

## 2020 CULLEN LAKES PROPERTY OWNERS' SURVEY

This survey is voluntary and anonymous. However, the CLA Lake Management Plan Committee hopes you will take the time to answer all the questions you can. The results of the survey will be used to update the Cullen Lakes Lake Management Plan for the years 2022-2027 and to help CLA improve its services and communications to its members—and all lakeshore owners. A summary of the survey results will be printed in the spring newsletter and posted on the CLA web site.

**Thank you for taking the time to complete and return this survey!**

### **Section 1: This section asks about your property on the Cullen Lakes and your use of it.**

1. In which seasons do you typically use your property? *Check all that apply.*  
119 Spring 150 Summer 130 Fall 72 Winter
2. Which type of *primary* structure is on your property?  
108 Winterized dwelling  
46 Seasonal dwelling (not winterized)  
5 No structure on my property
3. How many years has this property been in your (or your family's) ownership?  
13 Fewer than 5 27 5-10 26 11-20 19 21-30 25 31-50 42 More than 50 1 100+
4. How often do you have your septic tank checked and cleaned/pumped by a licensed pumper? (check one)  
17 Every year 81 Every 2 to 3 years  
35 Every 4 to 5 years 6 Every 6 to 10 years  
2 Never 9 Not applicable (no septic system)
5. Which of the following do you have and use in the dwelling(s) on your property? (check all that apply)  
87 dishwasher 17 garbage disposal 110 washing machine  
62 water softener 6 hot tub or Jacuzzi
6. What is the primary source of drinking water for your property? (check one)  
37 shallow (sand point) well 104 Deep well 6 No source
7. Does your property have a buffer of natural, unmanaged vegetation along the shoreline? 121 Yes 25 No  
  
*If yes, how deep is it (from the lake's shoreline landward)?*  
24 1-2 ft 37 3-4 ft 25 5-10 ft 35 Over 10 ft  
  
*If yes, how wide is it (from side property line to side property line)?*  
60 Entire width 38 About 75% of width  
14 About 50% of width 7 25% or less of width
8. Do you clear *aquatic* vegetation from your shoreline out into the lake?  
46 Yes 105 No  
  
*If yes, please check the way(s) you do it (check all that apply)*  
44 by hand (raking, pulling) 9 weed roller  
2 chemical application
9. Have you or any of your family experienced *swimmer's itch* in our lakes the past two summers?  
22 Yes 128 No

**Section 2: This section asks about your general impressions of the Cullen Lakes.**

10. To what extent do you feel each of the following to be a problem on the Cullen Lakes? (Circle the number that best describes how serious you find each to be.)

ISSUE	not a problem	slight problem	moderate problem	serious problem	very serious problem	don't know
Overall water quality of the Cullen Lakes	1 67	2 40	3 26	4 2	5 3	DK 4
Lake water pollution due to ashes from lakeshore campfires	1 103	2 16	3 4	4 1	5 1	DK 17
Lake water pollution due to runoff/erosion	1 43	2 51	3 20	4 4	5 3	DK 13
Lakeshore erosion	1 49	2 54	3 14	4 4	5 3	DK 8
Land use ordinances not being followed/enforced	1 53	2 33	3 28	4 11	5 6	DK 20
Improper alteration to shoreline made by property owners	1 56	2 35	3 25	4 5	5 6	DK 16
Outdoor lights left on all night	1 77	2 29	3 21	4 10	5 8	DK 4
Aquatic vegetation growth	1 16	2 29	3 49	4 28	5 9	DK 11
Curlyleaf pondweed growth	1 9	2 24	3 46	4 30	5 7	DK 20
Purple Loosestrife shoreline infestation	1 23	2 44	3 29	4 15	5 5	DK 24
Burning household wastes—plastics, rubber, paper, etc.	1 74	2 24	3 10	4 2	5 2	DK 25
Burning of leaves and brush along the shoreline	1 84	2 22	3 4	4 2	5 1	DK 20
Access between the lakes	1 48	2 26	3 34	4 9	5 20	DK 6
Lake users being inconsiderate	1 50	2 43	3 28	4 8	5 2	DK 7
Boating regulations not being followed	1 58	2 40	3 17	4 5	5 5	DK 13
Fishing regulations not being followed	1 71	2 22	3 9	4 1	5 3	DK 30
Swimmer's itch	1 70	2 38	3 10	4 5	5 3	DK 15
Inconsiderate use of personal watercraft (PWCs)	1 46	2 35	3 36	4 10	5 7	DK 7
Violation of "No Wake" zones	1 61	2 36	3 16	4 8	5 6	DK 22
Boats inappropriate for the lake	1 58	2 32	3 16	4 5	5 5	DK 11

