



# State of the Lake

## Stormy Lake

2024-25

In terms of aquatic invasive species there is currently no Eurasian watermilfoil reported in Stormy Lake; however it does harbor the **Spiny Water Flea**. It is a small, virtually invisible crustacean with a "spine" which makes it unpalatable to most small fish. It reproduces quickly and effectively (even asexually). The spiny water flea feeds on zooplankton (largely Daphnia) that are the bottom of the food chain - thus affecting the fishery from the bottom up. Its presence can also foster algae blooms because of Daphnia loss. There is ongoing research seeking predators, but currently the flea grows unchecked.

Some homeowners living along the South shore have reported "**Swimmers Itch**". Lake residents are concerned about both of these issues and have voiced their concerns at our annual meetings. Many have indicated a willingness to help in resolving these issues.

**Secchi Testing**, which is performed yearly, demonstrated the disc to be visible to 19 feet in June, 2024. This has been stable over the past several years

**Water levels** were lower in 2024 than the prior year. This has reduced turbidity in the water. Shoreline erosion in Stormy Lake shorelines, sediment disturbance, and influx of invasive species from the **increased number of wake boats on the lake**.

There is no visible increase in the weeds in Stormy Lake – Our shoreline was much better in 2024.

There is a sustainable population of bass in the lake. Brown trout are stocked yearly by the DNR. Few, if any, other game fish have been present for decades.

In 2025, Stormy Lake will be part of the Wisconsin DNR "**Clean Boats Clean Waters**" grant program. The program provides boat inspectors to perform boat and trailer checks, hand out informational brochures and educate boaters on how to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. The DNR maintains a statewide database, which contains tallies of information tracked at landings. The UW-Extension (UWEX) Lakes will train boat inspectors and coordinate the volunteer efforts. The boat landing will be staffed with workers provided by the UW Oshkosh and volunteers.

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