

Kangaroo Lake Sensitive Areas



Sensitive areas are areas within and around the shoreline of the lake that provide unique and/or critical ecological habitat or water quality or erosion control benefits to the waterbody.

The Department of Natural Resources designated the entire north basin of Kangaroo Lake as sensitive in 1996. A sensitive area designation survey on the larger southern basin was completed in the summer of 2003. Six additional sites on Kangaroo Lake were designated as sensitive on the southern basin because they contribute to the uniqueness of the lake as a whole. Each of the six sites is described below.

Site 1 - This site is located on the southern shore of the lake. It includes the entire area inside the buoys, which is a slow-no-wake area out to approximately 5 feet deep which is about 700 feet from the shoreline out into open water. The site provides exceptional fish and wildlife habitat with the variety of aquatic and shoreland vegetation.

Site 2 - This site is located on the southwest shore starting at the access site owned by the Retreat going north along the shore for approximately 1400 feet. The site averages approximately 200 feet out into the water from shore. The site follows the contiguous undisturbed shoreline and consists of a variety of near-shore terrestrial and shoreline vegetation. This site is unique in

that it is an undeveloped shoreline that is not adjacent to a wetland.

Site 3 - This site is on the northeast side of the lake. It consists of the entire bay area and follows the north shore approximately 250 feet. The shoreline in this area has little or no development. The site provides exceptional fish and wildlife habitat with the variety of aquatic and shoreland vegetation. The large forested wetland adjacent to the lake provides for a natural setting on an otherwise developed lake.

Site 4 - This site covers the entire perimeter of the 15-acre Echo Island from shore out 100 feet. The site consists of a variety of upland and near-shore plant species. The shoreline and upland areas are relatively un-impacted except for two homes on the south end of the island. Because so much of the lake is developed, the near-shore areas on this island not only provide natural scenic beauty for lake residents and lake users, but also fish and wildlife values.

Site 5 - This site is on the west side of the lake and north of the boat landing at Kangaroo Beach Road. The site is out from shore in water three to five feet deep. The site is a sand shoal that drops off fast and has a high diversity of submerged aquatic plants.

Site 6 - This site is located on the northeast side of the lake at North Cote Drive. It is comprised of the shoreline out to approximately 250 feet from shore and includes the creek mouth and wetland area just upstream from the creek mouth on the north side of North Cote Drive. Back from the shore a short distance, the unnamed creek forms a large pool filling much of the lot extending to Elm Point Road. A large population of yellow water crowfoot (*Ranunculus flabellaris*) and various orchids among other unusual plants occupy this wetland. The Hine's Emerald Dragonfly occurs in the wetland along CTH E and with the proximity of this site to CTH E, it is assumed that this pool is also probable habitat.

Primary Reasons for Site Selection

- fishery values
- wildlife values & associated wetland habitat
- water quality values
- aquatic plant diversity
- natural scenic beauty

Management Recommendations

1. Maintain as much of naturally felled woody debris as possible.
2. Restore shoreland buffers and discourage sea walls and riprap on developed sites.
3. Remove hard shoreline structures and restore natural shorelines to enhance wildlife and fish species.
4. Protect nearshore habitats that have important fisheries values.
5. Educate landowners about the importance of a healthy lakeshore buffer.
6. Protect terrestrial vegetation within 75 feet of the shore.
7. Reduce entire tree removal for viewing purposes; try to trim choice limbs.
8. Protect native aquatic plants. Do not remove native aquatic vegetation by physical, mechanical, or chemical means - especially the emergent species.
9. Manage and prevent the spread of Eurasian water-milfoil and other invasive exotic species.
10. Obey all slow no-wake areas. Minimize or eliminate boat traffic in sensitive areas.
11. Protect adjacent wetlands and spring areas from development pressures.
12. Encourage periodic water level manipulation.
13. Minimize lawn fertilization to prevent excess nutrient loading to the lake.
14. Properly maintain septic systems to protect water quality.

Report Conclusions

Kangaroo Lake is a beautiful lake that deserves special attention. It is truly a unique setting in Door County due in part to the tracts of undeveloped shoreline, bulrush stands, island, and adjacent wetlands. Six sensitive areas were designated on the southern basin of the lake because they contribute to the uniqueness of the lake as a whole. These areas also provide essential functions that make the lake what it is. These areas can be used for recreation and enjoyment but special care should be taken to protect these areas and other areas on the lake from further disturbance. Restoring disturbed shorelines and shoreland buffers to a more natural state would be even more desirable to aquatic life and wildlife. The slow-no-wake speed restriction within the buoys on the south end of the lake, combined with the voluntary slow-no-wake zone extending 500 feet from the lake's shore into open water, should help decrease shoreline erosion and protect the lake's silty bottom from resuspension. Lakes are one of the state's most valuable resources and without proper protection, the water quality will quickly deteriorate resulting in a loss of aesthetic beauty and degradation of fish and wildlife habitat. All lake ecosystems are sensitive to change and human impacts. It is critical that we protect and restore these valuable resources. It is up to the people who use and enjoy Kangaroo Lake to protect it.

For more information
Contact the Department of Natural Resources or the
Kangaroo Lake Association.

