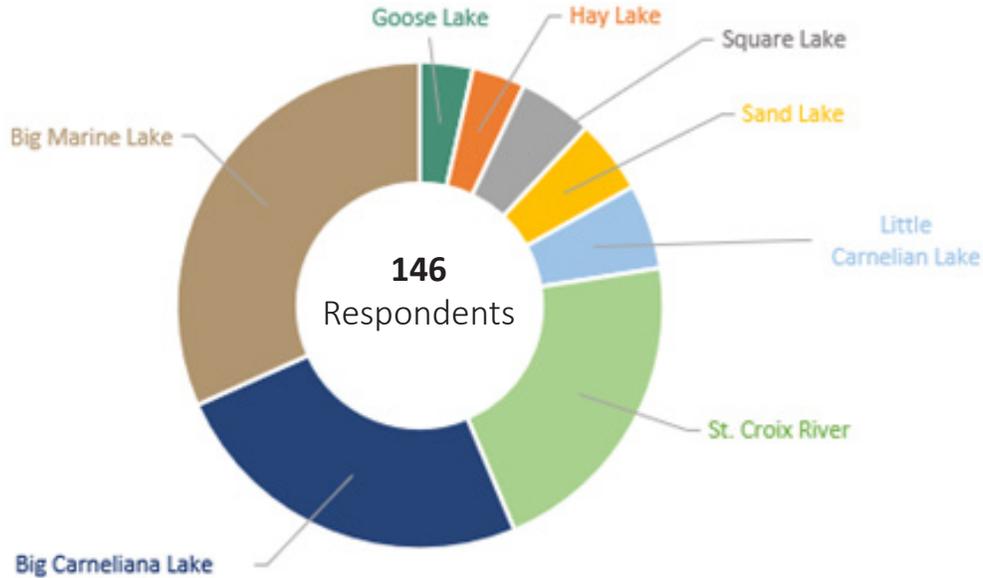




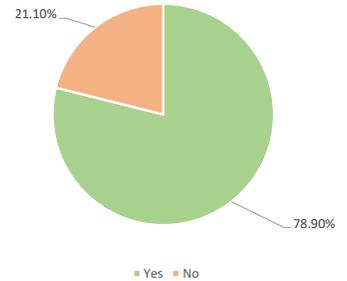
# Shoreline Survey Results

## Who Responded?

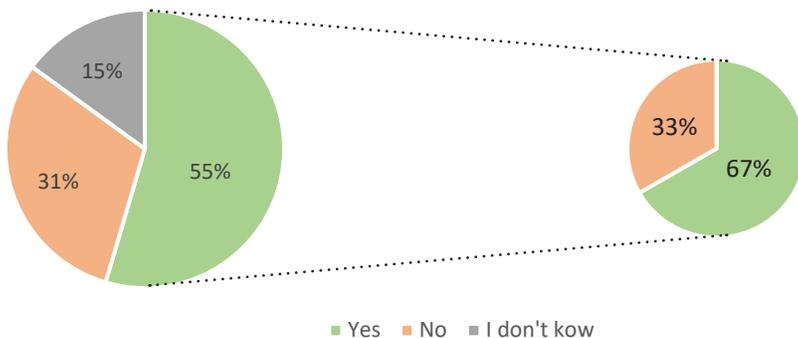


## Are you a year-round resident?

The bulk of shoreline landowners answering our survey noted that they were year-round residents of the District. The percentage of year-round residents was 79.9%. Some responses received were from seasonal shoreline residents. The percentage of seasonal shoreline landowner residents was 21.1%.

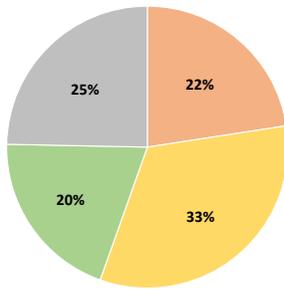


## Does your lake have an association, if yes, are you a member?



When shoreline landowners were asked if their lake had an association 55% of respondents said, yes, they did. 31% said no their lake did not have an association and 15% were not sure if they had an association or not. 67 percent of the survey respondents that said their lake did have an association and they were a member of the association. 1/3 of those that noted they did have an association on their lake said they were not a member of the association.

