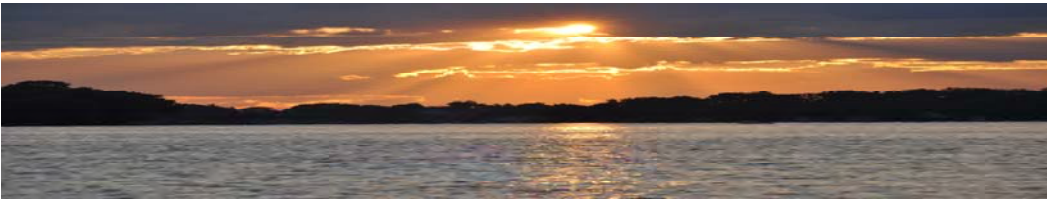


Big Cedar Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District

Spring 2024

What is a Lake District?



The Big Cedar Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District (PRD) was established in 1994 by a resolution with the Town of West Bend (only a requirement by the Town of WB due to the majority of properties in this township), and approval by a majority of electors in the PRD. The boundaries of the district include properties within 1000' of the shoreline. Lake district operations must comply with Chapter 33 of the Wisconsin Statutes; the purpose of a district is to maintain, protect, and improve the quality of the lake and its watershed for the mutual good of the members and the lake environment.

Our lake district is a governmental body with elected and appointed leaders and an annual budget funded from tax levies or special assessments. All property owners share in the cost of management activities undertaken by the district. District residents or property owners are eligible voters in the affairs of the district.

This is accomplished at an annual meeting which normally takes place in August for Big Cedar. **Save the date of Wednesday, August 21, 2024 for this year's Annual Meeting.**

Districts have some capabilities regarding regular lake use, such as local boating ordinances and sanitation management, as well as operating and maintaining a water safety patrol unit. The PRD also initiates and coordinates research for the purpose of gathering data on the lake, related shorelands, and the drainage basin.

To keep up to date on PRD activities, you are welcome to attend the monthly PRD meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of each month (subject to change at times), located at the PRD District building, 4480 Gonring Drive, West Bend.

Big Cedar Lake PRD Recent Accomplishments

In addition to normal operations, the BCLPRD has completed or is in the process of completing, the following items:

- Aquatic plant inventory completed in 2023 by Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC). The inventory is required by the DNR for continued weed harvesting. The PRD submitted the results to the DNR for the next weed harvesting permit for 2024.
- Slow-no-wake zones proposed in bays north and south of Peninsula Drive to at least a five foot depth to help protect sensitive and larger stature species present in these areas (based on the aquatic plant inventory completed).
- Harvesting plan modification proposed to the DNR to allow harvesting of a navigational channel within the northern sensitive area beyond the inlet to Gilbert Lake, to the piers on the northern shore.
- Signs to be placed at both ends of the channel between Gilbert Lake and Big Cedar Lake warning boaters of Starry Stonewort (SSW) presence in Gilbert Lake asking boaters to briefly reverse motors before entering the channel from either lake. Also adding advisory "invasive species" buoy/signage near the entrance to the southern basin of Gilbert Lake.
- Comprehensive Plan of Big Cedar proposed (please see separate section in this newsletter for more details).
- Navigational aides/can style buoys installed at north and south ends of the channel installed at north and south ends of the channel in 2023.
- New Boating Ordinance cards completed in 2023 and distributed at Gonring Drive public launch area.

