

2012 Church Pine, Round, and Big Lake Watershed Survey

Summary Slides



Water Quality Grant Project

Church Pine, Round, Big Lake Sociological Survey Results

Response Rate	Respondent's Lake
224 Mailed	54% Big Lake
116 Completed	15% Round Lake
52% Response Rate	31% Church Pine



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Church Pine, Round, Big Lake Sociological Survey Results

Resident Status
44% Year Round
6% Seasonal
46% Weekend, Vacation, Holiday



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Church Pine, Round, Big Lake Sociological Survey Results

Watercraft
146 Pontoons & Other Motorized Boats
89 Canoes & Kayaks
70 Paddle Boats & Row Boats
24 Jet Skis
8 Sail Boats



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Church Pine, Round, Big Lake Sociological Survey Results

Top 3 Concerns
1) Property Value and/or Taxes
2) Invasive Species
3) Aquatic Plants, Pollution



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Church Pine, Round, Big Lake Sociological Survey Results

Does algae negatively impact your enjoyment of the lake?	Yes
• Big Lake	68%
• Round Lake	59%
• Church Pine Lake	6%



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Church Pine, Round, Big Lake Sociological Survey Results

How would you describe current water quality?	Good or Excellent	Poor or Fair
• Big Lake	66%	29%
• Round Lake	75%	27%
• Church Pine Lake	92%	6%



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Church Pine, Round, Big Lake Sociological Survey Results

In the time that you have owned your property how has the water quality changed ?	-	0	+
• Big Lake	34%	34%	34%
• Round Lake	41%	47%	0%
• Church Pine Lake	44%	47%	6%



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Church Pine, Round, Big Lake Sociological Survey Results

Do you feel that shoreline buffers, rain gardens, and native plants are important to lake water quality?		
Not Important	Unsure	Important
10%	12%	78%



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Church Pine, Round, Big Lake Sociological Survey Results

Describe the first 35 feet of your lakeshore.	Mowed grass	Native flowers & grasses	Native flowers, grasses, shrubs & trees
	25%	9%	65%



Website Usage

Church Pine, Round, Big Lake Sociological Survey Results

How often do you visit the Lake District website? www.bigroundpine.com		
Frequency	Respondents	Percentage
Never	30	26%
Rarely	37	32%
Sometimes	39	34%
Often	10	9%

Response Details

- How many years have you owned property on or near Church Pine, Round, and Big Lake? *Note: If you own more than one property, please answer all questions for the property you have owned the longest.*

113 respondents, 97%

Average years: 22

- Which of the following best describes how you use your property? Please check one.

115 respondents, 99%

___ Year-round residence **51 respondents, 44%**

___ Seasonal residence—continued occupancy for months at a time **7 respondents, 6%**

___ Weekend, vacation, and/or holiday residence **53 respondents, 46%**

___ Rental property **1 respondent, 1%**

___ Other (please specify) _____ **4 respondents, 3%**

Do not use

3-4 days/week

Half time, year round

Use it year round but do not live there

- How many days in a typical year is your property used by you or others? Just provide your best estimate.

