

Village of Wauconda
Public Works
302 Slocum Lake Road
Wauconda, IL 60084

2024 Bangs Lake Experience Survey Summary Report

Summary

A Bangs Lake Ad Hoc Committee was established by the Village Natural Resources Committee and began meeting in January of 2024. This Ad Hoc Committee consisted of stakeholders of varying interest in Bangs Lake. Residents, businessowners, homeowners' associations, along with Village officials and staff met throughout 2024 to plot a course of action to ensure Bangs Lake would be a focal point of enjoyment for Wauconda long into the future with the health of the lake ecosystem being priority number one. One of many actions the Bangs Lake Ad Hoc Committee conceived was a simple survey to sample people's experience with Bangs Lake.

The Village launched a 10-question survey in September 2024 to capture public feedback on user experience on Bangs Lake over the summer. It was left open for about a month to allow for timely responses.

Methodology

The survey was broadcast via the Village website, those subscribed to receive emails from the Village, social media, and emails to registered boaters.

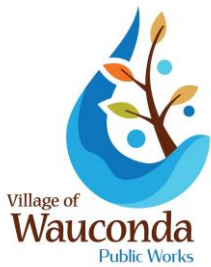
Survey Results by Question

Question 1: How did you use Bangs Lake this summer (check all that apply)

- Enjoying the lake from the shore: **57.26%**
- Swimming: **47.86%**
- Boating: **73.50%**
- Canoe / Kayak / Paddleboarding: **47.86%**
- Sailing: **6.84%**
- Fishing: **42.74%**
- Other (please specify): **5.13%**
 - Triathlon
 - Tubing and skiing
 - Did not use because of algae and weeds – Lakepointe Subdivision resident
 - Work
 - Jet ski
 - Did not use because of algae and weeds – normally out swimming and kayaking

Question 2: Overall, how was your experience on Bangs Lake this summer?

- Excellent: **23.93%**
- Good: **40.17%**
- Fair: **25.64%**
- Poor: **10.26%**



Village of Wauconda
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Wauconda, IL 60084

Question 3: Please explain why you selected excellent, good, fair, or poor above.

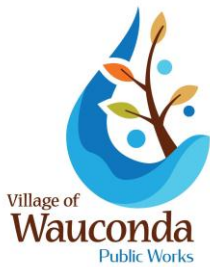
99 answered. 18 skipped.

Some responses mentioned multiple items. Similar responses have been tallied, while outlier answers listed.

- Lack of Marine Unit presence or unhappy with boat traffic/safety and quantity of people using lake at once
 - 25
- Appreciated Marine Unit presence
 - 1
- Questioned water quality so did not want to use due to algae, dead fish, and seaweed
 - 36
- Too many seaweeds and algae
 - 12
- Good fishing and swimming and boating
 - 1
- Seaweed improvement
 - 12
- Loved being on the lake and appreciated the lake quality
 - 12
- Few public areas to enjoy the lake and not very family friendly
 - 2
- Enjoyed Park District beach, marina, and/or kayak ramp (clean, easy to use for elderly)
 - 3
- Shorelines need to be cleaned up with rocks and plantings to curb erosion and add natural beauty
- The lake environment gradually deteriorating mainly through years of local government neglect
- The water quality was bad in July/August but now improved and clear
- No information on media about which weekend the park is closed
- Would be nice if the Park District sent out an email at the beginning of the season listing Village events in the community and on the lake
- Buoys too far out, not enough lake to enjoy
- Buoys put in too late
- Not a fan when lake is closed due to rain or no wake due to high levels. Wish something could be done to prevent this.

Question 4: What is your relationship to Bangs Lake?

- **Live on the lake: 46.15%**
- Live in Wauconda, but not on the lake: **37.61%**
- Live in unincorporated Wauconda, but not on the lake: **5.98%**
- Live outside Wauconda, but keep a boat on Bangs Lake: **6.84%**
- Visit from another community: **1.71%**
- Other (please specify): **1.71%**
 - Work on Bangs Lake lakefront



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- Also have family that lives in Wauconda

Question 5: Please rate the overall condition of the lake in 2024.

- Better than usual: **27.35%**
- About the same: **28.21%**
- Worse than usual: **37.61%**
- Not able to compare to previous years: **6.84%**

Question 6: Please rate the safety on the lake in 2024.

- Better than usual: **5.98%**
- About the same as usual: **47.86%**
- Worse than usual: **36.75%**
- Not able to compare to previous years: **9.40%**

Question 7: Please rate the quality of fishing in 2024.

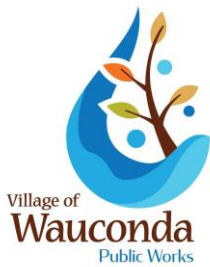
- Better than usual: **2.75%**
- About the same: **30.28%**
- Worse than usual: **13.76%**
- Not able to compare to previous years: **53.21%**

Question 8: Please share any other comments on the condition, safety, or quality of fishing on Bangs Lake below.

69 answered. 48 skipped.