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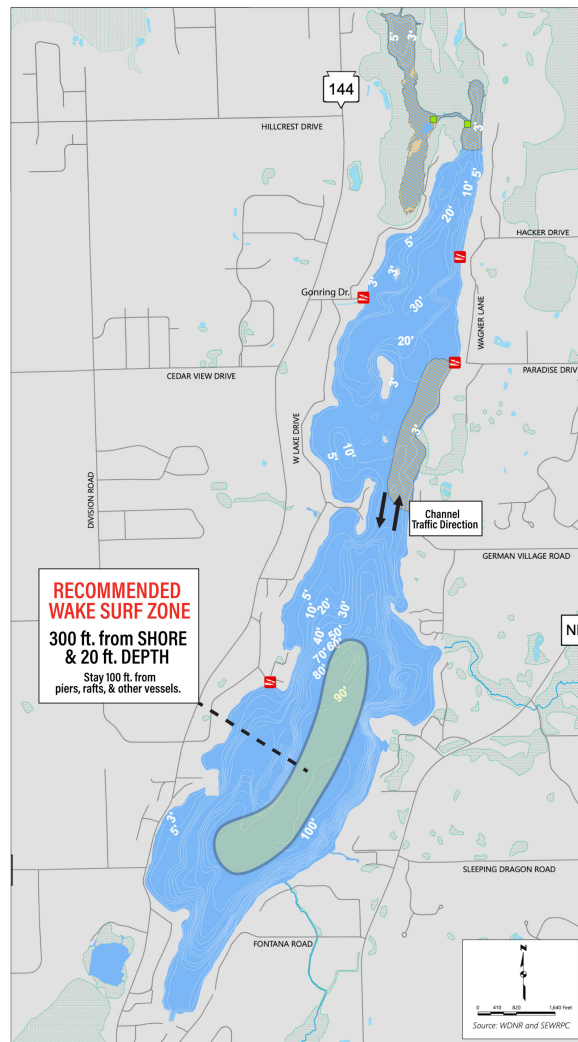
To receive the latest news and updates: bigcedarlakeprd.org "subscribe to updates" under the Information tab.

Wake Surfing Activities

Wake Surfing Activities

Wake surfing activities are a concern for many lake district residents on Big Cedar Lake and many other lakes in Wisconsin, and also nationally. If you have been following the topic, you know that there are many folks asking for some type of legislation at the state level to aid in decision making of local lake districts. The BCLPRD will continue to investigate appropriate actions for Big Cedar Lake. The Big Cedar Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District has made the decision to offer "wake surfing activity" recommendations for the summer of 2024. The following map shows the recommended areas suggested by the South East Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission that boaters may use in order to avoid disrupting the more shallow areas of the lake. The current recommendations are to stay 300 feet from shore and in water with a depth of 20 feet or more in an area on the South end of the lake. There are also maps at the Gonring Drive public launch area showing visitors the recommended areas to enjoy these activities.

Current recommendations for wake surfing activities are to stay at least 300 feet from shore and in water with a minimum of 20 foot depth.



Big Cedar Lake Fishery Update

Big Cedar Lake provides a fishing experience that is different from those in the surrounding area. Its depth and clear waters provide opportunities and challenges that can excite and frustrate even the most seasoned angler. In the summer of 2023 the DNR conducted a comprehensive fish survey of the lake, unfortunately only rough numbers and limited comparisons are available at this time. A final comprehensive report with additional comparisons and recommendations will be made available later in the year. According to the limited numbers provided to us it appears the walleye population is increasing (see numbers below). The continued increase in Walleye population can be attributed to the efforts of the Thursday Night Fishing Club and the DNR. Over the past 20 years the fishing club has stocked over 20,000 extended length fingerlings in the lake. In addition, this spring they are working with Walleyes for Tomorrow to net, breed, and release walleye fry into the lake. You may have seen the "Walleye Wagon", it's actually a trailer, at the Cedar Lake Yacht Club. During this time the DNR also released extended length fingerlings on years the Club did not. Other changes that may affect the fish populations are changes to regulations that have occurred over the last few years. The DNR has changed the bag limit for panfish to a total of 25 but only 10 of any one species. For example you could keep 10 bluegill, 10 perch, and 5 crappie or any variation of the species. Additionally the DNR removed the 40" limit on pike and put in a slot limit. Now you can keep two northern pike, but none between 25" - 35". With the efforts of the PRD and its partners Big Cedar Lake will continue to be a lake that anglers enjoy for generations to come.

	2005	2013	2023
	Catch/Net Night	Catch/Net Night	Catch/Net Night
Female	0.48	1.1	0.74
Male	1.3	3.3	4.4
Unknown	0.06	0.03	0.18
Total	1.8	4.4	5.3

Boater Safety Classes for 2024

Boater Safety Classes are offered *ONLINE* through the WI DNR at boat-ed.com

In-person classes are offered at The Big Cedar Lake District Office, located at 4480 Goring Drive, West Bend, WI 53095



Session One Dates (must attend all three days)

Monday, May 13	6-9PM
Tuesday, May 14	6-9PM
Wednesday, May 15	6-9PM

Session Two Dates (must attend all three days)

Monday, June 10	6-9PM
Tuesday, June 11	6-9PM
Wednesday, June 12	6-9PM

Anyone interested should check out the BCLPRD Website at bigcedarlakeprd.org for more information. Under "information", "subscribe to updates" will pass on updates to you via email.