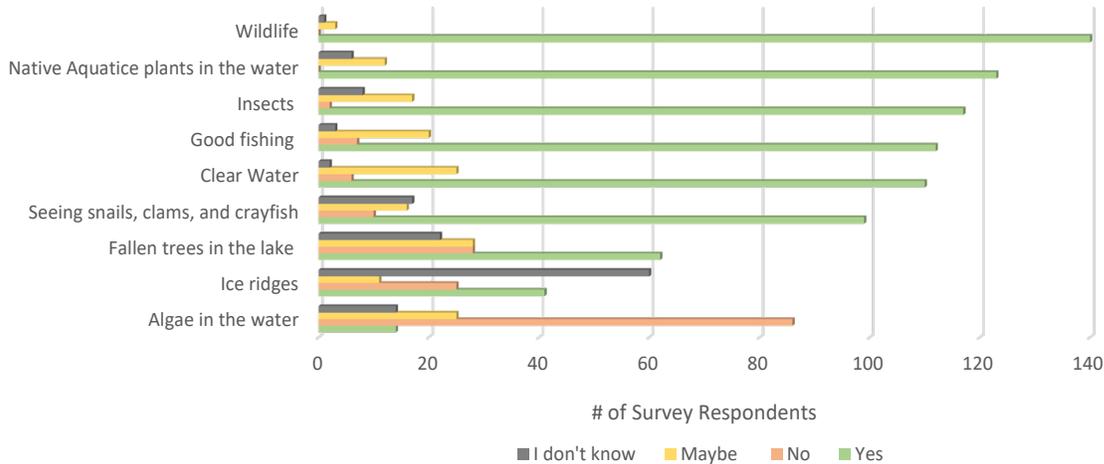
## In general, do you think that streams, lakes, and wetlands in the Watershed District are:



This question resulted in what looks to be an even split in opinion. The highest percentage of respondents thought that water quality in the District was staying the same. The lowest percentage of respondents believed streams, lakes, and wetlands were improving.

Getting worse Staying the Same Getting better I don't know

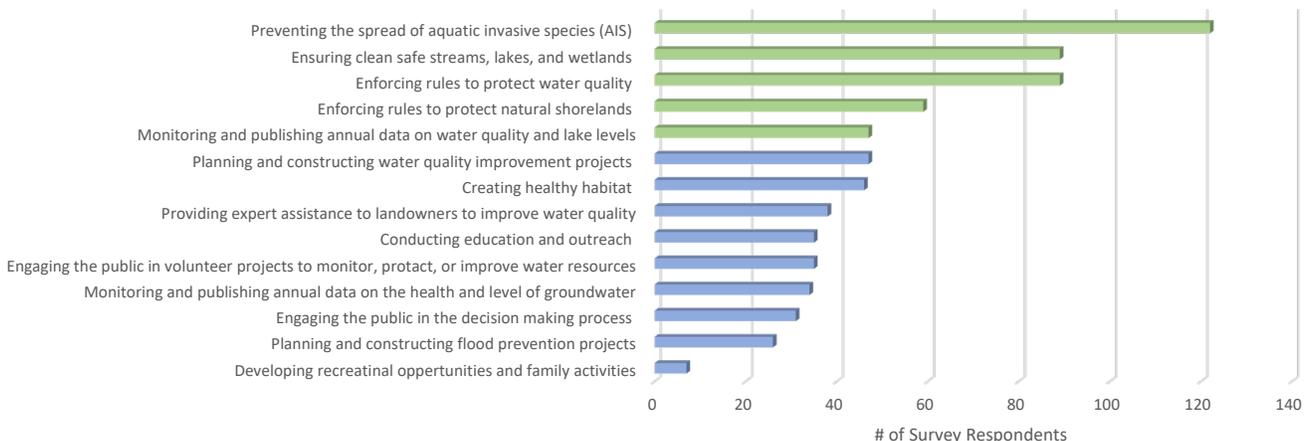
## Which characteristics do you consider to be signs of a healthy lake?



