Village of Chenequa

December 2025 Newsletter

Happy Holidays!

Please be sure to fill out the 2026 Snow Plow Agreement and the 2026 Dog license Application.

Lost and Found: Did you lose a kayak this summer? If so, please contact us and provide us with identifying details so we can return it to you.

Tax bills are being mailed this week. If you need your tax bill prior to receiving them in the mail, you can get a copy at Waukesha County's website. https://tax.waukeshacounty.gov

As the year draws to a close, December invites us to pause – celebrating the blessings behind us and looking ahead with optimism to the possibilities a new year brings.

On behalf of the Village of Chenequa, I want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the remarkable residents we are privileged to serve. *You* are what makes the Village of Chenequa such an exceptional community. Your spirit, support, and engagement truly make this Village a special place and we are grateful for the opportunity to be part of it. THANK YOU!

John's Disposal Holiday Schedule:

Christmas week – Delayed by one day
New Years Eve Week – Delayed by one day

Village of Chenequa's Holiday Hours

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December 24, 2025 – Closed
December 25, 2025 – Closed
December 31, 2025 – Closed
January 1, 2026 – Closed

We will resume normal business hours on January 2, 2026.

If You See Something, Say Something

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We truly rely on our residents to help us keep the Village safe. Lately, we have had a few situations where neighbors noticed something that didn't look quite right—an unfamiliar vehicle, odd activity, or someone who seemed out of place—but hesitated to reach out.

Please do not ever feel unsure about calling us. If something seems unusual or just does not sit right with you, we would much rather you contact us right away. Our officers are here 24/7, and it is always easier to check on something in the moment than to sort it out later.

And please know this: you will never be criticized for calling us, no matter how the situation turns out. We appreciate your eyes and ears more than you know. Thank you for helping us look out for our Village.

Non-Emergency: (262) 446-5070

2025 / 2026 Dog Licenses and Snow Plow

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The time of year has come where we say, "Out with the old, in with the new."

Your Snow Plow agreement for 2025 officially expires on December 31, 2025. Therefore, if you would like to continue with the Snow Plow services, please have your agreement initialed and signed and your payment of **$200** into the Village by December 31, 2025.

Dog licenses are to be renewed annually. Please submit your license application, proof of rabies and payment prior to March 31st or a $5.00 late fee will be charged. Please note, the fees have increased: $16/ Spayed Neutered $21 Unspayed/ Unneutered.

All forms can be found online.

House Checks – If you are a Snow Bird and you come home or are letting others use your home, please call the Police Department and let us know so we don't surprise you or your guests when we are doing our House Checks. Thank vou!

Wishing you all the blessings of peace, love, and joy at Christmas.
Cheers to 2026!!

Lake Health Update

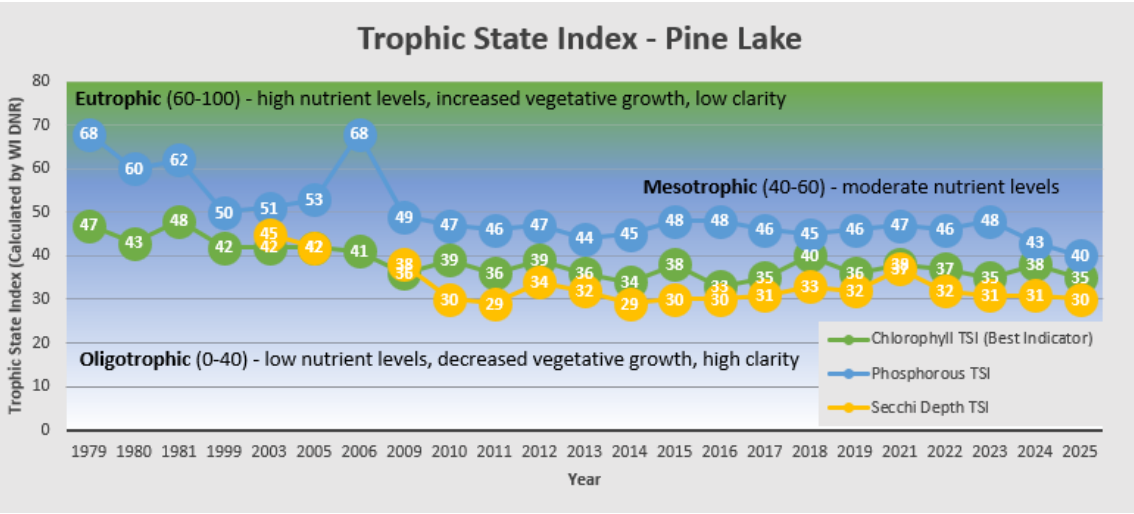
Though the Village of Chenequa is small, it contains 4 lakes within or adjacent to Village Limits; Beaver Lake, Cornell Lake, North Lake, and Pine Lake. In total, there are over 200 lake properties within the Village of Chenequa across these 4 lakes. It goes without saying that our lakes are one of the primary distinguishing features of the Village. As such, we wanted to highlight some lake health information regarding water chemistry, invasive aquatic invasives, and what property owners living on or near lakes can do to protect our waterways.