The BCLPRD certified 56 Boater Safety Students last year!

Water Safety Patrol Report

The following information was provided by Jeff Rollins, BCLPRD Operations Manager/Water Safety Patrol Chief at the 2023 Annual Meeting. BCLPRD Water Safety Patrol operates on a part-time basis from mid-May through Labor Day and beyond. Water Safety Patrol also provides patrol hours to Little Cedar Lake and Silver Lake in Washington County. The following were reported for 2023:

Total patrol hours: 1300+

Big Cedar Citations: 93

Warnings: 255

2023 Boater Safety Classes: 56 students

During the summer of 2023, there were NO serious incidents reported on the lake.

Please continue to use safe boating practices.

The Big Cedar Lake PRD is also on Facebook "Big Cedar Lake PRD", and there is a public group on Facebook page titled "Access Big Cedar", where people post lost and found items to be retrieved.

Wisconsin boating safety certification or out of state equivalent certification is required for operators born on or after January 1, 1989. Safety certification is required to operate at age 16.

TYPES OF PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES



**TYPE I:
OFF-SHORE LIFE JACKET**
Over 20 lbs of buoyancy, designed to turn an unconscious person face-up.



**TYPE II:
NEAR-SHORE BUOYANT VEST**
Minimum 15.5 lbs of buoyancy, designed to turn and unconscious person face-up.



**TYPE III:
FLOTATION AID**
Minimum 15.5 lbs of buoyancy, not designed to turn and unconscious person face-up; more comfortable for water sports.



**TYPE IV:
THROWABLE DEVICE**
Minimum 16.5 lbs of buoyancy, designed to be grasped, not worn.



**TYPE V:
SPECIAL USE DEVICE**
Must be used in accordance with any requirements on the approval label.

A Reminder About Slow-No-Wake

"Slow-No-Wake" by definition, means the slowest possible speed by which one can maintain steerage.

Boating violations observed on the lake should be reported through the Big Cedar Lake PRD office at

262-629-9322 or through the Washington County Sheriffs Department at 262-335-4378. WSCO will contact the BCLPRD patrol officer on duty to respond.

In the event of an emergency, please call 911.

Comprehensive Plan Update

In the spring of 2023, the BCLPRD requested the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission to prepare a scope of work examining a variety of areas that are important to the continued health and vitality of Big Cedar Lake. The study will look at issues related to the lake's ability to maintain desirable ecological conditions and provide quality recreational opportunities to lake users. The last comprehensive plan was completed in 2001. The report was issued in two volumes:

- Volume 1 focused on water quality protection with a series of recommendations including plant management and land management.
- Volume 2 was a Stormwater Management Plan that focused on the West side of the lake. Recommendations included building of several runoff basins, raising the grade on a portion of West Lake Drive and adjustments to Town zoning ordinances for cluster development and impervious limits. Genthe Pond is one of the improvements that was made based on the report.

A lot has changed since 2001 so the Commission sought approval at the Annual Meeting in August to have another study done. The study will take 3 years to complete which will include all of the following:

- Lake water quality
- Groundwater, including sources of pollution, protection strategies, and general guidelines
- Shoreline condition – near shore habitat and protection against erosion
- Septic systems – checking on discharge to the lake, and water quality measures
- Stormwater management, including recommendation on the existing infrastructure and additional infrastructure that could be installed
- Pollutant sources and loads
- Lake recreational use
- Fish and wildlife – historic and current conditions, fishery, and stocking practices
- Watershed conditions, to help sustain lake health

The areas of study to be completed this year are lake water quality, shoreline condition and recreational use. The results of these studies will give us base line information and comparative information to determine future studies and projects.