114 respondents, 98%

Average days per year: 194

4. On the average day that your property is occupied, how many people occupy the property?
116 respondents, 100%
Average people: 3
5. Land use generally falls into one of the following four categories: open space, shrub/grass/sedge community, woods, and impervious (hard) surfaces. Please use **estimated percentages** to describe the amount of each land use on your property. (The total should equal 100%.) We realize this may be challenging but please just provide your best estimate. **113 respondents, 97%**
___% Open space (lawns or mowed areas) **Average: 39%**
___% Shrub/grass/sedge community **Average: 16%**
___% Woods **Average: 25%**
___% Impervious surfaces (buildings, driveways, sidewalks, patios, gravel paths and driveways)
Average: 20%
6. Is your property located on the waterfront of Church Pine, Round, or Big Lake? **115 respondents, 99%**
___No, please skip to question 8 **8 respondents, 7%**
___Yes **107 respondents, 93%**
7. From the list below, which best describes the first 35 feet of your shoreline (the area located directly adjacent to the lake)? If you do not own shoreline property, please skip this question.
108 respondents, 93%
___Mostly mowed grass **26 respondents, 24%**
___Mostly native flowers and grasses **10 respondents, 9%**
___A mix of native flowers, grasses, *and shrubs* **3 respondents, 3%**
___A mix of native flowers, grasses, shrubs, *and trees* **70 respondents, 65%**
Other: Rockwall: 1 respondent, 1%
8. On an average year, which activities do you and/or your family partake in on Church Pine, Round, and Big Lake? Please check all that apply. **112 respondents, 97%**
___Fishing (any season) **91 respondents, 81%**
___Swimming, snorkeling, or scuba diving **95 respondents, 85%**
___Non-motorized water activities (birding, canoeing, hiking, running) **73 respondents, 65%**
___Motorized water activities (PWC, boating, water skiing, tubing, jet skiing) **98 respondents, 88%**
___Non-motorized winter activities (skiing, snowshoeing, ice skating) **44 respondents, 39%**
___Motorized winter activities (ATV, snowmobile) **18 respondents, 16%**
___Other, please describe _____ **5 respondents, 4%**
Enjoy time together and the view
Gardening vegetables
Training dog on ice
Dinner parties
Clean beach of leaves, weeds, and trash that floats in

9. How many of the following watercraft are kept on your property for use on Church Pine, Round, and Big Lake? If none, please write 0. **115 respondents, 99%**

- ___ Jet skis **24**
- ___ Motorboats/pontoons between 1-20 HP **24**
- ___ Motorboats/pontoons between 21-50 HP **64**
- ___ Motorboats/pontoons more than 50 HP **58**
- ___ Canoes and kayaks **89**
- ___ Paddleboats/rowboats **70**
- ___ Other, please describe _____ **11**
 - Paddle boards 3**
 - Sailboat 8**

10. From the list below, please rank your top three concerns for Church Pine, Round, and Big Lake. (Please list your top three concerns in order of importance, with 1st being most important).

112 respondents, 97%

- 1st Property values and/or taxes**
- 2nd Invasive species**
- 3rd Pollution and Aquatic plants**

Property values and/or taxes **119 points**

Invasive species (Eurasian water milfoil, zebra mussels, curly leaf, purple loosestrife) **117 points**

Aquatic plants (not including algae) **80 points**

Pollution (chemical inputs, septic systems, agriculture, erosion, storm water runoff) **80 points**

Water clarity (visibility) **64 points**

Algae blooms **39 points**

Quality of life **34 points**

Water levels (loss of lake volume) **33 points**

Water recreation safety (boat traffic, no wake zone) **31 points**

Quality of fisheries **30 points**

Development (population density, loss of wildlife habitat) **29 points**

Other, please describe _____ **3 points**

Rank of 2: Noise and light

Rank of 1: Preservation of recreational watersports

11. Which lake is your property located on or located nearest to? If your property is located on more than one lake please choose the lake you frequent most often. **115 respondents, 99%**

- ___ Church Pine Lake **36 respondents, 31%**
- ___ Round (Wind) Lake **17 respondents, 15%**
- ___ Big Lake **62 respondents, 54%**

Questions 12-15 are lake specific. Please answer these questions for the lake that you chose in question 11.

