



# Big Cedar Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District

## Comprehensive Plan I and II Complete! What's Next?

### Inside this issue:

#### Comprehensive Plans I and II data collection are complete!

The PRD comprehensive plan discussions and overall planning started in 2023, with data collection being completed by Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) in 2024 and 2025.

#### What was covered in these studies?

Conditions studied include the following.

- Watershed conditions
- Lake water quality
- Groundwater
- Shoreline conditions

- Septic systems
- Stormwater management
- Pollutant sources and loads
- Aquatic plant community and management
- Recreational use
- Fish and wildlife

#### What's Next?

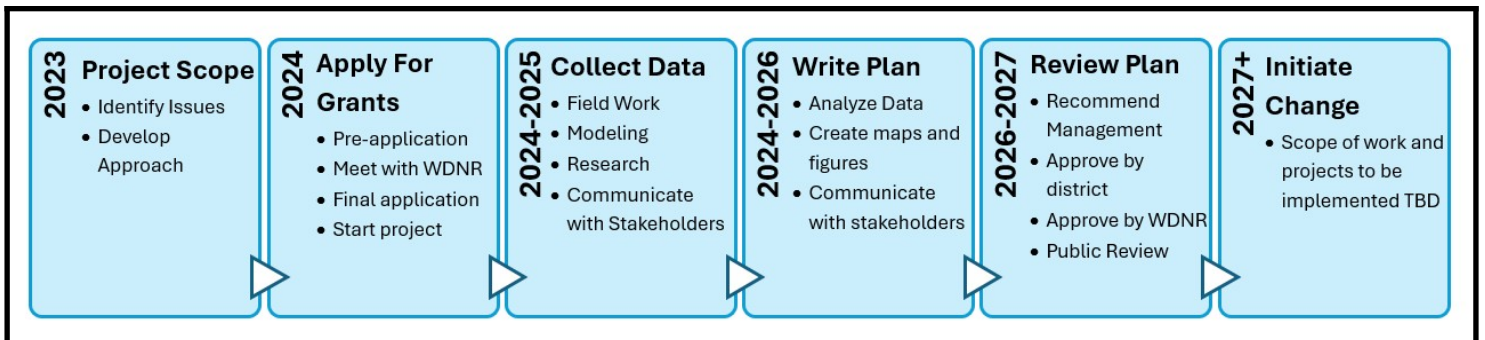
SEWRPC will release data from phase II in the upcoming months, as well as an overall analysis on all data found within the last two years, to then determine areas of potential recommendations for

improvement. The information will then be used by the BCL PRD in making efficient lake management decisions to continue to achieve water quality and lake health.

For additional information, go to [bigcedarlakeprd.org](http://bigcedarlakeprd.org). Select *Lake Studies* then *Comprehensive Plans*.

As information is received by SEWRPC in the future, we will share the information with the lake community.

Wake Surfing	2
Boater Safety Classes	2
New Boarding Dock	3
Weed Harvesting	3
Big Cedar Lake Fishery	3
Lake Patrol	4
Want to Know More?	4
Summer Happenings	4



## Wake Surfing Update for 2026

BCL will continue with wake surfing recommendations for 2026. We appreciate the efforts of the wake surfing community to utilize the area within the recommended zone.

In our March PRD meeting this year, the PRD approved moving forward with an ordinance on wake surfing. An ordinance will enable the BCL Lake Patrol to better monitor the activities and take action if needed. One of the goals of Lake Patrol is to promote education, which will enable patrol to direct any wake surfers to the appropriate area of the lake if needed.

### What's next for an ordinance and why would this take so long?

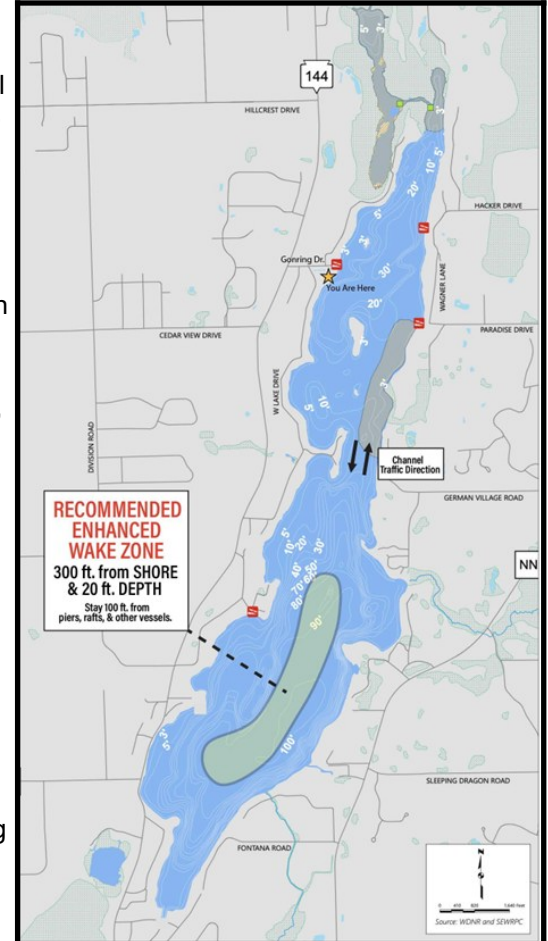
The PRD will need to determine the parameters of the ordinance (currently the recommended area is 300' from shore and no less than 20' in depth). We have received, and have access to many studies on this topic. They will be reviewed, along with recommendations from SEWRPC, our partner in the recent comprehensive plan studies. Once a determination is made on the specifics, an ordinance will be drafted,

