



## Loop Around the Lake

### Introduction

The Lake Ripley Management District completed a boat census survey on Lake Ripley on Thursday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021. It took one hour and 28 minutes to complete the entire loop, starting at 8:28 a.m. and finishing at 9:56 a.m. The survey took place on Chairman, Jimmy DeGidio's, pontoon boat and he was joined by the Lake Manager, Lianna Spencer.

As part of the Lake Ripley Management District's ongoing carrying capacity study, the District conducts a boat census survey every year to document the number of boats, piers, and lifts in the water. By completing this survey, we are able to document the changes happening in our littoral and riparian buffer zones each year. We count all boats, motorized and nonmotorized, piers, lifts and swim mats.

### Methods

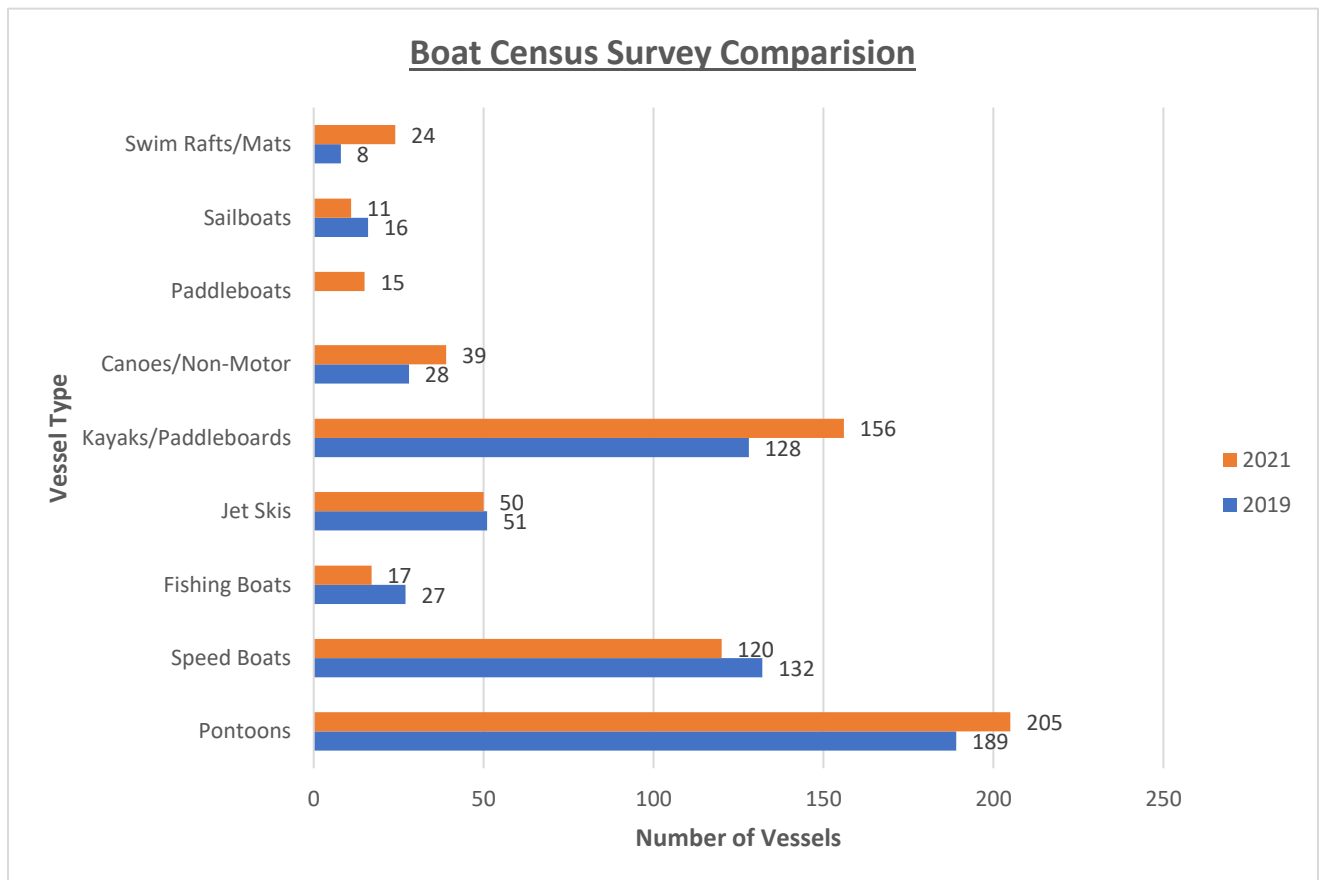
The crew completed the loop traveling clockwise on Lake Ripley. The pontoon was traveling slow enough to not create any wake the entire time; this gave the crew the ability to accurately count all boats, piers, and lifts. The weather was overcast, and the temperature was 77° F. The survey was video recorded so the video can be watched later, if needed. The camera equipment was a Sony HDR CX455 camcorder and a Manfrotto 3246 Tripod that were rented from The Camera Company in Madison, Wisconsin.

### Results

This year, the crew counted 181 piers, 277 boats lifts, 205 pontoon boats, 120 speed boats, 17 fishing boats, 50 jet skis, 156 kayaks/paddleboards, 39 canoes, 15 paddleboats, 11 sailboats, and 24 swim mats. Boat lifts were not counted during the 2019 survey, so we were unable to compare the results for that category.

Since 2019, there have been an additional 5 piers installed in Lake Ripley. There has also been an increase in motorboats and non-motorboats. The lake saw an additional 16 pontoon boats, 11 canoes, 25 kayaks/paddleboards, and 16 swim mats/rafts to the lake this season. However, there

were also some categories that saw a decrease in numbers since 2019. Speedboats have decreased by 12, jet skis have decreased by one, sailboats have decreased by 5, and fishing boats have decreased by 10. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 the District was unable to complete this survey during the summer of 2020.



### **Discussion**

Comparing 2019's boat census survey data to the 2021 data, it looks as if fast-moving vessels are declining on Lake Ripley. These fast-moving boats are being replaced with slower moving boats, such as pontoons. We also saw an increase in kayaks and paddleboards; this number increased by 25!

Over the last two years, it seems as if there is a trend forming that suggests that over time there are going to be less motorized boats and more non-motorized boats. Over the years, there have been suggestions from lake residents to have one full day be 'slow-no-wake' so the kayakers and canoers can fully enjoy the serenity of the lake! It will be interesting to see how these numbers change over the next few years.