

Rock Lake Shorelands and Shallows Survey Results

The Importance of Shorelands and Shallows

The land adjacent to our lakes and the shallow water next to the land are important areas for many reasons. These areas are where people use the waters for fishing, bird watching, swimming, getting their boats out on the water, or simply sitting and enjoying the view. The shoreland area is a vital place for many species that are dependent on native habitat during part of their life cycle. In fact, as much as 90% of the living things in lakes are found in the shallow waters and shoreland areas at some point in their life cycle.

Many of the values lake front property owners appreciate and enjoy about their properties—natural scenic beauty, tranquility, privacy, relaxation—are enhanced and preserved with good shoreland management. Studies have shown that healthy lakes with good water quality translate into healthy lake front property values.

The 2007 Environmental Protection Agency’s National Lakes Assessment identified the loss of shoreland habitat as the number one stressor to our lakes in the nation and in Wisconsin. It was determined that lakes with poor lakeshore habitat were 3 times more likely to be in poor biologic health. This assessment is repeated every 5 years; in the 2012 survey nutrient pollution was reported as the most widespread stressor with lakeshore habitat degradation as a close second. The results of the 2017 assessment have yet to be published and the next assessment is scheduled to take place this year (2022).

Development of our shorelands and shallow areas negatively impacts fish and wildlife populations. Shorelines that contain seawalls and rock riprap impede the movement of turtles, amphibians, and other animals that need to have access to both the lake and the shoreland area. Increased development (lawns, impervious surfaces, bare ground, piers) has been linked to degraded aquatic plant habitat, decreases in populations of green frog, uncommon bird species, and fish species as well as an overall decrease in number and diversity of species. A vegetated buffer between the lakeshore and the developed portion of the upland area can also provide extremely valuable habitat to a majority of the organisms that live in and around lakes.

A shoreland area containing a native plant garden can prevent pollutants carried by rainwater from reaching our lakes and also prevent shoreline erosion. In fact, when comparing native shoreland habitat to lawns, areas with lawns contribute 7-9 times more phosphorus and 18 times more sediment to the water. These phosphorus and sediment inputs to the water can reduce water clarity and increase algae blooms which can cause a decrease in property values.

Shorelands and Shallows Survey Protocols

In 2021 the Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department conducted a shoreland and shallows habitat assessment on Rock Lake. This survey was last completed in 2015, also by

the county, and it is recommended by the state protocol that the survey be repeated every five years. The survey will serve as a baseline so that future changes (improvements or declines) in conditions can be measured. It will also help up set shoreline management goals and assess our success in meeting them.

The survey protocol used is from the Wisconsin DNR and is a state-wide standard so that shoreline assessments from year to year and from different lakes across the state can be compared to one another. The Jefferson County LWCD was one of the entities that tested the state protocols and provided feedback to improve them during their development in 2015-2016.

The data collected as a part of this protocol is listed below.

Riparian Zone Data Collected within 35 feet of the water

- Average width of a vegetated area adjacent to the water (if any)**
- Percent cover of tree canopy
- Presence/absence of shrubs and herbaceous plants
- Percent cover of each land use in the riparian area that totals 100%: maximum of shrub or herbaceous plants, impervious surfaces, manicured lawn, other (including mulch, sand, bare ground, etc.)
- Human structures on land: main residence, boathouse, outbuildings, commercial buildings, stairs/paths, fire pits, and other (retaining wall, patio, boats on land, boat launch, gravel)
- Hydrologic modifications: point source, channelized flow, stairs/paths that slope toward the lake, lawn sloping directly to lake, bare soil, and other
- Shoreline erosion control: seawalls, riprap, other erosion control, and beach
- Human structures in the water: piers, boat lifts, boats in the water, rafts, inflatables, boat houses over water, and other
- Aquatic plants: floating, emergent, submerged

**During the 2015-2016 and 2021 surveys there was some additional data collected on Rock Lake that was not part of the state protocol. An estimate of the average vegetated buffer width for the parcel was estimated because of the buffers importance in protecting water quality by filtering runoff entering the lake. The current Lake management plan also includes management goals of increasing the amount of vegetative buffer on the lake so this metric allows us to track our progress towards hitting our goals.

Boats in the water at piers were counted as well to try and better capture the lake use instead of only counting boat lifts. This does not include boats on the lake recreating while the survey was taking place, only those tied to docks. Submerged vegetation presence was also noted at each parcel in addition to floating leaf and emergent plant presence.

An additional assessment parameter of the survey documents the amount and location of woody habitat in the Lake. Wood that is submersed in the water provides very important habitat for a variety of species that live in the lake including fish, aquatic insects, crayfish, and turtles. The woody habitat survey is completed to document the location and certain characteristics of wood that was at least 4 inches in diameter, at least 5 feet in length, and in the water between the shoreline and the 2 foot depth contour. The characteristics noted were whether the wood crosses the high-water level (so is connected to shore) and the amount of branches that the wood contained (no branches, some branches, or a full tree crown). These data were collected as a part of the 2015-2016 survey but there was not sufficient time to complete this portion of the habitat survey in 2021 so it will be completed in 2022 instead.

Shoreland Survey Results

The amount of shoreline assessed in the survey was 7.3 miles (over 38,000 feet) and included the Miljala channel, the Elm Point channel, and the mill pond. The survey did not include Marsh Lake. The 2021 survey covered 343 tax parcels.

