

# Lake Redstone

# PROTECTION CONNECTION

SPRING 2021

NEWS FROM THE LAKE REDSTONE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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A shoreline in Michigan shows attributes that reduce runoff and have good habitat for land animals and fish. This property would score high in six out of the seven Shoreline Habitat Assessment parameters.

## Important news about the assessment of YOUR shoreline

By Brad Horner, *LRPD Commissioner*

Great news for people who have wondered what they can do to improve the value and aesthetics of their property, while helping land animals, fish, and the lake itself.

The shoreline of all 784 properties on Lake Redstone were assessed for how well they appear to minimize runoff and enhance shoreline habitat for land animals and fish. A consultant took a photograph of each shoreline and then evaluated the first 35 feet of each property using Shoreline Habitat parameters set by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Each property was scored on a 1-10 scale. Based on the score, each property was assessed a priority color. See Table 1 for a whole-lake-view of the scoring of the properties on Lake Redstone.

The high-level results of this Shoreline Habitat Assessment were presented to the LRPD Board in the fall of 2020. A plan has been created to communicate the results to property owners for their potential use to improve their property in terms of runoff and shoreline habitat.

*Continued on next page*

“

ADVICE FROM A LAKE:

Be clear.

Make positive ripples.

Look beneath the  
surface. Stay calm.

Shore up friendships.

Take time to reflect.

Be full of life.

”

~Unknown

**SCORE RANGES AND PRIORITY RANKINGS FOR THE 784 PARCELS SURROUNDING LAKE REDSTONE**

Color	Overall Score	Priority	Number of Parcels
RED	7-10 Points	High	214
ORANGE	4-6 Points	Moderate	209
YELLOW	2-3 Points	Low	69
GREEN	0-1 Points	No Concern	292

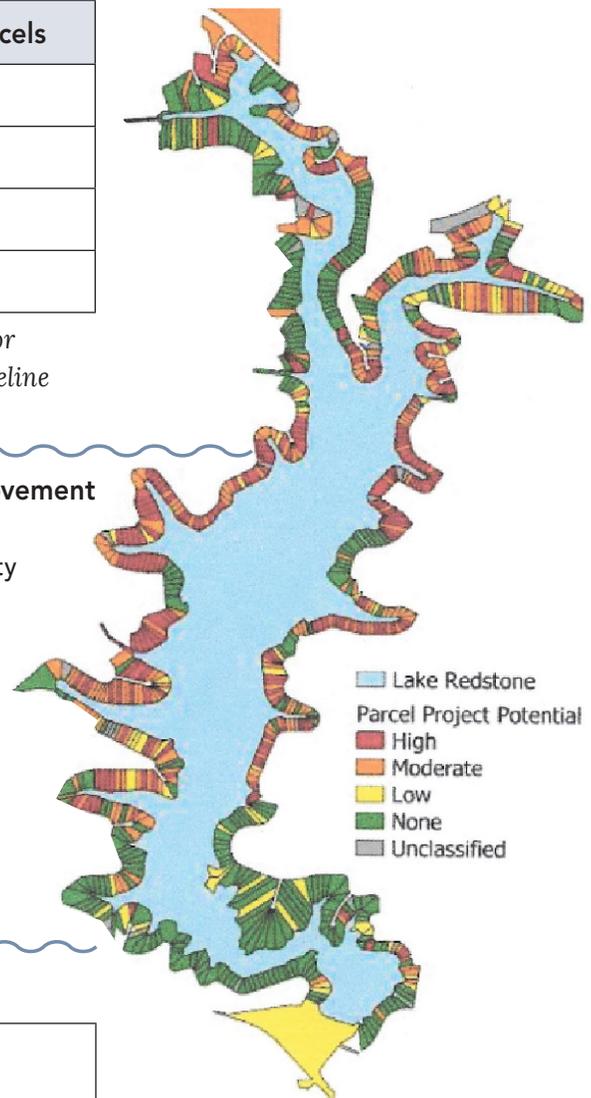
As the table shows, more than half of the Lake Redstone parcels scored Red or Orange. This indicates a major opportunity to improve the runoff and shoreline habitat around Lake Redstone.

