondents. They had the most interest in managing invasive species such as buckthorn. The second most popular interest was in planting trees and shrubs on their property. Least interest was shown for actions like joining the Districts CAC and becoming certified as a volunteer AIS detector.

**What is the best way for the Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District to provide information to you about water quality projects, events, and other news involving the work of the District?**



Residents were asked what form of communication would work best for the District to inform them on watershed business. The consensus was that a printed newsletter mailed to their home or communication using the District Web-site would be the best way to get information out. The second best way for the District to communicate with survey respondents would be a CAC meeting or an internet search.

**Short Answer Questions**

**Key Themes Include:** Runoff, wake, erosion, pollution, farming, enforcement, invasive species, education, flooding, and wildlife

**Please share up to 3 water issues in the District that you think are the most important to address.**

- Water clarity, groundwater levels, buffer zones between shore and homes
- Invasive species, Erosion, and water quality.
- Lack of enforcement of no wake zone on river—high speed boaters from out of region.
- No concern for transmitting invasive on boats.
- Industrial usage of River watershed because of business pressure.
- Pollution
- Runoff from roads, farms, yards; chloride from salt; invasive species
- Aquatic Invasive Species and Phosphorous
- wake-generated erosion on the SCR, non-point sources of pollution e.g. salt, turf/landscape maintenance, ag practices. Stream buffers.
- Fisheries, Invasive Species, Pollutants
- nonpoint-source pollution; groundwater and lake levels
- Pollution and salt
- Property Owners awareness—in general and specific
- Agricultural runoff and controls, aquifer protection, health of wildlife and sustainability
- invasive species, pollutants, algae.
- Certainly, comprehensive and intense education needs to be part of any plan!”
- I believe there should be some sort of permitting system, along with much more comprehensive educational systems.
- Pollutant runoff and invasive species
- Runoff from overdevelopment, Excessive boat traffic, Declining water quality
- preventing Zebra mussels, Starry Stone Wart, and Eurasian water milfoil
- Invasive species, Water pollution, Shoreline damage
- “Overfishing, too many boaters, invasive species”
- Water pollution, invasive species, and flooding
- Zebra mussel’s invasion; ag runoff; large livestock operations near the river

\*NOTE not all responses are listed here

## Please share any other input you would like to include in the Watershed plan.

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- Education, education, education. Informing people when considering purchasing property our here, of their implied responsibility of stewardship.
  - I would like to advocate for cleanup efforts at Loon Lake.
  - Past directors of the watershed did not have a point of view—which tended to allow big business interests such as mining and run off free reign. I think the watershed district should stand up to interests that do not attempt to protect the resources we have, from degradation.
  - I think that the basis of issue is a lack of understanding and value for WATERSHED.
  - I was appalled this year to learn that the St Croix water quality between Marine and Stillwater had received a lower score because of increased pollutants. This is a major concern for me.
  - WATER QUALITY
  - so glad that action can be taken and has been taken to protect this incredible natural resource
  - address groundwater quality and protection
  - Resources for public on process for applying clean water funds to specific projects.
  - Concentration of existing quality of groundwater and aquifers within the watershed.
  - Every time I see garbage, I picked it up. I would love for others to do so, too.
  - I am new to the area and new to the water district.
  - More meetings and posted.
  - Keep tax dollars down
  - Thank you for allowing us a voice
  - tough to choose only 5 priorities for the watershed - all the options sound great!
  - A campaign urging responsible management of private property and lobbying for laws to enforce or reward responsible practices
  - Thank you.
  - Please keep public informed of anything affecting our river and lakes, such as proposed CAFO upstream.
  - As a former volunteer at Warner Nature Center, I am keenly aware of the value of this natural environment as an asset to the whole watershed. I am hopeful it becomes part of the Watershed plan.
  - Invasive species like buckthorn have gone out of control in the past 10 years.
  - Thank you for requesting input
  - How to avoid loving our shared water resources to death. Limit number of boats. Set aside no fishing areas or sanctuaries. Designate no wake zones.
  - Limited Budget increases should be a priority
  - We want more emphasis on what is happening on the St Croix River.
  - More projects that directly support wildlife, like the turtle tunnel
  - These are critical issues. Please find an engaging way to get more people involved.
  - Partnerships with local community public works workers Advocacy for funding for improving septic systems/ water treatment systems
  - Prevent polluted runoff into the lake with heavy rains
  - Can you please focus efforts to increase the water quality of Loon Lake - I am willing to help however I can.
- Many thanks!
- Have lived on Loon Lake for over 40 years..Loon lake needs help

\*NOTE not all responses are listed here