When asked about the characteristic's shoreline landowners considered to be signs of a healthy lake shoreline survey respondents were given a list of 9 topics to choose from. The top five characteristics were wildlife, native aquatic plants in the water, insects, good fishing, and clear water. The top Three characteristic shoreline residents believe are not signs of a healthy lake include algae in the water, ice ridges, and fallen trees in the lake.

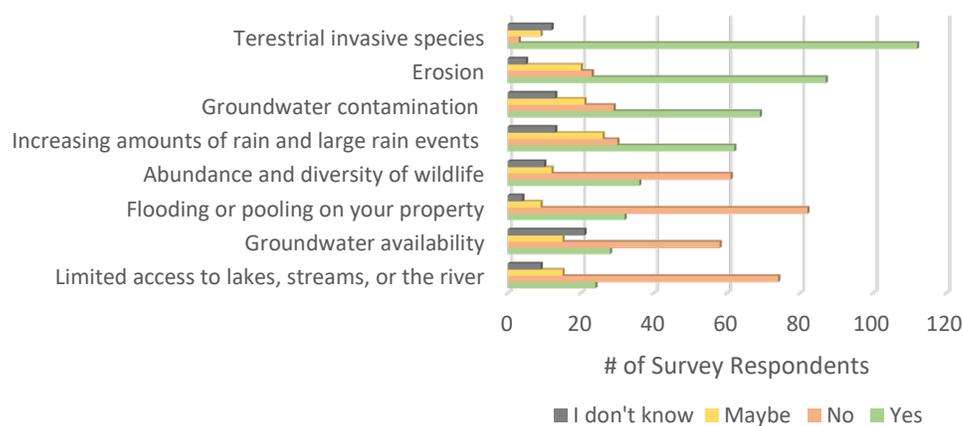
## What Were Shoreline Landowners Highest Priorities for the District in the Next 10 Years?

Shoreline landowners were asked to choose which 5 subjects they thought ought to be the highest priorities for the watershed district in the next ten years. The top priority was preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species. Second was ensuring clean and safe streams, lakes, and wetlands. The third highest priority was enforcing rules to protect water quality. The last two priorities were enforcing rules to protect shorelands monitoring and publishing annual data on water quality and lake levels.



## Shoreline Residents Main Concerns and Factors Causing Problems on Their Property

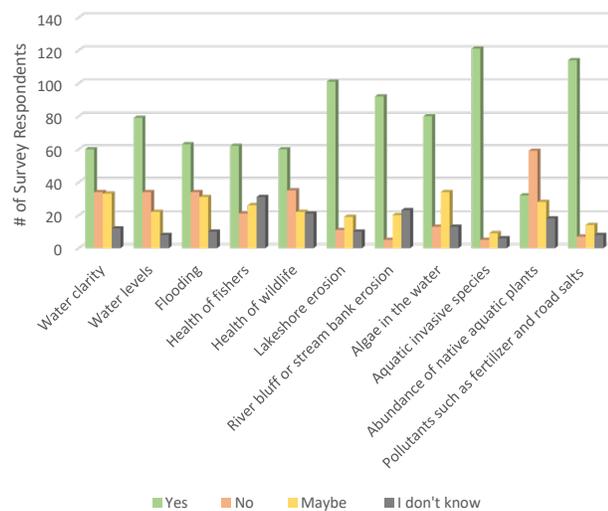
### CONCERNS



Shoreline landowners 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 shoreline property owners have are erosion, terrestrial invasive species, and ground water contamination. Things that were less concerning included flooding and pooling of water, amount of access to the lakes, streams, and flooding or pooling on their properties.

