

**Pickerel/Crane Lake P&R District
2020 Lake User Survey**

**Our Mission Statement: *Citizens dedicated to the preservation and rehabilitation of
Pickerel and Crane Lakes for present and future generations.***

Pickerel/Crane Lakes Property

The following questions pertain to your property or properties on or near Pickerel/Crane Lakes. Please read each question carefully and answer it as best you can. When answering the survey questions, please respond with yourself and the rest of your household (family who frequents the lake as often as you) in mind. Please complete only one survey per household and return it in the enclosed pre-addressed stamped envelope by May 31, 2020.

For each question, check the letter(s) that apply.

1. On which lake (Township) is your property located (or closest to)?

A. Pickerel Lake (Town of Nashville) B. Pickerel Lake (Town of Ainsworth) C. Crane Lake (Town of Nashville)

2. Please check the response that describes your affiliation with the Pickerel/Crane Lake District. If you own more than one property, please refer to the property you have owned the longest or the property you consider to be your primary residence.

<input type="checkbox"/> A. Shoreline home/cottage owner	<input type="checkbox"/> E. Nearby offshore resident (year-round)
<input type="checkbox"/> B. Shoreline vacant landowner	<input type="checkbox"/> F. Nearby offshore resident (seasonal)
<input type="checkbox"/> C. Shoreline year-round resident	<input type="checkbox"/> G. Area business owner
<input type="checkbox"/> D. Shoreline seasonal resident	

3. Approximately how many days each year is your property used by you or others?

<input type="checkbox"/> A. 0 to 50 days	<input type="checkbox"/> D. 151 to 200 days
<input type="checkbox"/> B. 51 to 100 days	<input type="checkbox"/> E. 201 to 365 days
<input type="checkbox"/> C. 101 to 150 days	

4. How many years have you owned property within the Lake District?

A. Less than 5 years B. 5 to 10 years C. 11 to 20 years D. 21 or more years

5. What type of septic system does your property utilize?

<input type="checkbox"/> A. Conventional System	<input type="checkbox"/> E. Outhouse
<input type="checkbox"/> B. Holding tank	<input type="checkbox"/> F. None (<i>If none, please go to Question #8</i>)
<input type="checkbox"/> C. Mound system	<input type="checkbox"/> G. Do not know
<input type="checkbox"/> D. Advanced treatment system	

6. How often is your septic system on your property pumped?

<input type="checkbox"/> A. Multiple times a year	<input type="checkbox"/> D. Every 5-10 years
<input type="checkbox"/> B. Once a year	<input type="checkbox"/> E. Do not know
<input type="checkbox"/> C. Every 2-4 years	

7. Are you currently receiving a “Yellow Form” (Septic Inspection Notice) from the county?

A. Yes B. No

Pickereel/Crane Lakes Recreational Activities

The following questions pertain to the recreational activities in which you participate on Pickereel/Crane Lakes. Please answer the following questions about the property that you checked in Question #2 above.

8. What types of watercraft do you, or others that use your property, currently use on Pickereel/Crane Lakes? Check all that apply.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A. Motor boat with greater than 25 hp motor | <input type="checkbox"/> F. Boat longer than 18 ft. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B. Pontoon | <input type="checkbox"/> G. Jet ski or personal watercraft |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C. Motor boat with 25 hp or less motor | <input type="checkbox"/> H. Sailboat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D. Paddleboat | <input type="checkbox"/> I. Do not use watercraft |
| <input type="checkbox"/> E. Non-motorized watercraft (canoe, kayak, rowboat) | |

9. Do you use your watercraft on waters other than Pickereel/Crane Lakes?

- A. Yes B. No (*If no, please go to Question #11*)

10. What is your typical cleaning routine before/after using your watercraft on waters other than Pickereel/Crane Lakes? Check all that apply.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A. Remove aquatic hitch-hikers (plants, clams, mussels) | <input type="checkbox"/> E. Apply bleach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B. Drain bilge | <input type="checkbox"/> F. Air dry boat for 5 or more days |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C. Rinse boat | <input type="checkbox"/> G. Do not clean boat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D. Power wash boat | <input type="checkbox"/> H. Other (please specify) _____ |

11. Please rank up to 5 activities that are important reasons for owning your property on or near Pickereel/Crane Lakes with 1 being the most important and 5 being the least important.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A. Fishing -- open water | <input type="checkbox"/> H. Water skiing/tubing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B. Ice fishing | <input type="checkbox"/> I. Sailing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C. Motor boating | <input type="checkbox"/> J. Canoeing/kayaking/stand-up paddleboard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D. Jet skiing | <input type="checkbox"/> K. Swimming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> E. Relaxing/entertaining | <input type="checkbox"/> L. Snowmobiling/ATV/UTV |
| <input type="checkbox"/> F. Nature viewing | <input type="checkbox"/> M. Other (please specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> G. Hunting | <input type="checkbox"/> N. None of the activities is important to me |

