
CITIZEN SURVEY OF BENTLEY POND WATERSHED 2010

1. How long have you had experience with Bentley Pond?

- ☐ Less than a year ☐ 1-5 years ☐ 6-10 years ☐ 11-20 years ☐ More than 20 years

2. Where is your property or rental nearest to Bentley Pond located?

(See map attached to cover letter to locate your property)

- ☐ On the pond ☐ Outside the watershed but in Portage Co.
☐ Not on the pond but in the pond watershed ☐ Outside of Portage Co.

3. What time of the year do you generally use Bentley Pond?

(Check all that apply)

- ☐ March - April ☐ May – August ☐ September – November ☐ December – February
☐ Don't use the lake (go to question 26)

♦♦RECREATION♦♦

4. Which days during the week do you typically use Bentley Pond?

(Check all that apply)

- ☐ Monday – Thursday ☐ Friday ☐ Saturday ☐ Sunday

5. When you use Bentley Pond, are you typically ... (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Alone ☐ With family members ☐ With friends ☐ With members of a club ☐ Other _____

6. What activities do you enjoy at or near Bentley Pond? (Check all that apply)

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Hunting | <input type="radio"/> Swimming | <input type="radio"/> Walking |
| <input type="radio"/> Biking | <input type="radio"/> Enjoying scenery | <input type="radio"/> Nature photography |
| <input type="radio"/> ATV riding | <input type="radio"/> Picnicking | <input type="radio"/> X-country skiing, snowshoeing |
| <input type="radio"/> Canoeing / kayaking | <input type="radio"/> Enjoying wildlife | <input type="radio"/> Snowmobiling |
| <input type="radio"/> Fishing | <input type="radio"/> Solitude | <input type="radio"/> Ice fishing |
| <input type="radio"/> Other _____ | | |

7. Which statement best describes your experience in or on the pond?

- ☐ Rarely see and hear another person
☐ I see others but they do not bother me
☐ Sometimes the noise and activities of others disturb me
☐ Often the noise and activities of others disturb me
☐ I have to regularly plan around the noise and activities of others
☐ There is so much noise and activity that I normally can't enjoy the lake

8. What could be done to maintain or improve your recreation experience on Bentley Pond?

♦♦WILDLIFE♦♦

9. How important is it for you to see wildlife (ducks, geese, squirrels, songbirds, frogs, turtles, etc) when you use Bentley Pond?

- ☐ Very important ☐ Somewhat important ☐ Not too important ☐ Not at all important

10. How has the quality of the wildlife habitat near Bentley Pond changed since you began using the pond?

- ☐ Improved ☐ Stayed the same ☐ Declined ☐ Not sure

If it has changed, what factors do you feel have contributed to this change?

♦♦FISHING♦♦

11. How many years of fishing experience do you have on Bentley Pond?

- ☐ Less than a year ☐ 1-5 years ☐ 6-10 years ☐ 11-20 years ☐ More than 20 years
☐ I don't fish on the pond (go to question 17)

12. In 2008, how often did you fish Bentley Pond?

Open water:

- ☐ Daily ☐ Weekly ☐ Once or twice a month ☐ A few times a year ☐ Didn't fish

Ice fishing:

- ☐ Daily ☐ Weekly ☐ Once or twice a month ☐ A few times a year ☐ Didn't fish

13. How would you rate your fishing experiences on Bentley Pond?

- ☐ Excellent ☐ Very Good ☐ Average ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

14. In general, how would you describe your fishing experiences on Bentley Pond?

Frequency of catch:

- ☐ I catch fish every time I go out
☐ I catch fish most times I go out
☐ I sometimes catch fish
☐ I rarely catch fish

Fish size:

- ☐ Most fish are big enough to keep
☐ Some fish are big enough to keep
☐ Most fish are too small to keep