Other (describe):\_ WR too big & too many boats for small lake/ Owners calling out issues that don't exist/channel access between LC & MC/ZM/neighbor rents cabin VRBO more than city ord. allows/floating docks hard to see/The channel needs to be dredged/noise & pathway for pollutants from highway/ZM/ZM/Winter fishing—excessive numbers taken/Inconsiderate landowners & users: jet skis, loud music on water, fishing inside raft line while people are out on deck & swimmers in water/People either ignorant of or ignoring boating & PWC rules/Sprinkler noise at damn UC resort/Night fishers shining very bright lights directly into our cabin/Vacation homeowners complaining about ski boats & jet ski noise despite this being a fully recreational lake/Boasters from MC using LC for their swimming/Illegal use of personal buoys for swimming areas; boat lifts & PWC lifts in lake not connected to dock & without lights or reflective markings/Proliferation of large play or swimming rafts along shoreline left in water all the time/most boat & PWC violators are from WR/

11. Over the past **five years**, would you say the *overall* quality of **the Cullen Lakes is**: (check one)

<b>Upper Cullen:</b>	1 getting better	40 about the same	13 getting worse	56 don't know
<b>Middle Cullen:</b>	1 getting better	73 about the same	16 getting worse	33 don't know
<b>Lower Cullen:</b>	3 getting better	57 about the same	28 getting worse	32 don't know

12. If you checked the quality is getting better, what would you say has gotten particularly *better*?

Vegetation growth/Water clarity/People caring better for the lakes/I've noticed a decrease in CLP on LC/Weed growth along east side of UC/Summer 2018 seemed less weeds/You are dealing with some of the AIS/

13. If you checked the quality is getting worse, what would you say has gotten particularly *worse*?

More plants in shoreline water/2019 green algae/ZM/Higher water levels last few years has hurt wild rice growth/Weed growth/Swimmers itch/Weed growth on east side shoreline is out of control/ZM/Weed growth/# of boats/PWC used constantly with no regard for others/Weeds are out of control/Increased activity from boats too big for lake/Increased unwanted vegetation/Weeds are getting higher & more plentiful/ZM are ruining the lake/ZM/Water clarity/More carp/More fishing pressure/More weeds/Weeds, CLP, AM, algae/Invasion of air, ground, hwy., car pollutants; more people more lake use; new 371 too close to lake/AIS/More crowded, inconsiderate users/ZM in LC/Expansion of WR time shares has brought more numerous & less considerate users of the lake/Way more boat traffic/Flotilla of pontoons at channel outlet—dangerous/More weeds/ZM/Weed growth/Weeds/LC weeds/Weeds, PWCs, resort too large/More weeds summer 2019/weeds getting closer to shore/green slime on lake/Channel to access all lakes to widen the streams/Too many large boats/Excessive weed growth along shore/The lakes are busier/Weeds in front of my cabin were bad last year/Run off/ZM/Increase in development of properties (density & size( impacting

use of lake (more boats & activity) & changing character of lakes from “natural” to “recreational”; this has & will continue to reduce wildlife & bird populations/ZM/ZM/Danger to loons/Algae (LC)/ZM & algae (LC)/ZM/CLP/ZM/More weeds/Excess boat use/AIS (vegetation and now ZM) increase in species and in severity of invasion/channel filled in by beavers/WR—noise, late evening waterskiing & PWC, often after sunset/WR seems to get exemptions to expand that others don’t/floating & partially submerged moss like weeds & growth/stuff floating on water

**Section 3: This section asks about your household members’ and guests’ use of the Cullen Lakes.**

14. Please indicate which of the following watercraft your household uses on the Cullen Lakes (check all that apply):

<u>Non-motorized</u>	<u>40 HP or less</u>	<u>Over 40 HP</u>
64 canoe	61 fishing boat	37 fishing boat
77 kayak	41 pontoon boat	46 recreational boat
46 paddle boat		26 personal watercraft
23 row boat		45 pontoon boat
11 sailboat		2 wake boat
71 stand up paddle board		
1 windsurfer		

15. What are the **three** forms of recreation for which you *most often* use the lake? **(Rank in order, 1-3, with 1 being most often.)**

