

PROPERTY OWNER SURVEY

The Lake Wapogasset and Bear Trap Lake Sanitary District conducted a property owner survey in February 2026 to gather input for the update of the Lake Wapogasset and Bear Trap Lake Comprehensive Lake Management Plan.

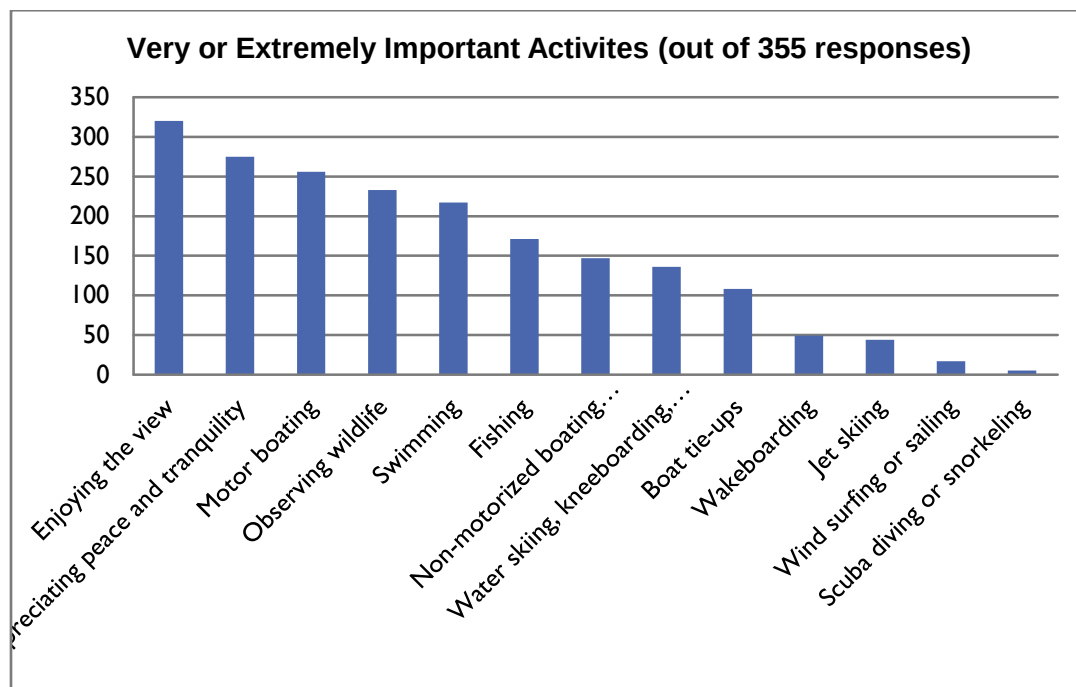
A notice of online survey availability was emailed to 847 property owners and mailed to 55 property owners. In many cases, there was more than one email address per property. However, recipients were asked to complete only one survey per property. Property owners could enter survey results online via Survey Monkey or request a paper copy to return. Surveys returned by mail were entered into the online survey tool for them. **A total of 344 surveys were entered into the online survey.** The Sanitary District completed a previous property owner survey of lake residents in May 2009. Surveys were mailed and compiled by hand for that survey. For the 2009 survey, **350 surveys were returned out of approximately 650 sent out, a 54% return rate.**

A full summary report is available. This fact sheet emphasizes issues to be addressed in the comprehensive lake management plan update. Aquatic plant and invasive species management will be addressed in a future update of the aquatic plant management plan.

