

Bone Lake Wildlife and Natural Beauty Committee invites you to participate in this survey...

BEAVER SURVEY PLEASE LIMIT YOUR RESPONSES TO ACTIVITY YOU'VE OBSERVED IN 2011

Have you seen beaver on Bone Lake? Yes No

If yes, where? Note location(s) or mark on map.

How many beaver have you seen *at one time* in this location?

1 2-3 4-5 6 or more

Date(s) _____ Time of day _____

Please describe the activity of the beaver you observed, for instance, swimming, sitting near shore, eating, on dock, on land.

Date(s) _____ Time of day _____

Have you seen evidence of beaver activity around Bone Lake?

for instance, fallen trees, pointed stumps, bark chewed from trees, branches or trees floating in the water, branches stuffed under dock or boat lift, droppings. Yes No

If yes, Where? Note location(s) or mark on map.

Please describe the evidence you have seen:

Date(s) _____

Is this evidence of beaver activity located on your lakeshore property? Yes No

Do you know about methods to deter beaver activity on your property? Yes No

Would you like more information about deterring beaver activity on your property? Yes No

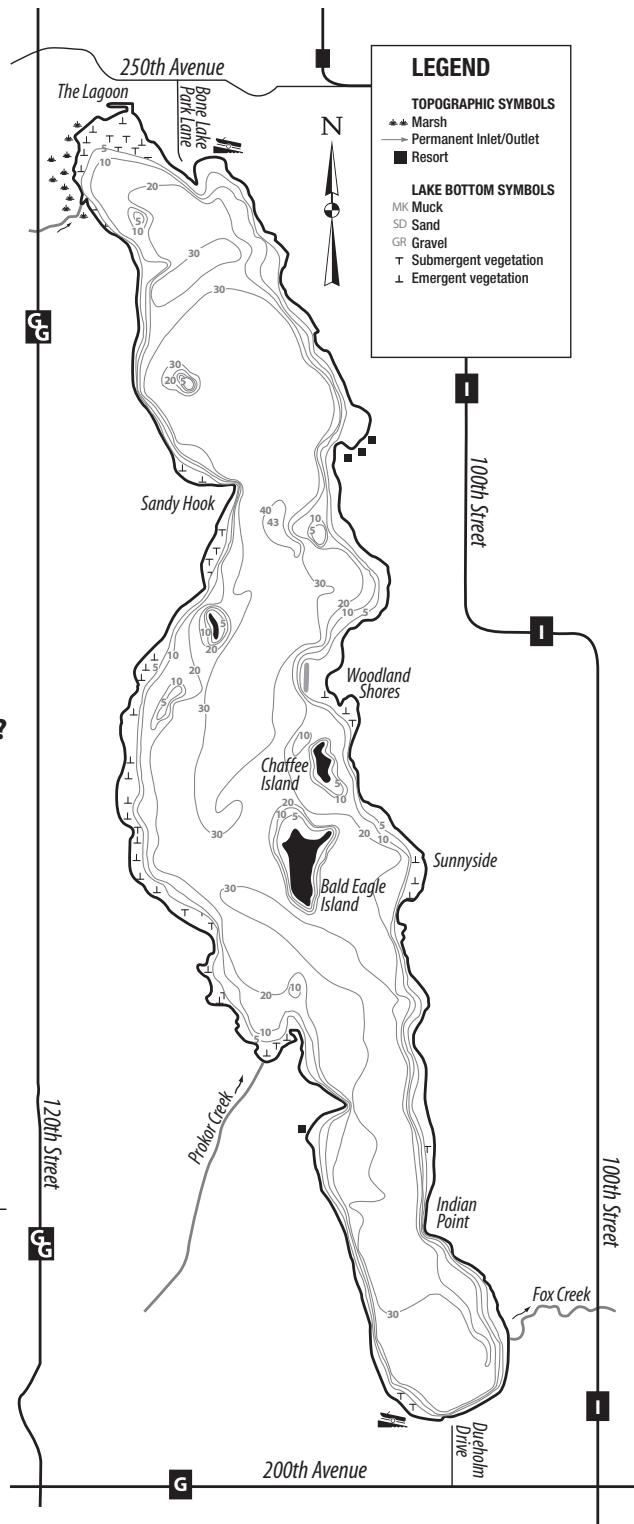
Are you in favor of trapping beaver ? Yes No Unsure

Your name _____

Address _____

City, state, zip _____

email, phone _____



NEED MORE ROOM? Attach additional sheets to describe more locations and activity. Your observations are important. Please return this form by September 1, 2010 to Karen Engelbretson, Chair, Bone Lake Wildlife and Natural Beauty Committee, 6777 Keats Ave N., Stillwater, MN 55082 or email karen@kje.com

Beaver *A Keystone species**

Next to humans, no other living animal appears to do more to change the landscape in which it lives.

