

Lake Oscawana Management Advisory Committee (LOMAC)

265 Oscawana Lake Road
Putnam Valley, NY 10579

Spring 2024 Survey Results

May, 2024

Overview

The Lake Oscawana Management Advisory Committee (LOMAC) recently conducted a survey to gather input and feedback from Lake Oscawana residents to identify issues that lake residents are concerned about so that LOMAC can prioritize its projects for 2024 and the near future. The survey was distributed via email and shared on social media, targeting residents of the lake community. To encourage candid feedback, responses were collected anonymously. Consequently, there was a possibility of some individuals responding who do not reside in the Lake Oscawana community and some individuals responding multiple times. To ensure the integrity of the data, we removed responses that appeared to be duplicates.

LOMAC received 233 responses to our 2024 survey of District residents. However, this is just a small fraction of the total number of residents in our District.

The primary goal of the survey was to provide residents with a convenient way to share their thoughts and concerns regarding the lake. However, we recognize that this approach may have excluded residents without email or internet access.

LOMAC posed various questions in the survey to prioritize issues that the committee should address. While many free-form responses extended beyond the scope of LOMAC's management, we believe it is crucial to share these insights with the town board, as they reflect the broader concerns of the Lake Oscawana community.

Key Findings

1. **Top Recreational Activities:** Swimming was overwhelmingly the most popular lake pastime. Canoeing and kayaking was a close second and power boating was third.
2. **Health of the Lake:** There is widespread concern about the health of the lake, including water quality and clarity, harmful algae blooms and invasive aquatic plants.
3. **Concerns on Boating:** There are concerns about the impact boats, particularly wake boats and jet skis, are having on the lake, including shoreline erosion, noise, non-powered watercraft, and general quality of the lake.
4. **Educational Program Opportunities:** Many residents expressed interest in learning how they can minimize runoff into the lake, as well as learning about lake critters and how to identify plants.
5. **Shoreline Protection:** Finally, three quarters of respondents expressed interest in learning how to protect the shoreline from waves and rising lake levels.

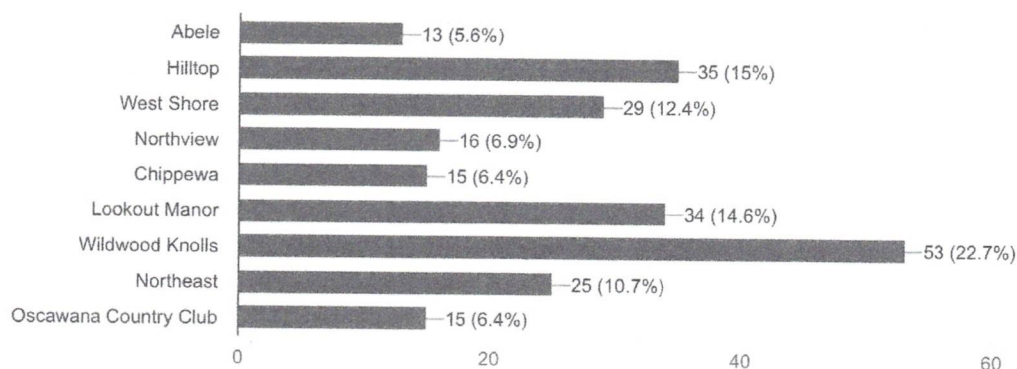
Over 50% of the responses came from residents in two neighborhoods, Wildwood Knolls and Hilltop.

