

## **2020 Water Quality/ Vegetation (WQVC) Committee Conclusions**

The purpose of the Clark Lake WQVC is to identify and facilitate opportunities to reduce the threats to:

- 1) Surface and ground water quality and
- 2) The wildlife habitat integrity of the Lake and surrounding area.

This document is a summary of the conclusions based upon observations and our 2020 data collection. A separate document including the data resources and the WQVC action and educational plan for 2021 are available upon request.

### **Conclusion:**

Clarity and water chemistry of Clark Lake is stable and acceptable.

The lake classification moved very slightly from mesotrophic to oligotrophic in 2020.

No E. coli contamination noted in Clark Lake beach monitoring or in review of well water testing.

Bacterial monitoring in two local well water testing programs did reveal coliform contamination similar to the rest of the county. UW-Oshkosh plans well water testing studies for 2021 and 2022.

No significant watershed environmental issues have been noted by the designated monitor.

Additional testing from Logan Creek collected in 2019 failed to raise any concerns.

Threats from development and a shift in agricultural practices do exist.

An observed increase in plant life along Logan Creek and into Clark Lake will be investigated in 2021.

Degradation of the bulrush beds continues to be of concern.

A small transplant study was begun in 2020.

Additional protective measures are planned.

Visible trenching from propellers is visible around the lake.

Avoid towing and other high speed boating if water level is 4 feet or less.

A map highlighting the 4 foot depth is now posted.

The frequency of lake level monitoring has been decreased but levels are still usually high.

Lack of variation threatens littoral vegetation and low lying shore.

Shore damage resulted in over a dozen new rip rap installations in 2020.

A 35 ft. vegetative buffer and use of native plants in rip rap is recommended.

Bioengineering may be appropriate instead of rip rap in some low energy sites.

Phragmites control efforts are still needed: treated 1.244 Acres in 2020.

Starry stonewort threat from area waters continues to exist. None yet found in Clark Lake.

Boating traffic at the ramp increased over 75% from last year.

Covid reduced our ramp volunteer presence and over 30% less boats were inspected.

70% responded in our survey that they did not have a 35 foot vegetative buffer.

A plan to improve this will be created in 2021.

A demonstration of native plants appropriate for the buffer was installed in 2020.

The Ridges added 7.6 Acres to their protected property in 2020 thanks to a generous donation from one of our members.

**Volunteers are always needed to support our planned educational, monitoring, website and activity projects.**