Section 1: Vegetation and Land use

The state of Wisconsin and Jefferson County have shoreland zoning ordinances that require a vegetated area 35 feet shoreward from the ordinary high-water mark (OHWM). This area is called the riparian zone and the natural cover is called a vegetated buffer. A 'viewing and access corridor' is allowed and vegetation may be removed from this area but the width of this area may not exceed 35% of the total parcel width. The lot area outside of the viewing and access corridor, 65% of the riparian zone, must remain vegetated. Ideally, every lot would contain a vegetated buffer to protect the quality of the water. Areas that were without vegetation prior to these standards have been grandfathered in, but currently vegetated areas may not be reduced below 65% in the riparian area.

Shorelands that were reported as having $\geq 65\%$ cover of shrubs and herbaceous plants in the riparian zone are the parcels that meet or exceed the state and county standard. The survey revealed that out of 341 tax parcels in 2015-2016, Rock Lake had 64 parcels that meet the state/county standard. Therefore only 18.7% of parcels meet the state standards for protecting the water quality of Rock Lake. In 2021 there were 83 parcels with $\geq 65\%$ shrub and herbaceous cover in the riparian zone, there were also two new parcels for a total of 343 tax parcels around Rock Lake resulting in 24.2% of parcels currently meeting the best practice standards for vegetated buffers. The two new parcels resulted from a larger multi dwelling former resort property splitting.

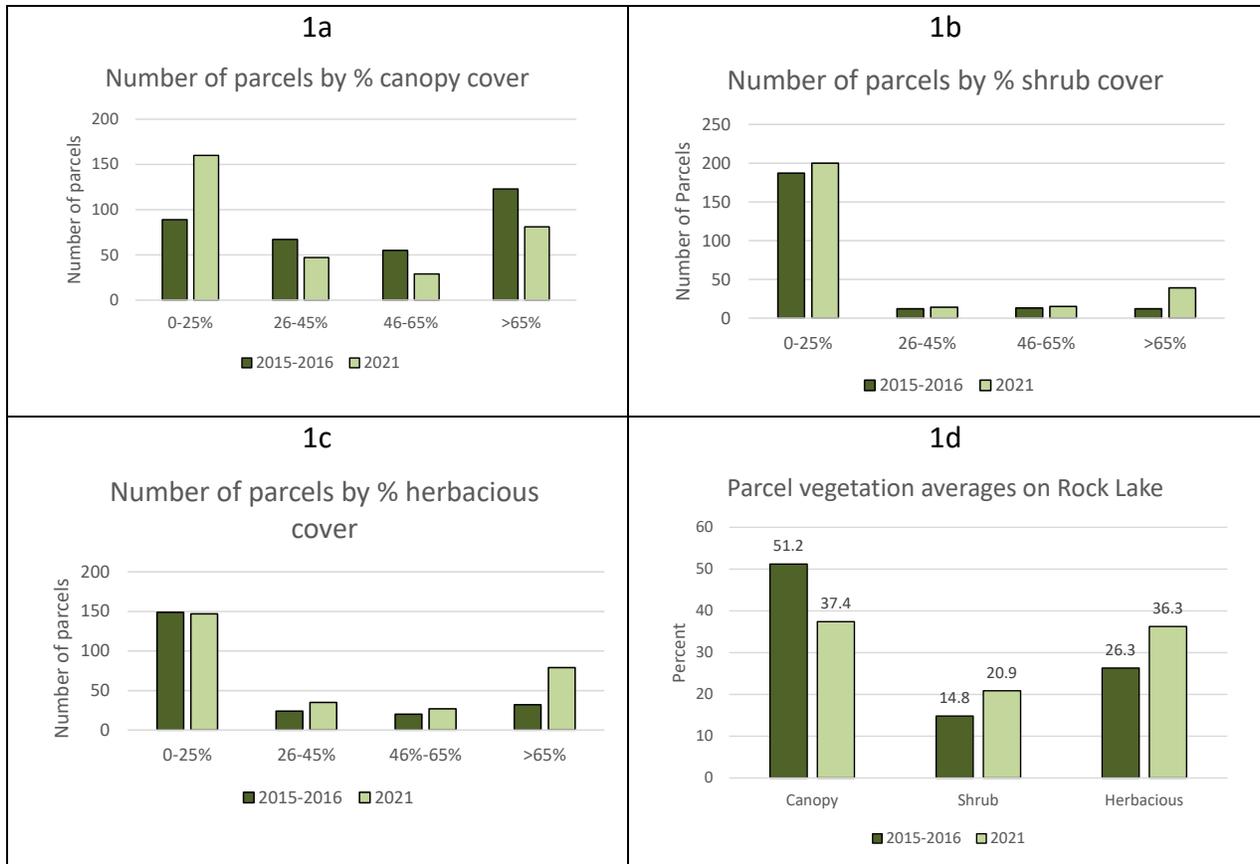


Figure 1a: Number of parcels on Rock Lake in each of four ranges of vegetation cover by the canopy from 0-25%, 26-45%, 46-65%, and greater than 65% thus meeting the current zoning standards.