Results

Below are results from the survey:

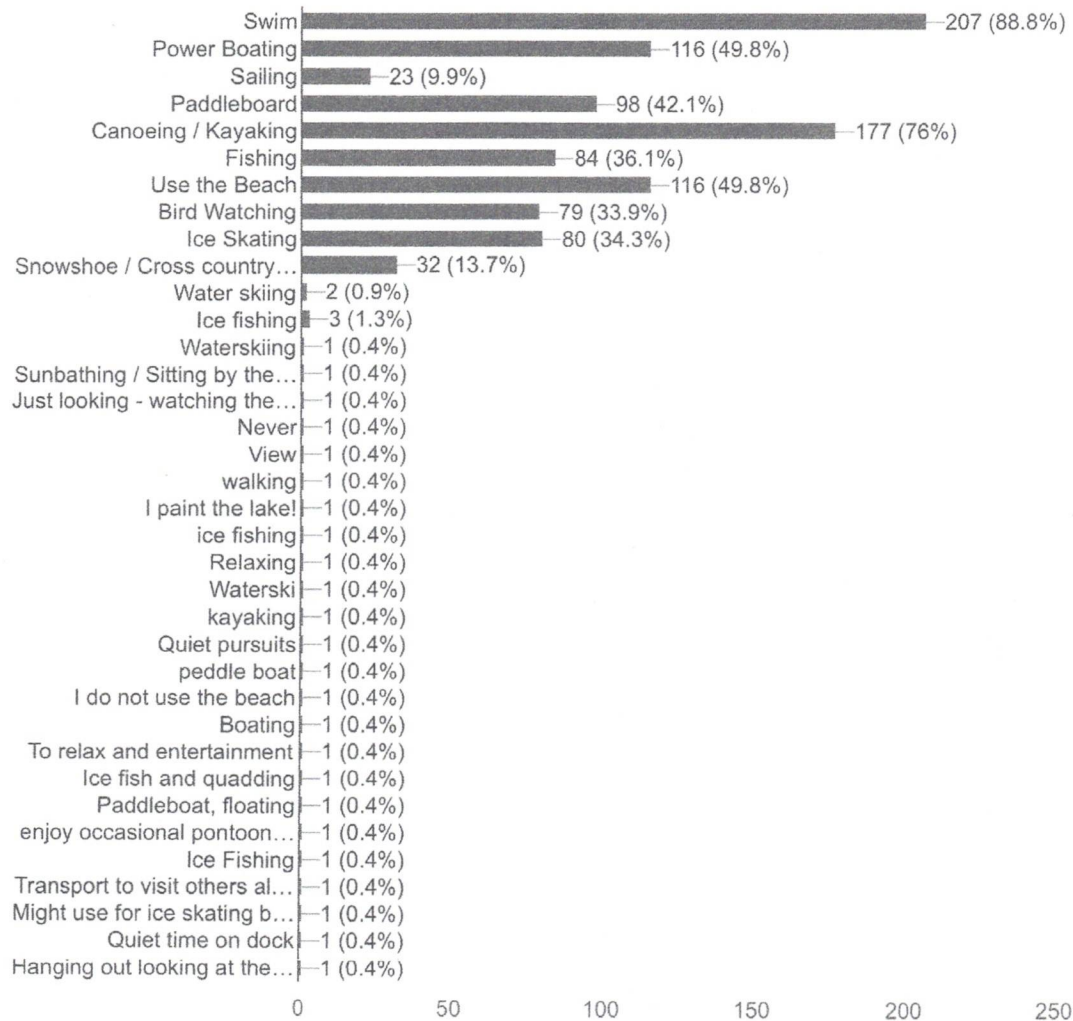
What part of Lake Oscawana do you live?

233 responses



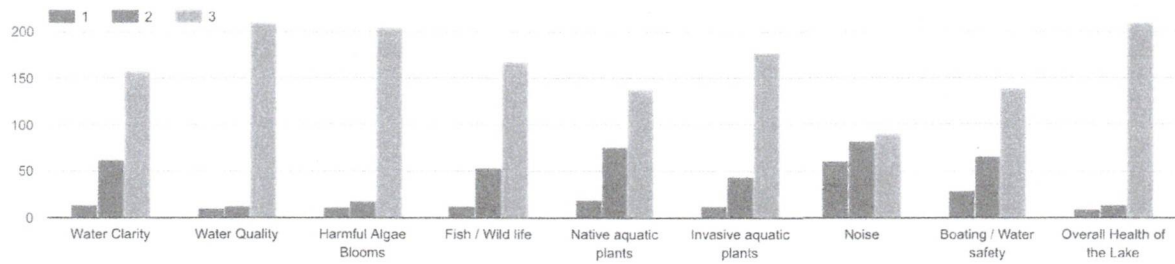
How do you use the lake? (Check all that apply)