15. What type of fish do you catch?

- ☐ Northern Pike ☐ Crappie ☐ Bluegill
☐ I haven't caught any ☐ Other _____

16. In general, would you say the quality of fishing on Bentley Pond has ...

- ☐ Improved ☐ Stayed the same ☐ Declined ☐ Not Sure

If you indicated that fishing quality has declined, what do you believe has contributed to the decline? (Check all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Loss of habitat | <input type="radio"/> Development pressure | <input type="radio"/> Livestock agriculture |
| <input type="radio"/> Shoreline damage | <input type="radio"/> Heavy recreation use | <input type="radio"/> Aquatic plants |
| <input type="radio"/> Over fishing | <input type="radio"/> Septic system seepage | <input type="radio"/> Algae |
| <input type="radio"/> Fertilizer use | <input type="radio"/> Herbicide use | <input type="radio"/> Air pollution |
| <input type="radio"/> Soil erosion | <input type="radio"/> Vegetable agriculture | <input type="radio"/> Other _____ |

Comments:

♦♦AQUATIC PLANTS♦♦

17. In your opinion, which statement best describes the current amount of aquatic plant growth in Bentley Pond?

- ☐ Very little, less than optimum for fish and wildlife
- ☐ Just the right amount for fish and wildlife and doesn't affect my use of the pond.
- ☐ Dense growth, more than optimum for fish and wildlife and the plants limit my use of the pond
- ☐ Choked with growth, the plants ruin fishing and my ability to enjoy the lake
- ☐ Not Sure

If you selected dense or choked, what month(s) do the problems occur? (Circle all that apply)

- ☐ May ☐ June ☐ July ☐ August

18. Are you aware that an invasive aquatic plant (Eurasian Watermilfoil) has been found in lakes near Bentley Pond?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

19. Since the state has indicated that they cannot pay for the entire cost of managing invasive aquatic plants, who should pay for these practices? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Individuals ☐ Local municipality ☐ County ☐ No one (no management is undertaken)

Comments _____

20. After you have been in another lake or pond, do you clean your boat, trailer, and fishing equipment and empty your boat's live wells and tanks before using them in Bentley Pond?

- ☐ Yes, all of the time ☐ Yes, some of the time ☐ No, never ☐ No, only boat on this pond
☐ Don't use a boat in the millpond

22. What suggestions would you have to prevent further aquatic invasive species from entering Bentley Pond?

♦♦WATER QUALITY♦♦

23. In your opinion, which statement best describes the current water quality in Bentley Pond?

- ☐ Excellent (Clear most days, no scum present)
- ☐ Good (Clear most days, some scum present)
- ☐ Fair (Clear on some days, scum frequently present)
- ☐ Poor (Murky or scummy most of the time)
- ☐ Not Sure

If you have observed water quality problems, what month(s) do the problems occur?
(Check all that apply)

- ☐ May ☐ June ☐ July ☐ August ☐ Other _____

24. In general, the water quality of Bentley Pond has...?

- ☐ Improved ☐ Stayed the same ☐ Declined ☐ Not Sure

If it has improved, what do you feel has contributed to this?

If it has declined, what in your opinion are the primary causes? (Check all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Loss of aquatic plants | <input type="radio"/> Septic system seepage | <input type="radio"/> Vegetable agriculture |
| <input type="radio"/> Shoreline damage | <input type="radio"/> Fertilizer use | <input type="radio"/> Livestock agriculture |
| <input type="radio"/> Over fishing | <input type="radio"/> Soil erosion | <input type="radio"/> Excess aquatic plants |
| <input type="radio"/> Development pressure | <input type="radio"/> Herbicide use | <input type="radio"/> Excess algae |
| <input type="radio"/> Heavy recreation use | <input type="radio"/> Air pollution | |
| <input type="radio"/> Other: _____ | | |

25. How much impact does the water quality have on your perceived value of Bentley Pond?

Economic

- ☐ Major impact ☐ Some impact ☐ Little or no impact ☐ Not sure

Personal enjoyment

- ☐ Major impact ☐ Some impact ☐ Little or no impact ☐ Not sure

♦♦WATERSHED LAND MANAGEMENT♦♦

Please answer only if you live or own property anywhere in Bentley Pond watershed, otherwise go to Question 38.