**Many people simply checked the items!**

- 1 – 23, 2 – 20, 3 – 14, x – 28 swimming
- 1 – 12, 2 – 15, 3 – 19, x – 24 canoeing/kayaking/paddle boating, stand up paddle boarding
- 1 – 5, 2 – 11, 3 – 13, x – 16 tubing/water skiing/ wake boarding, etc.
- 1 – 20, 2 – 14, 3 – 6, x – 31 pontoon cruising
- 1 – 4, 2 – 4, 3 – 5, x – 4 other motorized cruising
- 1 – 23, 2 – 16, 3 – 13, x – 27 fishing
- 1 – 0, 2 – 1, 3 – 5, x -- 1 sailing/wind surfing
- 1 – 0, 2 – 1, 3 – 1, x -- 1 waterfowl hunting

16. During the past year, for which of the following activities did members of your household or guests use the Cullen Lakes?

**ACTIVITY (check all that apply)**

Ice fishing	31	_____
Snowmobiling	14	_____
ATV riding	16	_____
Ice skating	11	_____
Ice boating	0	_____
Snowshoeing	20	_____
Hiking/walking	104	_____
Cross country skiing	9	_____
Pleasure boating (in a motorized boat)	109	_____
Tubing, water skiing, knee boarding, etc.	78	_____
Fishing from a watercraft	100	_____
Fishing from shore or from a dock	95	_____
Operating a personal watercraft (PWC)	31	_____
Swimming/wading/playing in the water	118	_____
Waterfowl hunting	6	_____
Windsurfing	2	_____
Sailboating	11	_____
Canoeing	52	_____
Kayaking	78	_____
Snorkeling	10	_____
Bird watching/observing nature	75	_____
Paddle boating	41	_____
Stand up paddle boarding	67	_____

17. If you fish, please provide your sense about how the fishing has changed **over the past 5 years**.

<u>Lake</u>	<u>Improving</u>	<u>Stayed about the same</u>	<u>Not as good</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Upper Cullen	0	12	12	62

Middle Cullen	3	35	26	36
Lower Cullen	2	27	20	47

18. Are you aware that the northern pike regulation changed in 2018 and that the new possession limit for the Cullen Lakes is 10, with not more than 2 over 26 inches and all from 22-26 inches required to be immediately released?

83 Yes      55 No

19. Bow fishing has long been legal in Minnesota for the taking of rough species. Have you witnessed a change in the amount of this activity during the past five years?

54 Yes      82 No

20. How important do you think the concept of catch and release is?

84 Very important    42 Important    16 Somewhat important    1 Not important    3 Don't know  
If they know how &

**When to release**

**Section 4: This section asks about you and the Cullen Lakes Association.**

21. Are you a member of the Cullen Lakes Association?

144 Yes    3 No

If you answered "No", is there a reason you are willing to share for not joining?

22. Do you regularly attend the annual meeting? 34 Yes    104 No

Other family members do/Wish I could, but busy & schedule rarely works/Date is always a conflict with family birthday parties; wish we could attend/Used to when I was at lake more/Occasionally/Always out of town/We try to attend/Date held we just haven't been available. The meetings seem well planned and executed/

23. What might CLA do to improve the annual meetings?

Ask for suggestions for interesting main topic/Not AIS unless new advanced need discussion/Live polka music with beer and brats/Mtgs. OK/Host it at The Pickle/Bring in guest speaker like a noted fishing guide/Keep up the good work/Enjoy speakers that "teach" something (more than "feel good")/All good/Answer people's questions/Have open discussion on the topics/Have it at a more convenient date/Advocate for change/Make list of rules that should be given to owners such as use of life preservers, hours of boating, etc./Show minutes from previous year and if issues were addressed/Ensure we have good speakers/interesting speakers and subjects/More history/Sorry, but they sound really boring/Perhaps pair the meeting with a neighborhood (CLA members) block party or bingo even, game night, meal, etc./Keep inviting members to share historical stories/Continue to bring in experts on various topics related to our water & environment/Change or alternate the date/Well done/Discuss how members can assist CLA with lake improvement/Q&A with DNR officer/Better speaker system/Schedule or plan CLA member projects/Meet & greet more with others that live on the lakes/Really advance notice/When we can attend we find them interesting and informative/ Perhaps introduce younger generations attending/Encourage questions – so people feel welcome to ask basic questions/Less history/I have found them to be very informative; keep it up/Frankly we are very happy with the meetings; we always attend/Remote viewing/small group discussions/

24. Please list things you feel are important for CLA to do to serve its members. These could be things it is *already* doing or things you feel it *should begin* to do.