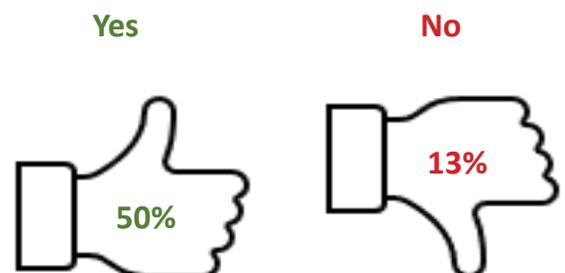
Shoreline landowners were asked “In your opinion, which of the following factors are problems for lakes, streams, wetlands, and the St. Croix River in our District?” It was their combined opinion that aquatic invasive species was a major factor causing problems in their area. On the other end of the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

### PROBLEMATIC FACTORS



## Does Your Shore Have a Shoreland Buffer Requirement that prohibits landowners from clearing vegetation during building projects or to better see the water?

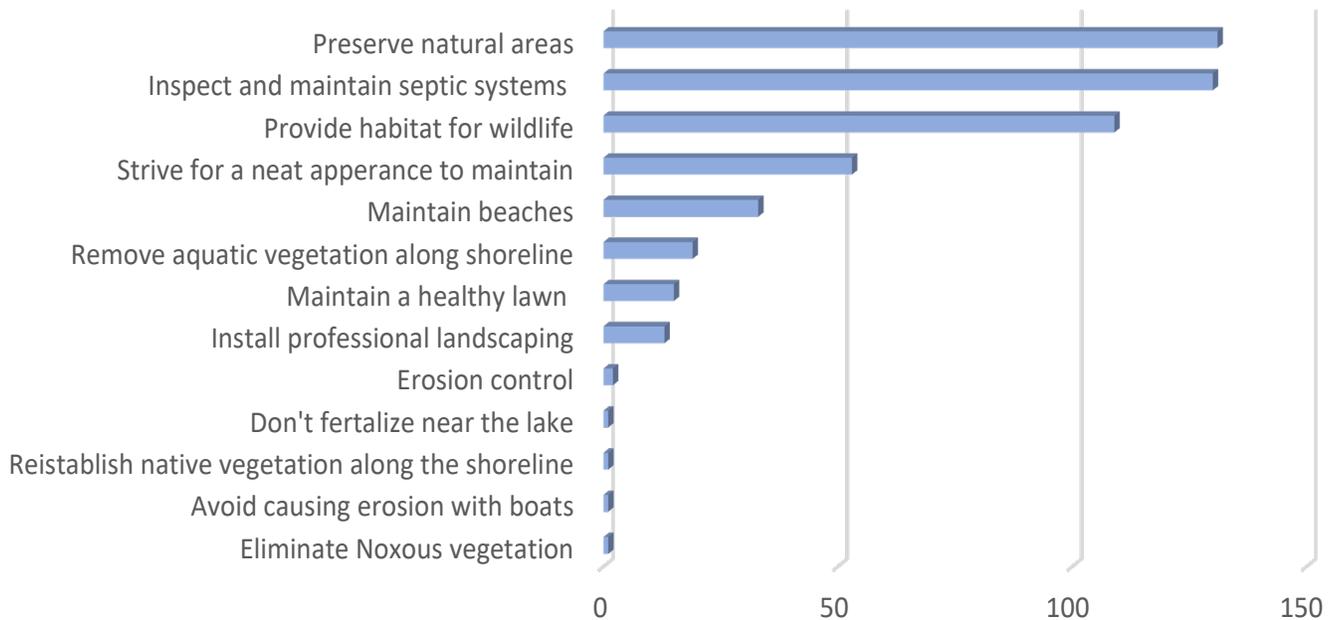
Shoreline landowners were asked if their lake or river has a shoreland buffer requirement that would prohibit landowners from clearing vegetation near the water during building or to better see the water. 50% of landowners believed yes, there was a shoreland buffer requirement. 13% said no, they did not believe their lake or river had a shoreland buffer requirement. 37% were unsure about the question.