**Two purposes for the assessment:**

- 1. EDUCATE** the LRPD and individual property owners regarding the state of the shorelines around the lake in terms of the runoff prevention and habitat quality for land animals and fish.
- 2. COMMUNICATE** ways to reduce the amount of surface water runoff and phosphorus going into the lake and to improve shoreland habitat for land animals and fish.

**Shoreline Habitat Improvement Project Potential**

Lake Redstone, Sauk County  
WDNR WBIC 1280400  
Surveyed June 11-13, 2018



**SAMPLE SHORELINE HABITAT ASSESSMENT**

Parcel number: xxx-xxxx-xxxxx		
Total Score: 8		
Priority: High		
Parameter	Property Value	Point Value
Percent canopy cover	25	2
Percent shrub and herbaceous (undisturbed)	0	2
Percent lawn, impervious, and other surfaces	100	2
Number of buildings and other human structures	0	0
Presence/Absence of lawn or soil sloping to lake	1	1
Presence/Absence of bare soil deposits	0	0
Presence/Absence of sand deposits	1	1

The map above shows the assessed color of each parcel on the lake. Note the tendency of groups of parcels having similar ratings due in part to natural topography factors.

Left: The seven parameters used to score each property are shown in this example of an assessment of a Lake Redstone parcel/property.

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## A HEALTHY LAKE

The articles in this issue of the Protection Connection are designed to highlight the interconnections of the various activities and their connection to the lake management plan – all to help make Lake Redstone a place you and future generations can appreciate and enjoy.

If you have questions, or want to get involved, contact anyone on the LRPD board.

## Shoreline *from page 2*

### How to see YOUR property's shoreline assessment

To receive your one-page assessment containing a photo, scoring, and high level recommendations, email the LRPD board. If you include your parcel number (found on your tax bill) you will make it easier to confirm your assessment. Be aware that your shoreline may have changed since the photo was taken and assessment made.

To request your assessment or express interest in the Shoreline Habitat Assessment Workshops, email:

[lrpd.board@gmail.com](mailto:lrpd.board@gmail.com)

If your property is rated red or orange, we'll be offering workshops to help property owners understand their assessment, potential actions to address the findings, and the monetary and other assistance available. DNR and Sauk County officials and area landscapers will likely attend. Wisconsin DNR and Sauk County both have programs to partially compensate property owners who improve their runoff and shoreline habitat. ■

## Sauk County grants help Lake Redstone

By Ken Keegstra, LRPD Secretary

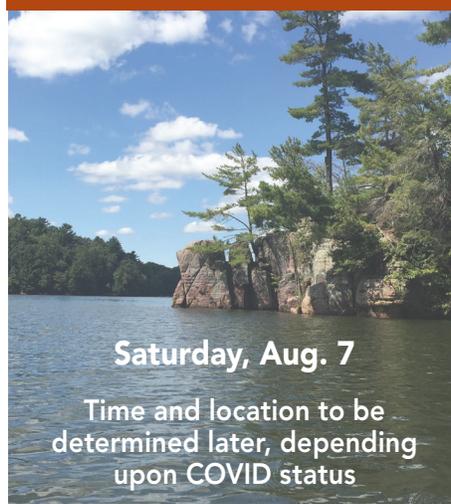
In 2020, the Sauk County Land Resources and Environment Department began a grants program to help lakes located in Sauk County improve water quality in each lake. The LRPD submitted 3 applications and was fortunate to have all three funded. Two of them involve sediment control activities and are described in another article covering that topic. The third award was to provide financial support for a cooperative effort with the US Geological Survey (USGS) to accurately measure the sediment and nutrients that enter Lake Redstone from the watershed. Earlier efforts to measure these parameters determined that little sediment and nutrients comes into the lake during normal flow of the inlet streams. Rather, most of the sediment and nutrients enter the lake during storms, especially during large storms. But it is difficult to collect samples during the storms. So, the USGS has installed autosamplers on both major inlet streams that will collect samples during every storm event.