12. How would you describe the current water quality of **the lake your property is located on?**

___ Poor

Big: 2 respondents, 3%

Round: 0 respondents, 0%

Church Pine: 0 respondents, 0%

___ Fair

Big: 16 respondents, 26%

Round: 4 respondents, 25%

Church Pine: 2 respondents, 6%

___ Unsure

Big: 4 respondents, 7%

Round: 1 respondent, 6%

Church Pine: 1 respondent, 3%

___ Good

Big: 36 respondents, 59%

Round: 9 respondents, 56%

Church Pine: 13 respondents, 36%

___ Excellent

Big: 4 respondents, 7%

Round: 3 respondents, 19%

Church Pine: 20 respondents, 56%

13. In the time you've owned your property, how has the water quality changed in **the lake your property is located on?**

___ Severely degraded

Big: 3 respondents, 5%

Round: 2 respondents, 12%

Church Pine: 0 respondents, 0%

___ Somewhat degraded

Big: 18 respondents, 29%

Round: 5 respondents, 29%

Church Pine: 15 respondents, 44%

___ Remained unchanged

Big: 21 respondents, 34%

Round: 8 respondents, 47%

Church Pine: 16 respondents, 47%

___ Somewhat improved

Big: 12 respondents, 19%

Round: 0 respondents, 0%

Church Pine: 1 respondent, 3%

___ Greatly improved

Big: 3 respondents, 5%

Round: 0 respondents, 0%

Church Pine: 0 respondents, 0%

___ Unsure

Big: 6 respondents, 10%
Round: 2 respondents, 12%
Church Pine: 2 respondents, 6%

14. How often does algae negatively impact your enjoyment of **the lake your property is located on?**

Never

Big: 4 respondents, 6%
Round: 3 respondents, 18%
Church Pine: 11 respondents, 31%

Rarely

Big: 16 respondents, 26%
Round: 4 respondents, 24%
Church Pine: 16 respondents, 46%

Sometimes

Big: 31 respondents, 50%
Round: 9 respondents, 53%
Church Pine: 8 respondents, 23%

Often

Big: 9 respondents, 15%
Round: 1 respondent, 6%
Church Pine: 0 respondents, 0%

Always

Big: 2 respondents, 3%
Round: 0 respondents, 0%
Church Pine: 0 respondents, 0%

15. How would you describe the current amount of shoreline vegetation on **the lake your property is located on?**

Too much

Big: 21 respondents, 35%
Round: 7 respondents, 41%
Church Pine: 3 respondents, 9%

Just right

Big: 24 respondents, 40%
Round: 7 respondents, 41%
Church Pine: 25 respondents, 74%

Not enough

Big: 7 respondents, 12%
Round: 1 respondent, 6%
Church Pine: 2 respondents, 6%

Unsure

Big: 8 respondents, 13%
Round: 2 respondents, 12%
Church Pine: 4 respondents, 12%

16. How would you describe the importance of shoreline buffers, rain gardens, and native plants to the water quality of Church Pine, Round, and Big Lake? **114 respondents, 98%**

Not at all important **2 respondents, 2%**

Not too important **9 respondents, 8%**

Unsure **14 respondents, 12%**

Somewhat important **36 respondents, 32%**

Very important **53 respondents, 46%**

17. How would you describe your current use of fertilizer on your property? **115 respondents, 99%**

I do not use any fertilizer on my property **67 respondents, 58%**

I use zero phosphorus fertilizer on my property **40 respondents, 35%**

I use fertilizer on my property but I'm unsure of its phosphorus content **6 respondents, 5%**

I use fertilizer on my property that contains phosphorus **2 respondents, 2%**

18. From the list below, please check all of the management practices you feel should be used to maintain or improve the water quality of Church Pine, Round, and Big Lake. Note: Cost sharing assistance refers to a process where the landowner is responsible for a portion of the cost of a particular project and their contribution is matched by another source (state dollars, grant dollars, district dollars).