Water Chemistry

Each summer, the Highway/Forestry Department conducts water monitoring on Pine Lake through the WI DNR Citizen Lake Monitoring Network. This consists of taking water samples in June, July, and August to measure concentrations of chlorophyll and phosphorous, as well as field measurements of water clarity, dissolved oxygen concentration, and temperature throughout the water column.

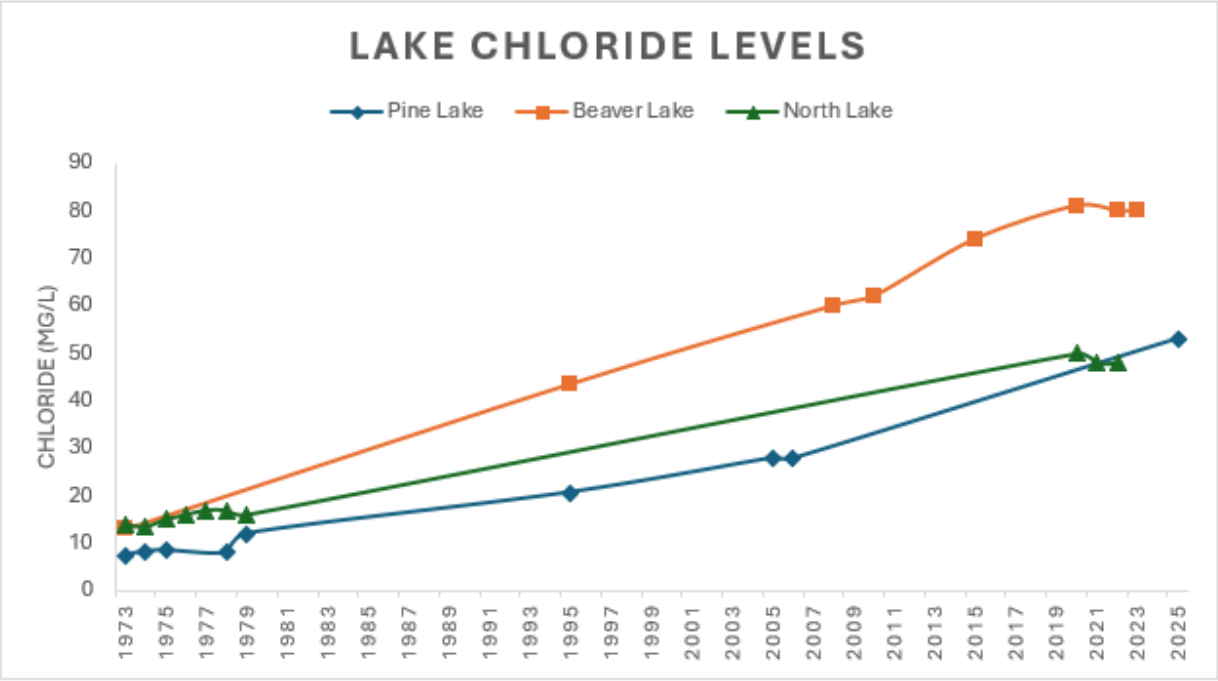
Chlorophyll, phosphorous, and clarity measurements are important long-term indicators of lake health as they reflect the amount of nutrients suspended in the water. Excessive levels of nutrients, often caused by fertilizers or heavy runoff, can lead to an overabundance of aquatic vegetative growth and algae blooms. Raw data is collected during the summer months and sent to the WI DNR. Once received, the DNR calculates a Trophic State Index (TSI) for each of these 3 indicators to classify each participating lake's trophic state and track it over time.

Lakes are classified into 1 of 3 trophic states. *Eutrophic* lakes are generally shallow, weedy, nutrient-rich lakes. *Oligotrophic* lakes are generally very deep, clear, and have minimal vegetative growth with very few nutrients. *Mesotrophic* lakes land somewhere in the middle (like most of the lakes in the Lake Country area). Below is the chart for Pine Lake's TSI of each of the 3 measured indicators:



As seen in the chart above, Pine Lake was historically more *mesotrophic* before the spread of invasive zebra mussels in the early 2000's. Zebra mussels are known to filter out many of the nutrients suspended in the water, which has caused Pine Lake to lean more *oligotrophic* today, depending on which indicator you select.