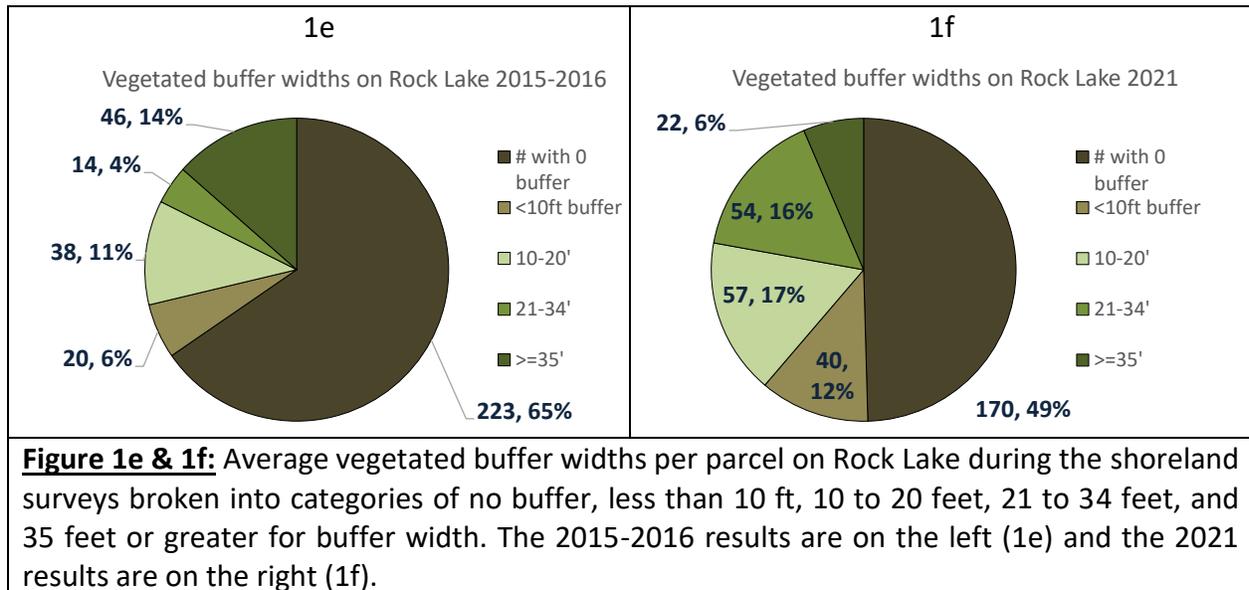
Figure 1b: Number of parcels on Rock Lake in four ranges of vegetation cover for the shrub layer.

Figure 1c: Number of parcels on Rock Lake in four ranges of vegetation cover for the herbaceous layer.

Figure 1d: Average percent cover in the riparian zone of each habitat layer of parcels on Rock lake during the 2015-2016 and 2021 surveys.

The vegetation in the riparian zone was assessed in three layers and characterized as natural or disturbed. The first layer whose cover was estimate was canopy. Canopy cover was the area of the riparian zone cover by tree canopies above 16ft. The second layer estimated is shrub cover, this layer includes woody vegetation below 16ft in height. The final layer of vegetation assessed is the herbaceous layer which includes non-woody plants. For the purposes of this survey there was not a distinction made between native, ornamental, or invasive vegetation in percent cover estimates. Vegetation was assessed individually in these three distinct layers because of the different habitat types and benefits they provide. During the 2015-2016 survey parcels with any evidence of human impact were assessed as 100% disturbed. In the 2021 survey, area of disturbance within the riparian zone was estimated on a parcel by parcel basis.

In the 2015-2016 survey there were 18 parcels that were documented as having no human disturbance, in 2021 there were 12.



One additional parameter that was considered as a part of this survey on Rock Lake was the average vegetated buffer width of each parcel. This metric is not included in the official protocol but because of the importance of the native vegetation buffer in protecting the lake's water quality and providing habitat, its average width was estimated on Rock Lake by surveyors in both the 2015-2016 survey and the 2021 survey. There are also vegetated buffer goals outlined in the Rock Lake Management Plan and these data will help us assess our progress in reaching those goals. The number of parcels with vegetated buffers was found to have increased in 2021 from the previous survey. The average buffer width of Rock Lake in 2015-2016 was 7.7 feet and in 2021 it increased to 9.8 feet. Presently about half of the parcels on Rock Lake have some amount of vegetated buffer as compared to only 35% of parcels in 2015-2016. Although there has been an increase in the presence of buffers, there was a decrease in fully vegetated riparian areas (those with an average buffer of 35 or greater). This estimate considers the vegetation only within the riparian zone meaning 35 feet was the maximum buffer width possible. This parcel would be completely or nearly completely vegetated (if there was only a path, trail, or stairs to the water the parcel was typically given an average of 35). This increase in vegetated buffers on Rock Lake supports the finding that there was greater shrub and herbaceous cover in the riparian zone during the 2021 survey.

Another way to judge the amount of vegetated buffer on Rock Lake is to look at the total length of shoreline that meets the standard. During the 2015-2016 survey there were about 1.93 miles of shoreline that had $\geq 65\%$ shrubs and/or herbaceous plants in the riparian zone. Therefore, 26.4% of the shoreline meets the standard. During the 2021 survey it was found that 2.39