\*37% were unsure

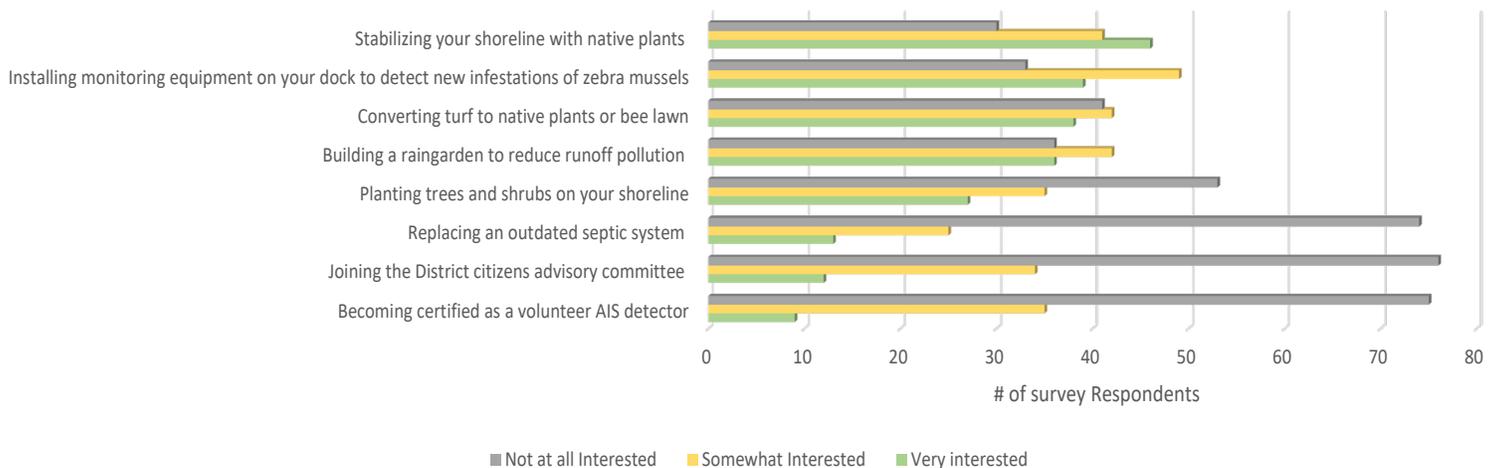
## Which actions do you think people should take to be good stewards of their shoreland properties?

Shoreline landowners were given a list of the top nine actions the last four responses were added into the “other” box. The top three actions shoreline residents believed people should take to be good stewards include preserving natural areas, inspecting and maintaining septic systems, and providing habitat for wildlife. The four responses that were added to our list include not fertilizing near the lake, reestablishing vegetation near the lake, avoid causing erosion with boats, and eliminating noxious vegetation.



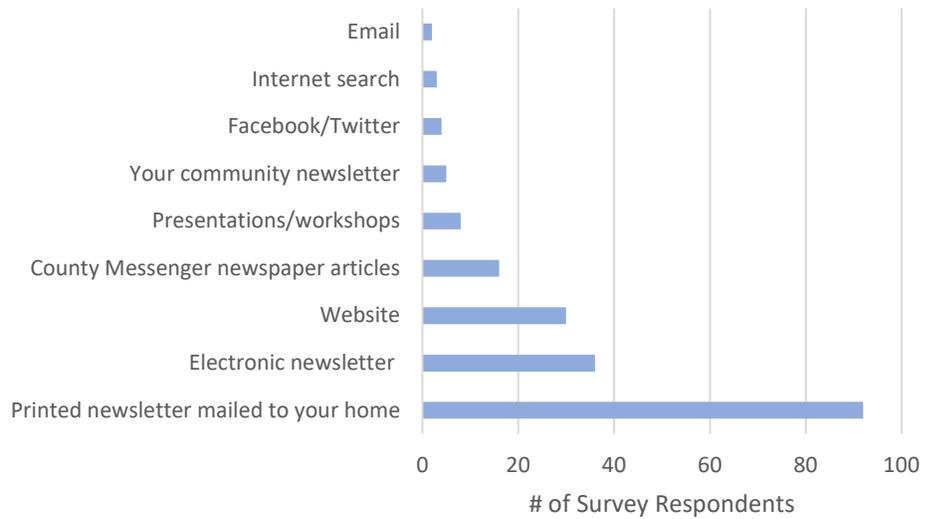
## How interested are you in taking the following actions?