12. Have you personally fished on Pickereel Lake or Crane Lake in the past 3 years?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A. Yes – Pickereel Lake only | <input type="checkbox"/> C. Yes – Both Pickereel and Crane Lakes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B. Yes – Crane Lake only | <input type="checkbox"/> D. No, neither lake (<i>If no, please go to Question #18</i>) |

13. What species of fish do you like to catch on Pickereel/Crane Lakes? Check all that apply.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A. Bluegill/Sunfish | <input type="checkbox"/> D. Smallmouth Bass | <input type="checkbox"/> G. Walleye |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B. Crappie | <input type="checkbox"/> E. Largemouth Bass | <input type="checkbox"/> H. Other (please specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C. Yellow Perch | <input type="checkbox"/> F. Northern Pike | <input type="checkbox"/> I. All fish species |

14. How would you describe the current quality of fishing on Pickereel/Crane Lakes? Please use the numbers below to rate the lake. If you fish both lakes, please answer for both lakes.

1=Very Poor 2=Poor 3=Fair 4=Good 5=Excellent 6=Unsure

- A. Pickereel Lake B. Crane Lake

15. How has the quality of fishing changed since you started fishing Pickereel/Crane Lakes? Please use the numbers below to rate the lake. If you fish both lakes, please answer for both lakes.

1=Much Worse 2=Somewhat Worse 3=Remained the Same 4=Somewhat Better 5=Much Better 6=Unsure

- A. Pickereel Lake B. Crane Lake

16. How would you say the game fish (Walleye, Northern and Bass) population has changed in Pickerel/Crane Lakes over the past 3 years? Please put a number next to each fish species listed below for each lake that you fish.

1=Much Worse 2=Somewhat Worse 3=Remained the Same 4=Somewhat Better 5=Much Better 6=Unsure

Pickerel Lake: A. _____ Walleye B. _____ Northern Pike C. _____ Largemouth Bass

Crane Lake: D. _____ Walleye E. _____ Northern Pike F. _____ Largemouth Bass

17. How would you say the panfish (Bluegills, Perch and Crappie) population has changed in Pickerel/Crane Lakes over the past 3 years? Please put a number next to each fish species listed below for each lake that you fish.

1=Much Worse 2=Somewhat Worse 3=Remained the Same 4=Somewhat Better 5=Much Better 6=Unsure

Pickerel Lake: A. _____ Bluegill B. _____ Perch C. _____ Crappie

Crane Lake: D. _____ Bluegill E. _____ Perch F. _____ Crappie

18. Currently there is a "NO WAKE RULE" on Crane Lake from 4:30 PM to 9:00 AM the following day. Would you be in favor of changing the "NO WAKE RULE" to apply from 6:30 PM to 9:00 AM the following day?

_____ A. Yes _____ B. No _____ C. Other (please specify) _____

Pickerel/Crane Lakes Current Conditions, Health and Management

The questions in this section are intended to gauge your perspective and knowledge of the current conditions on Pickerel and Crane Lakes. This includes our water quality, aquatic plant management, invasive species, and shoreline erosion and runoff. Please answer all of the questions to the best of your knowledge.

19. From the list below, please rank your top five concerns for Pickerel/Crane Lakes. Write 1 for your primary (most important) concern and 5 for your least important concern.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| _____ Water quality | _____ Aquatic Invasive Species | _____ Excessive aquatic plant growth (excluding algae) |
| _____ Quality of fish habitat | _____ Shoreline erosion | _____ Shoreline vegetation removal |
| _____ Human-caused noise | _____ Boat landings | _____ Boat traffic |
| _____ Algae growth | _____ Boating safety | _____ Lily pad encroachment |
| _____ Sediment buildup | _____ Fisheries | _____ Septic tank inspection compliance |
| _____ Too much mechanical weed harvesting | _____ Not enough mechanical weed harvesting | |
| _____ Other (please specify) _____ | | |

Water Quality

Volunteers, DNR staff, county staff and others collect water clarity, temperature and dissolved oxygen, as well as other water quality data, on lakes across Wisconsin. Water clarity is measured with a black and white disk called a "Secchi Disk."

20. How would you describe the current water quality of Pickerel/Crane Lakes during the period from May-October? Please use the numbers below to rate each lake.

