

Survey of Residents in the Portage Lake Watershed

Hello, my name is _____, and I'm calling on behalf of the Portage Lake Watershed Forever Committee. We're conducting a survey of residents in the Portage Lake Watershed to learn about activities and any problems that may be affecting the watershed.

Your responses to the survey are important and will help local governments, concerned citizens, and other interested parties address the most urgent priorities.

[IF RESPONDENT ASKS: The Portage Lake Watershed Forever Committee is a group of local residents, business owners, organizations, public officials, agencies, and other stakeholder who are guiding the development of the Portage Lake Watershed Forever Plan. Anyone who has an interest in the watershed is welcome to join the committee.]

ACTIVITIES

- Do you own property on Portage Lake or on a river or stream flowing into Portage Lake?

Yes
No
Renter/Doesn't own property [DISCONTINUE INTERVIEW]
Don't know
Refused

- Is this property used **solely** for business purposes?

Yes [END INTERVIEW AND THANK RESPONDENT]
No [GOTO Q3]
Don't know
Refused

- Season permitting, how often you or anyone else in your household participate in the following activities in *Portage Lake*? [CODE REFUSED=99; DON'T KNOW=88]

	Never	Daily	2 or 3 times per week	About once per week	About once per month	2 or 3 times per year	Don't know	Refused
Canoeing/kayaking/ tubing on the river								
Waterfowl hunting								
Fishing [ALSO ASK RESPONDENT Q4 and Q5]								
Winter snowmobiling or ATV Riding								
Swimming, snorkeling or scuba diving								
Water skiing, tubing, or knee boarding								
Boating [ASK Q6, Q7, Q8]								

[ASK Q4–5 ONLY IF ANSWER TO ITEM ‘C’ ABOVE IS ANYTHING BUT “NEVER”.]

4. How would you rate the fishing in Portage Lake?

Excellent
Good
Fair
Poor
Don't know
Refused

5. Over the past few years, would you say that the fishing has gotten better or worse, or stayed about the same? [IF BETTER/WORSE: Would that be much or somewhat (better/worse)?]

Much better
Somewhat better
About the same
Somewhat worse
Much worse
Don't know
Refused

[ASK Q6–8 ONLY IF ANSWER TO ITEM ‘G’ ABOVE IS ANYTHING BUT “NEVER”.]

6. Which of the following describes how you boat? [MAY RESPOND TO MORE THAN ONE]

Sailboat 20 feet or smaller
Sailboat over 20 feet
Motor boat 20 feet or smaller
Motor boat over 20 feet
Canoe/kayak/paddle boat
Jet ski/personal watercraft
Other: (specify)
Don't know
Refused

7. How do you typically access Portage Lake? [CHECK ALL THAT APPLY]

DNR state public access site
Dock, mooring or launching from your own property
Road end or dedicated easement
Village Park boating access site
Don't know
Refused

8. Overall, how would rate the ease of access to Portage Lake?

Excellent
Good
Fair
Poor
Don't know
Refused

9. Have you personally observed any conflicts between various users of Portage Lake, like personal water craft use interfering with those fishing on the lake, or motorized boating activity limiting use of non-motorized canoes or kayaks?

Yes [GO TO Q10-12]
No [SKIP TO Q13]
Don't know
Refused

10. Can you briefly describe what type of conflicts between users of Portage Lake that you have personally observed? [RECORD FREE RESPONSE]

11. When do these conflicts occur? Do they occur during peak times of usage, such as summer and holiday weekends, at non-peak times or both?

Peak use times
Non-peak times
Both peak and non-peak times

12. How often do these conflicts occur? Are they...

Very frequent
Somewhat frequent
Not very frequent
Rarely occur

WATER QUALITY

13. How would you rate the overall water quality of Portage Lake?

Excellent
Good
Fair
Poor
Don't know
Refused

14. Compared to other inland lakes with which you are familiar, do you believe that water quality of Portage Lake is:

Significantly better
Somewhat better
About the same
Somewhat worse
Significantly worse
Don't know
Refused

15. Over the past few years, do you feel that the water quality of Portage Lake has gotten better, stayed the same, or gotten worse? [IF BETTER/WORSE: Would that be much or somewhat (better/worse)?]

Much better
Somewhat better
About the same
Somewhat worse
Much worse
Don't know
Refused

16. I am now going to read you a list of potential issues for the water quality and recreational opportunities on of Portage Lake. Based on your knowledge and use of Portage Lake, please indicate how much of a problem you feel each is for water quality and recreational opportunities of Portage Lake—Would you say it is a major problem, somewhat of a problem, or is not a problem at all?

