



PARKS, RECREATION, & LAKE DEPARTMENT
Director Dean Givens

MEMORANDUM

TO: Marine Commission

FROM: Dean Givens, Parks, Rec, and Lake Director

DATE: May 7, 2021

RE: Lake Use Survey

Working closely with Town Council, a lake use survey (see attached survey) was recently drafted and sent out to boat permit holders to gather data on the types of lake activities they participate in and where they stood on the topic of wake surfing. The survey described the differences between wake boarding and wake surfing and asked survey participants to give their opinion on whether the Town should allow wake boarding on Lake Lure with some restrictions, prohibit wake surfing on Lake Lure, or to voice some other opinion. It also had space at the bottom for survey participants to write additional comments and other issues they would like to see addressed by The Marine Commission.

The survey was mailed to 2,472 boat permit holders and we received 366 surveys back. The data was analyzed and the trends are listed below.

- 217 of the surveys received (59.3%) supported prohibiting wake surfing on Lake Lure.
- 150 of the surveys received (41%) were in favor of allowing wake surfing at some capacity or did not have an opinion either way.
- Relaxing activities were, by far, the activities most participated in with 70% participating in paddle boarding, canoeing, or kayaking and 85% participating in leisurely boating.
- The surveys indicated that 46 survey participants (13%) participate in wake surfing, making it the water activity least participated-in of those that returned a survey.
- Many of the surveys received indicated that they also enjoyed fishing on the lake.
- In the additional comments section of the survey, the comments enforced both sides of the wake surfing topic.
- In the “Other Issues to be addressed by The Marine Commission” section, there were several statements/suggestions that appeared multiple times. The main issues that were mentioned were:
 - The lake being too crowded.
 - Needing more police patrols on the lake.
 - Needing another gas pump on the lake.
 - Being unhappy with the wake from tour boats.

We hope these results and comments will aid in the decision-making process on this matter.



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Lake Use Survey

April 2021

The Town of Lake Lure Marine Commission is considering crafting regulations limiting the impact of boats designed to create wakes large enough to support *wake-surfing*, a water sport where a rider trails behind a boat and rides the boat's wake without being directly pulled by the boat.

Please, understand that the issue at hand is not wake-boarding, which is similar to water skiing where a person holds a rope attached to a boat.

We are seeking input from persons who have a boat registered on our lake.

The survey results will be compiled and made available to the public. Your response is confidential, meaning names or addresses will not be included in the published results, only the totals from the survey. The survey forms are numbered to insure that we receive only one per boat owner.

Please answer the following questions and return your survey by April 30th to: Lake Use Survey, Town of Lake Lure, P.O. Box 255, Lake Lure, NC 29746. You can also scan and email the survey to loa@townoflakelure.com or fax it to 828-625-8371. You may also drop it off at Town Hall.

- **Wake-boarding** is a water sport in which the rider, standing on a wakeboard (a short board with foot bindings), is towed behind a motorboat across its wake and especially up off the crest in order to perform aerial maneuvers. A hallmark of wakeboarding is the attempted performance of midair tricks.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I9qWJu0Vrpw>

- **Wake-surfing** is a water sport in which a rider trails behind a boat, riding the boat's wake without being directly pulled by the boat. After getting up on the wake, typically by use of a tow rope, the wake-surfers will drop the rope, and ride the steep face below the wave's peak in a fashion reminiscent of surfing. Wake-surfers generally use special boards, designed specifically for wakes.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zl7EBLG2oF4>

1. Do you support...
 - a. allowing wake-surfing on Lake Lure but regulating times and/or areas of the lake where wake-surfing is permitted
 - b. prohibiting wake surfing on Lake Lure
 - c. other. Explain _____

2. Which of the following Lake Lure activities do you participate in? Circle all that apply.
 - a. Water Skiing
 - b. Wake Boarding
 - c. Wake Surfing
 - d. Tubing
 - e. Paddle Boarding/Canoeing/Kayaking
 - f. Leisurely Boating

3. Additional comments: _____

4. Please, list any other issues you would like to see addressed by your Marine Commission.