Autosampling station on the east branch of Big Creek. The green hose in the photo (r) goes into Big Creek and collects water at specified times. The apparatus inside the metal box (l) is the controller for the pump which dispenses water samples into bottles contained within the barrel shaped container. During a single storm event, the container will collect and hold up to 25 bottles like the bottle shown on top of the controller.

We expect this cooperative effort to provide much more accurate data that will allow the LRPD plan more effective preventative measures. ■

## LRPD ANNUAL MEETING



**Saturday, Aug. 7**

Time and location to be determined later, depending upon COVID status

We hope you'll come to our annual meeting – and get involved. One commissioner seat is open for election this year. If you are interested in running for the seat, contact any board member for more information. To become a candidate, send a short biography to the LRPD board secretary at P.O. Box, 313 in La Valle or to [ken.keegstra@gmail.com](mailto:ken.keegstra@gmail.com). A meeting reminder and agenda, proposed budget, and biographies of board candidates will be mailed in early July. ■

Have something you always wanted to know about the lake? The LRPD is initiating a new way to gather and answer questions from property owners. In addition to contacting a board member or attending monthly LRPD Board meetings, you can submit questions to [lrpd.board@gmail.com](mailto:lrpd.board@gmail.com). The advantage to submitting questions to the board email is that others will see the question and answers, too. Questions having to do with the lake itself are welcome ... such as water quality, invasive plants, water runoff, and water-related improvements and plans.

Questions will be given to a board member who will contact the submitter with the answer. All questions and answers will be placed in the Q and A section of the LRPD

website at [lakeredstonepd.org](http://lakeredstonepd.org), and some will be published in future newsletters.

Submit your questions to:  
[lrpd.board@gmail.com](mailto:lrpd.board@gmail.com)

**Here's a common question:**

**QUESTION:** 'Why is the water green?'

**ANSWER:** The green color comes from microscopic algae that are too small to be seen without a microscope.

Algal growth is supported by the presence of phosphorus in the water. Phosphorus is naturally occurring in soils around the lake and in the watershed. It is an essential nutrient for plant and algae, but too much of it causes excess algal growth.

For more than 20 years, volunteers working with the LRPD have collected water samples from Lake Redstone to measure both chlorophyll levels (the green pigment in algal cells)

and phosphorus levels. The data are deposited in the SWIMS database maintained by the Wisconsin DNR. The levels of phosphorus and chlorophyll have remained relatively constant in Lake Redstone over the past 20 years, but the goal of the lake management plan is to reduce both of them.

Phosphorus enters the lake via runoff that comes both from land around the lake and the streams that drain the portions of the watershed further from the lake. Efforts to reduce the amount of phosphorus entering the lake from farmland was described in an article about the producer-led cooperative in the 2020 newsletter. Efforts to reduce the levels of phosphorus entering the lake from lakeside properties are described in the shoreline habitat article elsewhere in this newsletter. ■

## Grants support erosion control efforts

By Pat Sullivan, *LRPD Commissioner*

As a result of grant funding that was made available by Sauk County in 2020 and described in another article within the newsletter, two of our concerns regarding sediment control

activity are going to be addressed this year. Our funded applications consists of design and repair improvements to Swallow bay spillway and a weir up-

stream from Martin Meadowlark bay – both on the north end of the lake. The Swallow bay bidding process has begun and completion of those repairs should be accomplished soon. In addition, engineering and design is underway to create plans to repair a weir on the inlet stream that flows into Martin

Meadowlark bay (see photo on next page). Once a plan is available, repairs will proceed at some future time.

