



Become a Member in 2020. The Sand Lake Association, Inc. is a 501c3 charitable organization. You can deduct your \$20 (or any greater amount) donation from your 2020 taxes. You can bring your donation to Al Lechleitner's house (next to the boat landing), or go to: <http://www.sandlakewi.com/>, or mail it to: Al Lechleitner, 5560 Wild Rose Lane, Eau Claire, WI 54701. Make checks payable to Sand Lake Association, Inc.

Sand Lake Association Inc.'s Mission Statement: To keep Sand Lake and its surrounding areas clean, invasive species free and safe for all residents and visitors.

News from the Sand Lake Water Quality Committee

For the fourth consecutive year, Sand Lake Association, Inc. has been awarded a Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) grant from the DNR for summer 2020. Unfortunately, due to COVID 19, we were unable to start inspections until the end of June. The board and the water quality committee decided that it would be more prudent to take the DNR's offer of rolling over the grant into 2021. Volunteer inspectors may be spending some time at the boat landing during busy weekends, but the program will not begin again in earnest until next summer.

Boating Safety on Sand Lake

An issue that has been mentioned over the last couple of years and is especially crucial this year as we see increased traffic on our beautiful lake, is boater safety. Regulations set by the DNR are laws and carry penalties if not followed. In addition, they help us keep our lake a safe retreat for us and for our loons.

At the Memorial Day/Spring Meeting virtual meeting, it was decided to create a brochure that highlights safety issues as they apply to Sand Lake. Taking the information from the WI DNR's 16 page brochure (<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/boat/>), the committee of Katie McCarthy, Judy Holmquist and Margarete Cook created the trifold brochure that you may either have been given or will find tucked into your cabin door. Please take a look at it and offer it to any visitors using our lake. If you need more copies, please let a committee member know or download a copy from our website (www.sandlakewi.com/information). The following are the highlights that are most pertinent to a safe summer on Sand Lake:

Vessels

-it is illegal to operate a vessel within **100 feet** of the shoreline, any dock, raft, pier, or swimmer at a greater than "**slow, no wake speed**"

-it is illegal to operate a vessel in a **circuitous manner** within 200 feet of another vessel or person in the water-it is required that navigation lights be displayed between **sunset and sunrise** and during periods of restricted visibility

-it is illegal to **chase, harass, or disturb wildlife**

Personal Watercrafts (PWC)

-PWCs cannot be operated between **sunset and sunrise**

-a PWC cannot be faster than a "slow, no wake" speed within:

- 100 feet** of any other vessel, dock, pier, or raft
- 200 feet** of the shore

-PWCs cannot be operated within **100 feet** of a vessel towing or person being towed

Age Restrictions

-a person **older than 12** may operate a motorboat or a PWC if they have completed the boaters safety course

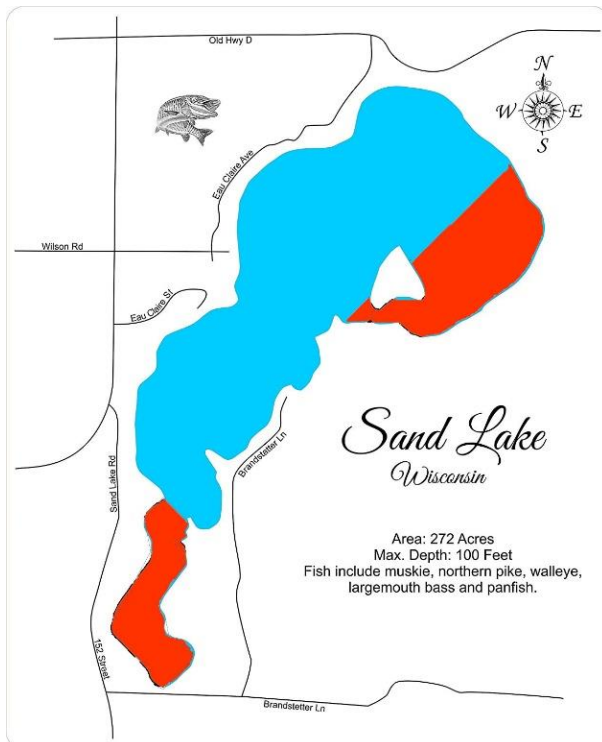
Towing (includes skiers, tubers, wakeboarders...)

-it is illegal to bring a vessel that is towing someone within **100 feet** of any anchored boat, PWC, or public boat landing

-it is illegal to tow from **dusk to dawn**

-it is illegal to **weave** your towing vessel through congested waterway traffic

-when a vessel is towing, you must have an **observer** or a wide-angled rearview mirror



Due to nesting loons and unmarked shallow rocky areas, The Sand Lake Association requests boaters have a **MINIMAL WAKE at the north and south ends (areas with red shading).**

What Else Can Help to Keep Sand Lake Clean?

We have talked about this in other newsletters, but we believe it deserves to be emphasized again. A good thing for our lake that we can all do, is analyze the **buffer zone** that we have at our lake frontage.

A **buffer zone** is a strip of native vegetation along lake property frontage. The buffer zone should extend 3-5 feet from the lake edge, cover at least 75% of the frontage and be about waist high. The benefits of the buffer zone are multiple.

Buffer zones solve many problems for homeowners

- *Emergent vegetation, like bulrushes and cattails, reduce shoreline erosion caused by wind and boat traffic.*
- *The natural vegetation serves as a filter strip that helps prevent lawn fertilizer and pesticide runoff from reaching the lake.*
- *Aquatic vegetation helps purify lake water by removing contaminants and by calming water, which allows suspended soil particles to settle to the lake bottom.*
- *Buffer zones reduce the amount of fertilizer and herbicide needed on a lakeshore property because the resulting lawn is smaller, and native plants in the buffer zone do not need fertilizer or herbicides.*
- *Buffer zones reduce the acreage of lawn and the amount of time needed for mowing and lawn maintenance.*

Unmowed wildflowers, grasses, and sedges along the shore create a biological barrier that will deter Canada geese from loitering on the lawn. https://littlerocklake.org/native_buffer_program



*Buffers should include a mix of **beneficial vegetation species** including native aquatic grasses, upland plants, buttonbush, sedges, rushes and other flowering species. Popular beneficial plants include pickerelweed, blue flag iris, cardinal flower, lizard's tail and swamp milkweed.*

<https://www.solitudelakemanagement.com/benefits-of-native-plant-buffers-lake-and-pond-management>.

There are many resources available online for more information on how to create buffer zones on your property. In addition to those already cited, you can find information at:

- ✓ <http://www.ruskcounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Buffer-Planting-Guide.pdf>
- ✓ <https://freshwater.org/wp-content/uploads/joomla/PDFs/publications/lakes-guidetoprotection-2.pdf>
- ✓ <https://minnesotawaters.org/lakevolney/how-you-can-help/>

Preserving the water quality of our lake can be done in many ways. Here are suggestions to help prevent sedimentation and contamination of our lake:

1. Reduce areas of impervious surfaces, especially close to the lake.
2. Avoid disturbing the soil near the shoreline.
3. Avoid use of lawn fertilizer in areas where run off may carry it into the lake.
4. Keep grass clippings, leaves and compost piles away from the lake. *

*Grass clippings and leaves contain nitrogen and phosphorus. When picked up by storm water runoff, they can be carried directly to our lake. There, they promote unsightly algae blooms/scum. Too much algae is harmful, blocking sunlight and preventing plant growth. When the algae dies and decays, it also takes much needed oxygen away from fish.

Additional information to help keep our lake clean can be found at: <https://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/>.