Lake Survey Highlights

A total of **410 responses** were received across four lakes: **Lake Eugenia (321), Irish Lake (52), Brewster's Lake (21), and Wilcox Lake (16)**. Overall, respondents rated "Water Quality" as a **very high priority** across all lakes.

Key survey results (cross-lakes)

- The most frequently identified issues overall were **water quality concerns** and **growth of aquatic plants and algae**, followed by **shoreline/surrounding-area pollutants**, **invasive species**, and **septic system concerns**.
- The most supported actions overall were:
    1. **Controlling fertilizer/pesticide use along shorelines**
    2. **Increasing monitoring and testing of lake health**
    3. **Implementing a septic reinspection program**
- Interest in stewardship education is strong: roughly **three-quarters or more** of respondents in each lake indicated they are **interested in learning more**.

Lake-specific highlights

- **Lake Eugenia** stands out as the lake with the **lowest perceived water quality** (only ~19% Good/Excellent; ~36% rated Poor). Eugenia respondents most strongly emphasize algae/aquatic plant growth, pollution inputs, invasive species, and septic systems. The highest-supported actions are shoreline fertilizer/pesticide controls, increased monitoring/testing, and septic reinspection.
- **Irish Lake** reports substantially better perceived water quality, but uniquely shows a **very strong emphasis on monitoring/testing limitations** as a top issue (half of respondents). Recommended focus: expand monitoring/testing and communicate results clearly, alongside shoreline nutrient controls.
- **Brewster's Lake** respondents highlight algae/aquatic plant growth and invasive species, with comparatively strong support for **habitat enhancement** and **monitoring/testing**.
- **Wilcox Lake** shows relatively positive water-quality perceptions in the responses received, but algae/aquatic plant growth and public access concerns remain prominent.

Top issues identified by lake (most selected)

Lake Eugenia (n=321)

1. Water quality concerns (275)
2. Growth of aquatic plants and algae (226)
3. Pollutants from shoreline development/activities & surrounding areas (134)
4. Invasive species (111)
5. Poorly functioning septic systems (95)

Irish Lake (n=52)