26. Do you use fertilizer?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No (if no, go to Question 27)

If yes, where?

- ☐ Agricultural fields ☐ Garden ☐ Lawn ☐ Other _____

What is the size of the total area that is fertilized? _____ acres or _____ square feet

How many times per year do you apply fertilizer? _____

Do you use fertilizer which contains phosphorus?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

Do you test your soil before applying fertilizer?

- ☐ Yes, all of the time ☐ Yes, some of the time ☐ No, never

If you fertilize agricultural fields, do you have a nutrient management plan on....

- ☐ All of the land you fertilize ☐ Some of the land you fertilize
☐ None of the land ☐ Do not fertilize agricultural fields

27. Do you know when your septic system was...

Installed ____ Years ago **Last maintained** ____ Years ago ☐ No septic/Not on septic

34. What might motivate you to change how you manage your land? (Check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Improving water quality | <input type="radio"/> Setting an example for community members |
| <input type="radio"/> Improving water quantity or saving water | <input type="radio"/> Savings on landscaping/maintenance costs |
| <input type="radio"/> Providing better habitat for fish and wildlife | <input type="radio"/> Increasing my privacy |
| <input type="radio"/> Increasing the natural beauty of my property | <input type="radio"/> Increasing my property value |
| <input type="radio"/> Displaying a commitment to the environment | <input type="radio"/> Saving money |
| <input type="radio"/> Available financial assistance | <input type="radio"/> Changes to municipal ordinances |
| <input type="radio"/> Available technical assistance | <input type="radio"/> Other _____ |

♦♦SHORELAND MANAGEMENT♦♦

Please answer only if you own shoreland property, otherwise go to Question 38

35. How many feet of pond frontage do you own? _____ feet
36. What best describes where your property meets the pond? (Check all that apply)
- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Undeveloped natural landscape | <input type="radio"/> Lawn | <input type="radio"/> Landscaped trees and shrubs not mowed |
| <input type="radio"/> Rock Riprap for Stabilization | <input type="radio"/> Retaining Wall | <input type="radio"/> Boathouse or other building |
- If you have a natural landscape or a combination of un-mowed vegetation with trees and shrubs, how far from the shoreline on to the property does it extend? _____ feet
37. Are you aware of the Portage County/State Shoreland Ordinances?
- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|

♦♦ GENERAL ♦♦

38. How adequately do you feel the present land use regulations protect habitat and water quality in the pond?
- | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Very adequate | <input type="radio"/> Fairly adequate | <input type="radio"/> Not too adequate | <input type="radio"/> Not at all adequate | <input type="radio"/> Not sure |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------|
39. Many lakes around Wisconsin have stewardship groups that help to look after the lake. Some of their activities may include water quality monitoring, invasive species monitoring, boat launch inspection, etc. Since Bentley Pond does not have a stewardship group, would you be willing to volunteer some time to participate in some of these activities?
- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|

If yes, please fill out and mail the enclosed postcard or contact Linda Stoll at 346-4853 or send an e-mail to pclakes@uwsp.edu

40. What do you value most about Bentley Pond?

41. In your opinion, what should be done to restore, maintain, or improve Bentley Pond?

42. How would you like to receive information on planning and management activities for Bentley Pond? (Check all that apply)
- | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Meetings | <input type="radio"/> Workshops | <input type="radio"/> Newspaper |
| <input type="radio"/> Website | <input type="radio"/> Events like lake fairs, celebrations, etc | <input type="radio"/> E-mail |
| <input type="radio"/> Form a lake group | <input type="radio"/> Information in municipal mailings | <input type="radio"/> Other _____ |

(Optional: Please provide an e-mail address on the enclosed postcard if you want information in this manner)