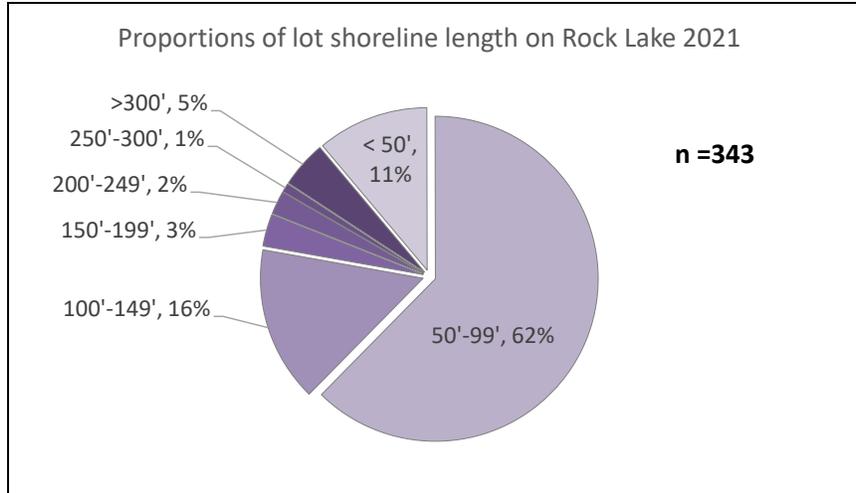


Figure 1g: Rock Lake lot length proportions of total shoreline

miles of shoreline contained $\geq 65\%$ shrubs and/or herbaceous plants in the riparian zone for a total of 33.1% of the total shoreline of Rock Lake. While about one fifth of the shoreline has the ideal presence of vegetated buffer we can see in figure 1f that nearly two thirds of the 343 parcels on the shoreline of Rock Lake consist of parcels that are between 50 and 99 feet in shoreline length. During the 2015-2016 survey only 30 of the parcels that had $\geq 65\%$ shrub and herbaceous plants in the riparian zone were in the 50'-99' lot length range, in 2021 this number rose to 46. The presence of a healthy vegetated buffer on Rock Lake can be greatly improved by individual landowners taking action on their own properties

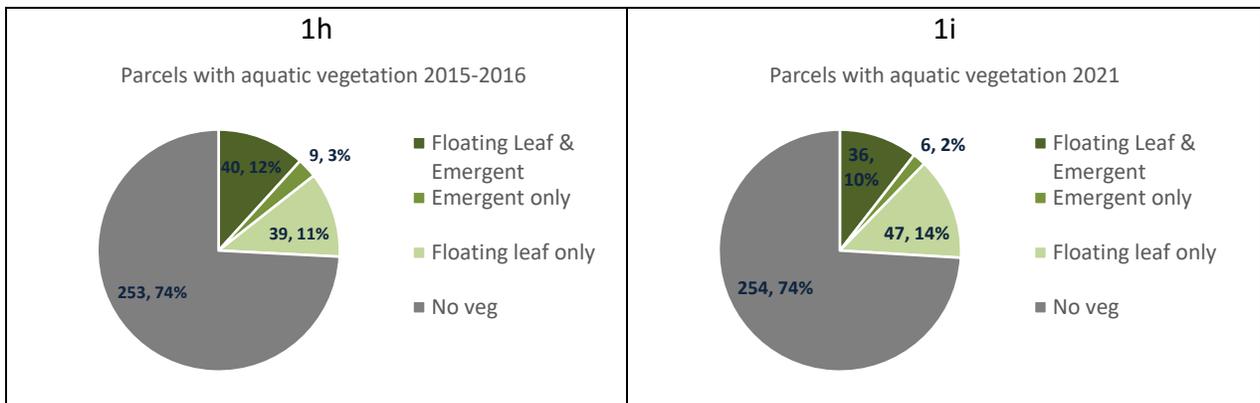


Figure 1h: Presence of emergent and floating leaf vegetation immediately in front of parcels on Rock Lake during the 2015-2016 survey.

Figure 1i: Presence of emergent and floating leaf vegetation immediately in front of parcels on Rock Lake during the 2015-2016 survey.

Presence or absence of emergent, floating leaf, and submerged aquatic plants were noted in front of each parcel during the survey if those plants occurred within fifty feet of the shoreline. The presence of submerged aquatic plants was noted when they were seen, however the conditions were not always conducive to seeing the submerged plants. Distance from shore also makes it more difficult to view submerged plants due to glare on the surface and color and

clarity of the water. For that reason, only the emergent and floating leaf vegetation presence is included in the figures 1g and 1h above and the ‘no veg’ category means that there was not floating leaf or emergent vegetation present but there could have been submerged. To better understand the health of the entire plant community, the aquatic plant survey results in the current lake management plan should be referenced. The number of parcels that had either floating leaf, emergent or both growth types of vegetation present was nearly identical between the two surveys. There was a small shift in proportion between surveys with the amount of floating leaf vegetation increasing while the emergent growth type minorly subsided. As with the health and presence of the submerged plant community, the true health and extent of the floating leaf and emergent plant communities would be more accurately defined in the whole lake aquatic plant survey; but these data show us that their presence directly in front of parcels has not changed much between surveys and may indicate that there is not widespread removal of those vegetation types occurring on Rock Lake. The reason for the documentation of these data in the shoreland survey is to help capture any human impacts to the natural state of the lake including removal of vegetation that may be occurring. Riparian landowners are allowed to manually rake aquatic plants from a 30-foot-wide corridor in front of their property to provide access to the lake for swimming and navigation. The full details of this permit exemption can be found in state statute NR 109.