We were also delighted to hear, that Sauk county will be offering similar grant opportunities in 2022 and our protection district will apply for additional funding in June. Throughout the year our Sediment Control Committee will focus on new opportunities to improve sediment erosion. The photo at left, taken pre-dredging, shows sediment at the shoreline of Chickadee Bay as a result of major rain events and water coming into the lake through gullies and culverts. Our efforts in the watershed are an important part of these repair plans and

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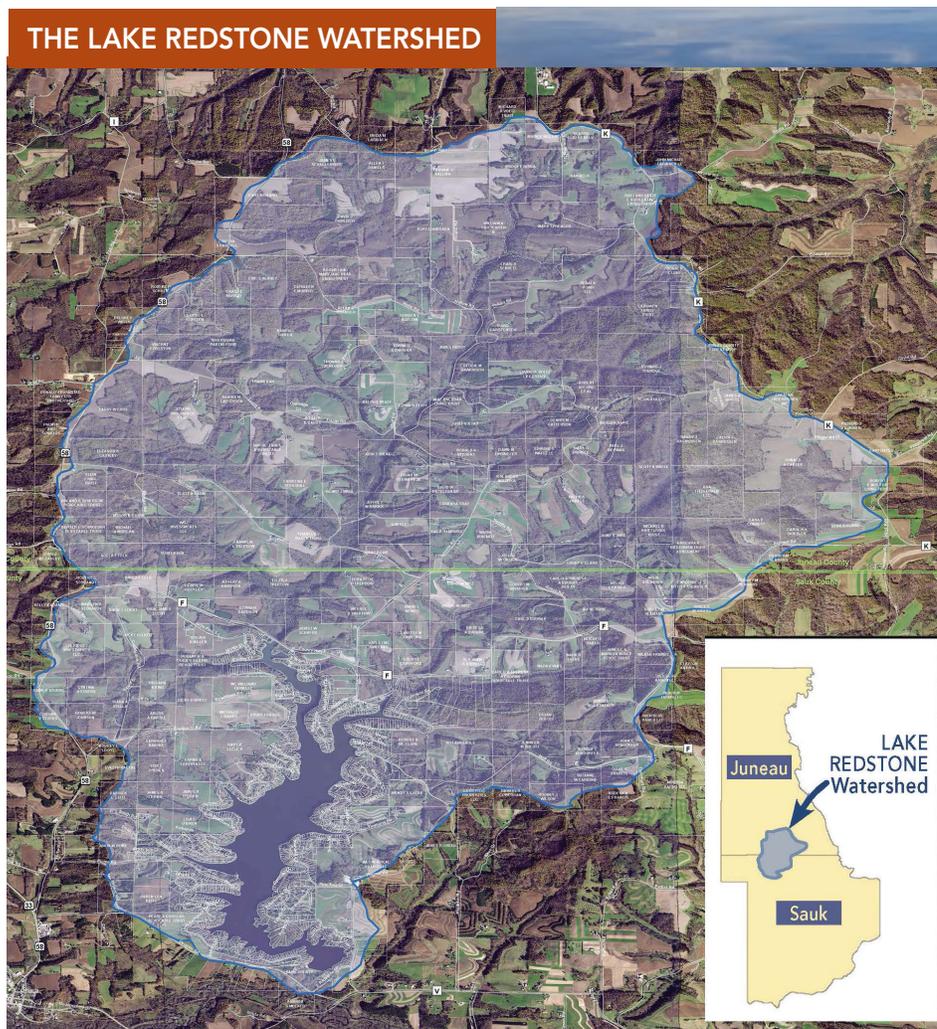


PHOTO: PATRICK SULLIVAN

*Sediment deposited at the end of Chickadee Bay after 2018 floods.*

# Lake Management Plan

By Ken Keegstra, LRPD Secretary; Pat Sullivan, LRPD Commissioner; Mike Mittelstadt, LRPD Chair



THE LAKE REDSTONE WATERSHED

Want to see the watershed better? Explore this map at [lakerestonepd.org](http://lakerestonepd.org).

issues like this are common all around Lake Redstone and will continue to be our focus.

We know lake landowners are also looking for ideas where we can manage erosion within our own parcels, especially after witnessing the immense dredging effort in 2019. The lake protection district, along with our partnership with our Property Owners Association, will be focusing on a shoreline assessment plan that will be explained in another article within the newsletter. ■

PHOTO: PATRICK SULLIVAN



The 2018 flood waters eroded the far shore of the inlet stream and bent the metal weir so that the stream now flows around the weir rather than through the notch. The sediment pond behind the weir is now gone.