and public meetings will be held. A DNR approval and a 60 day waiting period after DNR approval are both required. The ordinance process is a time intensive process and not one that can be completed quickly.

The current recommended zone, which is still in place for 2026, can be viewed on the map. Please note the green area is only representative of the overall area, meaning it is smaller than the actual zone. The full guideline document is online at [bigcedarlakeprd.org](http://bigcedarlakeprd.org); select **About Big Cedar Lake**, then **Ordinances and Guidelines**.

Also note the guidelines are for wake surfing only and not wake boarding. How do you know the difference? Go to [bigcedarlakeprd.org](http://bigcedarlakeprd.org). More information on surfing vs boarding can be found in the **General Section** of the **FAQs**.

Please make sure to let your kids, grandkids, or others participating in these activities know of the recommended area!



## Boater Safety Classes 2026

In Wisconsin anyone born on or after January 1, 1989, must successfully complete a boater safety course approved by the Wisconsin DNR in order to operate a motorboat or personal watercraft (PWC). A child must be the age of 12 before they can legally operate a motorboat on their own.

Boater Safety Classes are offered online through the Wisconsin DNR at [www.boat-ed.com/wisconsin/](http://www.boat-ed.com/wisconsin/)

In person classes are offered at the PRD building this spring. Classes are in the evening and you must attend

all three days of the session for certification. The cost is \$10.

Two separate sessions are offered for 2025.

### May 11, 12, and 13

6:00 — 9:00 p.m.

### June 15, 16, 17

6:00 — 9:00 p.m.

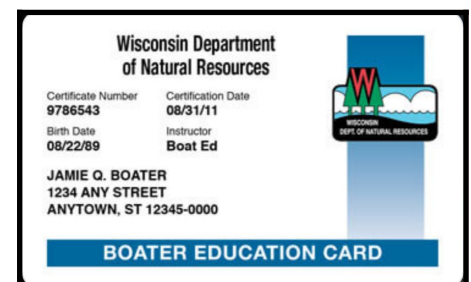
Sign up for in person classes through the Wisconsin DNR at [gowild.wi.gov](http://gowild.wi.gov).

### Online courses go to :

[www.boat-ed.com/wisconsin/](http://www.boat-ed.com/wisconsin/)

### In person classes go to :

[gowild.wi.gov](http://gowild.wi.gov)



## New Boarding Dock Installed

Check out the new boarding dock installed at the south of the launch area. The boarding dock is used when those launching move their boat from either of the two main launching piers over to the southern

boarding dock. The PRD had budgeted to replace the dock and has applied for a grant from the WDNR.

The new dock has the same footprint as the prior dock, but will be much

safer. Additional maintenance work and the repair of a dry hydrant will be completed at a later time. The dry hydrant can then be utilized by local fire departments as needed.

## Weed Harvesting

### New Operations Manager!

The PRD hired an Operations Manager this year, and we look forward to dedicated oversight of weed harvesting supervision and operations.

Owner, resident and PRD expectations will be discussed and reviewed at a Weed Committee meeting this spring where we will also be sharing the harvesting schedule. In 2026 we will track the weed harvesting performance against these expectations.

### Where can we cut weeds?

You are encouraged to review the DNR Weed Harvesting Permit and Aquatic Management Plan which

outlines approved harvesting techniques and the permitted harvesting areas. Maps appear on pages 36 through 39 of the plan and the PRD will adhere strictly to those boundaries. Harvesters and barges will not operate between piers.

You are responsible for collecting floating weeds along your shoreline and between piers. Please pile weeds at the end of the pier, accessible to the weed pickup crews, for Tuesday and Friday pick-up (weather and wind permitting).

To view the maps on harvesting, go to [bigcedarlakeprd.org](http://bigcedarlakeprd.org) Then go to the section **Services**, then select **Weed Harvesting**.