233 responses



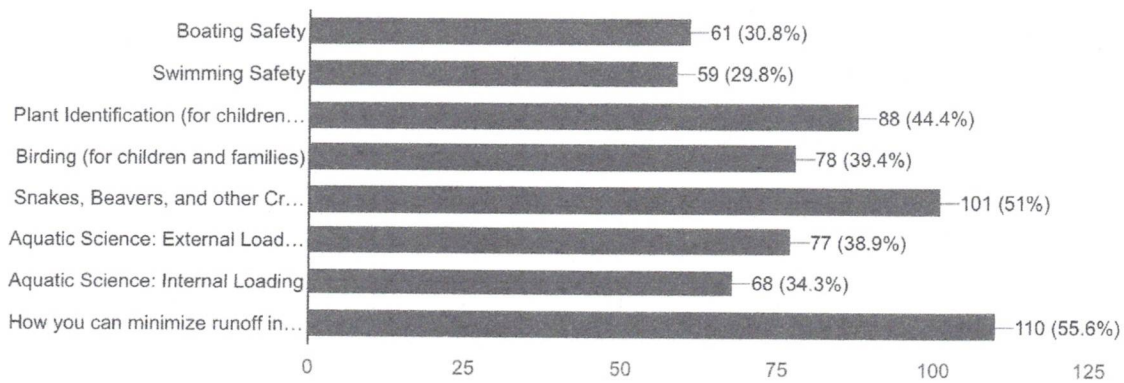
Please rank the importance of the areas of concern about Lake Oscawana

1: not important, 2: less important, 3: most important



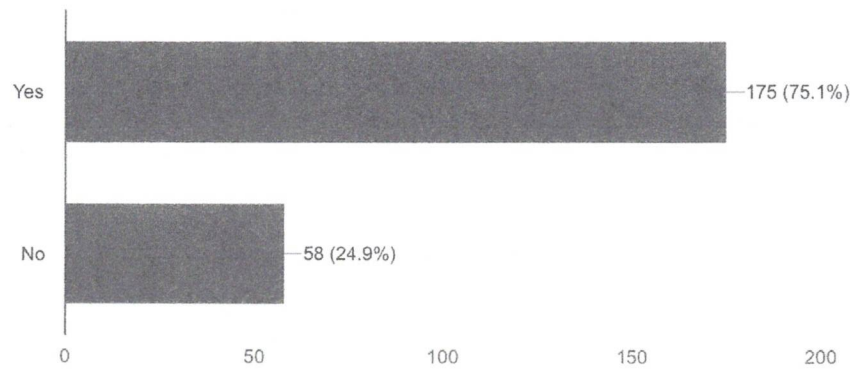
Which topics would you like to learn more about? (Check all that apply)

198 responses



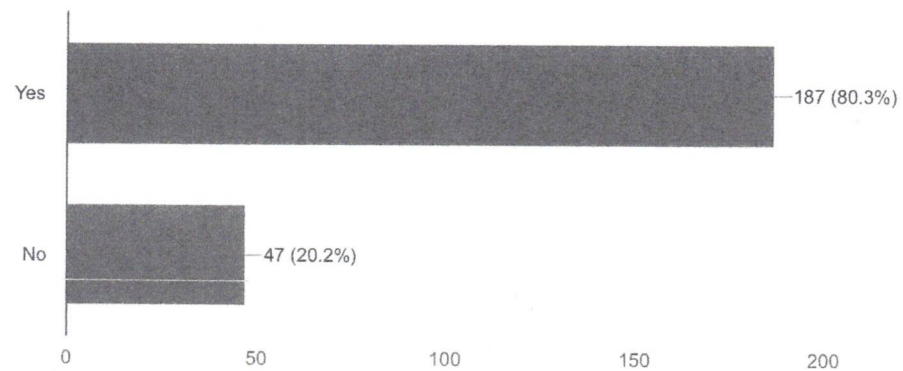
Would you be interested in learning more ways to protect the shore lines from the waves and rising water that has been occurring in our lake?