OWNERSHIP AND USE

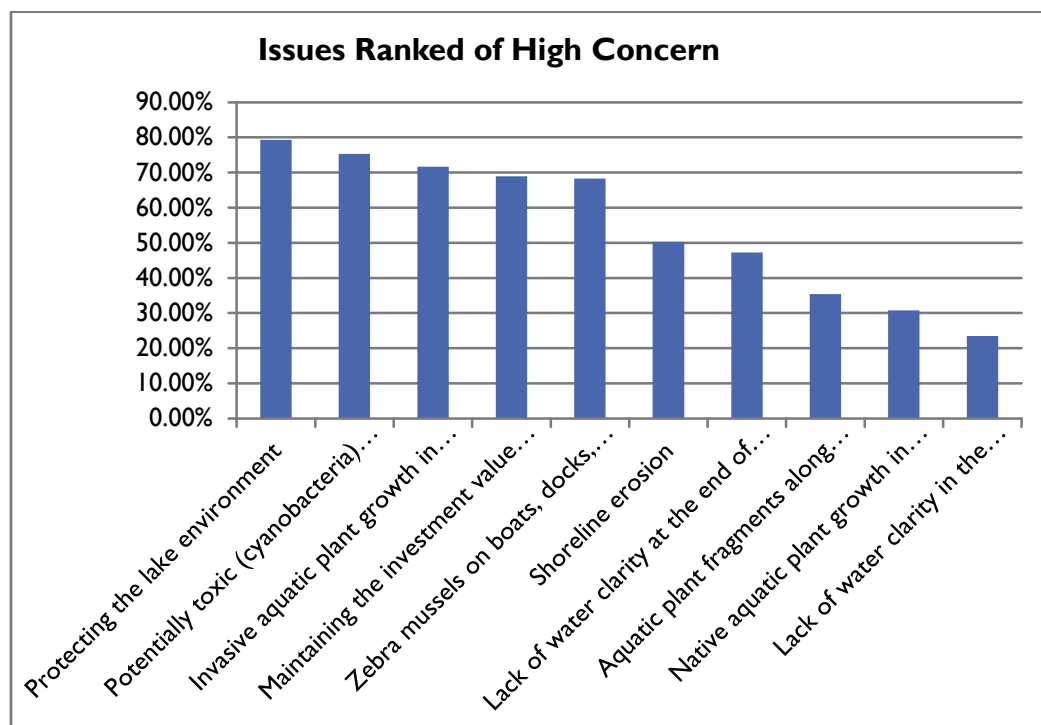
60% of respondents own property on Lake Wapogasset, 34% of respondents own property on Bear Trap Lake, and 5% live nearby. Responses were nearly evenly divided between year-round residence (32%), seasonal residence (29%), and use for weekends, vacations and/or holidays (35%). In 2009 29% described their lake property as their permanent residence. 97% of respondents do not rent their property to others.

The survey asked: **How important are each of the following recreational activities to your enjoyment of Lake Wapogasset and/or Bear Trap Lake?** Activities were ranked as not at all, a little, somewhat, very, or extremely important. Those most frequently ranked as very or extremely important included enjoying the view, appreciating peace and tranquility, motor boating, and observing wildlife. In 2009, top ranked activities were enjoying the view, appreciating peace and tranquility, and observing wildlife. Motor boating and fishing ranked below these activities in 2009.