For the last three years, the LRPD has worked on the development of a lake management plan. This topic has been covered in the past four issues of this newsletter; back issues are available on the LRPD web site and can be consulted to learn details about the preparation of the lake management plan. The plan was scheduled to be completed by the end of 2020, but with COVID, we now expect the plan to be available sometime this summer.

The goal of the lake management planning process is to identify the sources of sediment and nutrients that enter the lake and develop plans to control them in order to improve water quality in the lake. The Lake District members, our consultants, staff from Sauk and Juneau counties, and the WDNR are in the final stages of preparing a 10-year plan to help guide present and future lake and watershed management activities. It will include short, medium and long-term goals as well as procedures and benchmarks to measure progress.

The plan will address sediment and nutrients coming from all portions of the watershed, including the northern regions via the east and west branches of Big Creek, from nearby gullies (see the erosion control article), and from properties that constitute the shoreline of the lake (see the article on shoreline habitat assessment). It will include continued monitoring of the lake as one way to measure progress. The final plan will outline ways for all of us to help – farmers in remote regions of the watershed, lake property owners, lake users, resource professionals, and others. Having a plan approved by the Wisconsin DNR will also open avenues for securing grants and other financial resources that will be needed to support lake improvement. ■

# Dredging 2020

By Mike Mittelstadt, LRPD Chair

All dredging operations were completed in December of 2019. A total of 104,000 cubic yards of sediment was removed from the lake. This was about 8,500 cubic yards over the estimate of 95,500 cubic yards. Restoration work at the unloading sites was completed in 2020. Work continues on project close out. This should all be done by the middle of the year.

The final project cost was \$3.5 million. The dredging project was

completed under budget. Less than half of the \$400,000 contingency included in the budget was used.

The 2019 tax levy was set for the dredging loan at \$391,950. The 2020 dredging portion of the tax levy was set at \$351,000. This was a reduction of \$40,000 compared to the previous year. The reduction was possible since we refinanced the loan at a lower rate of 1.39% compared to the previous rate of 2.7%. The new loan will

still mature in 2029.

As of this writing in February, we still have not received final determination on the FEMA claim. Recent discussions with Wisconsin Emergency Management indicates that it is unlikely that we will receive any funding. Therefore, the dredging portion of the tax levy will remain constant for the remainder of the loan. ■

PHOTO: PAUL BURKE



Repair work in October of 2020.

PHOTO: PAUL BURKE



Gabion basket that allows water to flow while retaining sediment.

## Meronek Meadows repairs to berm protect Lake Redstone

By Paul Burke, LRPD Treasurer

Many of you may remember how the floods of 2018 pushed through the earthen berm in Meronek Meadows at the end of Mourning Dove bay, thereby depositing stones and sediment into the lake. Because this was the second flood to disrupt the berm, the LRPD had an engineer design an improved system to prevent sediment from reaching the lake. This improvement has three berms, each containing gabion baskets filled with rocks, which allow water to flow through the berm while trapping the sediment.

The Board accepted a bid, but the contractors were delayed starting the repair while FEMA completed further studies of the area.

Finally we were able to give the go-head to the bid-winning contractor, and they had the gabion baskets made. The project was started on September 30th and completed 12 days later when grass seed was spread just before the first snow. Check out the new berms next to the Police Boat House and across from the LRPOA Club House drive. FEMA eventually awarded LRPD

\$93,000. This money is now with the Wisconsin Emergency Management Department. FEMA supplies 75% of the funds, Wisconsin 12.5% and the LRPD the balance. ■

LOVE YOUR LAKE

Volunteer

All kinds of skills are needed to help make our lake a better place for boating, fishing, and recreation – and to maintain Lake Redstone's water quality for all to enjoy. Interested? See our website or talk with any board member.

# 2021 Fishing Report: Good catches throughout the year

By Tom Walters, Lake Redstone Fishing Club

As we moved into the new decade, who could have predicted a pandemic would have changed our lives the way it has? Fishing, as a healthy outdoor activity, has shown a significant increase. In 2020 over a million people purchased WI fishing licenses, up 18% over 2019 according to the WI DNR. Fishing is a “pandemic-safe” way to enjoy nature and the outdoors.