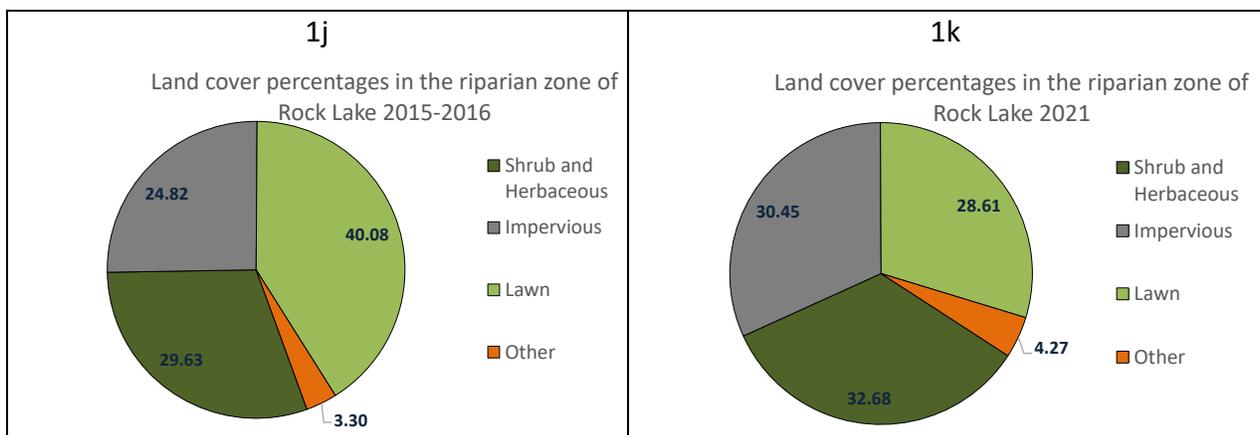


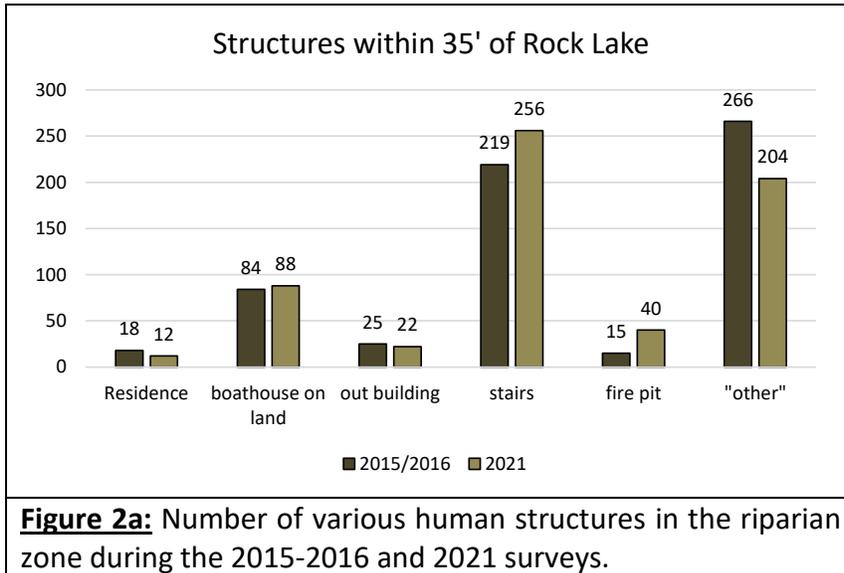
Figure 1j: Land cover in the riparian zone during the 2015-2016 shoreland survey by land use type.

Figure 1k: Land cover in the riparian zone during the 2021 shoreland survey by land use type.

The percent of land cover types found within the riparian zone was estimated for each parcel. The information recorded for all of the parcels is summarized in the pie charts above. The “other” component included bare soil, sand, gravel, cobble, and mulch. The results of the land cover types in the riparian zone, like other metrics, also show that the area covered by shrub and herbaceous vegetation has indeed increased since 2015-2016 but it also shows how that land cover has shifted in other ways. While there was an increase in riparian area occupied by shrub and herbaceous vegetation in 2021 we can see in figures 1j and 1k that there was also an increase in the amount of impervious area in the riparian zone on Rock Lake. The percentage of area in the “other” category remained similar between surveys so it is clear from the decrease in the percentage of area covered by lawn that much of the area that was occupied by

manicured lawns in 2015-2016 was shifted to other covers. The data indicates that since the 2015-2016 surveys about 11% of the riparian area on Rock Lake has been converted from lawn to either shrub and herbaceous habitat area or areas of impervious surface in 2021.

Section 2: Other Human influence in the riparian, bank, and littoral zones



Riparian zone

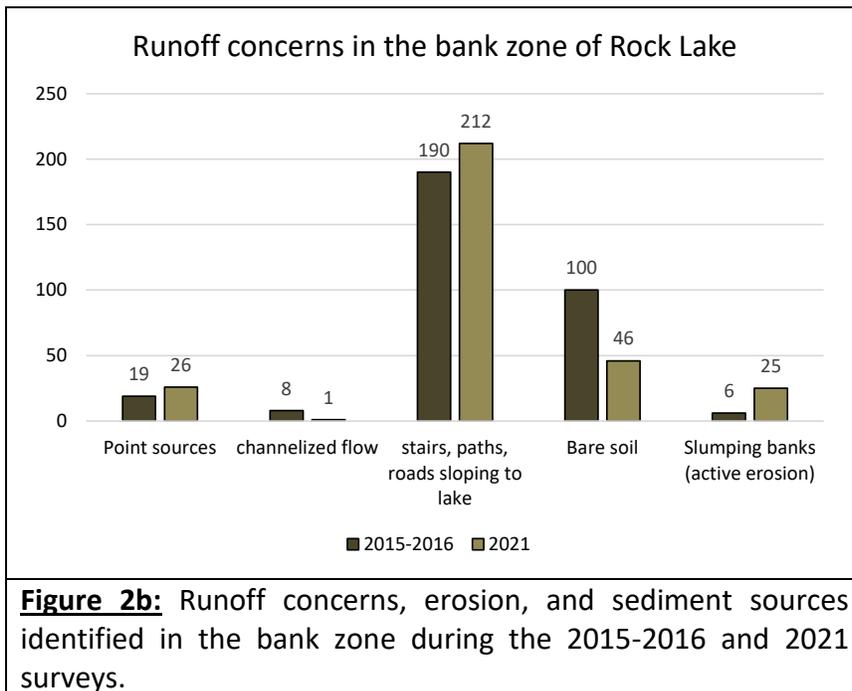
The number of structures within 35 feet of the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) were counted as part of the survey. Structures in the “other” category included items such as paths, retaining walls, decks, patios, boats on shore, fishing platforms and roads. During this survey structures presence in the riparian zone was determined using a range

