



PARKS, RECREATION, & LAKE DEPARTMENT
Director Dean Givens

MEMORANDUM

TO: Marine Commission

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

DATE: June 8, 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 2,497 boat permit holders and residents and we received 462 surveys back. The data was analyzed and the trends are listed below.

- 268 of the surveys received (58%) supported prohibiting wake surfing on Lake Lure.
- 194 of the surveys received (42%) 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 69% participating in paddle boarding, canoeing, or kayaking and 85% participating in leisurely boating.
- The surveys indicated that 54 survey participants (12%) 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.