The Highway/Forestry Department also collected water samples in Pine Lake in the spring of 2025 to measure concentrations of chloride. Chloride concentrations are of increasing interest to lake biologists, as chloride persists strongly in a waterbody once it enters. Chlorides come from salts and leach into waterbodies from sources such as road salt, water softener discharge, and fertilizers. Below is a chart showing the historical chloride levels found in Beaver, North, and Pine Lakes:



Source: DNR SWIMS, SEWRPC, Lillie and Mason 1983, Birge and Juday

The WI DNR considers a waterway "impaired" due to chlorides if concentrations are greater than 395 mg/l. Certain aspects of a lake ecosystem can be affected at concentrations even lower than that. While none of the lakes in Chenequa are near that number at this time, it is important to be aware of the potential threat and to start taking steps to prevent our lakes from ever approaching that number.

For more information, facts, and figures for North and Beaver Lakes, please visit these links:

WI DNR, North Lake: https://apps.dnr.wi.gov/lakes/lakepages/LakeDetail.aspx?wbic=741200

WI DNR, Beaver Lake: https://apps.dnr.wi.gov/lakes/lakepages/LakeDetail.aspx?wbic=774400

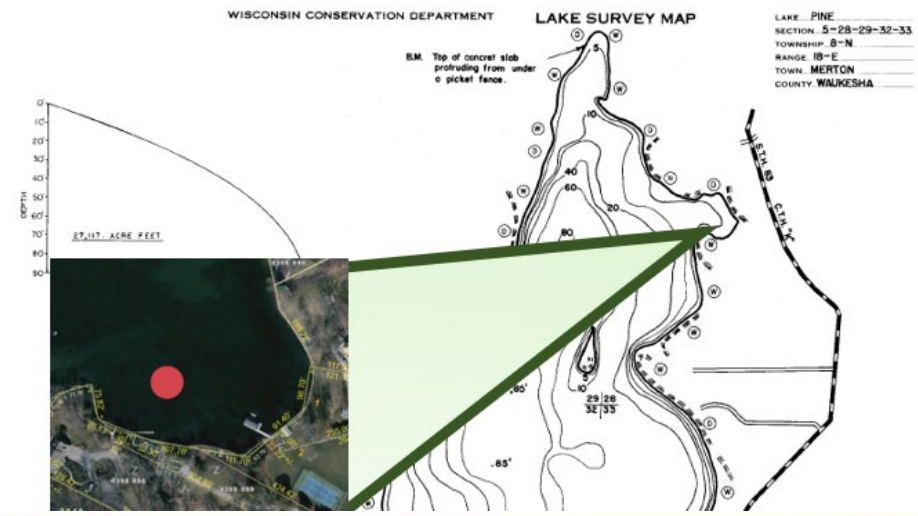
Starry Stonewort in Pine Lake

In September, the Village notified residents that Starry Stonewort—a non-native aquatic invasive species—had been detected in Pine Lake. Since that time, the Village has received grant funding for an *Early Detection Surface Water Grant* through the Wisconsin DNR to conduct a full point-intercept survey and update the Pine Lake Aquatic Plant Management Plan. This work will help determine the extent of Starry Stonewort and guide future management decisions. **At this time, no further action is recommended by the Wisconsin DNR.**

Boaters can help prevent the spread of Starry Stonewort by avoiding the area where SSW was originally discovered and by **cleaning, draining, and drying all watercraft and equipment** before entering or leaving the lake.

For more information—including how to identify Starry Stonewort and steps you can take to help protect Pine Lake—please visit the Wisconsin DNR website. (Photos of Starry Stonewort and its location on Pine Lake are included below for reference.)

If you have questions or would like to report a sighting, please contact the Village. Thank you for your cooperation and your continued commitment to preserving the health of Pine Lake.