finder and measuring the distance from the OHWM. This requires first measuring the distance from the OHWM and then from the object. In several cases there were structures that were right on the line of being within or outside the riparian zone. This is the most likely reason for the difference in number of residences in the riparian zone between surveys as we know there were not six houses moved back from the lake. The difficulty of getting an accurate measurement from a distance, in a boat, and in spite of human error likely led to the difference in residential structures between the two survey years. In this survey, out buildings were considered to be small sheds, garden sheds, or other small storage buildings. Fire pits specifically are counted in the riparian area as a part of this survey because they are considered a point source of phosphorus input into lakes. Ash from fires that remain in the firepits are very high in phosphorus and present an opportunity for a very concentrated addition of phosphorus to the lake if the ash is blown, tipped, or washed into the lake either intentionally or by wind and rain.

Watercraft on shore were also counted during the surveys. The types of craft documented were kayaks, canoes, paddleboards, rowboats, small fishing boats with out motors, and paddleboats. During the 2015-2016 survey 102 of these watercrafts were documented on the shore of Rock Lake in the riparian zone. During the 2021 survey this number jumped to 156 indicating a marked increase in non-motorized boat use, particularly paddle craft, by lakeshore property owners on Rock Lake.

Bank zone

Bank modifications documented as part of this survey include vertical seawall, rip rap, artificial beach, and an “other erosion control” category. Due to their numerous negative impacts on nearshore habitat, new seawall installation is very rare in Wisconsin and in most cases will not be permitted. There is however still some opportunity to replace existing seawall that may be failing. While still having impacts to habitat and aquatic organism life cycles, rip rap has fewer negative impacts. New rip rap can still be installed on lake shores and in some cases is exempt from requiring a permit. The length and presence of these types of erosion control is noted in the shoreland survey due to their impact on aquatic and near shore habitat. Since the lengths are estimated, there can be some difference in the numbers from year to year that stems from human error rather than a true shift in the amount of erosion control structures on the lake. While the results of the 2021 survey showed a small decrease in the amount of seawall on Rock Lake, it is likely that this difference is a result of estimation differences from observers between surveys. We know that new seawall is extremely unlikely to be permitted and that seawall removal is an uncommon practice so the most reasonable conclusion from the survey data is that the amount of seawall on Rock Lake has remained essentially the same between surveys. The presence of rip rap also showed a decrease in 2021 from the 2015-2016. In 2021 there were three fewer parcels with rip rap than in 2015-2016. The difference in shoreline length of rip rap seems to indicate a greater change but this also is most likely due to differences in estimation. Another consideration that should be noted is that if there was failing rip rap that was no longer functioning to prevent erosion, it was not counted as rip rap during the survey and this could be the reason for the three fewer parcels with rip rap rather than rip rap removal. Overall, the changes in rip rap and seawall of Rock Lake between surveys are essentially negligible.



Run off concerns were also documented during the survey. These occurrences were documented both in and outside of the riparian zone. These concerns were documented individually because most of them could be considered a direct source of pollution to the lake. Stairs, paths, and roads sloping to the lake can create a direct path for water to quickly enter the lake during runoff events. There was a slight increase of these items in the riparian zone between surveys.

In areas where flow is extremely concentrated channelized flow can occur and cause

gullies or ruts to form although there was only 1 documented in the 2021 survey. The 2021 survey also noted less than half the amount of bare soil in the bank zone compared to the 2015-2016 survey. Bare soil areas within 35 feet of the water can cause a lot of sedimentation to the lake. Unfortunately, there was quite a few more slumping banks noted in 2021 than 2015-2016 which are also a source of sedimentation and a major erosion concern. Slumping banks are caused by erosion taking place at the bank toe underneath the rest of the bank which results in large chunks of land sinking and breaking off from the shore.

Littoral zone

Structures and human influence in the littoral zone is counted. The littoral zone is the nearshore area of the lake from the ordinary high water mark out to the maximum growth of plants in a lake. The structures counted in the survey include over-water boathouses, marinas, swim rafts and platforms, and generally any other human placed item. Additional items that were counted in the “other” category during the

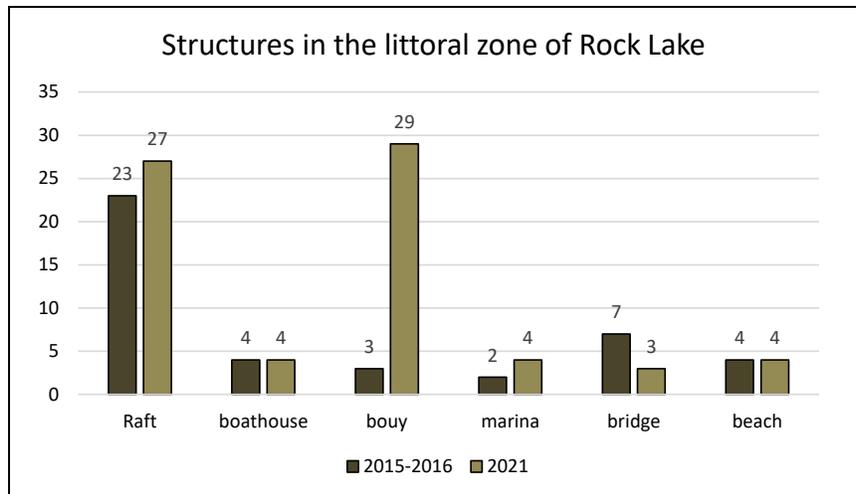


Figure 2c: Number of various human structures in found in the littoral zone of Rock Lake during the 2015-2016 and 2021 surveys.