Fishing Lake Redstone was enjoyed by many anglers in 2020. Year round fishing has been excellent on the lake. Multiple species continue to flourish with panfish, bass, musky, and walleyes being targeted by fishermen. Redstone is known best as a very good crappie lake. Other species include the usual rough fish; carp, bullheads, catfish, gizzard shad, etc. It seems ice fishing has experienced a significant increase this year, as well.

A 2020 DNR scheduled 10 year fishery survey was postponed as a result of Covid-19, and has been rescheduled for 2022. It is of special interest to the Lake Redstone Fishing

Club, as they stocked 5,500, 6-8” walleyes into the lake in 2020 (8,500 walleyes in total since 2018). The survey should indicate the success of the walleye stocking program as well as the overall health of the fishery.

Other 2020 activities of the LRFC included a January Fisheree, a carp shoot, catfish tourney, a summertime bragging board competition and a winter-long largest game fish contest for ice fishing. New for 2021, we will be placing fishing cribs into the lake to provide cover and habitat for fish. If interested in club activities email [lakeredstonefc@gmail.com](mailto:lakeredstonefc@gmail.com).

The LRFC and all anglers appreciate the Lake Redstone Protection District for their continued efforts managing water quality to preserve the fishing and recreational attributes of Lake Redstone. ■

PHOTOS: T. MCGLADE, N. HEWITT, T. WALTERS



Clockwise from top: Three healthy Redstone fish caught in 2020 – musky, smallmouth bass, and walleye (likely stocked in 2018). All released.

## LRPD bylaws to undergo major changes

By Al Baade, LRPD volunteer

The LRPD has always had bylaws governing its operation. They cite many Ch. 33 Wisconsin state statutes that address lake districts’ operation. Bylaw changes are usually necessitated by changes in state statutes that are cited in the bylaws. The revised bylaws must be presented and approved at the district’s annual meeting. In the past, the bylaws have been revised and approved every three to four years.

Wisconsin state statutes do not require lake districts to have bylaws nor do they offer any guidance in what bylaws should contain if they are adopted.

For the current revision, the Board consulted with an attorney who was part of the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership during several updates to Ch 33. It was his recommendation that the district replace the current bylaws with a new set of rules that can be used as an operational manual. These rules will address only issues on the LRPD operation that are not covered in state statute. References to state statutes will be removed, since the LRPD is required to abide by them anyway. Continual revisions to bylaws due to changing state statutes will therefore not be required. The

overall operation of the district will not change.

Some examples of guidelines that will be included in the new bylaws are:

- Following Robert’s Rules of Order during meetings
- Standing committees
- Annual meeting date
- Assistants to the board
- Board compensation

Currently a draft of the bylaws is being reviewed by the attorney. The new proposed bylaws will be discussed and their adoption will be decided by a vote at the annual meeting in August. ■

# Lake Redstone

**A Beautiful Lake in a  
Progressive Community**

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## LAKE REDSTONE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Find board meeting agendas,  
minutes, newsletters and  
other info at:

**[lakeredstonepd.org](http://lakeredstonepd.org)**

Scan to find us  
on Facebook:

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our website:



*Protecting and rehabilitating the water quality of Lake Redstone  
for its residents and the public.*

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**Secretary: Ken Keegstra** ■ [ken.keegstra@gmail.com](mailto:ken.keegstra@gmail.com)

**Treasurer: Paul Burke** ■ [paul.burke@sbcglobal.net](mailto:paul.burke@sbcglobal.net)

**Commissioner: Pat Sullivan** ■ [gsully8@comcast.net](mailto:gsully8@comcast.net)

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**Sauk County Representative: Peter Kinsman** ■ [peter.kinsman@co.sauk.wi.us](mailto:peter.kinsman@co.sauk.wi.us)

**BOARD MEETINGS** are monthly at 6 p.m. on the second Tuesday at the  
La Valle Town Hall on 324 Highway 33

**Agendas are posted at:**

- The La Valle Post Office
- The Town of La Valle Hall
- Hartje's Travel Center, Market & Hardware in La Valle