Some responses mentioned multiple items. Similar responses have been tallied and grouped together, while outlier responses are listed.

- Lack of Marine Unit presence and concerned about safety
 - 30
 - The pier needs to be monitored – if owned by the Park District, then Park District rules should apply such as no smoking/drinking and the fishing rules.
 - Maybe offer an online safety sticker purchase option instead of just waiting to see the Marine Unit. Also, have a day or limited season sticker as an option.
 - No wake buoys in too close or out too far, not in straight line
 - Any consideration to ballast boats? Wisconsin had some legislation on this, with concerns of transporting water from lake to lake in the ballast, contaminating our lake water with pollution from other lakes, as well as invasive species. Additionally, this is a small lake, any consideration to the damage caused to shorelines by large wake boats? Finally, will a restriction on horsepower or boat size help with overall safety? The lake can get overcrowded and dangers with large fast boats.
- Marine Unit presence appreciated
 - 4
- Seaweed improvement
 - 5
 - The weeds were much better early in the season. They became a bit worse later in the season.
- Stop draining the water level



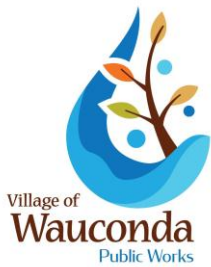
Village of Wauconda

Public Works

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- 2
- No open land that residents or visitors can use to fish, enjoy the lakefront, and/or store and launch kayaks
 - 2
 - One idea would be a shore / beach area where the old beach is, which could be used by boaters so they could land their boats and enjoy the shore while being able to access the lake area. The space is currently unused.
- Concerned about dead fish and fishing quality
 - 6
 - Some larger catches this year, but fewer.
 - Caught some nice bass which we were pleasantly surprised of.
 - Dead fish – testing on the fish needs to be done to understand if it was the algae bloom.
 - Continue to restock every year
- Concerned about algae
 - 10
- Concerned about water quality and noticing poor water quality
 - 10
 - Oil in lake from gas motorboats constantly
 - Conduct water quality assessments and provide results
 - The continued long-term plan for cleaning up the ecosystem of the lake needs to stay implemented.
 - Clean-up of the weeds from other areas on the lake are brought by waves and wind to Lakepointe beaches and forgotten and it turns to bacteria.
- Issues with seaweed
 - 1
 - It felt more “grassy” but it wasn’t a deal-breaker
- Concerned about the effects of the lake treatment
 - 2
- Zebra mussels are high this year
- The lake needs a self-service gas pump for all hours since the marina pump don’t for after-hours use
- The sharp crushed rocks located in the shallow water area at the Cook Park paddle sports launch are a disaster on bare feet. We’ve accommodated the triathletes with the ramp because the rocks are so punishing. The Park District beaches are filled with nice soft sand. How about some sand for the paddle sports launch?
- Quality of lake health needs to be priority. For years lake health was neglected. High quality status is diminishing. Algae conditions are now quite worrisome. Expensive patrols on the lake (and expensive boats for a landlocked, round body of water) have taken the necessary revenue away from lake improvements. High tech fish finders changing equation of fish populations/limits. Waiving sticker fees for fish derbies unfair to residents. Derbies are detrimental to fish populations. Too much emphasis on fishing. A change in thinking regarding how better to also protect the health of fish themselves. Ex: Barbless hooks could at least be recommended.
- The old beach looks horrific. It needs to be utilized in some capacity (kayaks, SUP, and dogs perhaps?)



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- Some of the larger wildlife turtles and carp were not present near the shore, the coots are still migrating here.

Question 9: How likely is it that you would recommend visiting Bangs Lake to a friend or family member?

- Detractors (0-6): **28%**, 33
- Passives (7-8): **32%**, 38
- Promoters (9-10): **39%**, 46
- Net Promoter Score: 11

Net Promoter Score Summary

This score is a metric used to measure how likely the visitor is to recommend visiting Bangs Lake to someone else. The range goes from -100 to 100. With an NPS score of 11, this could translate to a lower likelihood of new visitors being brought to Bangs Lake from a recommendation. This could also mean the level of return visitors is lower.

Question 10: Please enter your email if you would like to be added to our e-newsletter list.
51 people provided an email. 66 people skipped.

Summary of Responses

Most people are concerned about lake safety with lack of marine unit patrolling and concerned with water quality from algae and dead fish.

Positive Feedback

90% of responses rated lake experience as being overall fair, good, or excellent; with 64% rating it as good or excellent.

Areas for Improvement

More Marine Unit presence

Key Insights

Most people who completed the survey were those who live on the lake and use it recreationally for boating, swimming, canoeing, kayaking, paddleboarding, and fishing. The overall feel is that people found their experience with Bangs Lake to be positive. Some found the safety and condition of the lake need improvement, while others felt it was fine. This appears to be driven by a mix of genuine concerns and misunderstandings. Finding best practices and promoting public education can help in these areas. This was the first survey of its kind. This data stands alone at this point in time. Future surveys will offer insight into whether various items are moving in one direction or another.