2015-2016 survey included 6 boat launches, a dam, 1 handicap accesses fishing platform, stairs into the water, a deck hanging over the water, and a wooden landing in the water. During the 2021 survey a couple new items were counted including paddlecraft tied to piers or shore and a trampoline that was placed in the lake next to a pier. Most of the items in the littoral zone remained the same or very similar between surveys with the exception of mooring buoys. It is thought that the mooring buoys associated with lots may have been undercounted during the 2015-2016 survey because sometimes the survey boat was in between the shore and the buoy, and the surveyors were looking at the land. It does appear though that there was a large increase in the presence of mooring buoys in the five years between surveys. This could be because of low water levels and lake users having difficulty accessing their piers by boats and so needing to moor further out. Another possibility that several lakefront property owners have mentioned is that many people were doing so because they have experienced motorboats driving at high speeds too close for comfort while swimming off their pier and the buoys kept them further away from shore.

Throughout the years, there have been surveys of piers on Rock Lake. This number is important because it gives an indication of the development of the near-shore water area. The information is contained in figure 2d. Piers and similar structures have both a site specific and

cumulative effect on shallow-water plant communities and the habitat functions they provide. A study done on both Rock and Ripley Lakes found that placement of piers alters and typically reduces plant growth and presence of and ultimately habitat for macroinvertebrates and fish. This results in a loss of biocomplexity in a lake’s littoral zone and the reduction in plant growth will have an adverse impact on higher levels in the food chain as evidenced by reduced macroinvertebrates and fish numbers underneath the piers. Considering pier numbers and their cumulative impacts on the lake is important because of their impacts on habitat and wildlife.

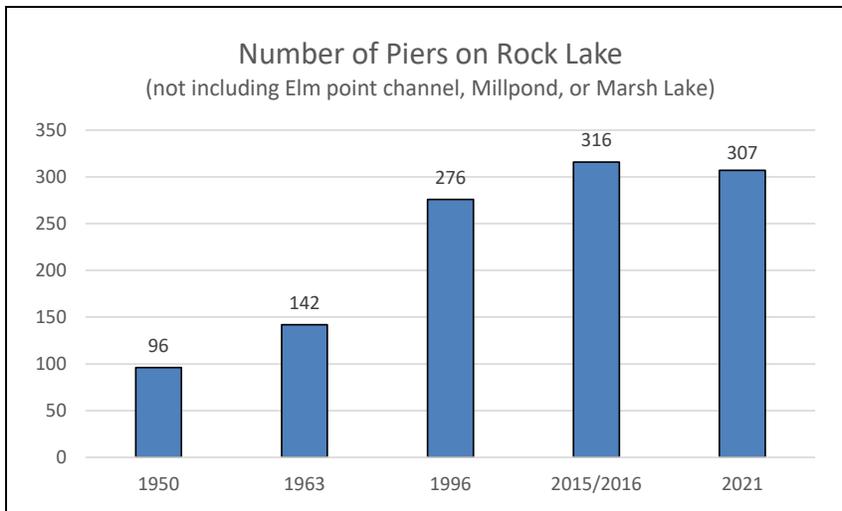


Figure 2d: Number of piers on Rock Lake through the years.

The 1950 and 1963 data were generated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) via mid-summer aerial photos. The DNR also did a pier survey by boat in 1996. These 3 surveys didn’t include piers in the millpond, Marsh Lake, or the channel located along Elm Point Road. The number of piers displayed in the chart for 2015/2016 and 2021 includes the piers

counted on Rock Lake during the shoreline habitat assessment but not the Marsh, millpond, or Elm Point channel for comparison sake (although these were counted as part of the survey). The number of piers documented in 2015 and 2016 in the Elm Point channel was 3 and in the millpond was 13. In the 2021 survey 5 piers were counted in the Elm point channel and 13 in the millpond. Properties that don’t have piers in the Elm Point channel typically still had boats parked along their frontage, there were 9 watercraft counted in the water during the 2015/2016 survey in the Elm Point channel. During the 2021 survey it was observed that the Elm Point channel opening was very shallow and difficult to navigate. While it has probably experienced some sedimentation over time this was probably