	Major problem	Somewhat of a problem	Not a problem at all	Don't know	Refused
Pollution from failing or poorly maintained septic systems, polluted storm water runoff (e.g. fertilizers, pesticides, oil, grease, sediments), or other pollution sources					
Lack of understanding by lake users and residents of how their actions can affect water quality of the lake					
Development along the shoreline					
The spread of invasive, exotic species (zebra mussels, Eurasian milfoil, purple loosestrife, etc)					
Excessive weeds that limit lake uses during summer months					
Conflicts among lake users					
Over use by people who do not live on Portage Lake					
Decreased future use of lake due to restricted public access					
Decreased quality of fishery due to reduction in annual plantings of walleye, trout and salmon					

	Major problem	Somewhat of a problem	Not a problem at all	Don't know	Refused
Lack of effective regulations to protect Portage Lake					
Some other threat [RECORD FREE RESPONSE]					

17. I am now going to read a list of sites and resources in the Portage Lake area. Please tell me, using a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 means “not at all a priority” and 5 means “the highest priority” how much of a priority you feel should be given to protecting each of the following sites and resources?

Unique lands identified or owned by local land conservancies					
Centennial farms, orchards, and other unique agricultural lands					
Lake Michigan sand dune areas and beach areas					
Scenic vistas					
Historic structures such as the Gazebo at Portage Point Beach, and Portage Point Inn					
Native American cultural sites					
Natural features that help maintain water quality, such as wetlands and natural vegetation along lakes and streams that help filter pollution and prevent erosion					
Other [RECORD FREE RESPONSE]					
Don't know					
Refused					

WATER IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS AND INFORMATION

18. From the following list of actions suggested by area residents to improve and protect the water quality of Portage Lake, please indicated whether you strongly support, support, somewhat support, oppose, or strongly oppose:

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	No opinion one way or the other	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know	Refused
Getting more students involved in watershed activities							
More effective planning for future growth by local officials							
Improving roads to reduce erosion and sedimentation							
Addressing unplugged and abandoned oil, gas and mineral wells to prevent groundwater pollution							

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	No opinion one way or the other	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know	Refused
Expanding use of storm water detention basins, rain gardens and other methods to reduce surface runoff pollution							
Protecting and expanding the natural vegetative strips along shoreline areas of rivers and streams							

19. I am now going to read a list of possible sources of information about the quality of the water in Portage Lake. Please **indicate** how much of your information *about Portage Lake* comes from each of the sources that I name:

	Most	A lot	Some	None	Don't know	Refused
Local newspapers (<i>Manistee News Advocate, Traverse City Record Eagle, Ludington Daily News, etc.</i> , either hard copy or electronic versions)						
Local news on the television						
Local cable access television station						
Public meetings						
Newsletter delivered to your home						
Public service announcements on the radio						
Information bulletin boards at grocery stores, the post office, and other public buildings						
Internet sources such as e-mails, newsletters, listservs, blogs, etc.						

20. I will read a list of organizations, people, and groups. If you received information about the Portage Lake Watershed, its problems and proposed remedies from these individuals or organizations, please tell me if you would trust the information All of the time, Most of the time, some of the time, or none of the time?

	Trust				Don't know	Refused
	All of the time	Most of the time	Some of the time	None of the time		
Local township, village, or tribal officials						
Manistee County Health Department						
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality						
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency						

	Trust				Don't know	Refused
	All of the time	Most of the time	Some of the time	None of the time		
Your neighborhood/lake association						
Michigan Department of Natural Resources						
University Extension, professors and scientists						
Manistee Conservation District						
United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service						
Other [RECORD FREE RESPONSE]						

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR RESIDENCE

21. How long have you had a residence in Manistee County? [RECORD WHOLE NUMBER]

Don't know
Refused

22. Which of the following best describes the use of your property in Manistee County?

Year-round/Full-time resident
Own property in the area but do not live there
Seasonal resident [NOTE: ALSO ASK RESPONDENTS Q23 BELOW]
Don't know
Refused

[IF SEASONAL RESIDENT (ANSWER C ABOVE) ASK Q23]

23. How many days a year do you spend at your property in Manistee County?

10 days
10–30 days
31–90 days
More than 90 days
Don't know
Refused

24. How many people are in your household? _____ [RECORD WHOLE NUMBER]

Don't know
Refused

25. Do you maintain a grass lawn at your residence?

Yes
No
Don't know
Refused

26. Do you have a seawall or bulk head on the lake side of your residence?

Yes
No
Not applicable/Not on Lake
Don't know
Refused

27. Do you have a washing machine?

Yes
No
Don't know
Refused

28. Do you have a garbage disposal?

Yes
No
Don't know
Refused

29. Do you have a dishwasher?

Yes
No
Don't know
Refused

30. How many bathrooms does your residence have? [RECORD NUMBER]

Don't know
Refused

31. Is your residence served by a septic system?

Yes [GO TO Q32]
No [SKIP TO Q34]
Don't know
Refused

32. How old is your septic system? [RECORD YEARS]

Don't know
Refused

33. In the last five years, have you had your septic tank inspected and/or pumped out?

Yes
No
Don't know
Refused

INFORMATION ABOUT YOU

34. Gender? [RECORD BY OBSERVATION]

Male
Female
Don't know
Refused

35. In what year were you born? [RECORD AS YYYY; DON'T KNOW=8888; REFUSED=9999]

Don't know
Refused

36. Describe your level of education:

Some high school
High school graduate
Vocational/Technical school or associate's degree
Some college
College graduate
Postgraduate study or degree
Don't know
Refused