1=Very Poor 2=Poor 3=Fair 4=Good 5=Excellent 6=Unsure

_____ A. Pickerel Lake _____ B. Crane Lake

21. Based on your answer to Question #20, which of the following answers is the single most important aspect when you consider water quality? Please check only one choice.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| _____ A. Water clarity | _____ E. Water color |
| _____ B. Smell | _____ F. Fish kills |
| _____ C. Aquatic plant growth (not including algae blooms) | _____ G. Algae blooms |
| _____ D. Water level | _____ H. Other (please specify) _____ |

22. How has the water quality changed in Pickerel/Crane Lakes since you've owned your property? Please use the numbers below to rate each lake.

1=Severely Degraded 2=Somewhat Degraded 3=Remained the Same 4=Somewhat Improved 5=Greatly Improved 6=Unsure

_____ A. Pickerel Lake _____ B. Crane Lake

23. Based on your answer to Question #22, which of the following issues below are responsible for water quality improvement/or degraded condition? Please check all that apply.

Improved Condition:

- _____ A. Septic compliance among property owners
- _____ B. Increased weed growth
- _____ C. Shoreline improvement by property owners
- _____ D. Fluctuating water levels
- _____ E. Owner's knowledge of phosphorus/nitrogen loads
- _____ F. Mechanical weed harvesting
- _____ G. Other (please specify) _____

Degraded Condition:

- _____ A. Septic non-compliance among property owners
- _____ B. Increased weed growth
- _____ C. Shoreline improvement by property owners
- _____ D. Fluctuating water levels
- _____ E. Owner's lack of knowledge of phosphorus/nitrogen loads
- _____ F. Mechanical weed harvesting
- _____ G. Other (please specify) _____

Aquatic Plant Management

Aquatic plants are as central to our lakes and rivers as the trees are to the forest. Loss or major changes in the makeup of aquatic plant communities can cause an unmendable tear in the fabric of a water body's aquatic ecology.

24. During the years you've been familiar with Pickerel and Crane Lakes, what changes, if any, have you seen in the aquatic plants (including algae growth)? Please use the numbers below to rate all the changes that apply for each lake.

1=No dramatic changes 2=More aquatic plants than in the past 3=Fewer aquatic plants 4=More algae blooms than the past 5=Fewer algae blooms than in the past

_____ A. Pickerel Lake Other (describe) _____
_____ B. Crane Lake Other (describe) _____

25. In the summer months (Memorial Day through Labor Day), how often does aquatic plant growth (including algae) negatively affect your use of Pickerel/Crane Lakes? Please use the numbers below to rate each lake.

1=Always 2=Most of the time 3=Sometimes 4=Rarely 5=Never

_____ A. Pickerel Lake Explain: _____
_____ B. Crane Lake Explain: _____

26. Do you believe that aquatic plant management (including algae) is needed on Pickerel/Crane Lakes? (Yes or No)

Pickerel Lake: _____ A. Yes _____ B. No Explain: _____
Crane Lake: _____ C. Yes _____ D. No Explain: _____

Aquatic Invasive Species

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are non-native plants and animals that are introduced into our lakes and streams and can potentially upset the natural balance of a lake ecosystem while decreasing recreational opportunities. Examples of AIS are listed in Question #27 below.

27. What aquatic invasive species (AIS) are you aware of in Pickerel and/or Crane Lakes? Please check all that apply.

A. Pickerel Lake:

- _____ Zebra mussels _____ Curly-leaf pondweed _____ Rusty crayfish _____ Spiny water fleas
- _____ Eurasian water milfoil _____ Purple loosestrife _____ Round goby _____ Unsure, but presume AIS is present
- _____ Do not know if AIS is present

B. Crane Lake:

- _____ Zebra mussels _____ Curly-leaf pondweed _____ Rusty crayfish _____ Spiny water fleas
- _____ Eurasian water milfoil _____ Purple loosestrife _____ Round goby _____ Unsure, but presume AIS is present
- _____ Do not know if AIS is present

28. Considering your answer to Question #27, do you believe aquatic invasive species control is needed on Pickerel Lake and/or Crane Lake?

Pickerel Lake: A. Yes B. No C. Unsure
Crane Lake: D. Yes E. No F. Unsure

29. Education is a fundamental component of Aquatic Plant Management (APM) planning projects. Please use the following scale to rate your understanding of the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) topics listed below. (For example, if you have no knowledge about methods of AIS transport, place a 4 next to that choice.)