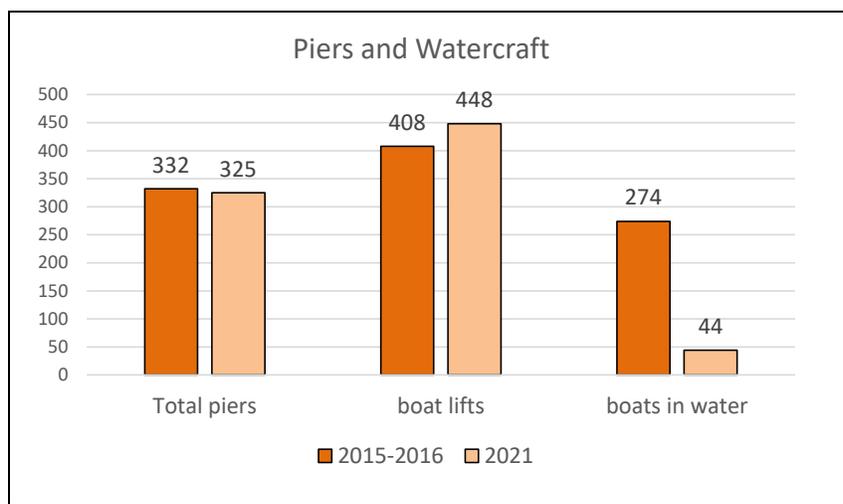


Figure 2e: Counts of total pier, boat lifts, and boats observed in the water for both the 2015-2016 and 2021 surveys.

exacerbated by the record low water levels in 2021. During the 2021 survey while there were two additional piers counted, there were only 3 watercraft in the water. In 2015/2016, the total number of piers on Rock Lake including the millpond, and the Elm Point channel was 332, in 2021 it was 325.

Both watercraft in the water and boat lifts were counted to obtain an approximation of the number of watercraft (boats, sail boats, jet skis, etc.) kept on the lake. However, it should be noted that empty lifts were counted and some of the watercraft in the water could typically be “housed” on those empty lifts. In addition, some watercraft typically kept at the pier in the water (or on a lift) could have been in use on the lake and therefore would not have been counted as part of the survey. The metric would not be a good indication of the amount of recreation taking place on the lake.

Section 3: Conclusions and Recommendations

Communications following the surveys

The LWCD developed a fact sheet to inform people about the shoreland and shallows survey project in 2015-2016 and an executive summary of this report was produced in early 2022. This information was shared with the public in a variety of ways:

- Shared at a Land and Water Conservation Committee meeting in 2015-2016
- Shared at a Rock Lake Improvement Association meeting for both surveys
- Shared at a Joint Rock Lake Committee meeting for both surveys
- An additional presentation and slide show of the results and comparison in this report was presented to the public at a Rock Lake Improvement Association meeting in early 2022.
- The 2021 survey executive summary is available on the Rock Lake Improvement Associations website along with this full report.
- Individual landowners were also encouraged to reach out to LWCD to learn how their own properties were evaluated.

The LWCD also shared information about the shoreland and shallows project through one-on-one conversations with citizens, at a June 21, 2016 presentation on Rock Lake sponsored by the Lake Mills Arts Alliance, and at various public meetings throughout the life of the project.

Recommendations following the 2021 survey

In order to maintain current data and assess the changes in the shoreland and shallows area of Rock Lake, it is recommended in the protocol that the shoreland and shallows survey be repeated approximately every 5 years. With two surveys we are now able to compare how the habitat and shoreland health of Rock Lake has changed in the last five years and update our goals based on the findings. We have also established a good baseline for the condition of Rock Lake and identified areas that continue to need our attention.

The main changes between surveys seem to be in land use and vegetation presence in the riparian area of Rock Lake. Conditions in the bank and littoral zones of Rock Lake remained

similar between the two surveys. Human impacts such as swim rafts, and vegetation removal remained comparable between surveys, the one big increase in human impacts in the riparian zone was mooring buoys. This may be as a result of record low water levels in 2021 that required people to moor buoys away from their docks which were in many cases too shallow to access or, as suggested by a number of riparian owners, safety concerns with boat traffic coming too close to their piers at high speeds. The drought may also explain the marked decrease in the number of 'boats in the water' between the two surveys.

The change observed in the riparian land use was an increase in shrub and herbaceous cover and vegetated buffer. This was also accompanied by an increase in impervious surface, these areas were likely converted to those uses from manicured lawn which saw decreased between surveys. Interestingly while shrub and herbaceous cover increased, canopy cover decreased between surveys.

It is recommended that the amount of shoreland vegetation along the lake continue to be increased in order to achieve more water quality protections and increase habitat for wildlife. The Rock Lake Management Plan outlines a goal of 39% of total shoreland length with native vegetation by 2022 and the 2021 survey found the total shoreline length with vegetated buffer to be 33.1%. While this did not quite reach the goal, it is a good increase from the 28% cover found in the 2015-2016 survey. The DNR's Healthy Lakes grant program should continue to be used and promoted to help interested landowners with the costs of establishing a native shoreland buffer. The goal in the management plan is to have 50% of the shoreline length containing a native vegetation buffer by 2027. The LWCD should work in partnership with the RLIA to educate property owners about the benefits of installing native plants in the shoreland area and drawbacks of having impervious surfaces. Another area of outreach that was conducted as part of the 2015-2016 survey that should continue to be pursued is contacting individual landowners with identified erosion problems on their shores to offer cost sharing opportunities and logistical support to address the ongoing erosion. These sites should also be viewed again in subsequent years to see if conditions have changed.

Opportunities for outreach include posting this report and an executive summary on the RLIA website and sharing summary information at meetings and events that RLIA has a presence at. A presentation of these most recent results and comparison to previous data was given to the RLIA board by the LWCD at their March 2022 board meeting. A longer more comprehensive presentation was given to the board again in April 2022 following repeated advertisement to the public and RLIA membership of the presentation. A summary of this information can also be shared at the RLIA annual meeting. These results will also be shared with Jefferson county's Land and Water Conservation Committee.