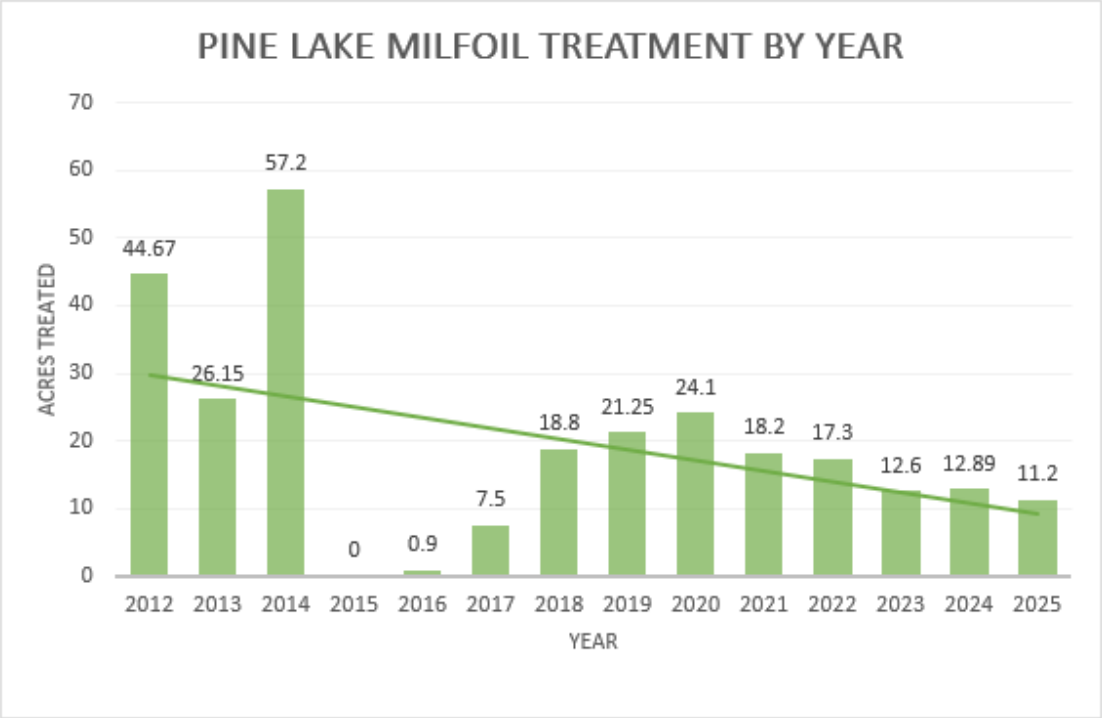


Milfoil Treatment Trends and Effectiveness on Pine Lake

Since the discovery of Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) in Pine Lake, the Village of Chenequa has been implementing routine EWM control efforts as part of the annual aquatic plant management program. Treatment acreage has varied widely from year to year, ranging from 0 acres in years where surveys detected little to no growth, to peaks of over 57 acres (2014).

Across the 14 years shown on the graph below, The Village has treated an average of 19.5 acres annually. More importantly, the long-term trend shows substantial reductions in treated acreage over the last decade. This suggests that early detection and consistent management have been successful in suppressing large-scale outbreaks.

While milfoil will never be fully eradicated from the lake, the data indicate that current management practices have helped reduce the severity of infestations and stabilized the population at more manageable levels.



Why Milfoil Management Remains Challenging

Even with good results, EWM management is never a “set-and-forget” effort. Associated with these treatments, there are two major biological challenges affect treatment planning:

Hybridization with Native Watermilfoil
Eurasian watermilfoil has been known to hybridize with the native northern milfoil found in Pine Lake. These hybrid forms tend to grow faster and denser, spread more aggressively and respond less predictably to herbicides.

Because hybrid strains vary genetically from year to year and even from bay to bay, their sensitivity to herbicide treatments can differ as well. This means that a product that worked well one season may not produce the same results the next.

Apparent Herbicide Tolerance or Reduced Sensitivity
Over many seasons of repeated use of the same herbicide, some populations of hybrid milfoil can exhibit reduced sensitivity. While true "resistance" is still being studied, field observations across Wisconsin show that some hybrid milfoil strains require higher doses for control and repeated use of a single herbicide increases the risk of reduced effectiveness over time.

What can property owners living on or near lakes do to help protect them?

Landscape Practices

- Plant or maintain a natural vegetative buffer along the lakeshore to help with water and nutrient absorption
- Minimize the amount of impervious surface on the property when designing a landscape plan to reduce runoff
- Choose native plantings
- Minimize the use of fertilizers throughout the property and do not use any fertilizer within 20' of a lake or stream
- Don't blow leaves into the lake – this creates an unnatural amount of nutrient deposition into the water

Home Maintenance Practices

- Minimize the use of driveway salt needed to make walkways safe
- Be sure your water softener is calibrated and set to "on demand" regeneration cycles to reduce discharge
- Have your septic inspected and maintained regularly – failing septic systems may leach into the water, causing significant nutrient deposition

Boating Practices

- Obey all no-wake areas, including everywhere within 200' from shore – this helps protect the shoreline and reduce erosion
- When wakeboating, stay in water greater than 20' deep to prevent disturbance to the bottom of the lake
- Remove the drain plug, drain your livewell, and remove all weeds from your boat and trailer any time you launch/retrieve a boat to prevent the spread of invasives