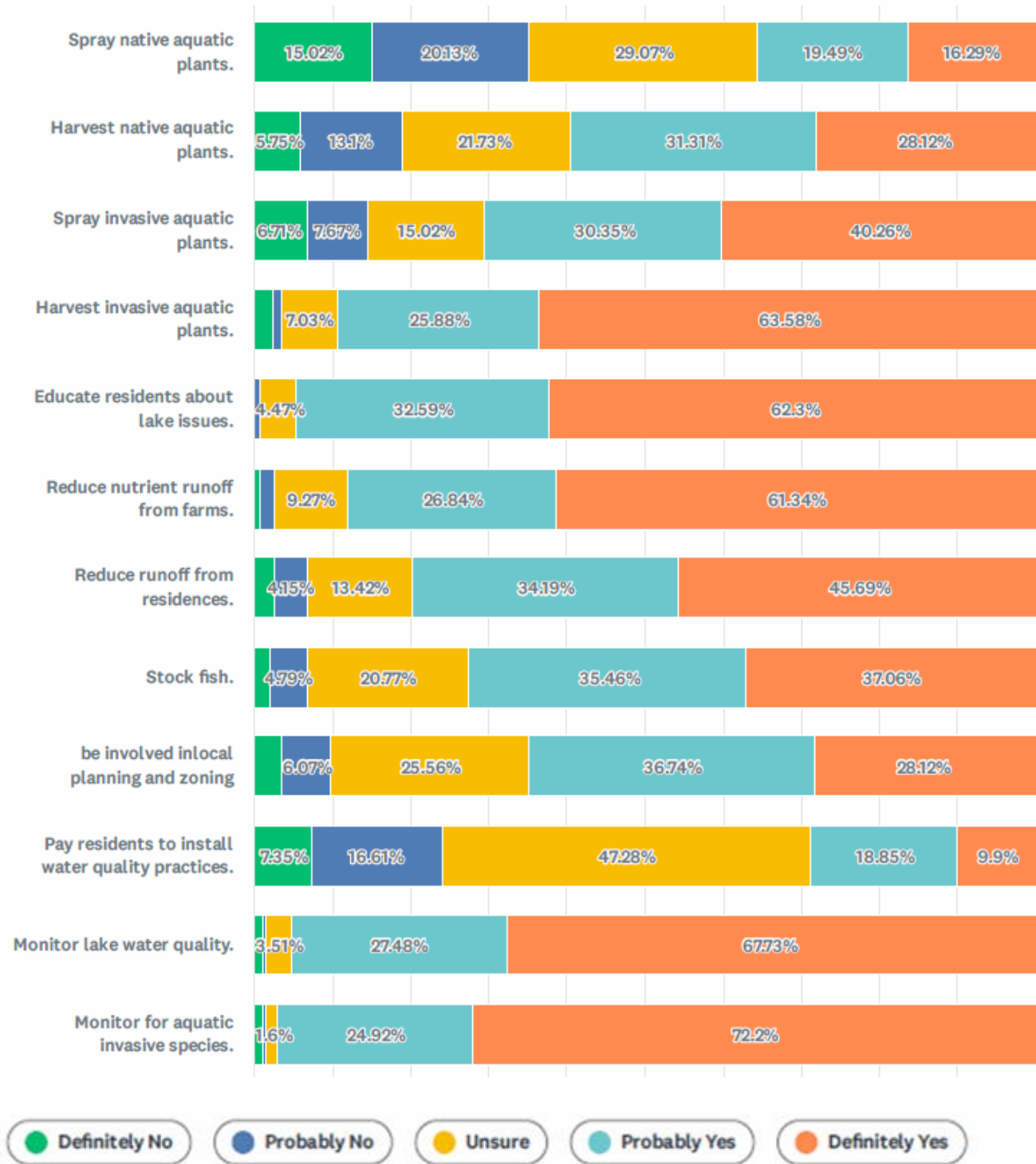
CONCERNS

The survey asked: What is your degree of concern associated with each issue related to Wapo or Bear Trap listed below? If you believe the issue doesn't exist, check the first column. If you believe the issue exists but is not a concern, check the second column. If the issue concerns you, please rate your concern as low, medium or high. Those most frequently identified as a high concern included protecting the lake environment, potentially toxic algae growth, and invasive aquatic plants.