109 respondents, 94%

___ Cost-sharing assistance for the installation of shoreline buffers and rain gardens

48 respondents, 44%

___ Cost-sharing assistance for the installation of farmland conservation practices (for example nutrient management plans, contour strips, conservation tillage, etc) **29 respondents, 27%**

___ Information and education opportunities **50 respondents, 46%**

___ Establishment of slow-no-wake zones to protect aquatic plants and fisheries habitat

45 respondents, 41%

___ Practices to enhance fisheries, such as the introduction of coarse woody habitat

32 respondents, 29%

___ Continued collection of in-lake water quality data **82 respondents, 75%**

___ Collection of sediment cores to provide information concerning historical lake conditions

36 respondents, 33%

___ Enhanced efforts to monitor for new populations of aquatic invasive species **82 respondents, 75%**

___ Other, please describe _____ **14 respondents, 13%**

People need to observe proper boating practices and respect current wake areas

Have one boat launch for all three lakes to inspect all boats

Restrictions on horse power of boats

Weed control 2 respondents

Increase depth of channels between lakes 2 respondents

Control of aquatic species

Clean up of roadside waste (braches etc.); loosestrife, buckthorn, incessantly barking dogs.

More information to owners regarding use of fertilizer/use of lake water for sprinkler systems.

Lily pads are slowly but surely taking over Round Lake. Lake is filling in--very difficult to use my boats.

Harvest/cut/or reduce the amount of lily pads should be a high priority.

Boat landings open only when monitored.

Explaining effects of lawn fertilizer to water front homeowners.

Rapidly increasing weeds--harder every year to row my boat--please go back to cutting or lime slurry

approved a few years ago.

19. How often do you visit the Church Pine, Round, and Big Lake P&R District website:

(www.biggroundpine.com)? **115 respondents, 99%**

___ Never **30 respondents, 26%**

___ Rarely **37 respondents, 32%**

___ Sometimes **39 respondents, 34%**

___ Often **10 respondents, 9%**

20. Are you interested in installing a shoreline buffer or rain garden on your property? **116 respondents, 100%**
___ No **58 respondents, 50%**
___ Already installed **37 respondents, 32%**
___ Unsure, please contact me with additional information **16 respondents, 14%**
___ Yes **8 respondents, 7%**

If you answered yes or unsure and would like more information about this opportunity please list your contact information below. This information will be kept separate from your responses to ensure confidentiality.

21. Please provide your age. I am _____ years old. **115 respondents, 99%**
Average: 62 years

Thank you for your participation in this survey! Please feel free to use the space below for comments.

We truly love our place "at the lake." We wish our taxes weren't so high (!), but have a strong desire and hope to preserve the area for our grandchildren and future generations. Let's keep it clean, safe, and healthy!

As we are retired senior citizens we do not have any boat or pontoon because we are unable to run them. We just enjoy watching the fisherman. Water skiing and our children do swim when they come and do watch the wild animals and birds.

Need to remind lake homeowners to check the website out with every mailing sent. Include key information, important dates, functions, etc

Continue to use necessary measures to reduce the amount of vegetation in our lakes. Thanks for this survey. Keep up the good work.

Keep taxes down on the lake so as not to drive people out this is a nice place to live. Not all people want to voice but we all want to stay.

Make sure lake association board members representative of all of us, not their personal ideas.

The chain of three lakes is an amazing gem for outdoor people like my wife and me. Thank you for helping preserve it.

I really believe Round Lake is too small for water skiing and tubing. On a calm day 30 or 40 kayaks and pontoons can enjoy the lake quietly and safely. However, one or two boats with skiers or tubers and the lake becomes unsafe and crowded--in this day of fewer acres/users don't you think it's better for more quiet use rather than a few fast/loud boaters? Same goes for jet skis.

Lower Lake levels have done more harm than good. It has made better lake shore property for a few, and less fish habitat.

I look forward to the results of this survey!

I was fortunate to have Jeremy Williamson (in his early years) help me design an excellent buffer and shoreline restoration project for my Big Lake shoreline. Although it took me several years to afford the project, with the cost-sharing from DNR and the excellent contracting with St. Croix Landscaping, I completed my project on the west shoreline of Big Lake. It is in its 4th year and, although I have lost a few baby trees and plants, it is quite lovely.