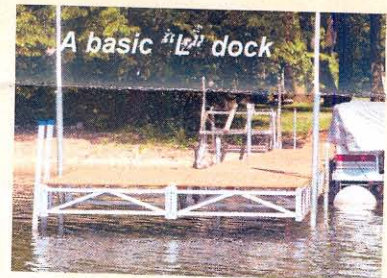
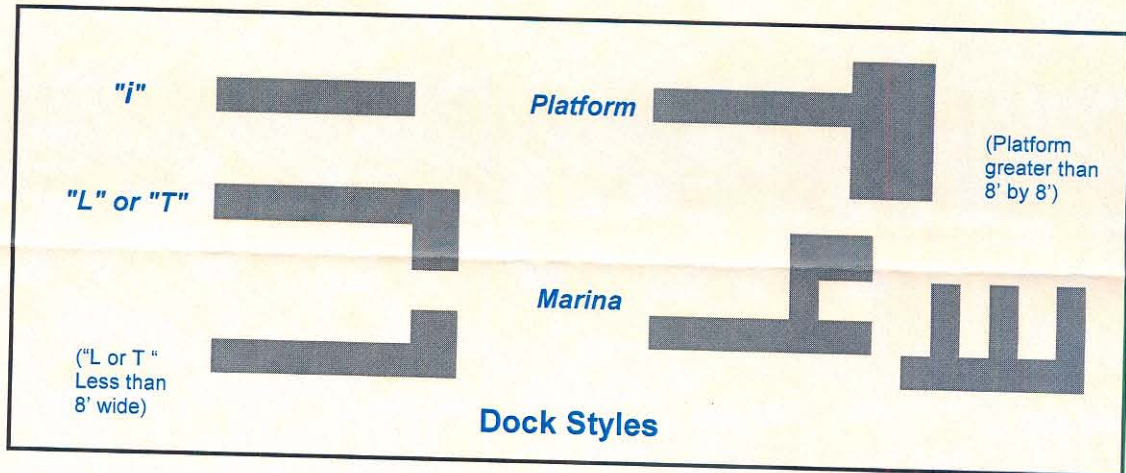


2008 Dock and Watercraft Survey

Curfman, Long, Big and Little Detroit Lakes

In late July and early August PRWD student interns surveyed docks, boats, lifts along the shores of Detroit Lakes (Big, Little and Curfman) and Long Lake. The purpose was to obtain base data on the numbers and types of facilities that are placed in the public waters along the various shores of these lakes. Counts by type of docks, lifts, and boats were obtained for each tax parcel. These were subsequently entered on a spread sheet along with data that enabled comparisons for various segments of the lakes.

Six main dock styles were identified as indicated in In addition to counts of the various styles of docks, rafts, buoyed swimming areas and boat lifts were recorded for each parcel around the four lakes



Numbers of Dock and Lifts by Lake

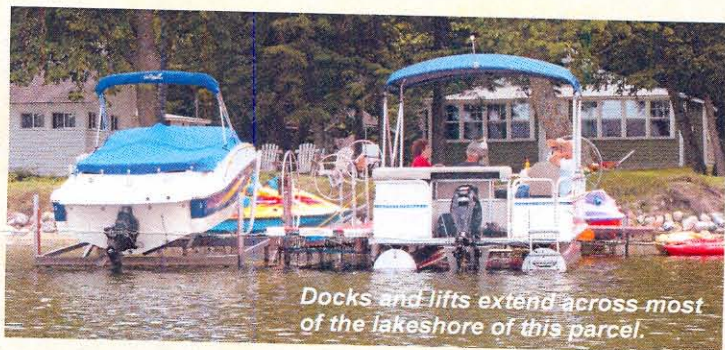
Type	Curfman	Little Detroit	Big Detroit	Long
"j"	18	76	70	70
"L" or "T"	6	54	105	106
Platform	19	39	57	11
Marina	1	17	44	8
Swim	0	0	3	1
Raft	1	6	24	29
Lifts	33	295	391	197
Total	78	487	694	422

1581 docks and lifts were observed along the shores of the four study lakes. There are about three lifts for every two docks on Big and Little Detroit Lakes.

About 15 percent of all parcels around these lakes have more than 2 docks and about the same proportion three or more boat lifts.

The densities of structures along the lakeshore vary considerably. Long and Curfman have significantly lower shoreline development intensities than Big and Little Detroit. Within the lakes, shorelines dominated by small parcels often have very dense docking facilities; the Southeastern shore of Long, and the Shorewood Drive and West-lake Drive segments of Little Detroit are especially high.

	Curfman	Little Detroit	Big Detroit	Long
Average Numbers of docks and lifts per 100 feet of lakeshore	1.0	3.0	2.2	1.6



Docks and lifts extend across most of the lakeshore of this parcel.

Only a few dock systems, well under 1%, fail to comply with width standards allowed under DNR's general permit. There are a few instances of covered docks (not allowed without a special permit), and only a very few which fully enclose a portion of the lake (also not allowed without a special permit).

We estimated that there are 19 instances where docks and lifts cover more than half of a parcel's shoreline. This is only a little more than 2.5% of the total parcels for all lakes. Though there are no current regulations governing this situation, the DNR has introduced a new concept called the "Aquatic Impact Area" which is being considered in connection with revising dock rules. Presumably a 50% limit could someday be applied to limit the overall extent of docking systems on a parcel.

Watercraft

Just under 1300 watercraft were counted during the survey. Based upon previous surveys there has been an increase of about 30% in the number of boats in the last ten years.

There are now about 1.75 watercraft per parcel on the four lakes; it is noteworthy that almost one in five parcels have no watercraft along the shoreline. The breakdown by type and lake is as follows:

Almost one-third of the total are pontoons; about 15% are personal watercraft.

Boat Type	Curfman	Little Detroit	Big Detroit	Long
Speedboat	15	82	121	61
Fishing	17	42	65	63
Pontoon	16	147	148	78
Sail	0	14	22	4
PW	7	57	92	33
Other	11	55	68	73
Total	66	397	516	312

	Curfman	Little Detroit	Big Detroit	Long
Total Watercraft	66	397	516	312
Watercraft per 10 surface acres	5.9	4.2	2.5	7.7

The potential boating pressure varies considerably by lake. Long Lake, with lots of developed shoreline but only 404 surface water acres, has 7.7 watercraft for every ten acres of water. Big Detroit, with a much greater water surface, has only 2.5 boats per ten acres.



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 Analysis by Dick Hecock
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