1=Very good knowledge of subject 2=Good knowledge of subject 3=Limited knowledge of subject 4=No knowledge of subject

AIS present in our Lakes Effects of AIS on recreation Methods of AIS transport Methods of AIS control
 Methods of AIS prevention Long-term results of AIS control Effects of AIS on Ecosystem
 Your ability to identify AIS

30. What is your level of support for responsible Aquatic Invasive Species control techniques on Pickerel Lake and Crane Lake? Please rate all that apply as follows: 1=Not Supportive 2=Moderately Supportive 3=Highly Supportive 4=Unsure

A. Pickerel Lake:

Mechanical harvesting Biological control Manual removal by property owners Dredging
 Herbicide (chemical) control Hand-removal by divers Integrated control by many methods
 Water level drawdown Do nothing (do not manage plants)
 Need more information (which methods above?) _____

B. Crane Lake:

Mechanical harvesting Biological control Manual removal by property owners Dredging
 Herbicide (chemical) control Hand-removal by divers Integrated control by many methods
 Water level drawdown Do nothing (do not manage plants)
 Need more information (which methods above?) _____

31. What is your level of support or opposition for future aquatic herbicide use to target Eurasian water milfoil on Pickerel Lake and/or Crane Lake? Please use the numbers below to rate each lake.

1=Completely support 2=Moderately support 3=Unsure 4=Moderately oppose 5=Completely oppose 6=Need more info.

A. Pickerel Lake B. Crane Lake

32. If you selected "Moderately oppose" or "Completely oppose" in Question #31, what is the reason or reasons you oppose the future use of aquatic herbicides to target Eurasian water milfoil? Please check all that apply.

A. Potential cost of treatment might be too high
 B. Potential impacts to native aquatic plant species
 C. Potential impacts to native (non-plant) species such as fish, insects, etc.
 D. Potential impacts to human health
 E. Future impacts are unknown
 F. Ineffectiveness of herbicide strategy
 G. Another reason (describe) _____

Shoreline Erosion, Run-off and Restoration

Lake shorelines can become degraded due to erosion, and can be worsened when a natural shoreline undergoes development, thereby causing increased runoff. Shoreline restoration involves returning a shoreline to its former healthy condition by reintroducing native plants and natural landscaping.

33. Please place an "X" to describe your level of understanding of each of the following lake management issues:

	NO UNDERSTANDING	FAIR UNDERSTANDING	GOOD UNDERSTANDING
Human impact on shorelines			
Shoreline preservation			
Shoreline restoration			
Use of lawn fertilizers			
Degradation of native lake plants			
Septic system discharge			
Creating a Shoreline Buffer			
Boater Rules and Regulations			

34. What factors below do you believe may be impacting shoreline erosion and/or run-off on Pickerel and/or Crane Lakes?

Please check all that apply.

A. Pickerel Lake:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Septic system compliance | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of shoreline buffers (rock, native plants) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Continued use of lawn fertilizers containing phosphorus | <input type="checkbox"/> Shoreline vegetation removal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> More structural developments | <input type="checkbox"/> Increased water level |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Boater rules and regulations |

B. Crane Lake:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Septic system compliance | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of shoreline buffers (rock, native plants) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Continued use of lawn fertilizers containing phosphorus | <input type="checkbox"/> Shoreline vegetation removal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> More structural developments | <input type="checkbox"/> Increased water level |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Boater rules and regulations |

35. Shoreline restoration involves returning a shoreline to its former healthy condition by reintroducing native plants and natural landscaping. Have you completed a shoreline restoration project on your Pickerel/Crane Lakes property?

- Pickerel Lake: A. Yes B. No C. Does not apply to me (non-waterfront property owner)
- Crane Lake: D. Yes E. No F. Does not apply to me (non-waterfront property owner)
- (If no or does not apply, please go to Question #37)*

36. If you checked "Yes" in Question #35, did you utilize grant money from the county for the shoreline restoration project?

- A. Yes B. No

Pickerel/Crane Lakes Future Considerations

The following topics are issues the Board and the Lake Management Committee currently estimate may need to be addressed in the next 3-5 years. In some cases, these issues may require funding from the Town of Nashville, the Town of Ainsworth, the Lake District, or through increases in property taxes. Please keep this in mind when you respond to the following questions.

Public Boat Landings

Public boat landings are currently located on the north side of Pickerel lake (off Pickerel Lake Road) and on the south side of Pickerel Lake (off South Shore Drive) and on Crane Lake (off Doemel Lane).

37. How often do you use the public boat landings on Pickerel/Crane Lakes? Please answer for each location below.

Pickerel Lake-North

- A. Don't use
- B. 0-5 times a year
- C. 6-10 times a year
- D. More than 10 times a year

Pickerel Lake-South

- E. Don't use
- F. 0-5 times a year
- G. 6-10 times a year
- H. More than 10 times a year

Crane Lake

- I. Don't use
- J. 0-5 times a year
- K. 6-10 times a year
- L. More than 10 times a year

38. Would you like to see additional boat landing improvements?

- A. Yes
- B. No *(If no, please go to Question #41)*

39. If you checked "Yes" in Question #38, in your opinion which boat landing is most in need of improvement? Please check only one choice.

