

Report to White Lake Town Board

September 2026

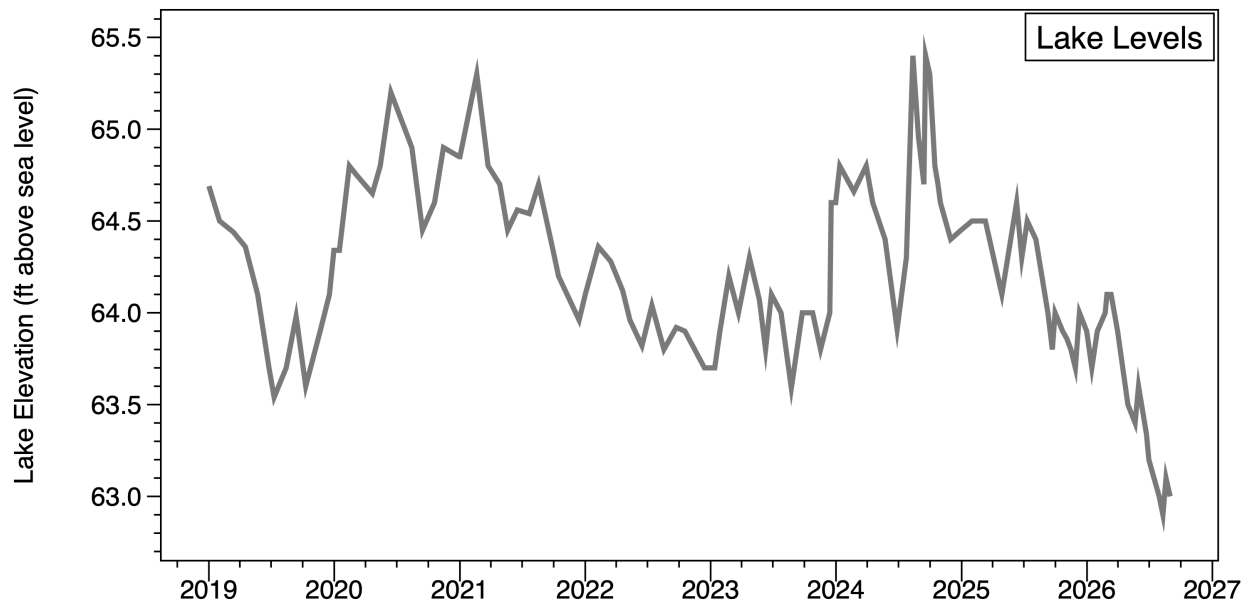
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The White Lake Watch web site is an up-to-date resource for those with questions about the lake, and photos combined with information about lake level changes and rainfall amounts are being posted. The lake level dropped below 63 feet elevation (NAVD 88) briefly in August, but the nearly 6" of rainfall for the month helped it recover slightly. July and August rainfall amounts have been close to the long-term averages for the region, but it is only when there are big rains that the lake level can recover more substantially.

Monthly Rainfall (inches) for White Lake 2012-2026

Month	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2013	2012	Monthly Average for Region
January	2.4	2.5	2.75	4.3	5.75	8.25	4.5	2.75	4.20	7.0	3.0	2.5	1.75	2.75	3.81
February	2.8*	2.6	2.5	3.6	1.0	9.2	6.7	2.25	2.00	1.5	10.7	5.5	2.5	4.0	3.44
March	1.4	2.6	5.0	2.5	2.45	2.7	3.7	3.25	3.95	3.7	1.55	4.15	1.0	7.0	3.91
April	1.1	1.4	1.75	8.5	3.75	1.75	5.1	7.25	6.75	6.75	6.75	4.55	1.75	2.25	3.12
May	5.1	7.5	2.3	1.5	2.2	3.0	12.25	1.20	7.70	2.7	4.5	4.20	2.25	9.25	3.67
June	2.2	6.15	1.5	6.3	6.2	7.9	7.15	5.25	10.00	4.5	3.65	8.70	17.0	2.0	4.70
July	5.25	7.15	9.5	3.8	10.5	7.5	6.85	6.00	4.75	6.75	3.75	3.0	11.25	8.6	5.75
August	5.9	3.8	21.6	7.5	5.5	6.5	7.55	5.35	6.25	5.6	4.12	9.4	8.25	9.75	5.95
September		2.7	15.4	3.05	6.5	3.2	5.95	5.00	29.45	5.2	15.0	4.7	1.0	5.0	5.29
October		1.9	0.0	1.75	0.6	0.6	3.35	3.60	2.25	2.95	14.25	9.75	1.75	2.25	3.38
November		0.7	1.0	3.25	1.55	0.4	7.5	4.90	4.25	1.0	0.50	7.25	0	2.25	3.16
December		3.8	2.3	8.5	1.2	3.4	4.25	6.00	7.5	5.45	5.1	6.5	5.75	4.25	3.14
Total		42.8	65.6	54.55	47.2	54.4	74.85	52.80	89.05	53.1	72.87	70.20	54.25	59.35	49.32
% of Lake Volume		56	85.9	71.4	61.8	71	97	69	116	69	95	91	70	77	64

*6-8" Snow on
1/31-2/1, equivalent
to about 0.5 " rain



The lake level is still 13.2 inches below the “high” seen in February and March, and the deepest portions of the lake are around 6 feet. As a result, a lot of mud can be stirred up, even by

smaller boats. Recall that the lake bottom is sandy around the perimeter of the lake but muddy in the middle region (which constitutes about 50% of the total lake bottom).



Bulkheads around the shoreline was one of the topics of conversation on Facebook recently. According to an assessment done in 2019, almost half of the lakeshore is hardened with some structures serving to prevent erosion at the natural shoreline and some which have encroached into the lake (which can make it difficult to restore the natural shoreline slope). It looks like some residents have retained the information I have provided in the past about how these structures can impact nearshore clarity (Kelly Barefoot, for one), so I don't know that it is a matter of providing more information but deciding whether to address this situation in a systematic and organized way. There are erosion problems due to wave action from boats and wind, and there are options, but they need to be planned and strategically executed. What could/should be included is changing boating behaviors that are creating harmful wave action. But this needs to be done in a thoughtful and level-headed way.

I was asked for information on lake testing and want to stress once again that what I do is being reported to the entire board and made available on the White Lake Watch web site. All of the testing and special projects are on the site, including the original report by the geohydrologist Curtis Consolvo, as part of the Lumber River COG strategic planning project. I don't see how

anything can be accomplished—and there are good things that the town is directly responsible for and can accomplish—without a **collaborative framework and clear understanding among stakeholders**. I don't see the **focus** needed to **prioritize and implement**, and I have been saying that for quite a while. It **is** possible, though.

In addition, I am going to continue to stress that there are changing weather patterns which will affect the lake (and already are). The Super El Niño underway now will result in more heat (which affects lake temperatures and evaporation rates) with reductions in precipitation amounts likely to continue. It would seem even more reason to systematically address the topic of boating in a shallow lake where lake level fluctuations are a concern.