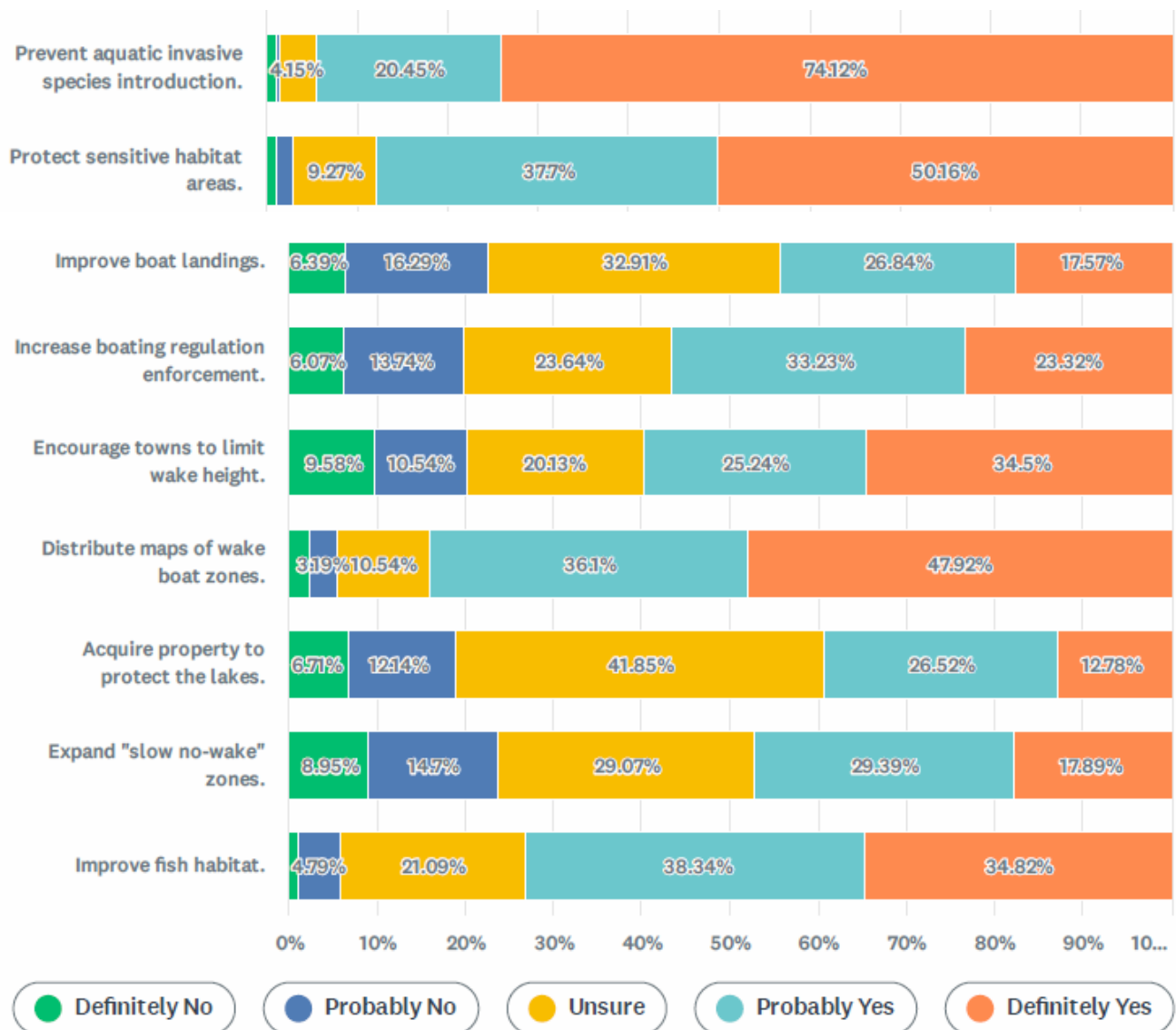


LAKE MANAGEMENT

The most supported activities intended to improve our lakes included preventing aquatic invasive species (AIS) introduction, monitoring for AIS and water quality, harvesting AIS, and education.



Support for Lake Management Activities (continued)



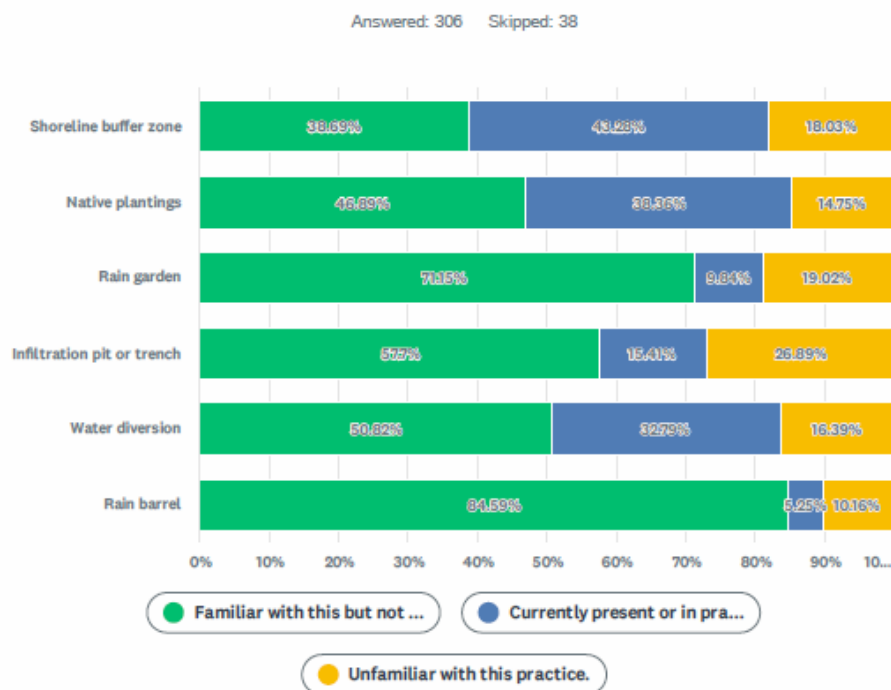
ALUM TREATMENT

Most respondents were unsure or needed more information before deciding on pursuing an alum treatment for Lake Wapogasset (49%) or Bear Trap Lake (52%). Positive responses of yes and probably yes regarding pursuing an alum treatment totaled 38% for Lake Wapogasset and 34% for Bear Trap Lake. Cost estimates for an alum treatment were not available at the time of the survey.

WATER QUALITY LANDSCAPING/HEALTHY LAKES PRACTICES

Respondents had gained familiarity with Healthy Lakes landscaping practices since the 2009 survey. There were also reported increases in project installation. However interest in installing practices changed little. Those “fairly interested” increased from 25% to 32% and those “very interested” went from 16% to 15%. The factor most likely to motivate installation was improving water quality in both surveys. The most common reason for not choosing to install a practice was “I don’t want to spend the money” (16%) and “I don’t know how to install the practice” (14%).

Q21 The following are landscaping practices used to improve lake water quality. Please tell us which practices you are familiar with and which ones are already present on your Lake Wapogasset or Bear Trap property. Choose one response for each practice.



2009 Responses

44% F, 35% P

41% F, 31% P

53% F, 5% P

41% F, 3% P

40% F, 14% P

56% F, 3% P

SOURCES

Clemens, Cheryl and Shelley Rose. 2026 Lake Wapogasset and Bear Trap Lake. Property Owner Survey Report. March 2026.

Survey Monkey Results. Lake Wapogasset and Bear Trap Lake. March 2026.