- A. Pickerel-North (off Pickerel Lake Road)
- B. Pickerel-South (off South Shore Drive)
- C. Crane (off Doemel Lane)

40. If you checked "Yes" in Question #38, what improvements would you like to see? Please check all that apply.

- A. Maintain/replace existing gravel (annually) in launch area on lake bed
- B. Add concrete in launch area on lake bed
- C. Add asphalt to entrance and parking surface
- D. Upgrade docks
- E. Add trash receptacles
- F. Add bathrooms/porta-potties
- G. Other improvements (please specify) _____

Pickerel Lake Road Culvert

Under Pickerel Lake Road is a culvert connecting Pickerel and Crane Lakes. It is a 10-foot diameter, round corrugated metal pipe with a closed bottom, which allows fishing boats and some deck boats to pass through. Due to the length of the culvert, the road narrows down to a single lane, which does not allow for two-way traffic or a pedestrian walkway.

41. Are you satisfied with the current culvert and road condition separating Pickerel and Crane Lakes?

- A. Yes
- B. No

42. Would you be in favor of the Town of Nashville Board exploring the possibilities of improving the current conditions of the culvert and/or the road, but only if this activity does not affect the ecology of Crane and Pickerel Lakes?

- A. Yes
- B. No

Wild Rice and Excessive Lily Pads

A wild rice test plot (approximately 3 to 4 acres) was planted on the west shore of Pickerel Lake during the fall of 2019. Wild rice is a native plant, which would replace an existing lily pad bed while attracting a variety of birds and fish.

43. How concerned, if at all, are you about lily pad growth on Pickerel/Crane Lakes? Please use the following numbers to rate each lake. 1=Not at all concerned 2=Not too concerned 3=Unsure 4=Somewhat concerned 5=Very concerned

- A. Pickerel Lake
- B. Crane Lake

44. If the WDNR deems the wild rice test plot successful, are you in favor of expanding the planting of wild rice to help contain lily pad expansion?

- A. Definitely No
- B. Probably No
- C. Unsure
- D. Probably Yes
- E. Definitely Yes

45. If you checked "Yes" to Question #44, where would you like to add another rice bed (subject to WDNR approval)?

- Pickerel Lake: A. Yes B. No
- Crane Lake: C. Yes D. No
- Channel between the Lakes: E. Yes F. No

Pickereel/Crane Lakes District Questions

The Pickereel/Crane Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District has chosen White Water Associates, Inc. to study Pickereel and Crane Lakes and to update our Lake Management Plan (LMP). In this multi-year project, professional scientists, resource managers and lake volunteers will actively investigate the lakes and surrounding watershed. Completing this survey will help guide the development and implementation of the updated Lake Management Plan.

46. Before receiving this mailing, had you ever heard of the Pickereel/Crane Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District?

A. Yes B. No

47. Have you ever visited the Lake District website at pickereelcranelakedistrict.org?

A. Yes B. No

48. Are you currently receiving our spring and fall newsletters? If you'd like to receive the newsletters, please fill in your contact information below. Note that by providing your contact information your responses are no longer anonymous.

A. Yes B. No

49. Please check all the activities in which you would be willing to participate. Volunteers are needed in all areas and because this survey is anonymous your response to this question is not a commitment to participate but instead will be used to gauge potential volunteer participation.

- A. Harvester operator/weed truck driver
- B. Aquatic plant monitoring
- C. Water quality monitoring
- D. Helping with winter aeration project
- E. Watercraft inspections at boat landings
- F. Bulk mailing assembly
- G. Public boat landing dock installation and removal
- H. P/C Lake District Board Member
- I. Writing newsletter articles
- J. Helping with Lake District website
- K. Educating others on lake management
- L. Hand-pulling aquatic invasive species (plants)
- M. Other (please specify) _____
- N. I do not wish to volunteer

50. Please list any additional suggestions that you would like to see incorporated into the Lake Management Plan.

If your contact information is different from the address where we mailed this survey, please complete the information below. Note that by providing your contact information your responses are no longer anonymous.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Thank you for taking time to complete this survey. Please return the completed survey in the enclosed pre-addressed and stamped envelope by May 31, 2020.

**PICKEREL/CRANE LAKE P&R DISTRICT
PO BOX 18
PICKEREL, WI 54465**