### Hiring Staff for Harvesting

We are hiring part time staff for the harvester and barge crews. Looking for dependable, hard working individuals who can work the summer, plus later afternoon/evening hours into September. Apply on line at [bigcedarlakeprd.org](http://bigcedarlakeprd.org). Go to **About Big Cedar Lake**, then select **Employment Opportunities**.

Complete the **Employment Application (non-patrol)**, and submit the completed form via email to the PRD using [bigcedarlakeprd@gmail.com](mailto:bigcedarlakeprd@gmail.com).

## Big Cedar Lake Fishery

Big Cedar Lake's deep clear waters continue to provide a fishing experience that is different from those in the surrounding area. The fishery continues to be healthy due to the efforts of the local community and the DNR. Contrary to the rumors that the DNR wouldn't, they did stock walleyes last year. Hopefully this will continue. The Thursday Night Fishing Club continues to be stalwarts in their stocking efforts. This year they will be helping to host the Walleye Wagon at the Cedar Lake Yacht Club for the 3rd straight year. Last year the wagon fertilized roughly 4 million eggs. Estimates say 10 of 1% will reach legal size which works out to 4,000 walleye. Additionally they will be

stocking extended length fingerlings again this fall.

Fishing regulations across the state continue to change in the DNR's efforts to improve the state's fishery. A big change came to Big Cedar this year. The new regulation is that you can only keep an aggregate bag of 10 panfish per angler.

Current regulations are as follows:

- **Panfish: 10 total**
- Northern Pike: 2 northern pike not between 25" - 35"
- Bass: 5 total over 14"
- Walleye: 3 total over 18"

For a complete list of The Wisconsin hook and line regulations follow this link: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/fishing/regulations>



## Water Safety Patrol

Lake Patrol is excited for another fun and safe summer on Big Cedar Lake. We will have two new, experienced water patrol officers

joining the department this year. Please give them a warm welcome.

A friendly reminder to watch your speed in all slow no wake areas as

this will continue to be a focus of lake patrol.

Lake Patrol Hours for 2025: 1,278

Citations Issued: 97

Warnings Issued: 246

## Want to Know More?

Our newsletter has mentioned several areas managed by the PRD. Find out more detailed information and other PRD services at [bigcedarlakeprd.org](http://bigcedarlakeprd.org). Information includes:

- News & Notices
- Annual Meeting Information
- Ordinances and Guidelines
- Lake Quality and Watershed
- Invasive Species
- Launch Information
- Trash Collection
- Fishery Information

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\*Sign up here to receive ALL notifications for News, Agendas, Minutes, & Packets. If you don't want to receive ALL notifications please visit the [Subscribe to Updates](#) page to be able to select notifications for specific categories.

## Summer Happenings

- Information
- Planning
- Voting

**BCL PRD Annual Meeting** — Mark your calendar for the Annual Meeting, **Wednesday, August 19, 2026!** Property owners will receive more information two weeks prior to the meeting. Important items to be covered this year:

- Voting on two commissioner positions
- Update on the Comprehensive Plan
- Budget approval as well as any special purchase approvals
- Plus much more information. Looking forward to seeing you there.



**July 4, Big Cedar Lake Fireworks**, brought to you by the BCL Yacht Club. Please note — any private fireworks are not permitted by local town ordinances. There has been cover and boat damage in the past as well as debris in the lake. Be courteous to your neighbors!



**CLYC Regattas** — the Yacht Club scheduled regattas season: C and MC Class Spring Regatta, May 9-10; X Blue Chip Championship, August 7-8

Big Cedar Lake PRD monthly meetings are held every **3rd Tuesday of the month** at the PRD office located at 4480 Gonring Dr. Check the website at [bigcedarlakeprd.org](http://bigcedarlakeprd.org) for agendas, minutes and updates (dates subject to change).

### Commissioners

- Chris Genthe**, Chairperson; [bigcedarlakeprdchairperson@gmail.com](mailto:bigcedarlakeprdchairperson@gmail.com)
- Christina Fiasca**, Treasurer; [christina.fiasca@gmail.com](mailto:christina.fiasca@gmail.com)
- Jeffrey Braun**, Secretary; [jeffbraunprd@gmail.com](mailto:jeffbraunprd@gmail.com)
- Matthew Haldemann**, Commissioner; [mattprd44@gmail.com](mailto:mattprd44@gmail.com)
- David Kwiatkowski**, Commissioner; [davekwiat3@gmail.com](mailto:davekwiat3@gmail.com)
- Linda Bott**, Town of West Bend Representative; [linda.j.bott@outlook.com](mailto:linda.j.bott@outlook.com)
- Keith Stephan**, Washington County Representative; [kstephan60@yahoo.com](mailto:kstephan60@yahoo.com)

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