The beaver is the largest rodent in North America. Adults range from 35 to 46 inches long, including a flattened 12- to 18-inch tail, and weigh 45 to 65 pounds. The hind feet are very large with five long, webbed toes for swimming; front feet are small and dextrous for carrying a variety of objects. Beaver have large, sharp front teeth, small ears, and nostrils that can close for swimming. They can remain active underwater for up to 15 minutes.

Beaver eat the twigs and bark of woody plants which grow near water. They also rely on sedges, water grasses, fleshy roots and water lilies as food. During the fall, beaver cache their food supply in the water under or near their lodge. In winter, they will continue to cut fresh trees on shore as long as they can break through the ice.

Learning to Live with Beaver

Some people enjoy and appreciate beaver while others consider them destructive pests.

Learning to live with wildlife and enjoying and understanding the creatures that share their habitat with us may be a good way of dealing with the damage beaver can do. Turn a problem into an opportunity! Watching beaver is a great family activity and a good way to interest children in the outdoors. Beaver rarely bite and are not aggressive. There are few known cases of beaver carrying rabies.

Property owners should be aware that human developments impact wildlife habitat and can result in the destruction or loss of wildlife.

Protecting Your Property

It's natural for beaver to chew tree trunks or to cut down trees. Beaver rarely cut down large pines or massive old trees; they prefer poplar, willow, birch and alders.

These methods can help prevent damage:

- Chemical repellents discourage deer and rodents from chewing and browsing on plants. Read all labels carefully and use in a manner consistent with the labeling.
- Physical barriers. Heavy wire mesh, heavy gauge hardware cloth or tar paper – effective and inexpensive solutions – will discourage cutting and gnawing along the shoreline. A low, attractive permanent fence with gates along the shore may be enough to discourage beaver.



Population Control

Beaver have litters averaging four young each spring. Their natural population limiting mechanism is habitat. When there is not enough available habitat the older kits do not leave home and subsequent litters are smaller.

Trapping can temporarily reduce a colony's population. Trapping usually takes place in winter with leg or body traps placed underwater through the ice. The trapped beaver drowns.

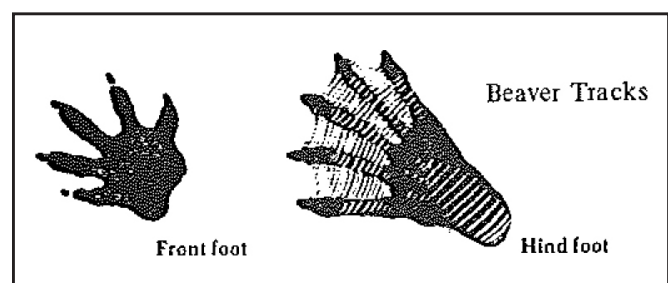
Trapping season lengths and number of permits issued are determined by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and are based on estimates of population and how many should be harvested. Visit the WDNR website for more information on trapping rules and methods. Specific laws govern removal of beaver by capture, shooting, trapping, destroying or otherwise disposing of the animal.

Observing Beaver on Bone Lake

You can observe the active beaver on Bone Lake near their colonies. They swim out from their lodges at sunset. If you are still and quiet, they will come quite close.

For more information

More information about beaver behavior and limiting beaver damage is available from the Bone Lake Wildlife and Natural Beauty Committee. Contact karen@kje.com.



*A keystone species is a species that plays a critical role in maintaining the structure of an ecological community and whose impact on the community is greater than would be expected based on its relative abundance or total biomass. The concept of a keystone species was first introduced by University of Washington professor, Robert T. Paine in 1969.