Aquatic Plant Management Plan

An Aquatic Plant Management Plan study has been completed. This study is actually completed every five years as it is required by the DNR for the weed harvesting permit. The study did not find any significant change in the aquatic weed population. The study did find Starry Stone Wart in the north basin and in Gilbert Lake. The District is using DNR guidance in the isolation and treatment of the infected areas.

Although the Aquatic Plant Management Plan study did not find any significant change since the last study, many people have indicated that it appears the weed growth has diminished in the last few years. The data collected does not support the indications, but the District does keep track of the weeds harvested, and will see if there is a long term trend.

Mechanical Weed Harvesting

The DNR issues a permit to the BCLPRD for mechanical weed harvesting. The permit tells us where we can cut and/or skim weeds. For Gilbert's Lake it also limits the frequency. The permit does not allow for chemical application. Many riparian owners would like to minimize the amount of weeds around their docks and lifts with a little chemical treatment. Just a reminder that it is not sound ecological practice to use herbicides in a lake as there may be unintended long term consequences detrimental to wildlife and plant life. Plus application of herbicides into the lake is illegal without a permit. Hand pulling works great, and is great exercise.

Harvesting usually starts by middle to late June and goes well into September. Riparian owners are responsible to collect shoreline weeds and can place them on the end of their pier for pickup. Aquatic weed pickup is on Mondays and Fridays, weather permitting. Please check the BCLPRD website (www.bigcedarlakeprd.org) or FACEBOOK (Big Cedar Lake PRD) for updates to the cutting and pickup schedule.

Please use caution near any of the large harvesting equipment



**Weekly Pier Pickups
begin
Friday, June 14, 2024
and continue on
MONDAYS AND FRIDAYS
into September
(weather permitting)**



Big Cedar Lake Independence Day Celebration Fireworks

Big Cedar Lake Fireworks show
put on by the Big Cedar Lake
Yacht Club

Date: Thursday, July 4, 2024

Time: 9:30 p.m., approximate

Rain date is the following
Saturday

If you would like to donate to
the fireworks display please
contact the Cedar Lake Yacht
Club for more information.



Cedar Lake Yacht Club
4734 Yacht Club Drive
Hartford WI 53027

Online donations are
accepted at www.clyc.com or

Check out the CLYC
Facebook page for up to
date information



Please join the Big Cedar Lake community in celebrating our
Independence at the Fireworks Extravaganza Enjoy!



Aquatic Invasive Species Reminder from AIS Coordinator at Washington County, Amanda Schmitz

As we quickly approach the warm summer months,
many eager anglers and boaters are prepping to get out
on Wisconsin's beautiful lakes and rivers. With
increased boat traffic also comes the risk of boaters
spreading aquatic invasive species! It is important for
anglers and boaters to remember to make sure boats
and gear are clean before entering a water body.
Remember to:

- **CLEAN** off all plants & animals from your boat,
trailer & gear
- **REMOVE** attached aquatic plants or animals from
your boat, trailer & gear
- **DRAIN** all water from your boat including livewells
& bait buckets
- **NEVER MOVE** animals, plants or live fish away
from a water body



Please help keep
Big Cedar Lake
nice for future
generations



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**

Be A Good Steward. Clean. Drain. Dry.
StopAquaticHitchhikers.org





PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

4480 Gonring Drive
West Bend WI 53095
www.bigcedarlakeprd.org

**IMPORTANT
INFORMATION
INSIDE!**

District Meetings

Big Cedar Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month, unless there are meeting room conflicts. The meetings are held at the BCLPRD office located at 4480 Gonring Drive, West Bend. Check the website at www.bigcedarlakeprd.org for agendas, minutes and updates. You are also asked to "subscribe to updates" to receive additional information available to all Lake Residents. Please reserve the date of Wednesday, August 21, 2024 on your calendar for the Annual Meeting! All are welcome to attend.

Commissioners

Chris Genthe	Chairperson	cgenthea10@charter.net
Christina Fiasca	Treasurer	christina.fiasca@gmail.com
Dave Baldus	Secretary	dbaldusa77@gmail.com.com
Matt Haldemann	Commissioner	mattprd44@gmail.com
Jeff Braun	Commissioner	jbtttype@charter.net
Linda Bott	Town of West Bend Rep.	Linda.J.Bott@outlook.com
Keith Stephan	Washington County Rep.	kstephan60@yahoo.com