Shoreline landowners were given a list of eight possible actions of interest. The interest was focused on stabilization of their shorelines, installing monitoring equipment on their docks to detect new infestations of zebra mussels, converting turf to native plants or bee lawn, and building a raingarden to reduce runoff pollution. Residents are less interested in becoming certified as volunteer AIS detectors, joining the citizens advisory committee, and replacing outdated septic systems.



## What is the best way for the CMSCWD to provide information to you about water quality projects, events, and other news involving the work of the District?

Shoreline landowners were asked what form of communication would work best for the District to inform them on watershed business. The overwhelming consensus was that a printed newsletter mailed to their home would be the best way to get information out. The second best way for the District to communicate with shoreline landowners would be an electronic newsletter.



### Short Answer Questions

**Key Themes Include:** Invasive species, runoff, fertilizer, education, stabilization of shorelines, erosion, wake zones and buffer zones

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

- Aquatic plants in swimming area
- clarity, loss of fish, Large homes and fertilizing sod lawns
- Convincing landowners to manage resources wisely, prevent invasive and take measures for infected to minimize or eliminate, take action to improve resources despite development
- Habitat for wildlife, habitat for aquatic species
- water levels, erosion, and invasive
- avoid getting invasive species, pollutants running into the water (fertilizer), erosion from high water & wake
- Overuse of Square lake park, the spread of invasive species, limit the use of fertilizer and pesticide on shoreline properties
- Runoff from unpaved road (Panorama), shoreline erosion
- High water, runoff, cleanliness
- watershed is trying to be intrusive; we are over boxed by the WD
- road salt is becoming an issue each year as it builds in our lakes, lake shore owners that don't understand the natural fluctuation of lake levels and maintain their shorelines, accordingly, controlling runoff from farms and quarries
- Invasive species, water level, fertilizer/salt
- Pollutants, fertilizer, salt runoff into lakes and rivers, Lake shore erosion, fish populations - bluegill limit become part of DNR Bluegill program to increase size
- Salt x3, Agriculture chemicals and fertilizer
- No Patrols at the public lake access to monitor boats for invasive species, lawns leaking fertilizer into the water, not enough best management practices by home owners beaches
- hold river homeowners accountable for maintaining river bluff standards - not clear cutting trees for view
- Lead sinkers, lead bullets, frack mining, feed lots, poor ag. practices run-off of chemicals from fertilizer, road salt and ag., erosion on the shoreline, exotic species, lack of buffer zones near the water
- Invasive species like milfoil and zebra mussels, declining water quality, DNR fish stocking that degrades lakes
- adding too many buildings/houses to the District, invasive species, pollutants/water runoff

\*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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- Problems with aquatic invasive species
- I would love a reference to someone who can help remove aquatic vegetation along the shoreline near dock
- would be nice to have boat washing stations and boats must go there before they can enter a lake
- New homeowners should receive outreach and education
- enforce a no wake in certain areas to keep erosion down
- would like help stabilizing the retaining wall with natural sources
- Positive public education effort for lakeshore owners nearby to learn about best practices
- much more science-based info to lake property owners
- I would like to see efforts to establish legal rights for the carnelian marine St. Croix watershed. i.e. rights of nature example- rights of manoomin
- Goose lake has a serious issue with flooding of property and wetlands as well as shoreline erosion
- Big wildlife like eagles and turkeys have made a tremendous come back. I still do not see frogs and do not understand why.
- would like to see shoreline violations enforced. cattail removal without permit, tree cutting in violation of building permits
- enforce the no wake rule on the upper St. Croix its almost always abused
- shorelines are being destroyed on little carnelian and I have reported the issue, and nothing is done
- there is control on Big Marine, Big Carnelian, and Little Carnelian. Some type on control must be done.
- Speed limits in bass boats participating in fishing tournaments.
- Large houseboats on or coming on our lake and the wake they throw. My shoreline is disappearing.
- I would like the watershed to view scientifically driven stewardship of our waters and shore-lands as the highest priority. Maintaining property values suggests a different priority. Keeping our natural habitat natural is foremost.
- Restoration goals. The levy should give credit for good practices extra tax for those who do not.

\*NOTE not all responses are listed here