233 responses

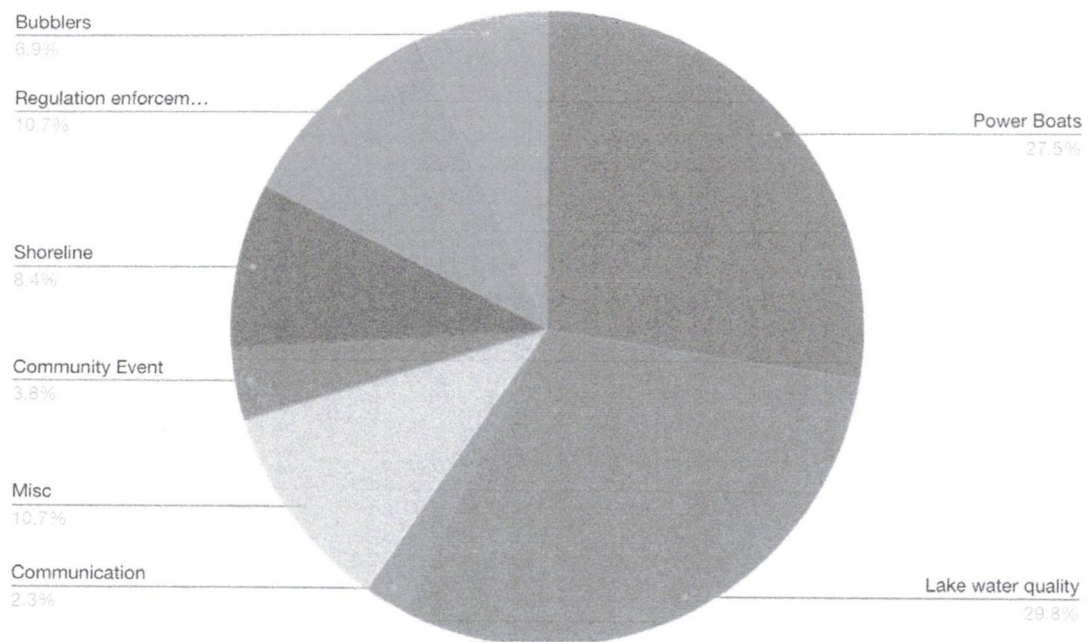


Would you be interested in attending education event regarding the health and safety of Lake Oscawana?

233 responses



46% of the survey respondents shared their additional concerns about Lake Oscawana. We combed through each response and categorized them in the following groups.



Next Steps

1. Rain Gardens and Rain Barrels Program:

LOMAC is working with Putnam Cornell Cooperative Extension to develop a class on benefits of rain gardens and rain barrels for Lake Oscawana Residents so that we can all take proactive steps to sustainable water management.

2. Family Education Programs:

LOMAC will work with Cornell Cooperative Extension on family education programs to encourage the younger generation to learn about life on Lake Oscawana. Collaborating with Cornell Cooperative Extension to educate younger generations about lake science and conservation is a great way to foster environmental stewardship.

3. Improved Communication:

We will increase the frequency of email communications with Lake Oscawana residents. We are transitioning from paper newsletters to email newsletters. We encourage Lake Oscawana residents to sign up for email communications on <https://www.putnamvalley.gov/lomac/>