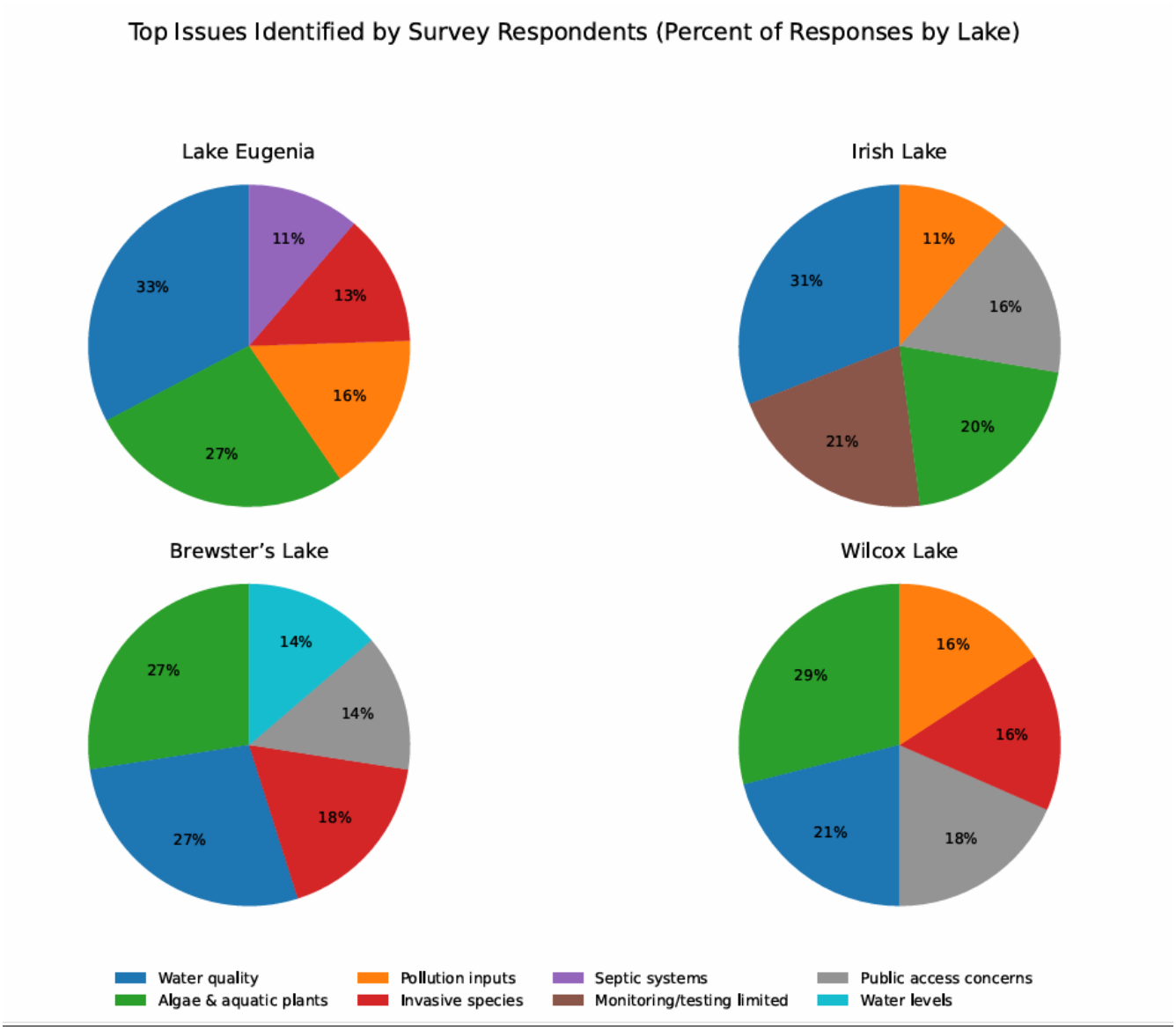
1. Water quality concerns (38)
2. Limited monitoring/testing (26)
3. Growth of aquatic plants and algae (25)
4. Public access point concerns (20)
5. Pollutants from shoreline development/activities (14)

Brewster's Lake (n=21)

1. Growth of aquatic plants and algae (14)
2. Water quality concerns (14)
3. Invasive species (9)
4. Public access point concerns (7)
5. Water levels concerns (7)

Wilcox Lake (n=16)

1. Growth of aquatic plants and algae (11)
2. Water quality concerns (8)
3. Public access point concerns (7)
4. Invasive species (6)
5. Pollutants from shoreline development/activities (6)


Top Issues Identified by Survey Respondents (Percent of Responses by Lake)
Lake Eugenia
11%
13%
16%
27%
33%
Irish Lake
11%
16%
20%
21%
31%
Brewster's Lake
14%
14%
18%
27%
27%
Wilcox Lake
16%
16%
18%
21%
29%
Water quality
Algae & aquatic plants
Pollution inputs
Invasive species
Septic systems
Monitoring/testing limited
Public access concerns
Water levels

Top actions believed should be undertaken by lake (most selected)

Lake Eugenia

1. Control fertilizer/pesticide use along shoreline (215)
2. Increase monitoring/testing (189)
3. Septic reinspection program (159)
4. Consultant-led lake management study/plan (88)
5. Enhance fish & wildlife habitat (79)

Irish Lake

1. Increase monitoring/testing (41)
2. Control fertilizer/pesticide use (25)
3. Enhance fish & wildlife habitat (21)
4. Septic reinspection program (14)
5. Improve communication/posting at public access point (13)

Brewster's Lake

1. Enhance fish & wildlife habitat (13)
2. Increase monitoring/testing (12)
3. Control fertilizer/pesticide use (7)
4. Consultant-led lake management study/plan (7)
5. Stricter planning/development by-laws (6)

Wilcox Lake

1. Increase monitoring/testing (8)
2. Control fertilizer/pesticide use (8)
3. Septic reinspection program (7)
4. Enhance fish & wildlife habitat (5)
5. Stewardship education (4)