Promote water quality/Already doing a good job/Keep doing fundraising to pay for improvements, i.e. spray for CLP/Keep treasurer's report/Report on clarity as usual/Watch the quality of the water in the lakes/Clean water/Weed control/Boat inspections at landing sites/Controlling AIS and vegetation/Keep doing what you are doing/Continue to promote health of lakes/Do all Board members follow the guidelines, practices, procedures suggested by CLA, i.e. practice what they preach?/Would like to see more history and fun family events on lake in newsletter & pictures/You do a great job. Thank you!/We need to make the next generation involved/Communication – newsletters are great! Website needs updating/Monitor development and land use/Monitor water quality and AIS/More emphasis on CLA's role in leading AIS fight & how members can help/Help enforce land use regulations strictly – education & watchdog committee/Close crappie fishing in the spring when spawning, just like northerns and walleye/Remove

rocks placed by homeowner to open the channel between Lower & Middle for better access/Limit resort building to keep the shoreline & woods for animals/Continue to fight against AIS/Continue with awareness campaign for members/Keep more watchful eye on Wilderness Point condos & resort/Host a member mixer or other social event/Provide info on solar energy for homes/cabins and any local resources to help with funding/You all are doing a great job sharing info and protecting our lakes. Thank you!/Keep the lakes healthy/Inform members of changes in law/regulations that impact home owners/Keep up the good work!/Aquatic weeds/Boating regs/Continue to monitor activities at the resort/Keep us informed/Don't become the police/CLP management/Advocacy to prevent further commercialization of lake, i.e. resorts/Newsletter/Yearly meeting/Sensitivity to all lake owners: Year round folks need to be our leaders, summer folks need education & the yearly platform for discussion/Pooling resources to combat threats to water quality/Education/Communication/Sense of community stewardship/Can CLA host & suggest ways for lake owners to get to know one another?/CLA does a good job/CLA does a good job explaining lake treatment/I enjoy the newsletter/Too many people renting and don't know rules for boating. Why can't resorts give these out?/Too much noise from jet skis, etc./Jet skis out on lake after sunset/Checking water quality is important/Working on invasive, destructive growths/Continue the good work you are already doing/Keep members informed of new regs/Continue to monitor lake for invasive species/Continue to treat invasives/Discuss the opinions of this survey/Ask what we need to do to improve our conditions/Keep educating/You do a great job, thanks/Water quality/Weed control/Healthy community/Status on invasive species and water quality very good/Communicate info on items we can do to better manage our lake property/Communicate with members/Represent members' interests/Spend dues wisely/I think CLA does a great job!/Better access between Upper & Middle Cullen—put in a bridge instead of a culvert and keep the waterway between the two navigable for small boats, PWCs/Do more review of Wilderness Point Resort activities and any further development; need to take a firmer position against any more changes/Keep up the good communication/Bring community awareness to the Cullen Lake chain/I appreciate all the efforts/Jazz up the newsletter: make it electronic & link it to other groups/CLA does a good job of keeping members informed/Introduce members/CLP treatment & DNR coordination/Information sharing/Annual map & owners/Control the resorts/Regular water testing/Continue fight against CLP & fundraising/Education/Water quality/Doing a great job/Get rid of weeds/Channel access between Lower & Middle/You all do a great job/AIS/Lower to Middle channel wider & deeper/Great job with newsletter/Continue battle against AIS/DNR stock fish in all 3 lakes/Treatment of AIS/Invasive weed control/Continue monitoring water quality/Advocate on behalf of owners/Love the AIS info/Helpful tips from house to yard to fishing, etc. to ensure future of lakes/Inform & educate owners/Advocacy with DNR & other government bodies/Anything to clean up our lake (ZM)/Continue with AIS monitoring (ZM)/Continue treating CLP/We have a beautiful chain of lakes/Weed control is a huge issue/Would like to see better winter fishing control—way too many over the limits taken/Improve the channel between LC & MC/Great newsletter/Your proactive policies on AIS/Continue your great work educating members/Volunteer cleanup of road is very good/Communicating is top-notch/more updates on WR plans & hold them to the rules we all follow/manage fish population (stock fish)/communicate on AIS/weed control/monitor lifts in lake, not shore/bird watching groups/monitoring accesses, public & private, for AIS/Continue to monitor water quality/Continue to monitor AIS

25. Have you visited the new Cullen Lakes web site ("[www.cullenlakesassoc.org](http://www.cullenlakesassoc.org)")?

49 Yes                      95 No

If "Yes", please share your reactions to it (i.e. its usefulness to you, what is most helpful, least helpful; suggested additions, deletions, changes; etc.) Good resource! /Informational/Most useful: membership info, shoreline maintenance, AIS info. Suggest removing old info, found lots of broken web links/ Good, I like the helpful links/Love it. Thanks for the time & effort put into this project! /Like to see meeting minutes from summer meetings; Like nature updates (animal spottings), ice in & ice out, snowfall & rainfall/Informative/Enjoy the pictures/Very informative/It would be nice if there was a bit more contributed by CLA members/Like the news articles, weather pages & enjoy all the photos!

26. Have you visited the Cullen Lakes Facebook page?

19 Yes                      128 No

If "Yes", please share your reactions to it (i.e. its usefulness to you, what is most helpful, least helpful; suggested additions, deletions, changes; etc.) Great/Great/Would like to see more posts, more pictures/

27. Do you read the CLA newsletter (The Cullen Currents)?

147 Yes                      0 No

Very good job! /Great job/Great job on newsletter—keep it up! /Doing nice job/Good articles/I think the newsletter is very good/Keep it up! /It's good/Well written/more posts and pictures/

28. What topics would you like to see covered in the newsletter?

Educational topics on water quality/Wildlife topics/Historical items/Educate boaters on waterfowl & loon protection/Ask for consideration of neighbors: loud music, night lights, jet skis/Tips about common boating courtesy: don't drop your skier 5 ft. from another boat; smaller boat has right of way; don't speed close to a fishing boat; don't cut through a fishing boat's path/electronic only/Links to other "Up North" oriented sites/Weed control/AIS/Jet ski violations/I like water quality/Weed control/New members/Water quality & treatment/Fish, bird, wildlife monitoring/Old stories/Updates/Continue good reporting/What's going on with all trees cutting/Lake levels/Nisswa calendar of events/Some history/Sightings/Happenings/People/Lake/Wildlife/History/I've heard the CLA meetings discuss family history of the lake sometimes, I would enjoy reading about this. I would also like to know the longterm history of this lake –Indians? Geology? Age, etc. Is it really spring fed? Where is the spring? /What neighbors are doing or have done to support lake ecosystem/ Examples of native plant lakescaping/More history/List of approved building variances/ Requests to avoid loud music/Turn off shore lights at night/Barking dogs/Lake preservation/DNR updates/Lake and Nisswa area history/Loon updates/Water quality/Regulations/Budget/Lights left on at night/Dogs running loose/People having fun on lake – stories/Water quality/Shoreline/Fish health/More info on Board members/How to report violations & areas of concern/ History/ Loons/Loon info/Proper boating & speed on lake/ Direct people to web site & FB page/Helpful hints for improving lake quality/We enjoy the updates/ Add a marketplace where people can list things to sell or give away/More history of the 3 lakes/Stories from folks around the lakes/Get to know your neighbors/Any issue concerning our lake or area/Advice on how to help make Cullen lakes better than they are already/ More fishing articles related to Cullen Lakes/Loon info/More on fishing/Fishing tales/Upcoming events & or changes/Current issues/Q & As/Updates on what's being done or coming up/Education/What's happening/What can or should owners do/ZM/Natural shorelines/Value of dark skies/Education first/We liked history of families on the lakes that were featured/family history stories are good/overall very satisfied/family histories of people on the lakes/ornithology/

29. CLA will have to continue to address treatment costs for aquatic invasive species (AIS) in the Cullen Lakes. **Please rank 1-3, with 1 being your most preferred**, the following means of acquiring the necessary funds for future treatment of AIS.

1 – 114	2 – 11	3 – 3	Voluntary tax-deductible donations by CLA members and non members
1 – 6	2 – 50	3 – 39	Fundraiser
1 – 13	2 – 36	3 – 48	Dues increase dedicated to AIS

**If there is anything you would like to share with the CLA Board of Directors that this survey did not ask about, please feel free to include a separate page.**

Thanks for your service! We support CLA!—The Suttons/People renting out their cabins. No one follows any rules. Maybe need a tip line/Dredge the channel/ Can a notice be submitted to see who would be willing to fund and build loon nests? /Thank you for all your work/Thanks for all you do/Thanks for your great work! /Thanks so much – Ruth Brombach/Continue to do what you are doing – each of you is truly appreciated/Thank you for all you do (3)/Very disappointed in the promises made by the council to get the opening between MC & LC; either get it improved or get off the council/You are so thorough, just damn good!/

Thank you for completing this survey!

